学校编码: 10384

密级:

学号: 33320131154543



硕士学位论文

# 关于喀麦隆大西洋海岸水生物种入侵的政策构想 Policy Formulation Regarding Invasive Aquatic Species on the Atlantic Coast of Cameroon

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论文提交日期: 2015年05月

论文答辩时间: 2015年05月

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摘要	vi
Abstract	vii
List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	ix
List of Acronyms	X
Chapter 1 General Introduction and Background  1.1 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction  1.1.1 Problem Statement	2
1.1.2 Objectives	3
1.1.3 Research Questions	3
1.1.4 Hypothesis	
1.1.5 Significance of Study	
1.1.6 Background of Cameroon	6
1.1.7 Description of Coastline	7
1.2 Research Methodology	9
1.2.1 Introduction	
1.2.2 Research Procedures	9
1.2.3 Primary Data Collection	10
1.2.4 Field Work Phases and Administration of Questionnaires	
I.3 Literature Review	16
1.3.1 Introduction	16
1.3.2 Pathways of Invasive Aquatic Species	16
1.3.3 Impacts of Invasive Aquatic Species	17
1.3.4 Approaches explaining the Management of Invasive Aquatic Species	

Chapter 2 Invasive Aquatic Species on the Atlantic Coast of Cameroon	23
2.1 Causes of Invasive aquatic Species in Cameroon	23
2.1.1 Mobility of Goods and People	23
2.1.2 Global Connectedness	23
2.1.3 Humanitarian Aid	24
2.1.4 Environmental Changes	
2.1.5 Human Activities	24
2.1.6 National Transportation	24
2.1.7 Climate Change	
2.1.8 Natural Factors	25
2.2 Presentation of Field Findings	26
2.2.1 Ages of Respondents	
2.2.2 Educational Level of Respondents	
2.2.3 Gender of Respondents	
2.2.4 Country and Ethnic Background of Respondents	
2.2.5 Occupation of Respondents	
2.3 Presentation and Impacts of Invasive Aquatic Species	
2.3.1 Typology of Alien Aquatic Species on the Coast of Cameroon	
2.3.2 Impacts of Invasive Aquatic Species on the Coast of Cameroon	
2.3.3 Source of Knowledge on Impact of Invasive Aquatic Species	
2.4 Impacts of Invasive Aquatic Species on Activities and the Environment	
2.4.1 Inquiries on Curbing the Introduction of IAS	
2.5 Impacts and Management of IAS on the Coast of Cameroon	
2.5.1 Water Hyacinth and its Impacts on the Cameroon Coast	
2.5.2 Threats Posed by Water Hyacinth	

2.5.3 Tiger Prawns	44
2.5.3.1 Potential Vector	45
2.5.3.2 Impacts of Tiger Prawns	45
2.5.3.3 Managing of Tiger Prawns	46
2.5.3.4 Gaps Related to Tiger Prawns Management	47
2.5.4 Nypa Palm	48
2.5.4.1 Impacts on the Coast of Cameroon	49
2.5.4.2 Management of Nypa Palm	52
Chapter 3 Related International Conventions and Domestic Legislations	
3.1 International Conventions	
3.1.1 The 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
3.1.2 UNCLOS	53
3.1.3 The 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	54
3.1.4 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast	
(BWM), 2004	54
3.1.5 Abidjan Convention	54
3.2 Examples of Countries with Specific IAS Legislation	55
3.2.1 US IAS Legislation	55
3.2.2 Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990	55
3.2.3 Lacey Act	55
3.2.4 Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1992	55
3.2.5 China Legislation relating to IAS	56
3.2.5.1 The Marine Environmental Protection Law	56
3.2.5.2 Regulations on the Prevention of Vessel - Induced Sea Pollution	56
3.2.6 South Africa National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act 2004	56
3.2.7 United Kingdom Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act of 2006	56

3.3 Examples of Countries with National IAS Strategies	57
3.3.1 The US Executive Order 13112	57
3.3.2 The Norwegian Strategy on IAS	57
3.3.3 The Bahamas National Invasive Species Strategy	57
3.4 Recommendations for the Cameroon Government	57
Chapter 4 The Framework of Policy Formulation in Cameroon	59
4.1 Introduction	59
4.2 Gaps in Cameroon's Environmental Law	59
4.3 Reasons for Formulating National Policies	60
4.4 Steps in Developing a Policy	60
4.5 Steps in Establishing a National Action Plan	62
Chapter 5 Results and Discussions	
5.1 Hypothesis 1: IAS are present on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon	66
5.2 Hypothesis 2: The Presence of IAS along the Coast is a result of Human Activities	66
5.3 Hypothesis 3: Invasive Aquatic Species have Impacts on the Coastal Environment of Cameroon	
5.4 Hypothesis 4: Lack of Policies and Awareness have Exacerbated the Spread of IAS	67
5.5 Hypothesis 5: Management Objectives should envelop all Fields of Human Activities	67
Chapter 6 Conclusion	68
6.1 Conclusion	68
Chapter 7 Recommendations	69
7.1 General Recommendations	
7.2 Recommendations Regarding Water Hyacinth	69
7.3 Recommendations Regarding Tiger Prawns	
7.4 Recommendations Regarding Nypa Palms	
7.5 Limitation of the Study and Direction for Further Research	70

References	72
Acknowledgement	76
Appendix	7
1. Questionnaires	7

# 摘要

水生入侵生物(Invasive Aquatic Species, IAS)会对海洋生态系统造成巨大威胁,而人类活动是引起水生入侵生物发生的主要诱因。造成水生生物入侵的因素众多,如航运、海水养殖、观赏性鱼类贸易等。作为海洋污染的一种类型,水生入侵生物对环境的影响是不可逆转的。本文旨在分类阐述喀麦隆沿岸水生入侵生物的类型,对海洋环境的影响及其不同矢量和路径。本文选取了喀麦隆沿岸至少三种水生入侵生物进行研究和分析,分别是:水葫芦、斑节对虾和水椰,发现都对环境产生了负面影响。论文分析了相关团体、机构和政府部门为应对水生入侵生物带来的环境威胁所采取的措施与行动,剖析了目前管理部门所面临的管理瓶颈,并为喀麦隆海岸治理驯化物种带来的环境危害提出建议。论文对政策能否成为防止海洋环境遭受水生入侵生物侵害的有效管理工具进行了阐述。通过对有关水生入侵生物的所有国际公约和部分国家的国内立法进行综述,运用定量分析方法收集相关数据,运用假设-演绎方法进行分析,选取喀麦隆大西洋海岸的杜阿拉市(Douala)、林贝市(Limbe)和克里比市(Kribi)作为研究区域,本文认为极有必要出台有效的管理政策以抑制水生入侵生物的传播。同时,加强公众对水生入侵生物对喀麦隆海洋生态环境带来的危险的认识也十分必要。

关键词: 水生生物入侵、政策制定、喀麦隆大西洋海岸

#### **Abstract**

Exotic aquatic species are a threat to the marine ecosystem. Human activities are the main reasons behind their intrusions. Multiple vectors are responsible for this dissemination. Amongst them are shipping, aquaculture, ornamental and aquarium trade etc. Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) which is one kind of marine pollution has irreversible impacts. The objective of this paper is to provide an overview of the types of Invasive Aquatic Species on the coast of Cameroon, their effects on the marine environment as well as their various vectors or pathways. The work identifies at least three IAS along the coast of Cameroon: Water Hyacinth, Tiger Prawns and Nypa Palms. All these three species bring negative environmental impacts. The paper analyzes the initiatives that have been employed by concerned groups, agencies and ministries to address the threats of IAS. It looks at the management constraints faced and try to prescribe reasonable suggestions that could help save the Cameroon coast from the harm of naturalized species. The work attempts to answer the universal question of whether policies can be an effective tool to devoid the marine world from Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS). This research reviews all relevant international conventions and domestic legislations of some countries. A quantitative research method is used to collect data and a hypothetic-deductive approach is also employed. The scope of the research area is the Atlantic Coast of Cameroon covering the cities of Douala, Kribi and Limbe. The paper argues that there is a strong need for effective policies to curb the spread of IAS and at the same time raise awareness on the dangers of IAS on the Cameroon marine ecosystem.

Keywords: Invasive aquatic species, Policy formulation, Atlantic coast of Cameroon

# **List of Figures**

Figure 1-1 Diagrammatic representation of hypothesis	5
Figure 1-2 Location of Study Area	8
Figure 1-3 Location of Study Sites.	12
Figure 1-4 Methodology Flow chart	14
Figure 1-5 Causes, Impacts and Management of IAS	
Figure 2-6 Drivers of IAS on the Atlantic Coast of Cameroon	26
Figure 2-7 Gender Representation of Respondents	29
Figure 2-8 Respondents Recognition of IAS	33
Figure 2-9 Source of Respondent's Knowledge on Impact of IAS	35
Figure 2-10 Respondent's Strategy to Curb IAS Introduction	37
Figure 1-11 Water Hyacinth affects biodiversity	40
Figure 2-12 Water Hyacinth Affects Water Quality and Oxygen	41
Figure 2-13 Water Hyacinth a Breeding Ground for Mosquitoes	42
Figure 2-14 Impact of Water Hyacinth on Waterways	43
Figure 2-15 Picture of Tiger prawn	45
Figure 2-16 Impact of tiger prawns on local fisheries	46
Figure 2-17 Ecological Impacts of Nypa palm	50
Figure 2-18 Nypa Palm Limits Fish Catch	51
Figure 3-19 Development of IAS Policy Cycle	62
Figure 3-20 Steps in the Establishment of National Management Action Plan	63

# List of Tables

# **List of Tables**

Table 1-1 Distribution of Questionnaires in the Coastal Areas	13
Table 2-2 Ages of Respondents	27
Table 2-3 Educational Background of Respondents	28
Table 2-4 Origin of Respondents	30
Table 2-5 Occupation of Respondents	31
Table 2-6 Sources of knowledge on impact of IAS	34
Table 2-7 Level of Impact of IAS on Activities and Environment of Respondents	36

# **List of Acronyms**

IRAD Institute de Recherche Agronomique et de Développement
IASNMAP Invasive Aquatic Species National Management Action Plan

IAS Invasive Aquatic SpeciesEEZ Exclusive Economic Zone

NIC National Institute of Cartography
NGO Non-Governmental Organization

**CIG** City Information Group

**IUCN** International Union for Conservation of Nature

GCLME Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem
UNEP United Nation Environmental Program

**CBD** Convention on Biological Diversity

**WWF** World Wildlife Fund

NACA Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific

**FAO** Food and Agricultural Organization

NTF National Task Force

**NP** National Policy

**NSF** National Strategic Framework

**AP** Auditing Programme

**UNCLOS** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

**EPA** Environmental Protection Agency

**BWM** Ballast Water Management

LA Lead Agency

# **Chapter 1 General Introduction and Background**

#### 1.1 Introduction

As defined by Munyaradzi and Jennifer<sup>1</sup>, invasive Aquatic Species are native species of a particular region, but have invaded an area outside their native range either intentionally or unintentionally, threatening the whole ecosystem. There are so many definitions of IAS but almost all of the definitions make mention of negative environmental impacts.

About one-third of the surface of the earth is covered by water. These water bodies range from semi-enclosed, enclosed seas, open oceans, estuaries, rivers, lakes and coastal areas. They serve as a means of transportation for people as well as merchandise. Approximately, 90% of the world's goods are transported on the ocean (Tamelander et al., 2010). Unfortunately this transport system has turned out to be a form of pollution with drastic repercussions. This type of transportation has polluted the marine milieu with unwanted species. This pollution affects and transforms the environment and the population.

The brain behind this is the modernization of the shipping industry. Wooden ships have been substituted with ships constructed of steel and mobilized by engines thus increasing the speed of travel. The outcome of this has been the dissemination of IAS beyond their national jurisdiction. A study carried out in 2003 posits that around ten thousand diverse species are conveyed between bio-geographic regions (Bax et al., 2003). These species are either cysts, pores, larvae, eggs or even adults. Another study suggests that around 700 species are spread each day around the world through ballast water (Tamelander et al., 2010). A study undertaken by Sandlund et al. (2001) finalizes that in every nine weeks an alien marine species invades a new environment somewhere in the world. The conclusions of these authors signify that more and more organisms are swept around the world than used to be centuries before. This also portray that no country is exempted from these invaders. It is acknowledged that some of these species die because they are too fragile to endure long journeys, those that remain are unable to fall in love with the environmental conditions at their new location. In some situations when environmental conditions become favorable some species fail to establish. Those that are fortunate to establish sometimes break down and become non-invasive. But are capable to invade after a very long period of time. (Bax et al., 2003).

The pathways for the spread of IAS have multiplied, from ballast water, to aquaculture, to aquarium and ornamental trade and other minor pathways. With an increase of these vectors the rate at which Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) are establishing in marine ecosystems is increasing at an increasing rate.

 $<sup>^1\</sup> http://www.unep.org/DEWA/Africa/docs/en/aeo-2/chapters/aeo-2\_ch10\_INVASIVE\_ALIEN\_SPECIES.pdf\ accessed\ on\ 16th\ of\ April\ 2015$ 

We believe the world is looking at the threats of these invaders as if it is a fiction. This threat is moving faster than efforts to address it. Unlike other environmental problems Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) are likely to be serious, persist and disastrous. Exotic species can result in ecological, economic, social, political and health impacts. In 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment anticipated that the side effects of IAS in the future will grow in intensity especially in continental shelf and littoral areas<sup>2</sup>. This prediction puts Cameroon at a high risk and is a reminder to the government that, the country should not be subjected to a future that is beyond their capacity to fix. There is an urgent call for the development of a national strategy.

Cameroon with an open coastline of 402 km<sup>3</sup> lies in the Atlantic Ocean and stretches from the Gulf of Guinea. There are several ports along the coastline. These are the Douala, Kribi and Limbe ports. The Douala handles more than 95% of the Cameroon's international trade and harbors more than 80% of Cameroon's industries (Ngoran and Xue, 2014). Shipping plays a very important role for the development of Cameroon's economy. The productivity in this area has helped in development and also facilitated human settlement along the coast. The Atlantic Ocean has served as a route for transportation in Cameroon for both people and merchandise. Therefore, Cameroon like any other coastal state is not spared from the threats of exotic species.

Thus, there is need for a national strategy to handle this problem. Threats from non-native species are urgent and growing and would ultimately define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other issue. They can create and modify a habitat. They are capable to eat or outnumber native fauna and flora and lead to their extinction. Furthermore they can act as disease vectors. They can as well affect Marine Protected Areas (MPA), coastal management like fishing and marine mammal conservation. Another reason for a cry for national strategy is that management efforts of IAS are not covered in national legislation. If they are, they are not comprehensive, inclusive and specific enough. As a responsible developing country, Cameroon should make greater efforts to address IAS threats.

#### 1.1.1 Problem Statement

The search to preserve the marine world from various forms of pollution has been the subject of most academic debate. Cameroon has a coastline on the Atlantic Ocean which stretches 402 km from the Gulf of Guinea<sup>4</sup>. The coast is blessed with natural wonders, unlimited access to fishing, swimming, ecosystems and shipping. Due to the open nature of the coast it then has the potential risk of harboring IAS. This heritage is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> www.unep.org/maweb/documents/document.766.aspx.pdf accessed 10th of April 2015

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> SESRTCIC data, 2006

therefore threatened and this jeopardizes recreation and the delicate ecological order. It is time for the government of Cameroon to take this threat seriously. Sadly enough non indigenous species are brought about by human activities and are plaguing the coast of Cameroon and have become an imminent threat. These alien species represent an increasing global change and present efforts to mitigate them, though successful in some locations and situations are not regulating the general problem. This failure has been the result of weak and/or lack of policies, inadequate research, and dearth of management funding as well as loopholes in scientific knowledge. Continuous lack of policies targeting all the vectors of this spread only go further in aggravating the economic, socio-political and health impacts of the population. This implies that IAS poses a serious and escalating threat on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon and requires urgent action.

There is need for coherent policies to address this set back. Acknowledging that alien species have been extensively studied, no empirical scientific data exist on the invaders of Cameroon. Research is being carried out worldwide on the impacts, causes, management of exotic aquatic species but there is limited understanding of how strict policies could help curb the threats of these alien species. The question this thesis seeks to answer is: Can policies serve as a tool to mitigate the spread of IAS?

#### 1.1.2 Objectives

The Atlantic coast of Cameroon is at risk. Unwanted species have invaded this beautiful environment and the consequences are alarming. For this reason and many other reasons already outlined above, the objectives of this work are the following:

- 1. Identify Alien Aquatic Species on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon.
- 2. Outline the different vectors of Invasive Aquatic Species.
- 3. Portray the impacts of IAS on the Atlantic coast of Cameroon.
- 4. Examine the management efforts and constraints faced.
- 5. Emphasize on the formulation of policies as a tool to mitigate unwanted species

#### 1.1.3 Research Questions

A number of questions are designed to lead towards a better understanding of IAS on the coast of Cameroon. The following are the research questions that guide this work:

- 1. What are the Invasive Aquatic Species on the coast of Cameroon?
- 2. What are the different vectors or pathways for these species?
- 3. What are the environmental impacts of Alien Aquatic Species on the coast of Cameroon?

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