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Atlas of Areas Sensitive to Land and Natural Resources Conflicts

March 2018

With the support of the European Union

The Atlas presents areas where competition for access to natural resources and land pits different actors against each other, and where the presence of new activities puts very strong pressure on spaces. These situations are likely to upset the balances, sometimes secular, that characterize the regions where they are observed, and can lead individuals or communities to vigorously oppose activities that threaten to deprive them of their livelihoods.

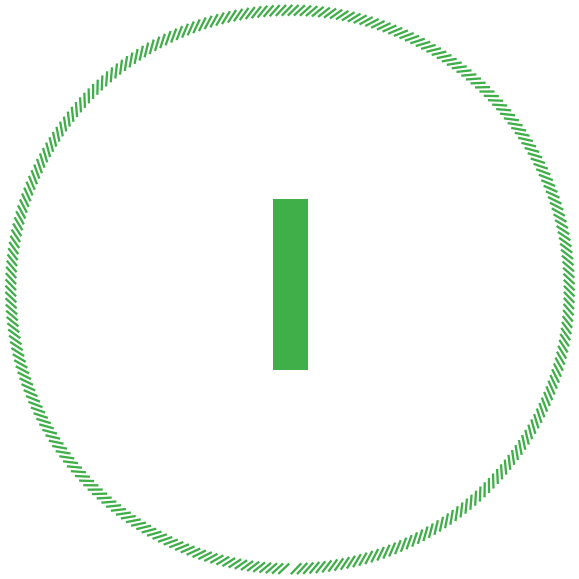
The development of major infrastructure projects, the transfer of rights for the exploitation of natural resources (forests, mines, oil), or for agro-industry, forced migration under the pressure of security or climate threats, the creation of protected areas managed in a more authoritarian than participatory manner, are resulting in social effects that are sometimes disastrous for communities. The gap between State law and traditional laws is sometimes at the heart of these conflicts, with each party considering itself in its own law, according to its reference legal register. Ignorance of the harm caused to riverside communities by operations to exploit the spaces and resources of their traditional land explains, in some cases, that companies, or even the administration, persist in enforcing their rights, even through the use of force. As most of the at-risk areas are located in rural areas that are sometimes very isolated, it is difficult for urban populations and public opinion to be informed in real time of these conflicts, thus leaving affected communities in unknown, silent suffering.

The Atlas has two objectives:

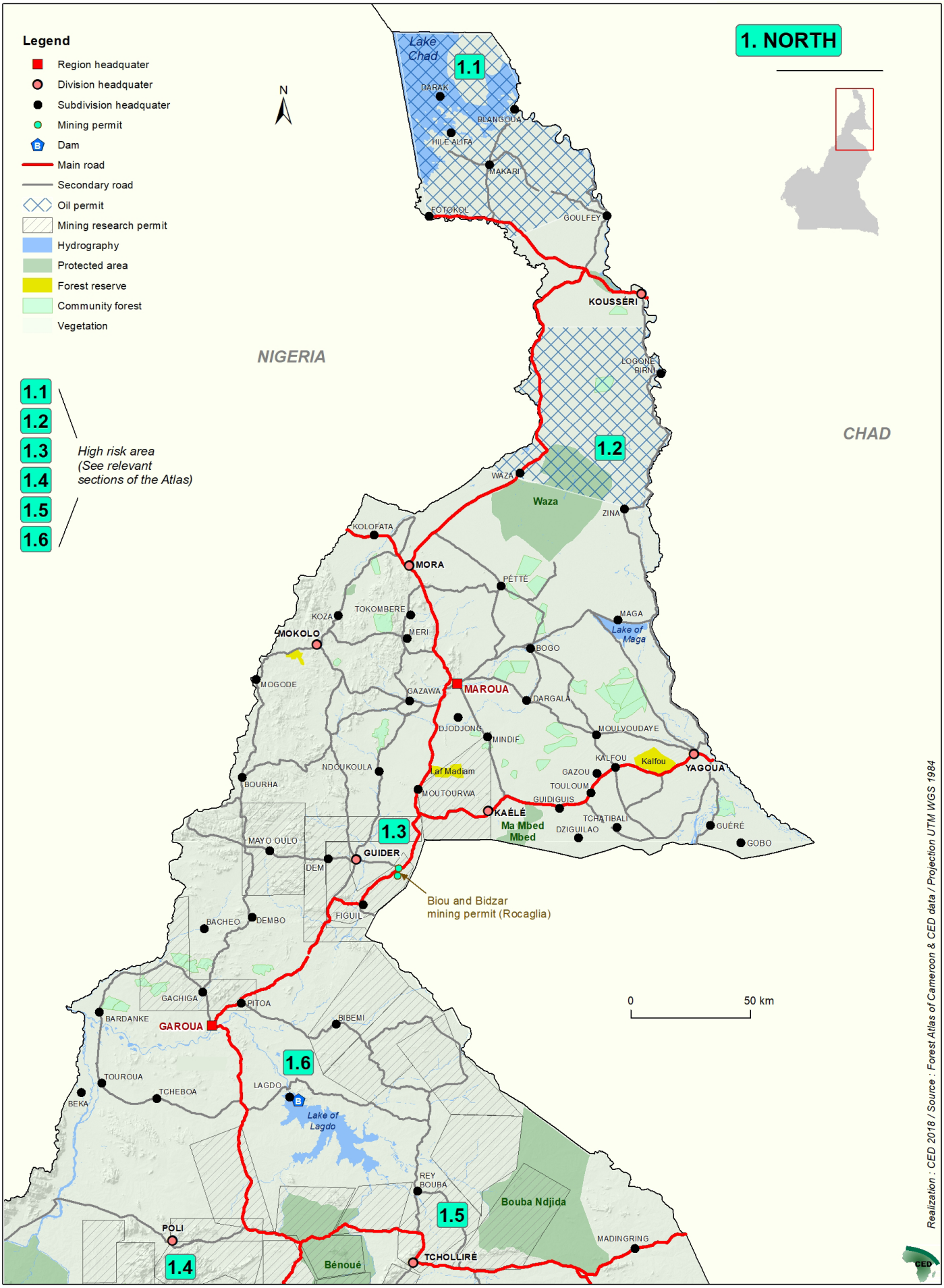
- To draw the attention of decision-makers, the media and the general public to the reality of environmental advocates, who are increasingly present in our country, but still ignored by legislation and practices;
- Provide NGOs, investors, conservation officers, public administrations and national and local policy makers with an information tool indicating places where conflicts can occur for spaces and resources. The purpose of this information is to work collectively to prevent such conflicts.

The Centre for Environment and Development intends to continue monitoring this issue, in collaboration with its partners in the different regions of Cameroon and the sub-region. We would like to thank the organizations and individuals who helped collect the data needed to produce this Atlas (COMAID for the Northwest region, Development Without Borders for Adamaoua, CEFAID and Fusion Nature for the East). We also thank the European Union for its financial support to the project Greening Human Rights in the Congo Basin, within the framework of which this Atlas was produced

Samuel Nguiffo
Secretary General
Centre for Environment and Development



North


1. NORTH
Legend
Region headquater
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Mining permit
Dam
Main road
Secondary road
Oil permit
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Protected area
Forest reserve
Community forest
Vegetation
N
NIGERIA
CHAD
Lake Chad
1.1
DARAK
BLANGOUA
HILE ALIFA
MAKARI
FOTOKOL
GOULFEY
KOUSSÉRI
LOGONE BIRNI
1.2
WAZA
Waza
ZINA
KOLOFATA
MORA
PÉTTÉ
KOZA
TOKOMBERE
MERI
MOKOLO
MAGA
Lake of Maga
BOGO
MOGODE
GAZAWA
MAROUA
DARGALA
DJODJONG
MINDIF
MOULVOUDAYE
KALFOU
Kalfou
YAGOUA
NDOUKOULA
Laf Madiam
GAZOU
BOURHA
MOUTOURWA
TOULOUM
GUIDIGUIS
KAÉLÉ
Ma Mbed Mbed
TCHATIBALI
DZIGUILAO
GUÉRÉ
GOBO
1.3
MAYO OULO
GUIDER
DEM
Biou and Bidzar mining permit (Rocaglia)
FIGUIL
BACHEO
DEMBO
GACHIGA
PITOA
BARDANKE
GAROUA
BIBEMI
1.6
TOUROUA
LAGDO
TCHEBOA
BEKA
Lake of Lagdo
REY BOUBA
Bouba Ndjida
1.5
MADINGRING
POLI
TCHOLLIRÉ
1.4
Bénoué
1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
1.5
1.6
High risk area (See relevant sections of the Atlas)
0
50 km
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Cameroon & CED data / Projection UTM WGS 1984
CED

North

1. Risk in the Lake Chad area

The natural resources found in the Cameroonian part of Lake Chad make it a very privileged area. However, this "oasis" is now threatened by several anthropogenic and natural phenomena. All things that affect the ecological and social balance of this part of the territory.

Indeed, the long droughts in the Sahel have had negative impacts on agro-pastoral activities. Some farmers and herders have had to migrate to the shores of Lake Chad in search of pasture and farmland. In addition, the security crisis caused by repeated attacks by the barbarian hordes of the terrorist sect Boko Haram has led to the displacement of thousands of people from Nigeria, Chad and some localities in the Far North region to the shores of the Lake, who engage in a variety of activities, mainly fishing, livestock and agriculture.

Thus, the increase, over the years, of the population around Lake Chad, leads to its overexploitation and the decrease in the flow of its tributaries. The combination of these two factors has led to the loss of 80% of the lake's surface area in nearly 40 years. Moreover, the very likely forthcoming oil exploitation in this area is not likely to improve the situation.

This multiplicity of uses and activities in and around the Lake raises the problem of access to the natural resources found there. Competition between the different actors for the control and management of these resources is a potential source of conflict. Similarly, the shrinking size of Lake Chad has an impact on the territorial boundaries of the States that share it; its drying up could therefore be a potential source of border disputes.

2. Risk in the Waza area

Waza Park is one of the sites that have made the Far North a popular tourist destination because of its rich wildlife. Notwithstanding its very high value for biodiversity conservation, the integrity of this protected area is threatened by several factors.

First, the destruction of the crops of local populations and attacks on their domestic animals by wild animals (elephants, hippos and lions) from the park and the scarcity of agricultural land have led to human-animal conflict. Wildlife species are constantly targeted by riverside communities in the park.

Secondly, migration around the reserve, facilitated by the Boko Haram attacks, the Central African crisis and climate change, has been followed by poaching.

Finally, the granting of an oil exploration permit to the Chinese company Yang Cheng for part of the Waza park has further weakened it.

The intermingling of these incompatible rights (protected area, oil exploration and multiple community land uses) and insecurity resulting from poaching and attacks by Boko Haram are a major source of land conflicts in and around Waza Park.

3. Risk in the Mayo-Louti Division

The Mayo-Louti division is characterized by the richness of its subsoil. The presence of several minerals (gold, uranium, iron, platinum, limestone, marble, etc.) attracts investors.

In the Figuil district, two mining companies (CIMENCAM and ROCAGLIA) exploit marble, limestone and sand, and aim to extend their permits to the cantons of Biou and Bidzar. Alongside these companies, artisanal gold miners have settled along the border with Chad. As a result of the land grabbing and the pollution of water, air and soil resulting from these operations, land conflicts exist between companies, artisanal miners and riparian communities

As for research permits, several have been issued in almost the entire division. These licenses cover uranium, iron, platinum, marble, limestone and gold. Some of this research has led to the discovery of deposits, including uranium at Teubang on the border with Chad, where simple exploration has had an impact on riverside communities. If these research permits result in exploitation permits, such exploitation will inevitably lead to land conflicts between operators and riverside communities.

4. Risk in the Poli subdivision

Cameroon's uranium potential has attracted many industrialists. About twenty research permits have been granted to companies throughout most of the country. For example, uranium exploration licenses have been issued to Nu Energy Corporation on Mount Kitongo and Mount Domboulko in the Poli district. In addition to Nu Energy, other companies such as NAINA Cameroon have obtained gold exploration permits, while AUCAM has applied for bauxite permits.

The negative effects of uranium mining on the environment and health are well established, and there is concern that the granting of operating permits to these companies could have dramatic consequences on land management in the area.

5. Risk in the Mayo-Rey division

The Mayo-Rey Division has two protected areas extending over 4000 km². The area is also very coveted for the richness of its subsoil. The department is covered by gold, bauxite and uranium exploration permits.

However, some of these permits overlap with protected areas that are already weakened by poaching and attacks against the defense forces. These various projects also have a significant impact on land availability. Communities are already complaining about the lack of land available for agricultural activities, while the project is still in the research phase. With the granting of operating permits, communities will be trapped between the two parks and mining sites, resulting in the loss of much of the land they use for the development of their economic, social and cultural activities.

In addition, the overlap between protected areas and mining sites will result in mutual disruption of biodiversity conservation and mining activities.

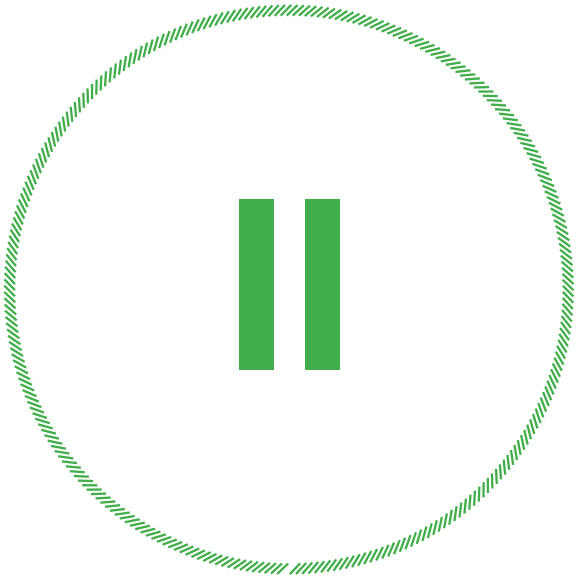
In both cases, conflicts related to access and management of land and spaces will be inherent.

6. Risk in the irrigated perimeter of Lagdo

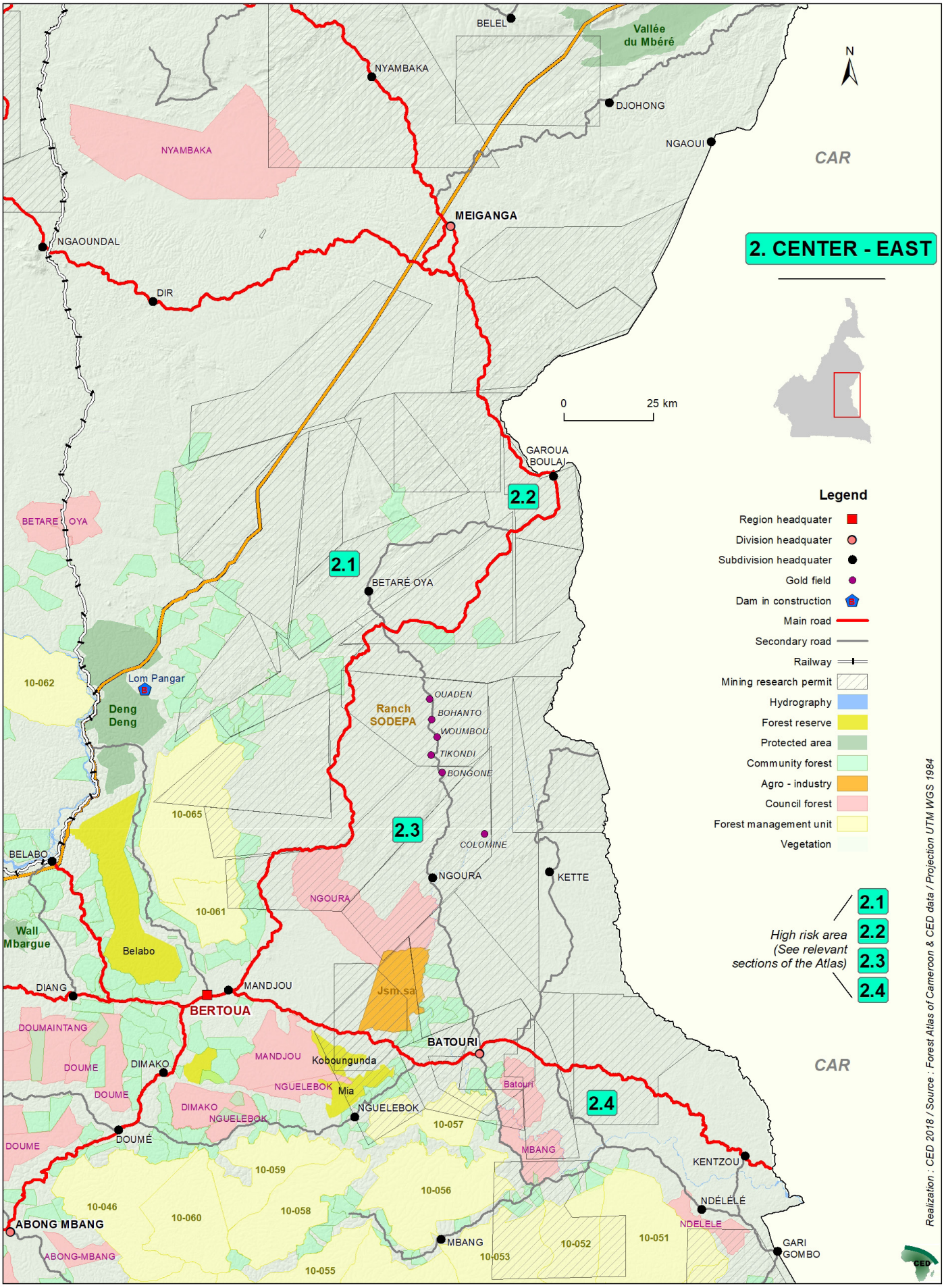
The construction of the Lagdo dam, the creation of an agricultural zone, and the establishment of two agricultural businesses around the irrigated perimeter of Lagdo has led to waves of migration to this locality. These migrations are at the root of several land conflicts, including conflicts between migrants and agricultural societies, conflicts related to the allocation of plots in the Upper Benoue Valley study and development mission, conflicts arising from competition for access to land between migrants and local communities. In addition, Lagdo's irrigated perimeter continues to attract investors. Agricultural projects aimed in particular at developing the rice sector in Cameroon are underway in the locality.

7. Risk throughout the North

There are many conflicts between nomadic pastoralists and farmers in the North. As a result of these conflicts, which have caused several serious losses of human and material life, they are becoming more and more frequent. Their origins are many, including the security crisis in Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria, the crisis in CAR, drought waves in the Sahel and climate change-related migration.



Centre - Est


2. CENTER - EAST
BELEL
Vallée du Mbéré
NYAMBAKA
DJOHONG
NGAOUI
CAR
MEIGANGA
NGAOUNDAL
DIR
0
25 km
GAROUA BOULAI
2.2
2.1
BETARE OYA
Legend
Region headquater
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Gold field
Dam in construction
Main road
Secondary road
Railway
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Forest reserve
Protected area
Community forest
Agro - industry
Council forest
Forest management unit
Vegetation
10-062
Lom Pangar
Deng Deng
Ranch SODEPA
OUADEN
BOHANTO
WOUMBOU
TIKONDI
BONGONE
10-065
2.3
COLOMINE
BELABO
NGOURA
KETTE
NGOURA
10-061
Wall Mbargue
Belabo
DIANG
MANDJOU
BERTOUA
Jsm sa
DOUMAINTANG
BATOURI
DOUME
DIMAKO
MANDJOU
Koboungunda
NGUELEBOK
Mia
Batouri
2.4
DOUME
DIMAKO
NGUELEBOK
NGUELEBOK
10-057
DOUME
DOUMÉ
MBANG
KENTZOU
10-059
10-056
10-046
10-060
10-058
NDÉLÉLÉ
NDELELE
ABONG MBANG
MBANG
10-052
10-051
GARI GOMBO
ABONG-MBANG
10-053
10-055
High risk area (See relevant sections of the Atlas)
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Cameroon & CED data / Projection UTM WGS 1984

Centre – East

1. Risk in the Betaré-Oya district

The Betaré-Oya district is characterized by the richness of its subsoil in precious metals, particularly gold. The presence of this ore has attracted both domestic and foreign gold miners.

Indeed, thanks to the construction of the Lom Pangar dam and especially the need to save 6 tons of gold that were in the project area, Chinese and Korean companies have established themselves in the area. After the gold rescue operation, some of these companies began mining gold throughout the community. The economic boom generated by the presence of these companies and the Central African crisis have led to an increase in the population of the district. As the desire to invest in gold mining is the main reason for this migration, competition has arisen in the context of the search for new deposits between local communities and migrants (Chinese, Central African and Cameroonian national refugees).

This frantic search for gold has an impact on land availability.

The pollution of rivers, the destruction of the landscape, the non-rehabilitation of sites, the land grabbing by Chinese and Cameroonian companies, the displacement of populations from the flooded area of the dam, and especially the decrease in the income of local communities are at the root of many conflicts that are leading to human life losses.

2. Risk in the Garoua-Boulaï district

Garoua-Boulaï is one of the border cities with the Central African Republic. This district of the Lom and Djerem Division is renowned for the refugees it accommodates at each crisis in CAR.

The recurrent crises in CAR and artisanal gold mining have resulted in the exodus of thousands of people to Garoua-Boulaï. This migration leads to strong pressures on natural resources and grazing lands. While land conflicts have always existed in the area, the presence of refugees has had the effect of increasing them. This is due in particular to the need for timber and fuel wood, competition between Central African Mbororo herders and Gbaya farmers, and between Cameroonian herders and Central African refugee herders over access to land and transhumance routes and the search for new small-scale gold mining sites.

This land pressure is the source of socio-economic imbalances, the multiplication of agro-pastoral conflicts and land conflicts between small-scale miners and local communities in the area.

3. Risk in Ngoura district

Ngoura district is famous for its gold villages including Colomine, Bohanto, Woumbou, Ouaden, Tikondi, Mbonda and Mbogon. Small-scale mining has been practiced there for more than 80 years and is the main economic activity.

But after the 6-ton gold rescue project in Betaré-Oya, Chinese and Korean companies migrated to the district. These companies have started mining gold along waterways, depriving local artisans of their traditional sites. The latter were forced to search for land-based mining sites abandoning the swamps to the Chinese and Koreans.

In addition to mining, many of the villages in this borough are crossed by the ranch of the (Animal production development and exploitation company) Société de développement et d'exploitation des productions animales (SODEPA) where riverside communities are prohibited from carrying out mining, agricultural or pastoral activities.

It should also be noted that this district welcomes Central African refugees. The latter are mostly breeders who have fled conflicts with their herds.

The association of all these elements has led to strong land pressure in the district. Land grabbing by Chinese companies and elites, the non-rehabilitation of former mining sites, the resurgence of agro pastoral conflicts and land conflicts between some families in villages are all consequences of this competition for access to natural resources. More and more arable land is becoming scarce and gold mining requires more technological resources, the allocation of research permits on the limited space available sounds like the beginning of the countdown to land conflicts in the area.

4. Risk in the Kadey Division

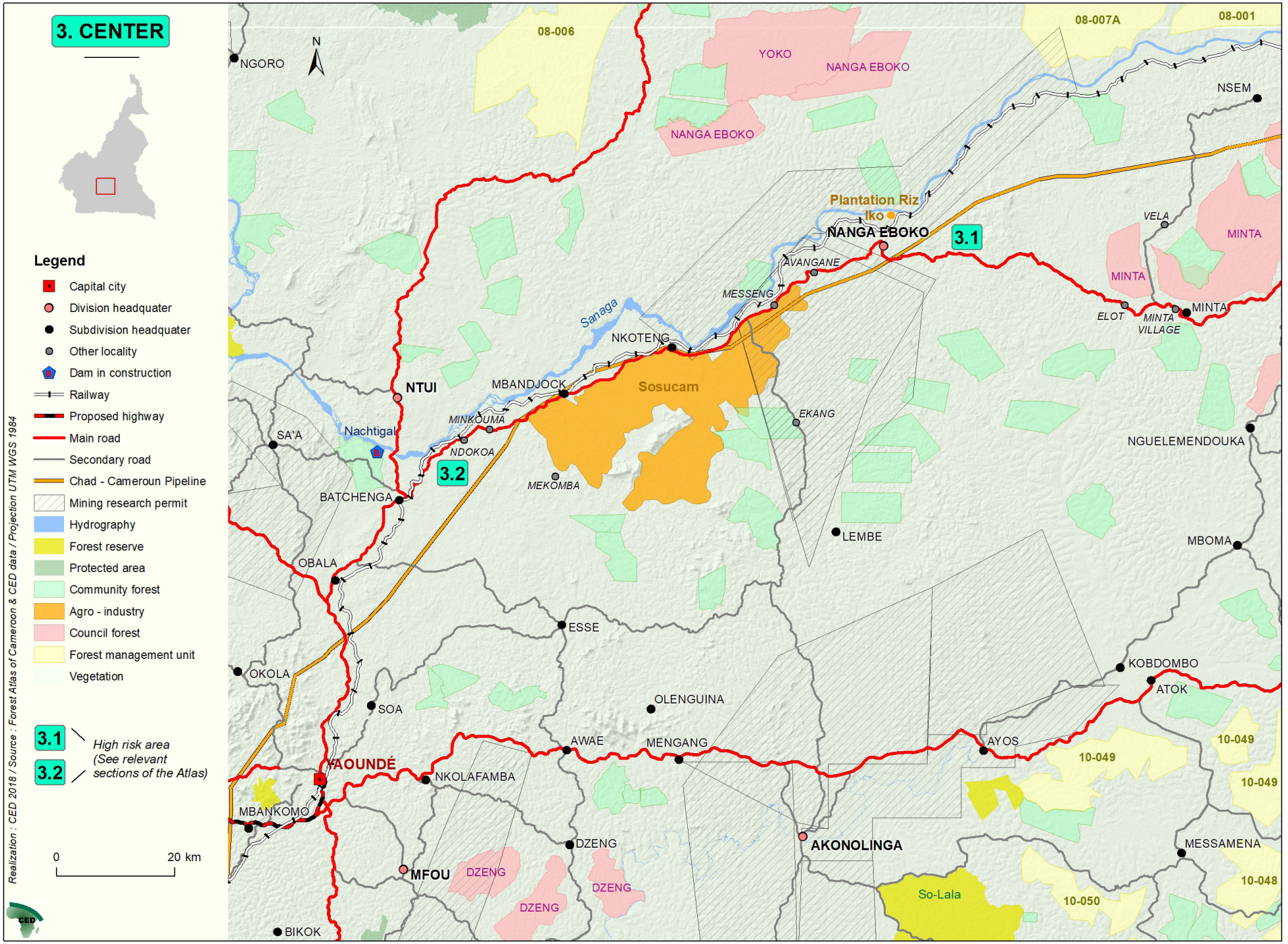
The Kadey division is one of the divisions of the East Cameroon region. It is characterized by the exploitation of different types of natural resources but also by the strong presence of Central African refugees and their herds of cattle.

Gold exploration permits overlap with FMUs, municipal and community forests, an agro-industry and forest reserves. In addition to these titles, small-scale gold mining with its share of negative impacts is practiced in almost the entire division.

The demographic boom and the overlapping of sometimes contradictory interests that this part of the territory is experiencing have led to a competitive rivalry for access and management of the available spaces. Anything that can lead to land disputes in this division.



Centre


3. CENTER
Legend
Capital city
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Other locality
Dam in construction
Railway
Proposed highway
Main road
Secondary road
Chad - Cameroun Pipeline
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Forest reserve
Protected area
Community forest
Agro - industry
Council forest
Forest management unit
Vegetation
3.1
3.2
High risk area (See relevant sections of the Atlas)
0
20 km
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Cameroon & CED data / Projection UTM WGS 1984
N
NGORO
08-006
YOKO
NANGA EBOKO
NANGA EBOKO
08-007A
08-001
NSEM
Plantation Riz Iko
NANGA EBOKO
3.1
AVANGANE
MESSENG
Sanaga
NKOTENG
VELA
MINTA
MINTA
ELOT
MINTA VILLAGE
MINTA
NTUI
MBANDJOCK
Sosucam
EKANG
NGUELEMENDOUKA
SA'A
Nachtigal
MINKOUMA
NDOKOA
3.2
MEKOMBA
BATCHENGA
LEMBE
MBOMA
OBALA
ESSE
KOBDOMBO
ATOK
OKOLA
SOA
OLENGUINA
AWAE
MENGANG
AYOS
10-049
10-049
10-049
YAOUNDÉ
NKOLAFAMBA
MBANKOMO
DZENG
AKONOLINGA
MESSAMENA
MFOU
DZENG
DZENG
DZENG
So-Lala
10-050
10-048
BIKOK

Risk in the Nanga-Eboko area

Capital of the Haute-Sanaga division, Nanga-Eboko is characterized by its landscape that is favorable to agricultural activities. This is what justified the arrival of Chinese investors in the area for rice production. Similarly, the government launched rice agropoles with Korean partners in the first quarter of 2018.

The forest assets of this locality have enabled the development of community and communal forests, but also forest management units. This has led to an increase in cases of illegal logging.

The subsoil of the Nanga-Eboko district is full of minerals, hence the granting of gold and rutile exploration permits to Archidona Minérales SA.

The wealth in natural resources of this locality has encouraged the influx of migrants and land grabbing by the elites (the district being the first lady's home district). The construction of the Chad-Cameroon pipeline has caused the displacement of several communities, but also the arrival of others in search of various opportunities.

This rush to Nanga-Eboko and its lands has had a negative impact on the availability of land and resources. Some local communities do not have enough space to meet their primary needs, and are sometimes forced to obtain fresh food from markets in other districts, or even to the city of Yaoundé. This situation has impacts on social peace.

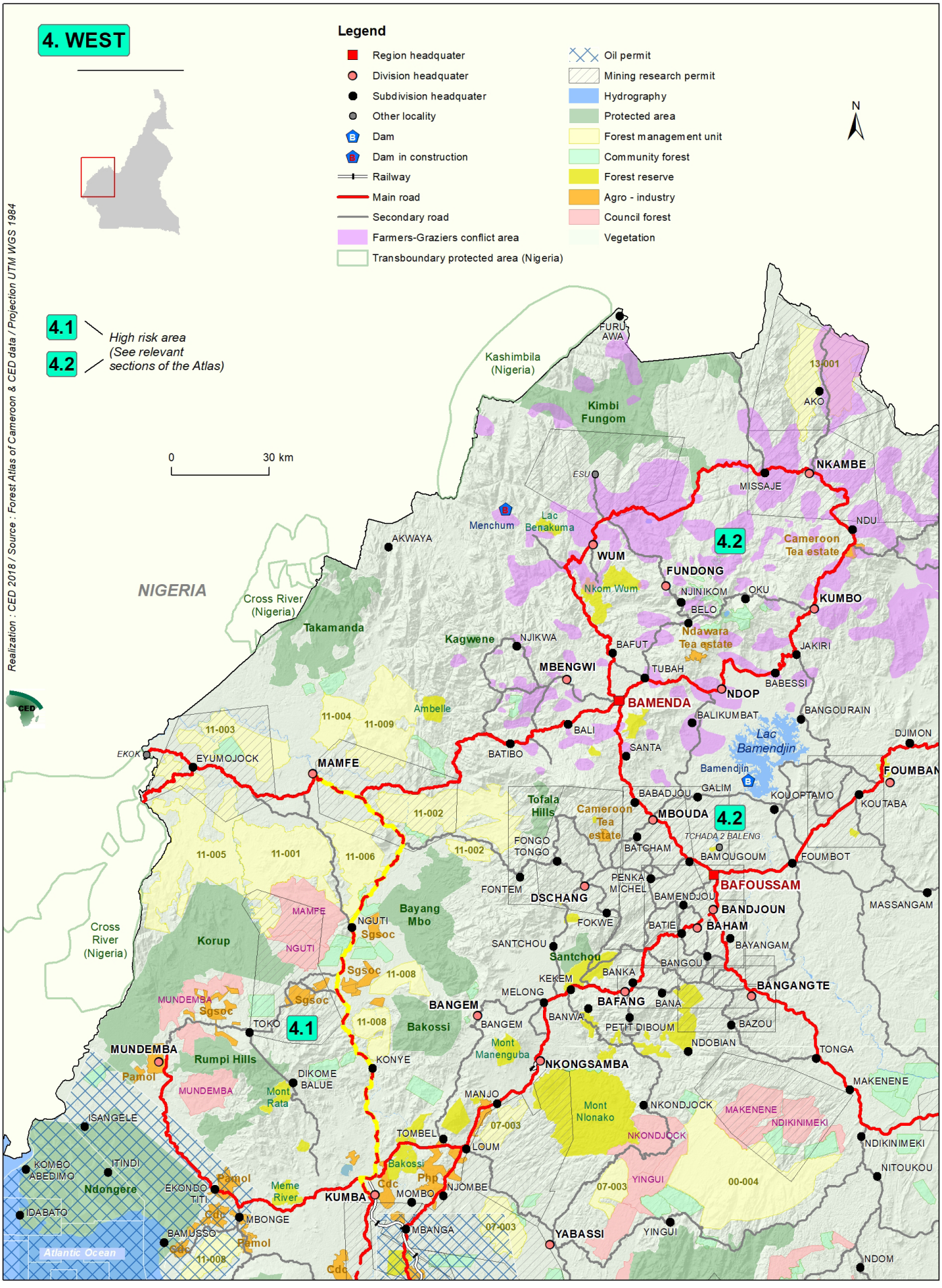
In the Nyong-et-Mfoumou Division, mining exploration permits have been granted. There are biodiversity conservation projects, including the forest reserve. Forestry operations are also present in the area, namely Forest Management Units and community forests. At the same time, there is a real land grabbing by the elites, all of which is also noticeable around the Nachtigal dam area and around the SOSUCAM plantations in Mbanjock and Nkoteng.

Around the Nachtigal dam area, the structure to be built appears to be a barrier to access to land. Logging is taking place, to the extent that there are FMUs and community forests. Mining is perceptible through mining exploration permits.

Around the SOSUCAM plantations in Mbandjock and Nkoteng, there are agro-industries, in this case SOSUCAM. The crossing of the Chad-Cameroon pipeline in the area has also been a source of problems for the land rights of riverside communities. Mining takes place in the area with the rutile exploration permits.



Great West


4. WEST
Legend
Region headquater
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Other locality
Dam
Dam in construction
Railway
Main road
Secondary road
Farmers-Graziers conflict area
Transboundary protected area (Nigeria)
Oil permit
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Protected area
Forest management unit
Community forest
Forest reserve
Agro - industry
Council forest
Vegetation
N
4.1
4.2
High risk area
(See relevant
sections of the Atlas)
0
30 km
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Cameroon & CED data / Projection UTM WGS 1984
NIGERIA
Cross River (Nigeria)
Kashimbila (Nigeria)
Takamanda
Korup
Rumpi Hills
Bakossi
Bayang Mbo
Mont Manenguba
Mont Nlonako
Mont Rata
Meme River
Tofala Hills
Kimbi Fungom
Kagwene
Ambelle
Ndawara Tea estate
Cameroon Tea estate
Nkom Wum
Lac Benakuma
Lac Bamendjin
TCHADA 2 BALENG
Atlantic Ocean
FURU AWA
AKO
ESU
NKAMBE
MISSAJE
NDU
Menchum
AKWAYA
WUM
FUNDONG
NJINIKOM
OKU
KUMBO
BELO
NJIKWA
BAFUT
JAKIRI
MBENGWI
TUBAH
BABESSI
NDOP
BAMENDA
BALIKUMBAT
BANGOURAIN
DJIMON
BALI
SANTA
BATIBO
Bamendjin
FOUMBAN
EKOK
EYUMOJOCK
MAMFE
BABADJOU
GALIM
KOUOPTAMO
KOUTABA
MBOUDA
FONGO TONGO
BATCHAM
BAMOUGOUM
FOUMBOT
FONTEM
PENKA MICHEL
BAMENDJOU
BAFOUSSAM
DSCHANG
BANDJOUN
MASSANGAM
FOKWE
BATIE
BAHAM
SANTCHOU
BAYANGAM
BANGOU
Santchou
BANKA
KEKEM
BANGANGTE
MELONG
BAFANG
BANA
BANWA
PETIT DIBOUM
BAZOU
BANGEM
NDOBIAN
TONGA
NKONGSAMBA
KONYE
MANJO
MAKENENE
NKONDJOCK
NDIKINIMEKI
TOKO
DIKOME BALUE
MUNDEMBA
TOMBEL
LOUM
NITOUKOU
ISANGELE
KOMBO ABEDIMO
ITINDI
Ndongere
EKONDO TITI
IDABATO
MBONGE
BAMUSSO
KUMBA
MOMBO
NJOMBE
MBANGA
YABASSI
YINGUI
NDOM
Pamol
Cdc
Php
Sgsoc
NGUTI
11-001
11-002
11-003
11-004
11-005
11-006
11-008
11-009
07-003
00-004
13-001

Great West

The Southwest area is characterized by a strong presence of agro-industries with the direct consequence of a strong pressure on the traditional lands of the riverside communities. Examples include agro-industries, Pamol, CDC, and SGSOC Herakles Farms. For example, the SGSOC agro-industry claimed a concession of 73,000 ha, impacting the livelihoods of these communities. Thanks to the actions of civil society, the area has been reduced to just under 20,000 ha. With the crisis in the English-speaking regions, it has been possible to record a peak of illegal logging in these areas.

At the same time, infrastructure projects, with the construction of the Kumba-Mamfe road in the Manyu department, are putting pressure on the traditional spaces of riverside communities. This road extends to the village of Ekok, which borders Nigeria. Compensation problems have thus been identified in the area. Communities complained about the absence and low compensation. All of which could lead to social tensions exacerbated by the English-speaking crisis.

Many biodiversity conservation projects are also being carried out in the Southwest. UNESCO World Heritage Site, Korup National Park (KNP) was created by Presidential Decree No. 86/1283 of 30 October 1986. It shares a common border with Cross River National Park in Nigeria and covers an area of 126,000 ha. However, there is an increase in poaching. In addition to this project, there are others such as Takamanda, Rumpi Hills, Ndongere, Kimbi Fungom, Tofala Hills, Bayang Mbo, and Bakossi. In the same area, there are problems with the retrocession of community land by the CDC.

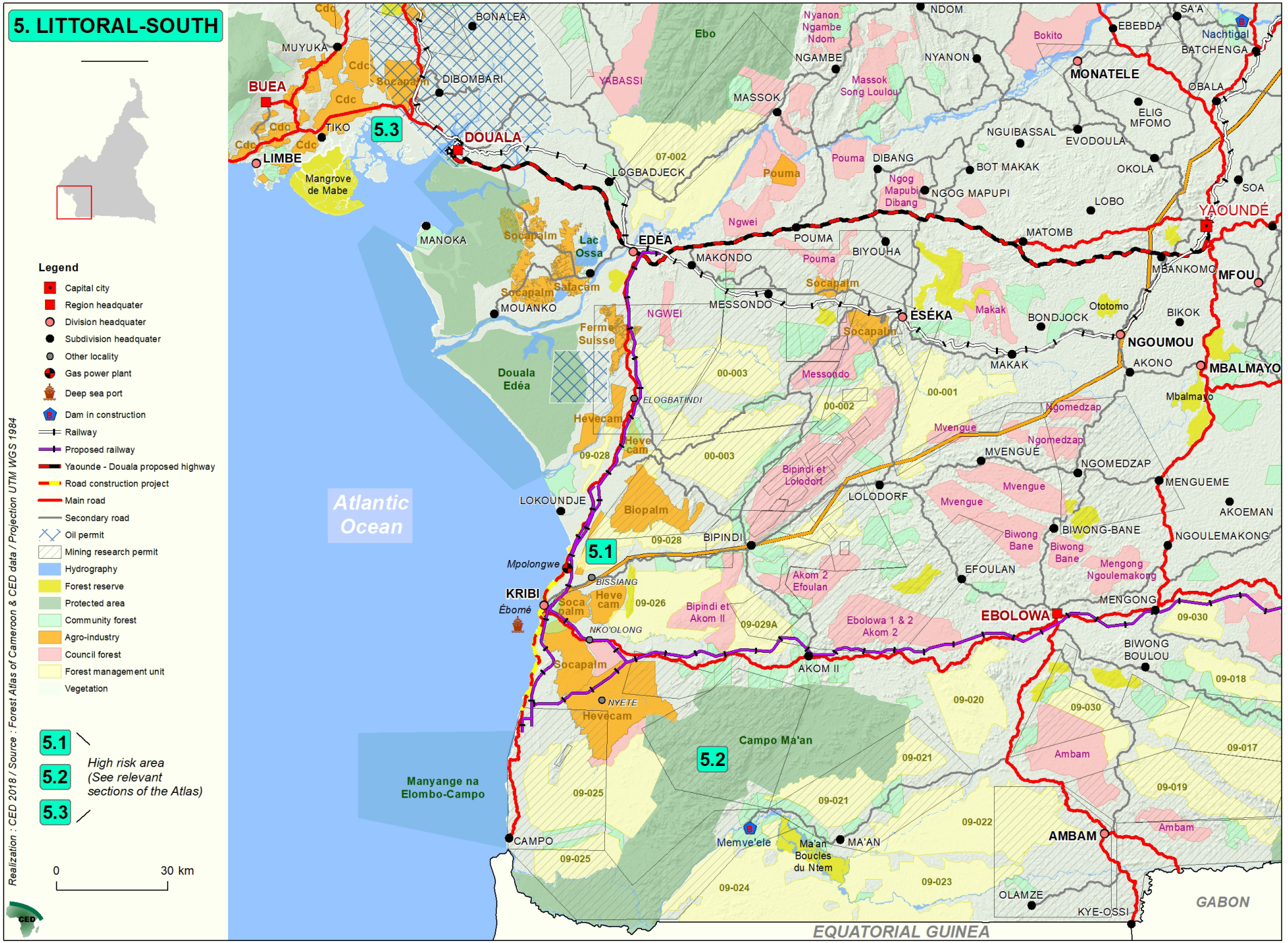
In the North-West Cameroon area, land pressure is equally significant. The problem of land grabbing is apparent with the presence of agro-industries, such as Ndawara Tea Estate and Cameroon Tea Estate. Agro-pastoral conflicts also abound in the area with the presence of Mbororo and herders from foreign countries such as Nigeria and Chad. In the North-West, for example, the village Esu, located in the district of Fungom, about 25 km from Wum, the capital of Menchum Division, is affected by the phenomenon of agro-pastoral conflicts and land grabbing.

These agro-pastoral conflicts extend as far as West Cameroon. In Tchada 2 Baleng, a local elite has taken over the Mbororo grazing lands. Violent conflicts between farmers and herders have arisen as a result. Land remains a source of conflict, the presence of the city, demographic pressure contributing to a rush to the land. There is an upsurge in conflicts over the registration of land for private individuals.



Littoral - Sud

5. LITTORAL-SOUTH



OVERVIEW OF THE OCEAN AND FAKO DIVISIONS

Ocean Division

With the construction of the deep-water port of Kribi, the multiplication of infrastructure projects and its astonishing wealth and diversity of natural resources, the Ocean Division is a highly attractive site for investors. The existence in the area of land and forest concessions, mining research permits, generates increasing pressure on the land and new impulses in conflicts related to its use.

This situation leads to a serious threat to the livelihoods of many local and indigenous communities that depend on agriculture. At the same time, the implementation of infrastructure projects is not always supported by an adequate compensation and compensation process.

In the Nyete district, there is considerable pressure on land due to the presence of two large agro-industries, previously state-owned for more than four decades. The presence of the HEVECAM Nyete concession has an impact on more than twenty local and indigenous communities. Although social tensions have been perceptible so far, the company has been initiating dialogue with these residents for some years now, with the aim of seeking peaceful coexistence.

At the same time, SOCAPALM, which borders HEVECAM, intends to occupy most of its Kienke land concession, by developing its plantations in the forests surrounding the villages of Agan-Oveng, Nkolmbonda and Nkolong. In the districts of Kribi 1st and 2nd and Lokoundje, where SOCAPALM is located, it occupies vast areas of more than 21,000 ha. Extensions to swamps and plantation renewal continue to be a major concern in riverside communities. The fundamental problem with the expansion of plantations is the restriction of access to land and livelihoods for local and indigenous communities that have occupied these areas for decades.

In addition to its old Nyete plantation, the HEVECAM agro-industry has extensions in Bissiang and Elogbatindi, in the Lokoundje district. Tensions on these sites are apparent with riverside communities demanding that their land rights be taken into account. In the Elogbatindi area, the pressure is all the more intense as other agro-industries are present. In this case, Biopalm, in the vicinity of Bela, is home to the extensions of the PHP (Plantations du Haut-Penja) in Dehane. These various factors combined are the source of growing social tensions.

Overall, in the Ocean division, there is a multiplication of appetites for land, with a real rush to the land, in the absence of real accountability. Many investors, both individuals and companies, are approaching local communities to acquire land. These individuals include a large number of non-indigenous individuals, including employees of agro-industries and other infrastructure or natural resource development projects. They buy land at a low price and engage in speculation. The resulting scarcity of the resource has been increased tenfold by competition in the market as a result of the growing involvement of agro-industry employees in subsistence, but especially commercial, agriculture.

Located in the extreme south of Cameroon, along the border with Equatorial Guinea, and bordered to the west by the Atlantic Ocean, Campo Ma'an National Park was created in 2000 by Decree No. 2000/004. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, its creation was intended to protect wildlife and biodiversity as part of the compensation for the environmental effects of the Chad-Cameroon Oil Pipeline Project.

Thanks to government incentives, throughout the division, Bagyeli indigenous communities have joined the roadside. The past presence of local communities in the area has led to an increase in conflicts, including land conflicts, between communities. Against the backdrop of a dominant-dominated relationship, this land insecurity leads to food insecurity and a profound loss of traditional knowledge among indigenous peoples.

The districts of Lokoundje, Akom 2, Bipindi and Mvengue are particularly rich in forest resources. For their exploitation, there are forest management units, timber sales, communal forests and community forests. In addition to the abundant illegal logging, issues of taking into account the rights of communities (information, participation, access to justice) remain thorny in the exploitation of communal forests and FMUs. While these operations have at least a definite impact on community uses, land pressure is further exacerbated by the multiplication of mining permits. As the area is rather rich in mining resources, several companies have applied and continue to apply to the State for mining exploration permits. These include CAMINA, CAMINEX and Gstones.

These various operations have a definite impact on access to land for local and indigenous communities, whose poor consideration of rights in the management of natural resources can lead to the multiplication of already perceptible social conflicts.

FAKO SITE (Buea)

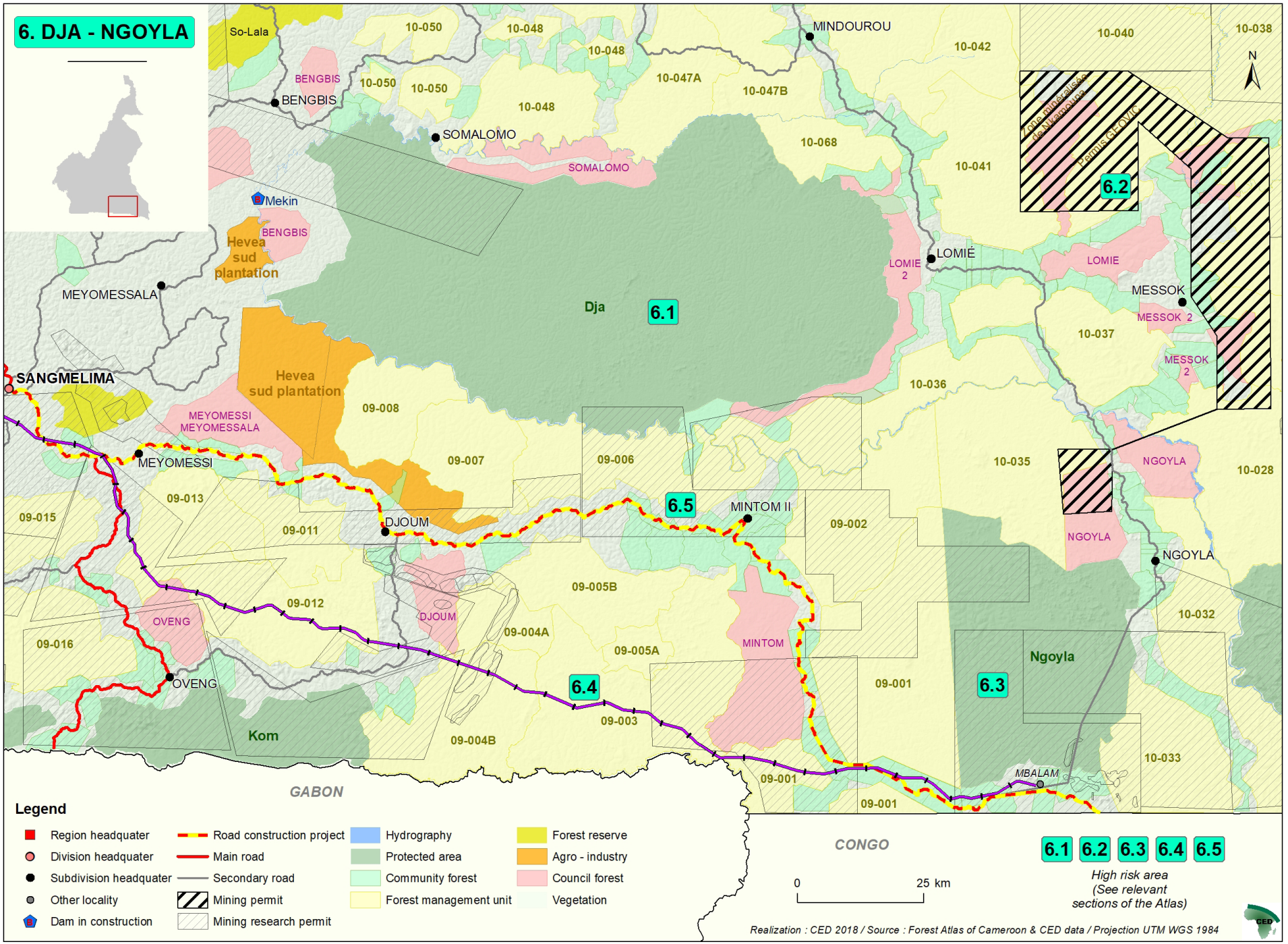
The land problems encountered in the Fako area are rooted in the remains of colonization. This is the transfer of land from the Cameroon Development Corporation (CDC). This land transfer followed the dispossession of the traditional lands of the local communities by the settlers some 130 years ago. Riverside communities were forced to abandon their vast tracts of ancestral land without compensation, leading to massive displacement of the Bakweri people.

For decades, the Bakweri people have initiated many actions to regain their rights. Among these is the referral to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. As a result of these actions, the Cameroonian government tried to resolve the conflict by implementing measures. This will involve the gradual redistribution of the lands from the concession to the Bakweri. The major issue here remains the redistribution of these lands. Indeed, this exercise is difficult due, among other things, to the presence of foreigners who have come to settle in the region in search of employment. Land conflicts are increasing due to competition in access to and control of land. These and other elites acquire land and sell it, to the detriment of people from the area. The immediate consequence of this situation is a depletion of the resource in the area.

The major interest in the Fako area remains the understanding of historical land grabbing processes and their effects on current land use and land governance in the region. The role of the State and other actors in facilitating the land redistribution process therefore appears more than interesting.

VI

Dja - Ngoyla


6. DJA - NGOYLA
So-Lala
BENGBIS
BENGBIS
SOMALOMO
SOMALOMO
Mekin
BENGBIS
Hevea sud plantation
MEYOMESSALA
Dja
6.1
MINDOUROU
LOMIÉ
LOMIE 2
LOMIE
MESSOK
MESSOK 2
MESSOK 2
6.2
Zone minéralisée de Nkamouna
Vernis de Ngovic
SANGMELIMA
Hevea sud plantation
MEYOMESSI MEYOMESSALA
MEYOMESSI
DJOUM
6.5
MINTOM II
NGOYLA
NGOYLA
NGOYLA
Ngoyla
6.3
OVENG
OVENG
DJOUM
MINTOM
6.4
Kom
MBALAM
GABON
CONGO
10-050
10-048
10-047A
10-047B
10-068
10-042
10-040
10-038
10-041
10-037
10-036
10-035
10-028
10-032
10-033
09-008
09-007
09-006
09-013
09-015
09-011
09-012
09-016
09-005B
09-004A
09-005A
09-004B
09-003
09-002
09-001
N
0
25 km
Legend
Region headquater
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Other locality
Dam in construction
Road construction project
Main road
Secondary road
Mining permit
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Protected area
Community forest
Forest management unit
Forest reserve
Agro - industry
Council forest
Vegetation
6.1 6.2 6.3 6.4 6.5
High risk area
(See relevant sections of the Atlas)
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Cameroon & CED data / Projection UTM WGS 1984

Dja – Ngoyla

1. Conflict risk around the Dja Reserve

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Dja Reserve is distinguished by its exceptional biodiversity. Notwithstanding its World Heritage status, the Dja Reserve is subject to strong anthropogenic pressures. Indeed, several human activities take place all around its boundaries. These include: the construction of the Mékin hydroelectric dam north of its limits, the development of the South Cameroon Rubber Company's rubber plantation (SUDCAM), GEOVIC's nickel-cobalt mining project, forestry, poaching and artisanal mining.

The development of these activities takes place over large areas of land, creating land pressure around the reserve. Local and indigenous communities are caught between these overlapping activities.

Faced with this competitive situation, conflicts related to access to and management of land spaces between communities and different investors and between investors all around the Dja reserve are unavoidable. In addition, the granting of a research permit in part of the reserve exacerbates the problem.

2. Risk of conflict around the GEOVIC mining project

GEOVIC is licensed to operate nickel, cobalt and manganese in the community of Nkamouna. However, this permit overlaps with several other titles, including Forest Management Units, Communal Forests and Community Forests. To these we should add the practices of the communities.

The exploitation of the Nkamouna deposit will result in the riverside communities being deprived of part of their land space, and in competition between the owners of the various deeds. The problems raised by the exploitation of this deposit will lead to land conflicts between the various actors involved.

3. Conflict risk around Ngoyla Wildlife Area

Created in 2014, the Ngoyla Wildlife Area aims at ensuring sustainable management with a view to safeguarding animal and plant species and their habitats. Only part of the reserve is located within the Mbalam Iron Mining Area, whose mining agreement was signed in 2012 between the Cameroonian government and Sundance Resources.

In addition to this overlap, a gold exploration permit granted in 2016 is located in part of the reserve. There are also forest management units, small-scale gold miners, part of the GEOVIC cobalt project and the Ngoyla communal forest around the reserve. These various activities and the existence of deeds around the reserve considerably threaten its integrity and the purpose for which it was created.

It should also be noted that the implementation of these projects and the resulting waves of migration will have an impact on land availability for local and indigenous communities living in the area. It is therefore almost certain that these projects will lead to land conflicts.

4. Risk along the route of the Mbalam-Kribi railway

The Mbalam-Kribi railway is a project integrated into the Mbalam Iron Project. It concerns the construction by Railco of a 510 km railway line linking the Mbalam ironworks to the port of Kribi. However, the path is not traced over a non-right zone. It will also be the object of the displacement of several local and indigenous communities, who will lose their vital spaces. Moreover, it is not excluded that conflicts related to access to land may arise along the railway right-of-way due to the many projects underway in the area.

5. Risks along the Sangmélima-Ouesso transnational road

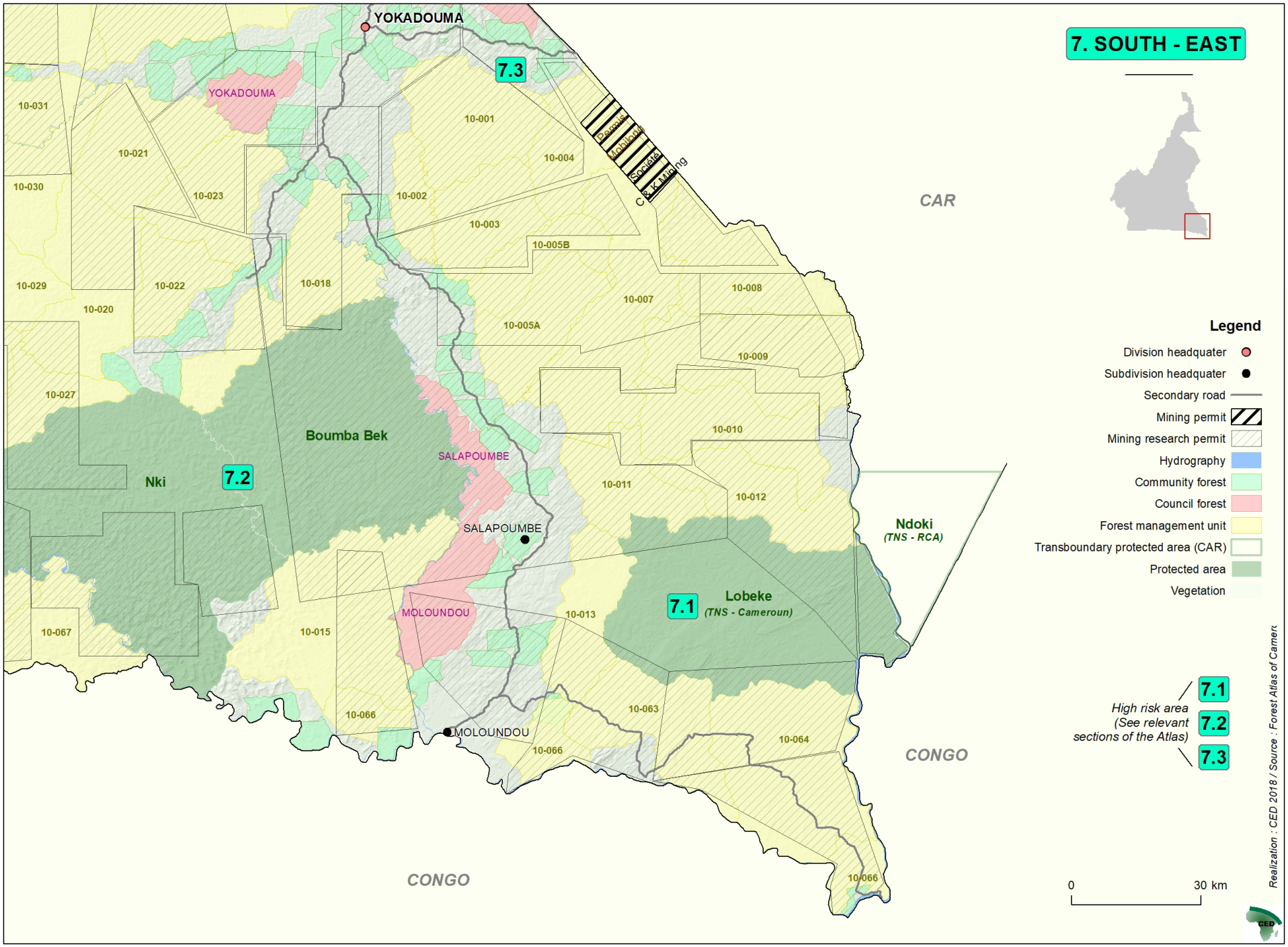
The Sangmélima-Ouesso transnational project, which aims at connecting Cameroon by land with the Republic of Congo, is one of the most prominent integrating projects in the Central African sub-region.

As with many projects, its implementation has caused several problems along its route. This road encroaches on community forests and other community living spaces. On some sections, work began without compensation to the population, and in the places where it took place; the communities complain that it was badly executed.

The road is still under construction, particularly the Meyomessi-Djoum, Mintom-Lélé- Congo border sections, and nothing rules out the possibility that if things are done wrong, there will be conflicts.

VII

Sud - Est


7. SOUTH - EAST
YOKADOUMA
7.3
YOKADOUMA
10-031
10-021
10-030
10-023
10-001
10-004
10-002
10-003
10-005B
10-029
10-022
10-018
10-020
10-007
10-008
10-005A
10-009
10-027
Boumba Bek
SALAPOUMBE
Nki
7.2
10-011
10-010
10-012
SALAPOUMBE
Ndoki
(TNS - RCA)
7.1
Lobeke
(TNS - Cameroun)
MOLOUNDOU
10-013
10-067
10-015
10-066
10-063
MOLOUNDOU
10-064
10-066
CONGO
CONGO
CAR
Permis
Mahlaing
Société
C. K. Mining
Legend
Division headquater
Subdivision headquater
Secondary road
Mining permit
Mining research permit
Hydrography
Community forest
Council forest
Forest management unit
Transboundary protected area (CAR)
Protected area
Vegetation
7.1
7.2
7.3
High risk area
(See relevant
sections of the Atlas)
0
30 km
Realization : CED 2018 / Source : Forest Atlas of Camer

South - East

1. Risks around Lobéké National Park

The biodiversity-rich Lobéké National Park is part of the protected area complex of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Despite its outstanding value recognized by the international community, the park is surrounded by forest management units (FMUs) and gold exploration permits overlap with part of its territory. These activities, including small-scale gold mining, threaten its integrity. The circulation of war weapons as a result of the Central African crisis and the displacement of populations fleeing conflict have increased pressure on natural resources, including poaching in and around the park.

The presence of the park, FMUs and research permits affect land availability for local and indigenous populations whose access to forest resources is limited or simply prohibited.

2. Risk of conflict around Nki and Boumba Bek National Parks

As contiguous protected areas, Nki and Boumba Bek National Parks are distinguished from other national parks by the diversity of the fauna and flora they shelter. However, despite their status, gold, iron and cobalt exploration permits have been granted in and around their area. Surrounded by forest management units and communal and community forests, artisanal gold and diamond mining activities take place all around the parks. The juxtaposition of these permits and the overlap of these activities weaken the integrity of both parks. Also, the concentration of several activities in the area leads to land pressure, which results in restricted access to forest resources for indigenous peoples and local communities.

3. Risk of conflict in Yokadouma district

The Yokadouma district is one of the largest forest communities in Cameroon. But Yokadouma's reputation is not only dependent on its vast forest area but also on the presence of one of the largest diamond deposits in the world: the Mobilong diamond deposit. Bordering the Central African Republic, Yokadouma's population is constantly increasing with each Central African crisis. The city has thousands of refugees living in and outside the camps. These have an impact on the sustainable management of natural resources in this part of the territory. Their need for fuel wood and livelihoods pushes them into illegal logging and the diversion of forest and mining resources. This exploitation has impacts on the availability of land and natural resources.

This situation creates competition with the local and indigenous populations of the district. In addition, the presence of FMUs has had the effect of depriving them of vast areas where they could develop their economic, social and cultural activities. It should also be noted that Yokadouma is increasingly attracting mining investors who have obtained re-

search permits that overlap with the diamond mining permit with FMUs, communal and community forests.

This rush to natural resources in Yokadouma district is at the root of the land pressure. This rush to natural resources in Yokadouma district is at the root of the land pressure. Pressure is also being exerted by elites who are taking over large areas for the development of cash crops such as cocoa, depriving local and indigenous communities of the land necessary for their socio-economic development. Like other localities in the Eastern region, Yokadouma is not immune to land conflicts.