

Cameroon

Trilemma Rank
92

Trilemma Score
48.4

Balance Grade
CDC

Cameroon scores poorly on Energy Equity and Energy Security, given its almost total dependence on imports to meet its energy needs. With a score of 34.1, Energy Equity is still the weakest indicator, reflecting the mismatch between planned power generation capacity expansion and population growth projections. The government has made considerable effort to lower electricity prices, which has led to significant improvement in its performance over the 2010 baseline. Over the same period, the country has shown some consistency in improving Energy Security. In terms of Sustainability, Cameroon's heavy reliance on thermal power to support hydropower generation is a source of high carbon emissions. This has resulted in the progressive degradation of environmental performance observed over the past five years. Cameroon's balance grade is CDC and its global ranking is 92.

Population
24.1 (millions)

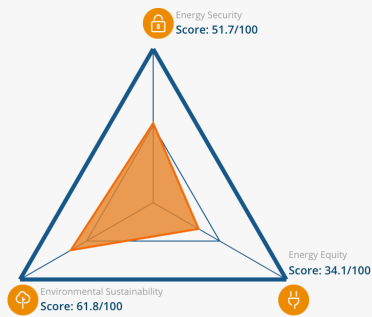
Land Area
472.7 (thousand sq. km)

GDP Per Capita
1,534 (PPP US\$)

Industrial Sector
25.8 (% of GDP)

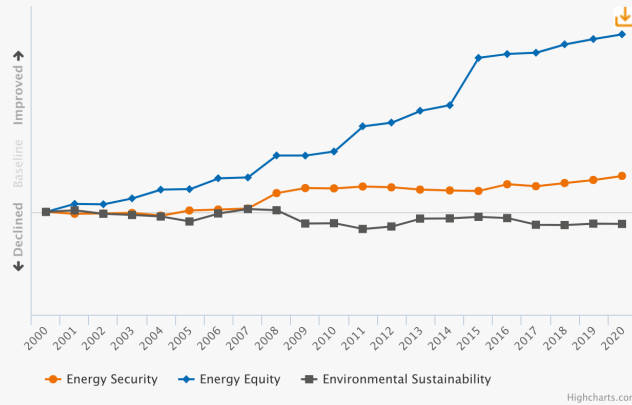
GDP Growth
4.1 (annual %)

Balance



Historical Trilemma Scores

Trend lines track the country's performance in each dimension, beginning with a baseline of 100 in the year of 2000



Trends and Outlook

Cameroon has abundant energy resources, although much of its natural wealth remains untapped. Hydropower is the main electricity source, accounting for 80% of total generation. Imported fossil fuels make up the balance. Electricity demand has been growing at an average 5.5% in recent years and is set to top 3300MW by 2030, when the country expects to have expanded access to modern energy services to 75% of the population. The direct contribution of the power sector to Cameroon's economic growth has been zero, if not negative. The industrial sector has been the first victim of frequent interruptions to power supply, forcing businesses to resort to stand-alone power generation solutions such as diesel generators that can be far more expensive than a normal grid connection. This gap in electricity supply is a major inhibitor of further economic development in Cameroon. There is an opportunity for further development of hydropower since only a small percentage of the country's huge potential has been exploited.

The country has experienced strong economic growth over the last decade and this has brought with it a growth in demand for electricity. But there are continued problems with access and 2019 was a difficult year for Cameroonians with power cuts being particularly frequent, particularly during peak demand periods. The commissioning of the 205MW Memve'e hydroelectric power station has provided some relief. However, this is still not enough to meet the growing demand for electricity, even with the 655MW generated by thermal power plants. Given low demand in remote areas, meeting this demand is a technical and economic challenge. The end-user voltage drop is often significant and transmission networks regularly experience severe disruption and suffer from a very high level of transmission losses and are in need of modernisation. In May 2020, the government announced that it was preparing an interconnection project between the southern and northern electricity grids with the financial and technical support of the World Bank. This will allow electricity produced in the south to be transmitted to the north, mainly from hydropower. This should help alleviate some of the gaps in access.

Key metrics

Metrics are determined relative to other countries, with a full bar representing a score of 100.

