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SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON*

* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the submitting Government and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of those respects.

1. In the United Republic of Cameroon, inadequate knowledge regarding the energy potential of some sources is a real obstacle to the formulation of a comprehensive policy on this matter. However, because of the manifest abundance of waterfalls, the United Republic of Cameroon is giving priority to hydropower over all other sources of energy in its electrification policy. The country's hydroelectric potential is approximately 35 million kW, the harnessable energy output being about 110 billion kWh. At present, the harnessed output is 1.3 billion kWh, i.e., 1 per cent. By 1985 the figure will reach 3 billion kWh.

2. In 1980, the country generated 1,387,860,000 kWh of electric power and consumed 1,292,300,000 kWh. Energy consumption by the public sector accounted for 117 MW, and will be approximately 312 MW in 1990. Consumption by the public sector is increasing at a rate of about 12 per cent per annum.

3. The total capacity in 1980 amounted to about 317 MW, distributed as follows:

Hydroelectric power stations	265,375 MW
Thermal (diesel) stations	54,000 MW.

4. The largest hydroelectric power station in operation used to be the Edea station, with a capacity of 263 MW. Two other hydroelectric stations are under construction:

(a) The Song Loulou station on the River Sanaga, with a capacity of:

288 MW in the first phase (including 192 MW by the end of 1981);

384 MW after the second phase (after 1983);

(b) The Lagdo station on the Benoué, with a capacity of 72 MW.

The facilities will be in operation by the end of 1983.

5. Other sites have already been surveyed and will be developed subsequently according to demand.

6. Systematic prospecting for sources of hydropower is under way. The results are expected in 1983.

7. Whereas in 1971, only 20 towns had electricity, today some 100 towns and rural centres have electricity. About 25 per cent of the Cameroonian population live in these towns and centres and this percentage can thus be linked to a network. The programmes now under way will bring the figure to 30 per cent by 1985.

8. Seventy per cent of the remainder of the population are scattered throughout the countryside and it becomes much more difficult to meet their energy needs. It is expected that recourse will be had to new and renewable sources of energy. Those of interest to the United Republic of Cameroon are:

Biomass (fuel wood, charcoal, plant by-products, biogas and ethanol);

Wind energy;

Solar energy;

Micro-hydropower stations.

9. Action is being taken to use and popularize these forms of energy.

10. While the Ministry of Mines and Energy is identifying activities to be undertaken and formulating plans and policies, institutions such as the University of Yaoundé (Ecole Nationale Supérieure Polytechnique), the Délégation Générale à la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (Institut de Recherche Géologique et Minière) and the Centre National d'Etudes et d'Expérimentation du Machinisme Agricole (CENEEMA) are responsible for research and for promoting widespread use of these new sources of energy.

11. Several of the country's agro-industries are now producing the energy they need from their agricultural waste (bagasse, stalks, palm-nut fibres and husks, cotton-seed husks, wood waste, rice husks, etc.).

12. Experiments in extending the production and use of biogas are proceeding in the country with Government assistance.

13. With regard to rural electrification, the Government has high hopes of micro-hydropower stations, since the country is rich in watercourses and has many suitable sites for such stations.
