

General overview of the research and evidence-informed decision-making landscape for Cameroon

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This map is part of a series of maps on the evidence-informed decision-making (EIDM) landscapes in different countries in Africa. The series comprises 25 maps and is available from the Africa Evidence Network. This is map 21 in the series. Maps were produced as part of the bursary conditions for attendance at Evidence 2016 (<http://evidenceconference.org.za/>). Bursaries were provided as part of the UJ-BCURE programme, funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID).

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GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED DECISION-MAKING LANDSCAPE (EIDM) FOR CAMEROON.

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Overview of main role players in the EIDM Landscape in Cameroon (three groups)

Governmental	Non-governmental and institutions	Intergovernmental bodies and Programmes
National and decentralised sector Ministries under the tutelage of Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI) including health, environment, agriculture, mines & energy, finance/planning, commerce	Local not-for-profit organisations and institutions	Bilateral and multilateral bodies including EU ¹ , AFD ² , JICA ³ , KOICA ⁴
Statutory Research Institutes (IRAD ⁵ , IRGM ⁶ , NIS ⁷ amongst others)	International not-for-profit organisations	
State-owned universities and higher institutes of learning	Private universities and higher institutes of learning	

- **What gaps exist in the EIDM landscape (i.e. what type of organisations/initiatives are currently missing)?**
 - The relationship between universities and research institutes is low.
 - It is generally observed that research cooperation are mainly initiated by donors and thus top-down and often do not necessarily reflect national interests.
 - Poor cross-ministerial linkages and inter-ministerial silos between key ministries involved in research
 - MINRESI as a key national research body so far has not been able to establish strong partnerships with local businesses. Relations between private and public organizations for promoting the use of results of research are low.
 - MINRESI has no control over research linkages established between individuals, NGOs at national and international levels
 - Weak link between policy makers with academia and research and international bodies to enable further enrichment of policy through adoption of latest research findings.
- **Are there bottlenecks or organisational silos that impede the flow of evidence through the system?**
 - Cross-ministerial policies, bridging inter-ministerial silos between ministries in charge of producing and using research including the ministry of scientific research and innovation, environment, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, finance/planning, industry, commerce to enable flow of evidence through the system.
 - Stifled process for both local and international organisations and institutions to engage with and lobby parliament and senate based on research to influence policies.

¹ European Union

² French Development Agency

³ Japan International Cooperation Agency

⁴ Korean International Cooperation Agency

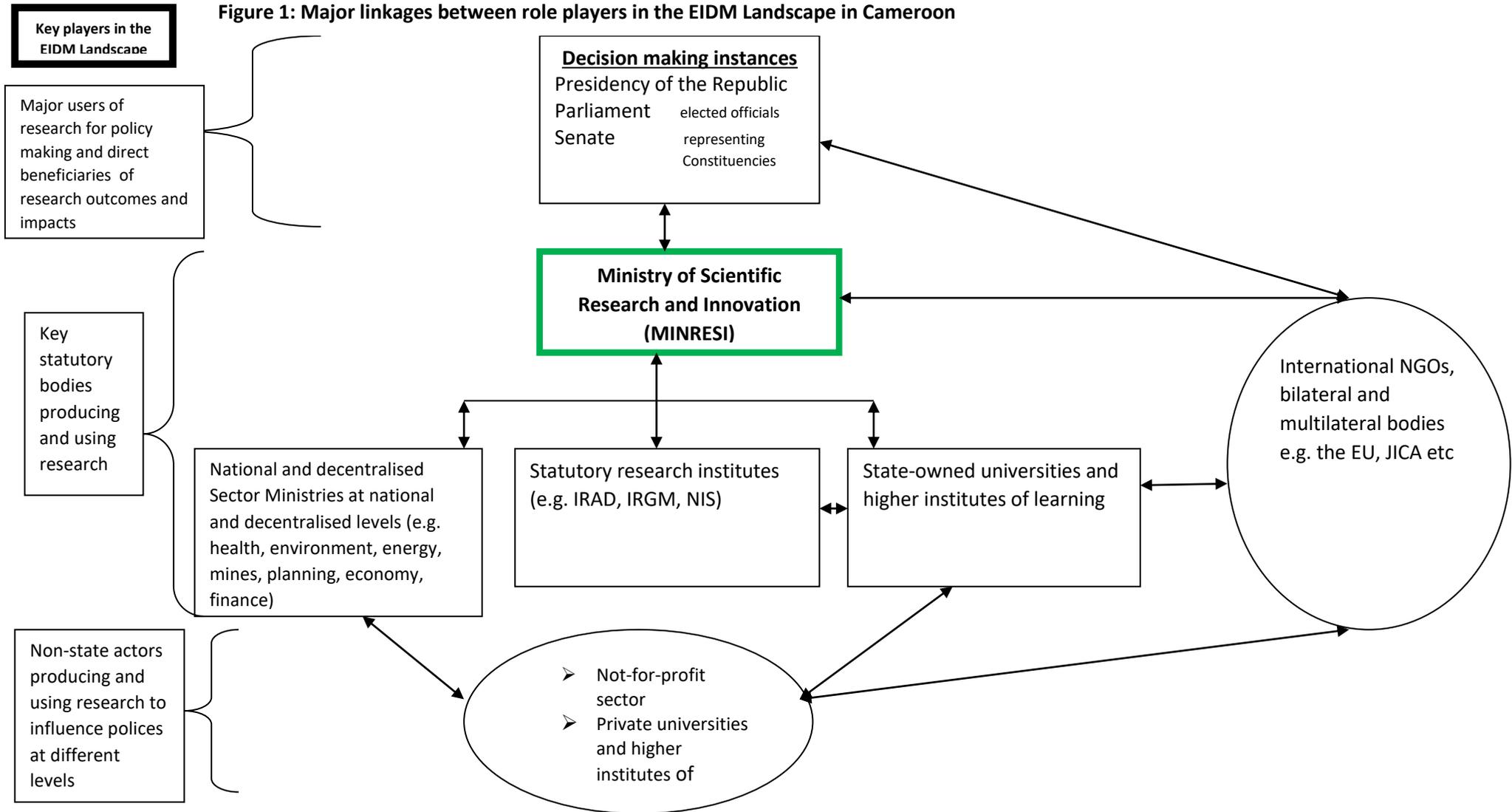
⁵ Institute of Agricultural Research and Development (IRAD)

⁶ Geological and Mining Research Institute

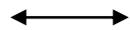
⁷ National Institute of Statistics

- **There is no clear-cut line between research producers and users in Cameroon. The key actors are both co-creators and users of research.**

Figure 1: Major linkages between role players in the EIDM Landscape in Cameroon



Source: Eric Ngang 2016



Indicates a two way feed-backing relationship between research stakeholders



Government Ministry responsible for co-ordinating the use of evidence across government

- **Type of intervention/support would the system most benefit from?**
 - Individuals, NGOs, professional, social networks and sector ministries engaged in research in critical areas for Cameroons socio-economic progress need to harmonised efforts based on agreed standards, develop joint strategy, an implementation action plan to break the inherent silos in research and policy uptake
 - Need to leverage existing skills, networks, organisational platforms, on-going research platforms to bridge gaps thus enforcing policy processes.
 - Support is needed for an indepth desk review and field research for the production of a comprehensive EIDM landscape for Cameroon. This is critical, as it serves as an initial steps towards improving stakeholders awareness and understanding and identifying the possible champions for the EIDM process in Cameroon.
 - Support is equally needed to engage in actions at strategic level to connect key researchers and policy makers and also inter-research and inter-policy maker's interaction to facilitate uptake research for informed decision making.
 - At operational level, support is needed to enhance connections among non-policy actors (NGOS, institutions, private sector)

- **Comment on how your map relates to the three themes of the Evidence 2016 conference: engage, understand, impact.**

The Cameroon map clearly shows the disconnect between the key actors involved in Evidence-informed Decision-making landscape in Cameroon. The current stakeholders in the Cameroon landscape work mostly in silos and thus there is a clear need to break this status quo and engage actors in a process of joint learning, developing harmonised blueprints and best practices on Evidence-informed Decision-making in Cameroon. This is an essential element to developing and implementing appropriate policies that seek to address the high levels of poverty faced by most communities in Cameroon at the moment.

- Do you think that there are aspects of the engagement described in your map that works well and has potential to be upscaled?

The EIDM landscape in Cameroon is still at an embryonic stage with an overall EIDM system that can be described as a *flurry of uncoordinated evidence actors Web*. There is a clear need for the engagement between actors to be reinforced to generate lessons learnt that can be capitalised upon and upscaled. This will thus position Cameroon in the Central Africa hub in playing an essential role while garnering efforts by other counterparts in the region to contribute to the Africa-wide Evidence-informed Decision-making Community of Practice (EIDM CoP), made up of relevant stakeholders, institutions and bodies keen on encouraging the promotion of evidence-informed decision-making.