

TELECOMMUNICATION IN THE WEST REGION OF CAMEROON

Diagnosis report

TABLE OF CONTENT

SOMMAIRE	1
LISTE DES SIGLES ET ABREVIATIONS	2
LISTE DES TABLEAUX	2
LISTE DES FIGURES.....	2
LISTE DES PHOTOS	2
1. CONTEXTE	3
2. CADRE NATIONAL REGLEMENTAIRE ET INSTITUTIONNEL DE LA COMMUNICATION	3
2.1. Cadre règlementaire	3
2.2. Cadre institutionnel	4
3. ETAT DES LIEUX DE LA COMMUNICATION MODERNE DANS LA REGION DE L'OUEST	5
3.1. Moyens de communication	5
3.2. Postes et télécommunications	10
3.3. Infrastructures de télécommunications	13
4. ETAT DES LIEUX DE LA COMMUNICATION TRADITIONNELLE DANS LA REGION DE L'OUEST	16
4.1. Système de communication en pays bamiléké	16
4.2. Système de communication en pays bamoun	17
5. ANALYSE FORCES FAIBLESSES, OPPORTUNITES ET MENACES DU SECTEUR.....	18
BIBLIOGRAPHIE.....	19

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANTI	: Agence Nationale des Techniques de l'Information et de la Communication
ART	: Telecommunications Regulatory Agency
CAB	: Central Africa Backbone
CAMPOST	: Cameroon Postal Services
NCC	: National Communication Council
MINCOM	: Ministry of Communication
MINPOSTEL	: Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication
OCADEM	: Cameroon Observatory of Ethics and Professional Conduct in the Media
OCM	: Cameroon Media Observatory
OPEN	: Foreign and National Press Observatory
TCP	: Multipurpose Community Call Centre
ICT	: Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies

LIST OF TABLES

Tableau 1: Présentation des moyens de communication dans la région de l'Ouest en 2017	5
Tableau 2: Situation des moyens de communication dans la Région de l'Ouest 2017 par département ..	7
Tableau 3: Récapitulatif des chaines de télévision dans la région de l'Ouest	9
Tableau 4: Récapitulatif des journaux dans la région de l'Ouest.....	9
Tableau 5: Trafic des colis envoyés de janvier à Août 2017.....	12
Tableau 6: Trafic des colis reçus de janvier à Août 2017	12
Tableau 7: Couverture spatiale du réseau CAMTEL (téléphonique et internet) en termes d'abonnés entre 2017 et 2016	14
Tableau 8: Catégories de TCP dans la région de l'Ouest	14

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Répartition des boîtes postales dans la région de l'Ouest.	11
Figure 2: Répartition des boîtes postales dans la région de l'Ouest par type d'abonnés	12
Figure 3: Réseau fibre optique dans la région de l'Ouest	16

LIST OF PHOTOS

Photo 1: Un bureau de poste à Bangangté dans le Ndé	11
Photo 2: Le Ndu'u	17
Photo 3: Le louop	17

1. BACKGROUND

One of the essential prerequisites for achieving Cameroon's Development Vision is the availability and dissemination of knowledge and know-how, made possible by Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

The sectoral strategy of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL) of October 2005 defines as a strategic objective "to increase quantitative, qualitative and low-cost access to electronic communications services throughout the national territory". The challenge for Cameroon in the field of communications and telecommunications infrastructure is to capitalize on what has been achieved, to develop broadband infrastructure to enable the country to integrate into global knowledge economy.

This chapter presents the regulatory and institutional framework for communication, provides an overview of the sector in the West Region, and identifies Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

In addition to modern communication tools, communities of the West Cameroon have historically had various traditions and processes handed down through the generations. These communication systems, which vary according to ethnolinguistic groups, are threatened with decline.

2. NATIONAL REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNICATION

2.1. Regulatory framework

In Cameroon, main texts governing (A) communication and (B) postal and telecommunications services are:

2.1.1. *Texts governing communication*

2.1.1.1. *On the liberalisation of the audiovisual sector in Cameroon*

- Law No. 96/04 of 4 January 1996 amending and supplementing Act No. 90/052 of 19 December 1990 on freedom of social communication;
- Decree No. 2000/158 of 3 April 2000 establishing conditions for the creation and operation of private audiovisual communication companies

2.1.1.2. *On the journalistic profession*

- Decree No. 2002/2170/PM of 09 December 2002 laying down the procedures for issuing a press card in Cameroon.
- Decree n°107/PM of 09 December 2002 setting the organisation and functioning of the press card issuing commission in Cameroon

2.1.1.3. *On advertising*

- Law No. 88/016 of 16 December 1988 regulating advertising in Cameroon
- Decree No. 89/1219 of 28 July 1989
- Decree No. 88/1218 of 28 July 1988 on the organization and functioning of the National Advertising Council
- Decree n°91/120 of 24 April 1991 establishing the professional advertising card
- Decree n°2000/158 of 03 April 2000 setting conditions for the creation and operation of private audiovisual communication companies.

2.1.1.4. On political parties

- Decree No. 92/030 of 13 February 1992 laying down procedures for political parties' access to public service media
- Decree No. 009/MINCOM/CAB of 22 November 2001 laying down technical conditions for the production, programming and broadcasting of the programme "political spaces" in public service audiovisual media.
- Decree No. 012/ MINCOM/CAD of 07 June 2002 establishing conditions for the production, programming and broadcasting of programmes relating to the electoral campaign

2.1.2. Texts governing Telecommunication

2.1.2.1. Basic texts

- Law No. 2005-013 of 29 December 2005 modifying and supplementing certain provisions of Law No. 98/014 of 14 July 1998 governing telecommunications in Cameroon
- Law n°2010/013 of 21 December 2010 regulating electronic communications in Cameroon
- Law n°98/013 of 14 July 1998 on competition
- Decree No. 98/1997 of 01 September 1998 on the organization and functioning of the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency;
- Decree No. 99/369/PM March 1999 establishing the interconnection regime between telecommunications networks open to the public.

2.1.2.2. Supporting texts in the transitional phase

- Decree n°00003/MPT /DT of 24 January 1995 setting telecommunications tariffs;
- Decree n°0016/MPT/T27/619 regulating the conditions applicable to telecommunications installations carried out and maintained by private companies.

2.2. Institutional framework

Leading institutions responsible for the process of implementing and monitoring communication are:

- **Ministry of Communication (MINCOM):** it is responsible for the development and implementation of the Government's communication policy.
- **The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MINPOSTEL)** ensures the implementation of the sectoral policy of Telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies on the one hand and on the other hand, develops and implements the policy for the security of electronic communications and information systems.
- **The Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART):** placed under the supervision of the telecommunications administration, it was organised by Decree No. 98/197 of 8 September 1998. ART is a public administrative institution with legal personality and financial autonomy. Article 3, paragraph 1, of the Decree of 8 September 1998 provides that: "The Agency's mission is to ensure the regulation, control and monitoring of the activities of operators and operators in the telecommunications sector".
- **The Agence Nationale des Techniques de l'Information et de la Communication (ANTIC)** is responsible for monitoring government action in the field of information and communication technologies; it is responsible for regulating electronic security activities, in collaboration with the Telecommunications Regulatory Agency (ART).

- **National Communication Council(NCC):** it is the consultative body placed under the Prime Minister, Head of Government, to assist the public authorities in the development, implementation and monitoring of the National Communication Policy".
- **Cameroon Observatory of Ethics and Professional Conduct in the Media (Ocadem):** a self-regulatory body of the press, created by professionals and media managers in Cameroon. Ocadem's objectives include enforcing the rules of ethics and professional conduct in media, protecting the public's right to free, complete, honest and accurate information, defending press freedom, encouraging professional media professionals, etc.
- **Foreign and National Press Observatory(OPEN):** a legalized non-profit association with a cultural and scientific vocation. It was created on 22 June 2011 in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital. Its motto is "Excellence, Civicism, Patriotism".
- **Cameroon Media Observatory(OCM).**

3. STATUS OF MODERN COMMUNICATION IN THE WEST REGION

3.1. Communication means

The West Region's media landscape is characterized by four types of media: broadcasting, television, print media and advertising agencies. The number of radio channels increased from 24 in 2015 to 28 in 2017; in 2017 there were a total of 06 television stations and 20 cable operators, 28 news organizations, 07 advertising agencies and 17 media represented in the region.

However, we realize that most of televisions and radios broadcasting in the West Region do not have an operating licence (DRMICOM), specifically no television in 2017 in the region has an operating licence or a provisional operating licence, and only ten (10) radios out of 28 hold at least the provisional operating licences.

In written press there are 26 tabloids and 02 online newspapers, which appear at weekly frequencies for a handful, monthly, bi-monthly or even even event-based.

Table 1: Presentation of means of communication in the West Region in 2017

Sector	Type	Number
RADIOS	Community	12
	General	11
	Thematic	05
Total		28
TELEVISIONS	Religious	01
	General	05
Total		06
PRESS BODIES	Tabloids	26
	Online newspapers	02
Total		28
ADVERTISING AGENCIES	Representatives	03
	Locals	04
Total		07
REPRESENTED MEDIAS	Televisions	08

Sector	Type	Number
	Radios	02
	Written press	07
Total		17

Source: DR-MINCOM/West, 2017

- **Sound broadcasting sector**

Table 2: Situation of the means of communication in the West Region 2017 by division

N°	Company name	Year of creation	Promoter	Type	Locality	Frequency	Authorisation	Permit
MIFI								
1	CRTV/West	1985	State of Cameroon	Generalist	Bafoussam	93.5 MHZ	Yes	Yes
2	PAOLA FM	2002	State of Cameroon	Generalist	Bafoussam	104.7 MHZ	Yes	Yes
3	Radio Batcham	2000	Private	Generalist	Bafoussam	96.7 MHZ	Yes	No
4	Radio Universitaire TANKOU		Private	Generalist	Bafoussam	99.4 MHZ	No	No
5	Radio Star	2003	Private	Generalist	Bafoussam	95.5 MHZ	No	No
6	RUNA FM		Private	Generalist	Bafoussam	102 MHZ	No	No
7	Grass fields FM	2015	Private	Generalist	Bafoussam	90.5 MHZ	No	No
8	Radio Bonne Nouvelle	2002	Private	Thematic (religious)	Bafoussam	97.9 MHZ	No	No
9	VOX ECCLESIA	2014	Diocèse Bafoussam	Thematic (religious)	Bafoussam	93.7 MHZ	No	No
10	Radio DUNAMIS FM		Private	Thematic (religious)	Bafoussam	94.0 MHZ	No	No
11	Bafoussam II community radio		Private	Community	Bafoussam	94.3 MHZ	No	No
HAUT-NKAM								
1	Radio TIEMENI SIANTOU Relais		Private	Generalist	Bafang	90.5 MHZ	No	No
2	Radio Site Dar		Private	Community	Bafang	98.8 MHZ	Yes	No
3	Radio FLAMBEAU BANKA		Private	Community	Banka	91.5 MHZ	Yes	No
4	CADEF Community radio		Private	Community	Bana	105.5 MHZ	Yes	No
5	CADEF Community radio		Management account	Community	Fotouni	94.0 MHZ	Yes	No
HIGHLANDS								
1	Highlands community radio		UNESCO/MINCOM	Community	Baham	98.0 MHZ	No	No
MENOUA								
1	Radio NKWALAH		Private	Generalist	Dschang	100.0 MHZ	No	No
2	Radio NGIE-LAH		MINPOTEL/MINCOM	Community	Dschang	104.25 MHZ	Yes	No

3	Radio YEMBA		Comité d'Etude de Langue Yemba (CELY)	Community	Dschang	98.0 MHZ	No	No
4	Radio Campus		Private	Thematic (education)	Dschang	95.1 MHZ	No	No
NDE								
1	Radio MEDUMBA		Private	Community	Bangangté	100.0 MHZ	Yes	No
2	NKUN MEBWO	2017	Private	Thematic (religious)	Mfetom-Bangangté		No	No
NOUN								
1	RAF FM	2013	Private	Generalist	Foumbot	90.0 MHZ	No	No
2	PUAKONE Radio and Communication		Private	Generalist	Foumban	98.5 MHZ	Yes	No
3	Noun community radio	2002	Private	Community	Foumban	104.0 MHZ	No	No
4	Radio Sonore de Kouoptamo	2015	Private	Community	Kouoptamo	102.3 MHZ	No	No
BAMBOUTOS								
1	Radio NGUIEMBOON	2010	Private	Community	Batcham	92.5 MHZ	No	No

Source: DR-MINCOM/West, 2017

All divisions in the region are covered by the Radio network except Koung-Khi. The one with a high rate of radio coverage is MIFI with 11 radio channels. Those with a low radio network are Bamboutos and Highlands.

- Television sector

Table 3: Summary of television channels in the West Region

N°	Company name	Type	Locality	Authorization	Permit
1	WEST TV	Generalist	Bafoussam	No	No
2	Living Water Chanel	Thematic (christian)	Bafoussam	No	No
3	VINO TV	Generalist	Bafoussam	No	No
4	NGENDUNKOYE TELEVISION (NGTV)	Generalist	Bafoussam	No	No
5	Universal social TV	Generalist	Foumban	No	No
6	Canal MÖM TV	Generalist	Foumban	No	No

Source: DR-MINCOM/West, 2017

- Print media sector

Table 4: Summary of newspapers in the West Region

N°	Company name	Head office	Frequency of release
1	Action Directe	Bafoussam	Bi-monthly
2	Le Medium	Bafoussam	Bi-monthly
3	Ouest Echos	Bafoussam	Weekly
4	Le Héraut National	Bafoussam	Weekly
5	Afrique nouvelle	Bafoussam	Monthly
6	Bafoussam Flash infos	Bafoussam	Weekly
7	Academos	Bafoussam	RAS
8	Le Regard	Foumban	Occasionally
9	L'éveil	Foumban	Weekly
10	La gazette du Noun	Foumban	Monthly
11	Le Ndé	Bangangté	Monthly
12	Le Nouvelle Observateur Plus	Bangangté	Bi-monthly
13	Productive	Bangangté	Monthly
14	Echos du NDE	Bangangté	Monthly
15	Echos des montagnes	Bangangté	Monthly
16	Dossier d'Afrique	Bangangté	Tri-weekly
17	Mosaïques	Bangangté	Monthly
18	Tûko Medumba	Bangangté	Monthly
19	Canard du Haut-Nkam	Bafang	Bi-monthly
20	Le Haut-Nkam infos plus	Bafang	Monthly
21	Le Haut-Nkam	Bafang	Bi-monthly
22	Le FEFE infos	Bafang	RAS

N°	Company name	Head office	Frequency of release
23	L'Essentiel	Bafang	RAS
24	Sinotable.com	Dschang	RAS
25	Bafou.org	Dschang	RAS
26	Menouactu	Dschang	RAS
27	La sentinelle info	Mbouda	RAS
28	La Voix du Peuple	Mbouda	Bi-monthly

Source: DR-MINCOM/West, 2017

Community radio stations broadcast over a distance of less than 100 km while national radio stations broadcast over 100 km.

- Possession of television, radio and electricity

According to the statistical yearbook of telecommunications and ICTs in Cameroon (2017), from 2005 to 2017, access to radio, television and electricity in the West Region increased. Thus:

- 54.9% of households in this region have a radio compared to a national average of 46.6%.
- 55.8% of households in this region have a TV compared to a national average of 54.6%.
- The percentage of households with electricity in the West is 65.2 compared to a national average of 64.

3.2. Posts and Telecommunications

Post and telecommunications infrastructure available in the West Region is of three types: post infrastructure; telecommunications infrastructure; and community telecentres.

3.2.1. Post infrastructure

In the past, post service in the West Region was entirely managed by the government. Currently, the postal services market is shared between private operators (DHL, MTA, ESiCo) and the state-owned Cameroon Postal Services (CAMPOST).

3.2.1.1. A public postal operator: CAMPOST

CAMPOST is the Cameroonian public postal operator in terms of postal services. It provides mail distribution, financial services, digital services, e-commerce logistics solutions. Postal service in Cameroon consists of depositing mail and small packages in PO boxes located in post offices. PO BOX is the traditional product of CAMPOST which allows the customer to have a legal address where his mail is delivered. In Cameroon, PO boxes are located in post offices and not in homes as in Europe.

Photo 1: A post office in Bangangté in the Ndé

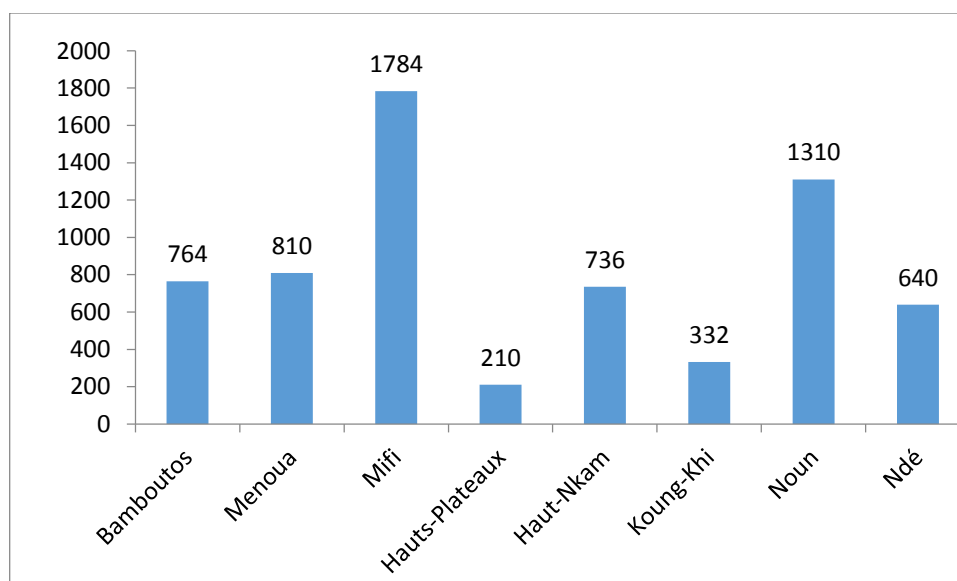


The West Region has 28 post offices and 6596 PO boxes. Post offices are distributed as follows:

- 03 in Bamboutos
- 04 in Haut-Nkam
- 02 in Highlands
- 01 in Koung Khi
- 04 in Menoua
- 03 in Mifi
- 05 in Ndé
- 06 in Noun

Mailboxes are distributed by division as follows:

Figure 1: Distribution of mailboxes in the West Region.

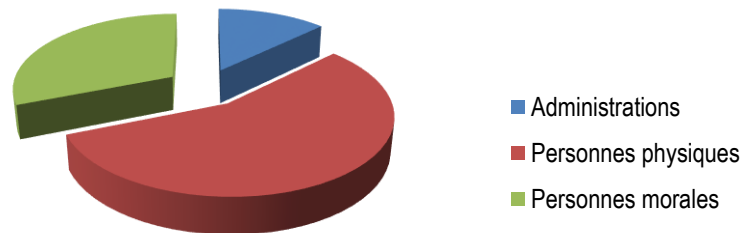


Source: DR-MINPOSTELWest, 2017

This figure shows that the Mifi division has the largest number of mailboxes. This would be justified by the fact that it is the region's chief division and therefore activities are more intense.

In 2016, the West region has 4002 occupied PO boxes, of which 2244 belong to individuals, 1243 to legal entities and 515 to administrations. In 2017, the number of subscribers increased to 4542 with 157 new customers. Regardless of the type of subscribers per division, individuals hold the largest number of allocated PO boxes, followed by legal persons and administrations.

Figure 2: Distribution of PO boxes in the West Region per type of subscribers



Source: DR-MINPMEEESA/West

Regarding the transit of packages by post, from January to August 2017, the total number of packages sent outside the West Region is 4753 whereas for the same period this number was 3516 in 2015. Regional package traffic is presented in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5: Traffic of packages sent from January to August 2017

Dispatches		LCAO	LR	VD	Small packages	Newspapers	Ordinary post packages	VD post packages	Bag post packages		Total
Nber	Weight	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Weight	
522	702268	3380	778	0	1	62	10	0	0	0	4753

Source: DR-MINPOSTELWest, 2017

Table 6: Traffic of packages received from January to August 2017

Dispatches		LCAO	LR	VD	Small packages	Newspapers	Ordinary post packages	VD post packages	Bag post packages		Total
Nber	Weight	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Nber	Weight	
508	1699308	5885	958	0	33	1164	30	0	0	0	8578

Source: DR-MINPOSTELWest, 2017

3.2.1.2. Private operators

Private infrastructure concerns courier companies (travel agencies) and microfinance companies. There are a total of 12 microfinance and 11 travel agencies headquartered in the West.

Messaging sector: a distinction is made

The courier sector through travel agencies has experienced strong growth in response to the inability of postal services to deliver users' mails. Thus, several agencies have created a messaging service that takes in some of the customers. As a result, mailtransport is also provided by the main travel agencies serving major cities.

- 05 operators in Bafoussam (FERIC VOYAGES, GENERAL EXPRESS VOYAGES, INTERNATIONAL LINES, DIDANGO VOYAGES, AVENIR VOYAGES, TRESOR VOYAGES)
- 04 operators in Dschang (MENOUA VOYAGES, MENOUA TRAVEL AGENCY, AVENIR VOYAGES, CAMARADE EXPRESS)
- 02 operators in Mbouda (LE POLYGLOTE, AVENIR VOYAGES)
- 02 operators in Bafang (PAPA NGASSI VOYAGES, AVENIR VOYAGES)
- 02 operators in Bagangté (NOBLESSE VOYAGE, CHARTER EXPRESS)

We are increasingly witnessing the delivery of mail to relay points of these travel agencies in small towns (sub-division capitals, etc.): Bangou, Foubot

3.3. Telecommunication infrastructure

3.3.1. Offers of fixed telephone services

Indicators here include: the number of local public communicators, the number of fixed analogue telephone lines, the evolution of the number of public call points at NEXTEL.

Generally speaking, public communication in Cameroon is on the decline. For example, it has increased from 40 communicators in 2006 to 12 in 2016. The West Region, like all other regions of the country, experienced this decline. Indeed, since 2007, there have been no local public communicators in the West, whereas in 2006 there were a total of 2 communicators.

With regard to the number of fixed telephone lines, the West Region is gradually decreasing from 5945 lines in 2006 to 3868 lines in 2016. This decrease could be explained by the introduction of mobile telephony in the telecommunications market. If we compare this indicator with the national trend, we can see that the number of fixed telephone lines in Cameroon between 2006 and 2016 has declined to its peak in 2010, while the trend for the West Region is in a stable state.

In addition, the public service provided by NEXTEL in terms of the number of public call points is increasingly solicited at the national level as well as in regions. In the West, this service increased between 2014 and 2016, with 3114 and 6841 public call points respectively.

3.3.2. Offers of mobile telephone services

In the West Region, five (05) major telephone operators exist: 01 public sector operator (CAMTEL) and 04 private sector operators (ORANGE, MTN, NEXTEL and YOOME).

With a penetration rate of 90% in 2017, mobile phones are positioned as a natural and essential communication tool in Cameroon. The number of mobile subscribers has grown tremendously in recent

years and its penetration has increased from 12% in 2005 to 80% in 2016. For the West Region, the penetration rate has also changed.

If we consider the 3G network for MTN and NEXTEL operators between 2014 and 2016, we can see that for the West Region, the percentage of territory covered by the 3G NEXTEL network between 2014 and 2016 increased by 17%, while for the 3G MTN network, it is only in 2015 that this network begins to take off in the Region (statistical yearbook of telecommunications and ICT in Cameroon, 2017).

Regarding mobile network coverage, the West region is the one with the highest mobile network coverage rate. This rate was 86.5% in 2006, and has increased to 98.7 in 2013 (NSI, 2015).

Table 7: Spatial coverage of the CAMTEL network (telephone and Internet) in terms of subscribers between 2017 and 2016

Year	Number of fixed-line subscribers	Number of mobile phone subscribers	Number of Internet subscribers
2017	572	2430	1390
2016	1245	3349	1477

Source: Regional Agency CAMTEL/West

3.3.3. Multipurpose Community Telecentres

Multipurpose Community Tele-Centre (TCP) is a common infrastructure that provides telecommunications, computer, audiovisual and Internet services from a terminal or terminals made available to a community to enable it to communicate at an affordable price.

In 2017, there are 04 categories of TCPs in the West Region. Functional operational TCPs, non-functional constructed TCPs, unfinished TCPs and unfinished TCPs with pending files.

Table 8: Categories of TCPs in the West Region

N°	LOCATION	SUB-DIVISION	DIVISION
Functional operational TCPs			
1	Fongo -Tongo	Fongo -Tongo	Menoua
2	Foto	Foto	Menoua
3	Fomoepa	Fokoué	Menoua
4	Balesing	Nkong-zem	Menoua
5	Nkong-Ni	Nkong-Zem	Menoua
6	Bayangam	Bayangam	Koung Khi
7	Bazou	Bazou	Ndé
8	Bakou	Bakou	Haut-Nkam
9	Mboébo	Kekem	Haut-Nkam
10	Batié	Batié	Highlands
11	Bapa	Bangou	Highlands
12	Bangang	Batcham	Bamboutos
Built non-functional TCPs			
1	Badenkop	Bangou	Highlands
2	Foyem Tcha	Kekem	Haut-Nkam

N°	LOCATION	SUB-DIVISION	DIVISION
	Bansoa	Penka michel	Menoua
3	Bangoua	Bangangté	Ndé
TCPs not completed			
1	Bana	Bana	Ndé
2	Kouoptamo	Kouoptamo	Noun

It should be noted that all divisions are represented apart from Mifi.

In the West Region, there are 04 digital access points hidden in 04 sub-divisions. They include: Fokoué in Menoua, Galim in Bamboutos, Bangourain in Noun and Bandja in Haut-Nkam.

Optical fibre passes through the localities of Balessing, Nkong-ni and Bayangam.

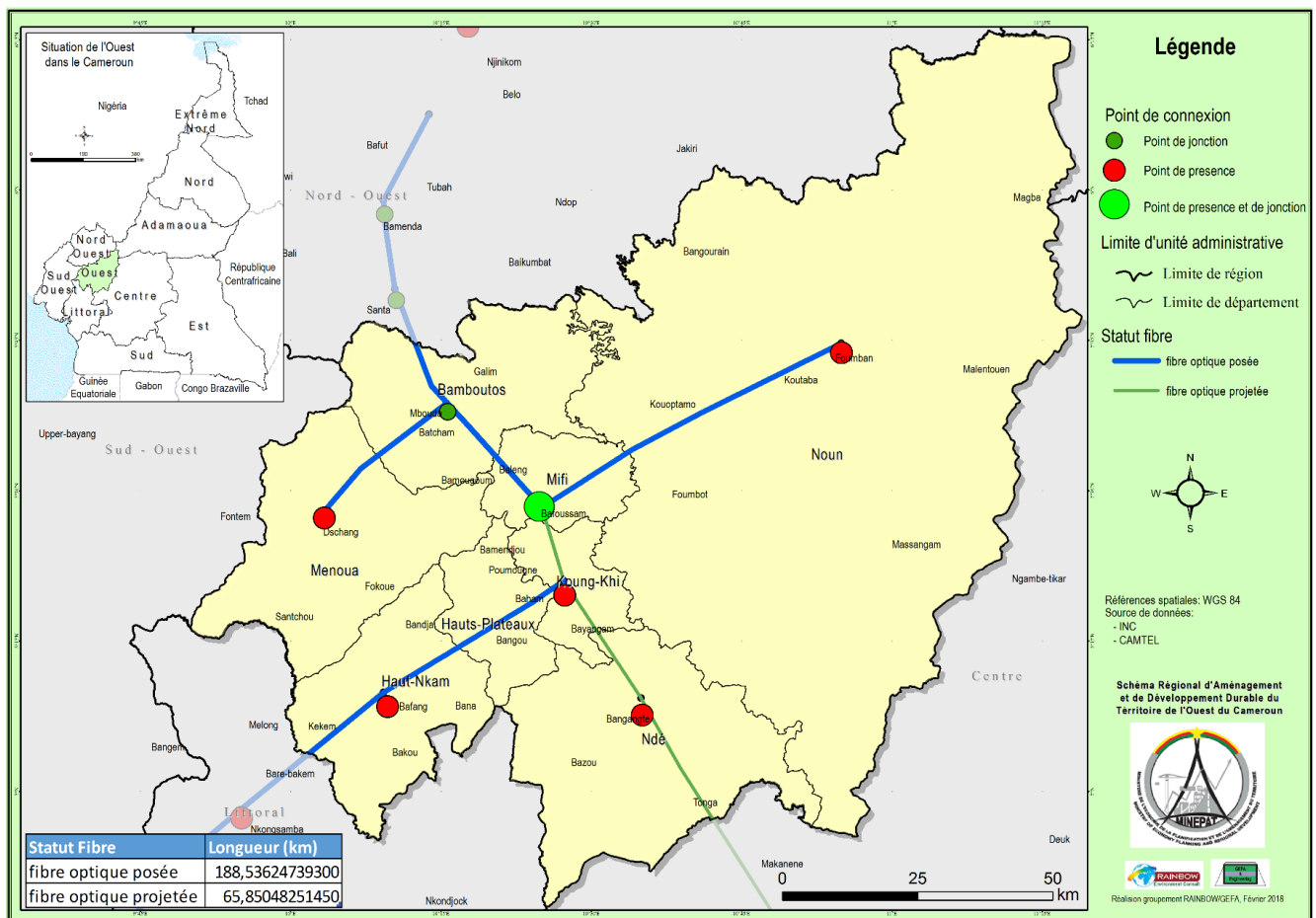
3.3.4. Internet

Access to and use of computers and the Internet by populations in the West Region is fairly good. Indeed, the 2017 household survey shows that:

- 7.9% of people used a computer in the last three months before the survey compared to a national average of 10.4
- 51.4% of people used a computer in the last three months before the survey compared to a national average of 47%. (statistical yearbook of telecommunications and ICTs in Cameroon, 2017)

As for optical fibre, in total, about 189 km of optical fibre crosses the West region, spread over six divisions: Mifi, Noun, Koung-Khi, Haut-Nkam, Bamboutos and Menoua. The installation of optical fibre on the Bandjoun-Bangangangté section (66 km) is planned. The entire network is being set up as part of the Central Africa Backbone (CAB) project, recommended by the CEMAC Heads of State Summit to provide member countries with a high-speed telecommunications network.

Figure 3: Optical fibre network in the West Region



Source: Gpt « Rainbow/GEFA ».

4. STATUS OF TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATION IN THE WEST REGION

Communication is transmitting desired meanings from one entity or group to another through the use of mutually understood signs and semiotic rules. Communication can be verbal, in which you listen to a person to understand their meaning; written communication, in which you read their meaning; and non-verbal communication, in which you observe a person and deduce a meaning or non-verbal elements such as rhythm, intonation or tempo.

4.1. Communication system in the Bamiléké area

Tonal communication among the Bamilekés was achieved through the use of the wooden drum (tam tam) in the past and is still very important.

Verbal communication is carried out by using the messenger (town crier) that the chief sent, he would move around the village to strike the gong and transmit the message to the public at the meeting at the main palace at a certain date and time.

To communicate remotely, instruments used included:

- "malo": it is the human way. The neighbourhood chief or village chief waited until 7pm. It was the time when all inhabitants of the village had already returned from farms. The village chief would go to the top of each hill in the village. And scream out loud: "Malo,...let all the men and women

meet tomorrow in the village chief's yard...oh malo". He was sure that before morning, the message would get through.

- the Ndu'u: it is a small slit drum. It is the instrument of remote communication that was most used by ancestors. It made it possible to announce major events such as the death of a great leader, the birth of twins, any danger...

For example, during war, when enemy troops approached, the drummer would take his instrument and play it by hitting it on these lips with two wooden chopsticks, according to a very specific code. Through the sound of the drum, he asked the people to hide and the friendly troops to get ready for the battle. Another drummer who heard the message stood on a hill and relayed it. And so on, the whole village was notified in a very short time.

Nowadays there is no tribal war anymore. But, du'u is still used, Example: in the ritual of twins, in the initiatory ritual of boys, etc.

- **Lam** It is a large slit drum. That is, "it's a big Ndu'u". It plays the same role as the du'u. But it most often belongs to secret societies; it is used by hitting your lips with your hand.
- **Louop** It is a kind of traditional wooden flute. It is used until today during the la'kam, i. e. during the initiation of kings. A servant of the king, breathes it to prevent passers-by from listening to the king when he talks with these guests.

Today, these traditional communication tools tend to disappear, in favour of modern tools such as the telephone; traditional tools still used are much more used for traditional ceremonies (dances, twins' ritual, tribute to the king, etc.).

Reasons for the loss of these cultural values are due to the reluctance of parents to pass on to their children or to keep the secret of how to do so..



Photo 2: Louop



Photo 3: Ndu'u

4.2. Communication system in the Bamoun area

Previously, communication among the Bamoun was done on a chain system. Whenever there was a need to convey a message, the message was shouted only in mothertongue and relayed mouth-to-mouth each time by someone else until it reached the target.

In addition, the "Kindé" balafon and the double drum bell are also communication tools that were used for events and to bring the population together and that are still used today for the same purposes.

5. Analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the sector.

STRENGTHS		WEAKNESSES	
Communication sector			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Good collaboration of actors at the divisional level		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of media mapping- Inability of decentralized services to monitor the activities of community radio stations (network coverage areas, etc.)- Insufficient staff at DRCOM- Insufficient means of transport to be deployed in localities	
Posts and Telecommunications sector			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Good mobile network coverage rate- Good deployment of optical fiber in the region;- Presence of basic infrastructure in localities (antennas, community television centres, etc.);- Financial and technical autonomy of CAMPOST;- Emergence of a dynamic private sector in the field of mail transfer		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Poor quality of mobile telephony in some places- Internet access limited mainly to urban centres and high costs, inaccessible to the poorest populations- Overlap of responsibilities (ANTICMINPOSTEL, ART-ANTIC) which creates uncertainty and hinders the development of the sector	
OPPORTUNITIES		THREATS	
Communication sector			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existence of national and international donors- Multiple audiovisual media		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High ICT costs- Cybercrime	
Posts and Telecommunications sector			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementation of the Central Africa Backbone (CAB) project- Opportunities to conquer new markets- Increasing demand in the domain- Local services		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Very high competition in mobile telephony and transport of mails and packages- Low quality of services	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Cameroon Statistical Yearbook, 2015
- National Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Scheme, 2015
- Mail/package statistical data, MINPOSTEL, 2017
- Sector strategy for telecommunications and ICT, May 2005