

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report is the 14th to be published by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (CONAC). It summarises the anti-corruption activities carried out by various Public and Semi-Public Administrations, Civil Society Organisations and the Private Sector. These actions contribute to the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, through the PrECIS tool, which recommends the concomitant implementation of measures of Prevention, Education, Conditions, Incentives and Sanctions.

This Report is the outcome of 105 (one hundred and five) contributions from the following stakeholders:

- 2 (two) Control Institutions;
- 3 (three) Regulatory Bodies;
- 14 (fourteen) Courts;
- 31 (thirty-one) Ministries;
- 44 (forty-four) Public Establishments and Enterprises;
- 6 (six) Regional and Local Authorities;
- 4 (four) Civil Society Organisations;
- 1 (one) Private Sector Organisation.

Activities presented in this Document relate to prevention (I), administrative and legal sanctions against acts of corruption (II), asset recovery, and institutional cooperation in the fight against corruption (III).

I – PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

The 2024 Report highlights the numerous measures taken by Control and Regulatory Institutions, Ministries, Public Establishments and Enterprises, as well as Regional and Local Authorities to prevent corruption, in line with the first four strategic pillars of the PrECIS tool: Prevention, Education, Conditions and Incentives. These measures included:

- setting up toll-free numbers to facilitate denunciation of acts of corruption;
- raising awareness among public officials and users on the harmful effects of corruption;
- training various stakeholders in anti-corruption techniques;
- improving working conditions for public officials;
- awarding distinctions and bonuses to the best workers.

For its part, CONAC sought to prevent corruption by producing radio and TV programmes and a monthly newsletter, providing training and conducting awareness-raising campaigns during ceremonies to commemorate the International and African Anti-Corruption Days.

The system put in place to achieve these enabled CONAC to receive a total of **10,250 (ten thousand two hundred and fifty) denunciations in 2024**, compared to **7,548 (seven thousand five hundred and forty-eight) in 2023**. This represents an increase of **2,972 (two thousand nine hundred and seventy-two) denunciations in absolute terms** and **39.37% in relative terms**.

The treatment of complaints lodged with CONAC led to 44 (forty-four) Rapid Intervention Actions (RIAs), 2 (two) Anti-Corruption Clinics and 10 (ten) in-depth investigations conducted by Members of the Coordination Committee.

Out of the 44 (forty-four) denunciations that led to the deployment of RIAs in the field, 36 (thirty-six) were found to be substantiated and the suspects were referred to Court for legal actions.

The Anti-Corruption Clinics, organised in Ebolowa and Garoua, resulted in 11 (eleven) persons caught red-handed in acts of corruption.

In-depth investigations were carried out on the following allegations:

1. misappropriation of property belonging to the Union of Baptist Churches of Cameroon;
2. misappropriation of public property at the University Institute of Technology, University of Douala;
3. misappropriation of public property in Mbe Council;
4. corruption and misappropriation of public property in Tiko Council;
5. irregularities on the payment of legal bonuses at the Bamenda General Treasury;
6. corruption, misappropriation of public property, forgery and use in Messok Council;
7. violation of regulations by CGCOC Group in the exploitation of the Bidou stone quarry in Lokoundje Sub-Division;
8. closure of and failure to redeploy teachers appointed and posted to the Technical, Industrial and Commercial Colleges of Efogo and Nsenang-Edou in Nyong and Mfoumou Division;
9. extortion of funds from employees of G.S.S company by its management, corruption involving officials at the Pitoa Weighing Station, abuse of office, favouritism and misappropriation of public property by the Regional Delegate of Post and Telecommunications of the North, extortion of funds from Principals and Presidents of Parent Teacher Associations in Benoue Division, as well as
10. poor financial and accounting management of the Belabo-Diang inter- communal forest.

These investigations revealed that the State of Cameroon and other public and private entities suffered financial losses amounting to **1,448,735,311 (one billion four hundred and forty-eight million seven hundred and thirty-five thousand three hundred and eleven) CFA francs.**

II- SANCTIONS AGAINST CORRUPT PRACTICES

The 2024 Report also highlights the significant involvement of administrations and courts in combating corruption. This is reflected in an increase in the number of Administrations that imposed sanctions on perpetrators of acts of corruption or unethical and unprofessional conduct. The number of Administrations thus rose from 24 (twenty-four) in 2023 to 31 (thirty-one) in 2024. These sanctions concern 298 (two hundred and ninety-eight) civil servants, 227 (two hundred and twenty-seven) students, 216 (two hundred and sixteen) companies awarded public contracts and 14 (fourteen) logging companies.

14 (fourteen) Courts issued rulings in cases relating to corruption and related offences: the Budget and Finance Disciplinary Board (CDBF), 5 (five) Courts of First Instance, 4 (four) High Courts, 2 (two) Courts of Appeal, the Special Criminal Court (SCC) and the Specialised Section of the Supreme Court.

In total, the financial loss suffered by the State of Cameroon at the end of investigations by CONAC, decisions by the Budget and Finance Disciplinary Board (CDBF) and rulings by the Special Criminal Court is estimated at **4,061,806,711 (four billion sixty-one million eight hundred and six thousand seven hundred and eleven) CFA francs.**

III – ASSET RECOVERY AND INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

Asset recovery and institutional cooperation were also important aspects in the fight against corruption.

Recovery of the proceeds of corruption was effectively carried out by the Special Criminal Court and the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company.

❖ At the Special Criminal Court

Pursuant to Article 18 of Law N°. 2012/011 of 16 July 2012 amending and supplementing Law N°. 2011/028 of 14 December 2011 establishing a Special Criminal Court, the SCC recorded the restitution of the corpus delicti in 12 (twelve) legal proceedings, amounting to a total of **334,275,262 (three hundred and thirty-four million, two hundred and seventy-five thousand, two hundred and sixty-two) CFA francs**.

❖ At the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company (SRC)

In line with its responsibilities for recovering debts arising from pecuniary sanctions imposed in favour of the State, as laid down in Decree No. 2020/09 of 16 January 2020 to reorganise the Cameroon Debt Recovery Company, the SRC recovered a total of **5,293,068,849 (five billion two hundred and ninety-three million sixty-eight thousand eight hundred and forty-nine) CFA francs in 2024**.

As regards institutional cooperation, CONAC signed partnership agreements with some natural and legal persons, carried out study visits and participated in conferences. In addition, its staff received or provided training.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

Cameroon's 2024 Anti-Corruption Status Report indicates that prevention activities, including actions to raise public awareness, create adequate working conditions, and reward individuals recognised for their integrity and dedication to work, continue to be the most prominent in our Administrations. The proliferation of toll-free numbers and denunciation channels is another encouraging trend. These initiatives, which demonstrate that the anti-corruption drive is inclusive, should be encouraged. It is now easier for the public to report acts of corruption.

Emphasis was also placed on cracking down on corrupt practices and recovering assets, which continued in 2024 at the SCC and the SRC.

Notwithstanding these actions, urgent efforts are still needed for a more inclusive and effective fight against corruption. Foremost among these urgent needs are:

- enforcement of Article 66 of the Constitution, on the declaration of assets and property;
- criminalisation of illicit enrichment;
- improved protection for whistleblowers;
- dedicated mechanism for managing proceeds of corruption.
- increase in resources allocated to Control Institutions.