

## India – Cameroon Relations

Relations between India and Cameroon have been friendly and cordial. The Cameroonian leaders appreciate India's contributions to Africa, its secular democracy and economic progress and the leadership it provided to the Non-Aligned Movement. Cameroon actively supported Indian candidature for the Commonwealth Secretary General. The High Commissioner in Abuja is concurrently accredited to Cameroon.

**Bilateral Visits:** The importance attached to the bilateral relations by the two governments has witnessed many high -level visits between the two countries are. Details of some prominent delegations may be seen here under:

### From Cameroon Side:

President Mr. Paul Biya	March 1983 to attend NAM Summit
<b>Mr Philomen Yang, Prime Minister</b>	March 2013 – visited New Delhi accompanied by 7 Ministers and a large business delegation to attend Africa-CII/Exim Bank Conclave
Mr Emmanuel Nganou Dogmas, Minister for Economy & Planning & Mme. Bankang Mbock Catherine, Minister of Social Welfare	September 12-16, 2012 – visited India for signing of \$42m Credit Line for the Cassava Plantation Project.
Mr Angouen Michel Ange, Minister of Public Service & Administrative Reforms	October 2012 - visited India for a 3-day conference of Commonwealth Association of Public Administration & Management (CAPAM).
Mr Djmoumessi Nganou Emmanuel, Minister of Planning & Regional Development	March 2012 – visited New Delhi to attend CII Conclave.
Mr Edger Alain Mebe Ngo'o, Minister of Defence	March 2012 – visited New Delhi to attend the DefExpo India 2012.

### From Indian Side:

MOS for Industrial Development visited Cameroon	February 1988
Minister of State for External Affairs visited Cameroon	April 1990
EAM met with Cameroon Foreign Minister in New York	September 2002
MOS(AS) met Cameroon FM at AU Summit in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt	June 2008.

**Commercial & Trade Relations:** Key potential areas for cooperation and investment are - oil & mining, telecom, fertilizers, oil & gas, agriculture & food processing, forestry, IT, railways and Indian exports of consumer and light engineering goods.

**Bilateral Trade:** Bilateral trade between India and Cameroon has been growing steadily over the years. During 2014-15, the bilateral trade with Cameroon stood at US\$994 million. India's export to Cameroon declined marginally from US\$259 billion in previous year to US\$249 in 2014-15. India's imports from Cameroon, however, increased by 177% from US\$268 million in 2013-14 to US\$745.35 in 2014-15. The bilateral trade almost doubled from US\$527 million in 2013-14 to US\$994 million in 2014-15.

## India- Cameroon Bilateral Trade Statistics (Value in US\$ Mn)

Trade	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
India's Export	118.07	196	251	259.62 (+3.4%)	249.13 (-4%)
India's Import	138.10	524	443	268.20 (-39%)	745.35 (+177%)

### **Projects and Activities:**

Cameroon Alumina Ltd: In May 2009, Cameroon Alumina Ltd. (CAL), entered into negotiations with Cameroonian authorities for exploration of bauxite in the Adamawa region, in a consortium in which India's Hindalco (45%), Dubal (45%) and US company Hydramine (10%) have stake. While the project is currently at techno-economic feasibility stage, it envisages a setting up of an alumina plant and rail and port infrastructure. Negotiations between CAL and Cameroonian authorities are ongoing.

Pan-African e-Network Project was inaugurated in June 2010 in Cameroon. The tele-education and telemedicine projects have been installed at Cameroon State Regional University Yaoundé and its hospital and have been performing satisfactorily.

### **Agriculture Sector:**

- Nigeria-based NRI agribusiness Olam International has large operations in Cameroon involving plantations of coffee (7,500 Hectares), cocoa (12,000 Ha) being country's first and second largest producer of these two cash crops. It also imports rice into Cameroon. Its total annual turnover in Cameroon is around \$ 120 million.
- In 2007 Government of India gifted 60 tractors and agricultural implements to Government of Cameroon. India has also provided Lines of Credit to boost agriculture in Cameroon.

### **Line of Credit:**

On May 29 2009, a \$ 37.65m Indian Line of Credit (LoC) for Cameroon funding a project each of Rice and Maize Farm Plantation was operationalised. In September 2012, India and Cameroon signed on a new LOC of \$ 42 million for Cassava plantation project in Cameroon.

### **Culture and Education:**

Training: Of the 31 slots allocated under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme to Cameroon during 2011-12, 15 were utilised. During 2012-13, 28 out of 31 allotted slots were utilised and in the year 2013-14, 35 slots have been utilised. In 2014-15, 27 slots were utilised. For 2015-16, 32 slots have been allocated to Cameroon. A Cameroonian diplomat attended a one-month PCFD course organised by the Foreign Service Institute of Ministry of External Affairs in Aug 2012.

**Culture & Media:** Indian films are popular and a local channel Capital TV regularly telecasts Indian films. A Rajasthani folk dance troupe sponsored by ICCR performed in Douala, Cameroon in November 2010. Cameroon is officially a French-English bilingual country, even as most official work is in French language. An Indian Film Festival was organised by Honorary Consul of India in 2013. To commemorate 100 years of Indian cinema in Cameroon, an Indian Film Festival was organised from 25/9/2013 to 13/12/2013 in collaboration with the Institut Francais du Cameroun, with French sub-titles by the Honorary Consul of India to Cameroon and the Indian Community.

**Indian Community:** There are 700-800 Indian expatriates in Cameroon, engaged mostly in trading and small business apart from some professionals. While Indians are generally well-regarded, during the political crisis in Cameroon in February 2008, an Indian manufacturing unit in Douala was vandalised. In some commercial disputes, few incidents of physical violence against Indian nationals were also reported.

**Air Connectivity:** There are no direct air links with India. The airlines serving Cameroon include Air France, Air Gabon, British Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines. There are connections to many destinations across Africa, including regular flights to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo. Apart from five flights per week to Paris, Cameroon is connected by direct flights, once a week, to Brussels and Zurich.

**Visa:** Indians travelling to Cameroon require visa. As there is still no resident Cameroonian High Commission in India, this is needed to be obtained elsewhere. If approached sufficiently ahead of the visit, India's Honorary Consul to Cameroon based in Douala can assist in obtaining visa on arrival. Cameroonians travelling to India need to obtain visa which can either be done direct at India's Consular Sections in Lagos and Abuja. It can also be obtained through the services of India's Honorary Consul to Cameroon based in Douala, provided applied sufficiently in advance.

#### **Useful Resources:**

High Commission of India, Abuja website:  
<http://hcindia-abuja.org/index.php>

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