

Sino-African Cooperation (Opportunities and Impact - Evidence from Cameroon)

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Abstract: *The effective presence of China in Africa and particularly Cameroon is growing or even worrying for Europeans and Americans and for some Africans. Its growing commitment to economic development through "South-South" cooperation brings significant life changes in daily lives of Cameroon populations, but also enormous impacts environmental than economic (over-indebtedness). In this chapter, we shall initially focus on the state of the economic situation in Africa Sub-Saharan, then explain the geopolitical challenges that represents China-Africa for the African continent. Today, China-Africa summits are more important in terms of trade economic and are much more representative than traditional peaks French. From the organization of these international forums on Sino-African cooperation, China marks its footprint and its presence in Africa. These forums are held every three years with strong African participation. This positioning and deployment of China in Cameroon is causing economic upheavals and create geopolitical and geostrategic challenges because Cameroon is no longer under the yoke of new colonizing power, so it has diversified its economic partners with the arrival of emerging countries. We therefore observe in large western powers a strategic reassessment of their relationships in terms of trade and new markets to conquer to do business with Cameroon. On the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chinese Government will be extending its support to have more impact on the continent's infrastructure-led growth with more projects being undertaken in building of gas and oil pipelines, shipping lanes, railways, roads, ports, and economic corridors, among others. In fact, without the support of the Chinese, some of the life-changing mega-infrastructure projects that are visible in Africa today would have been non-existent. At the FOCAC Beijing Summit held in September 2018, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China will offer Africa \$60 billion for infrastructure development in line with the Belt and Road Initiative on the continent. China has been at the forefront of supporting Africa's industrialization and joins African countries in raising global awareness on industrialization challenges marked by the annual Africa Industrialization Week, organized by the Department of Trade and Industry of the African Union Commission.*

Keywords: Opportunities, impact, China, Sub-Saharan Africa Relationship

1. Introduction

Some researchers like (Pourtier, 2010; Brunel, 2002 and 2004; Dumont, 1986; Hugon, 2009 and 2007; speak of the African economic situation as an African paradox: a rich continent populated by a majority of people who live below the threshold of the poverty. The continent is endowed with all the resources that must constitute the wealth of a country and make the pride of its inhabitants: gold, diamond, gas, oil, carbon, platinum, chromium, iron, copper, nickel, uranium, tin, cobalt, lead, zinc, manganese etc. However, all these resources are coveted by countries industrialized and emerging that rush on raw materials including Africa overflows to meet the needs of the industry of a society of comfort and consumption whose incomes hardly benefit the improvement of the standard of living of the local population of Africa. Despite its abundant wealth, Africa is in same time the poorest of the five continents (apart from the sub-region of Africa North and South Africa) who suffer from chronic and sordid anemia because that most of the continent's countries are exploited, even pillaged by the big multinationals of foreign powers. Leaders, some of whom beat records of longevity in power with the assistance of the army are generally dictators who take advantage of this veiled alliance. Generally speaking, between 1960 and 2000 Sub-Saharan Africa experienced two diametrically opposite phases: one first phase of growth extending prosperity from the 1950s until 1970s. Constant progress in agriculture, an industrial start promising and optimistic: the example of Côte d'Ivoire with Abidjan which was a showcase of the

economy in West Africa, even if some economists attracted attention to the fragility of the "Ivorian model". Sub-Saharan Africa which seemed to be promoted to rapid development, quickly became disillusioned (Pourtier, 2010). By the end of the 1970s, economies based on "rent" agricultural or mining, fell because they did not control the international market and also because of the economic crisis of 1973 due to the collapse of commodity prices. According to (Pourtier, 2010), all exporting countries were beaten to varying degrees, and they were forced to borrow and entered an endless debt cycle following structural adjustment plans that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank imposed them.

The reading of the economic marginalization of sub-Saharan Africa can be seen in the decline in its external competitiveness, its share in world trade has decreased more than half. Its exports fell from 2.4% to 1% of the world total (Pourtier, 2010; Dubresson, 2011; Hugon, 2006; Bayart, 2006; Smith, 2004). The industrial situation deteriorated with the high cost of factors of production, the overvaluation of currency in the franc zone until 1994, errors in the industrial development strategies accompanied by the closure of factories, the corruption of politicians and growing insecurity (Pourtier, 2010; At the beginning of 2018, the World Bank's report Africa's Pulse, a biannual analysis of the state of African economies, intimated that the economic growth in Sub-Saharan Africa would continue to recover steadily in the years ahead. The report forecasted that the growth momentum would pick up to 3.1 percent by the end of 2018 and firm to an average of 3.6 percent in

2019-20 - with considerable variation across countries.

Still according to him, China saw the development gap on the continent and it has been able to fill it by forging solid economic partnerships with Africa. The benefits of China's investments for African development run far deeper than a mere mercantile relationship based on extraction and export of basic commodities. In 2019, Africa was definitely set to benefit increasingly from its relationship with China. China's key initiatives that will drive this relationship are the Belt and Road Initiative, Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the held China International Import Expo (CIIE), which aims at opening the Chinese market to imports from Africa.

With the advent of CIIE, Africa is also expected to increase its exports to China to ameliorate the trade imbalance. CIIE offers African countries an opportunity to tap into the Chinese imports market for agricultural and manufactured goods. According to figures from the Ministry of Commerce of China, China remains Africa's largest trading partner with trade volumes increasing 14.1 percent year on year to \$170 billion in 2017. CIIE is expected to open markets for African exports by increasing the aggregate trade, lowering the trade imbalance, transferring technology and increasing the balance of payments, thus fueling the continent's economic growth. Therefore, Africa stands to benefit immensely from its engagement with China in 2020 and the foreseeable future.

1.1 Motivation of the study

This study try to evaluate trade Cooperation between China and Sub-Saharan Africa to come with opportunities and impact it have had so from the time of implementation to now in relation Cameroon.

2. Related Literatures

2.1. The Sino-African Cooperation (Commercial trade between Africa and China)

Trade according to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) consists of buying products from third parties for resale in good condition, without transformation (or after minor transformations). The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) defines the trade as an activity consisting in the purchase, sale, exchange of goods, commodities, values, in the sale of services; profession of one who buys items for resale (wholesale, retail) with the objective of make a profit or profits. Commercial activity is governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) which deals with the rules governing international trade between countries. These rules are agreements negotiated in April 1994, at Marrakech by most of the world's trading powers and ratified by the parliamentary assemblies of these different countries. The main purpose of the WTO is to promote trade opening, by reducing the barriers to free trade, and helping governments resolve trade disputes and assist exporters, importers and producers of goods and services in their activities. The

international trade in question here is that of multilateral exchanges between the Chinese power and the African continent. Since the 2000s, trade between Africa and China are experiencing a significant increase. Chinese trade (Tsafack, 2014; Aiden and al. 2008; Broadman, 2007, 2008; Ofodile, 2008; Ademola et al. 2009 which was almost negligible at the beginning of 1980, has now reached a world level because it weighs on raw materials. That is not the only explanation for a historical rise in prices but it contributes to it Very much. Possibly, such a result can only be advantageous to African countries producers. This financial return is becoming for many of them an opportunity to restore good relationships with financial institutions and also to negotiate substantial debt cancellations. However, He and Shi (2010) who analyzed China's involvement in the African development, stress that "the positive impact of the Chinese presence on African development will be limited in the long term due to huge conflict of interest between China and Africa". The authors note that the strengthening the Chinese presence in Africa was fundamentally driven by access to African natural resources. This is not only the primary interest of Africa in terms of its economic development, but also of the economic prosperity of both parties.

2.2 The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) between Africa and China

The Organization of Economic cooperation and development (OECD) defines the FDI international capital movements carried out with a view to creating, developing or maintaining a subsidiary abroad and/or to exercise control (or significant influence) over the management of a foreign business. FDI constitutes the essential element of the multinationalization of businesses. They cover the creation of subsidiaries abroad that mergers cross-border acquisitions or other financial relationships (including loans and intra-group loans). The main elements that are at the origin of FDI are: cost reduction (export of expensive natural resources, even impossible to transfer, use of cheaper labor, hence the fear that FDI may participate in the relocation movement, optimization tax). The conquest of new markets, which are difficult for the market to penetrate only exports. If the effect of FDI is generally considered positive on growth in host countries (notably thanks to technology transfer induced), it is more discussed and ambiguous on international trade, on employment in investor countries, working conditions and the environment.

We note that in recent years, the abundance of investment flows between China and Africa has aroused great interest, but the amounts are never known and vary widely among Zafar, 2007; Besada and al., 2008; Sautman and Hairong, 2008; Gu, 2009; Sanfilippo, 2010; Schiere, 2010, Tsafack, 2014) and the modes and mechanisms of calculation. This growth singularly strong is part of a dynamic of strengthening cooperation South-South, as noted by Besada and al. (2008): «This growth of Chinese FDI reflects a Chinese decision at high level to contribute to South- South cooperation through mutually beneficial commercial relationships with the African continent ». Official sources estimated Chinese investment at \$ 392 million dollars in 2005, but other sources estimated them at around \$ 900

million in 2006 (Wang, 2007) and \$ 5.4 billion in 2008 (Schiere, 2010). Between 2004 and 2008, Africa attracted around 10% of Chinese direct investment (Sanfilippo, 2010). Kaplinsky and Morris have valued Chinese investment at \$ 2.7 billion in fields oil companies in Nigeria in 2008 (Kaplinsky and Morris, 2009). As for (Tsafack, 2014), FDI from China amounted to US \$ 9.3 billion in 2009. The Chinese investments are mainly primary and linked to access to resources mining and oil, but they tend to diversify. A big number focus on growth development opportunities exponential Chinese investment in Africa, according to Foster and al. 2009, The advent of China and other emerging actors as that significant investors represent for Africa an encouraging development, given the magnitude of its infrastructure deficit. The investments made by these emerging investors are unprecedented in scale and focus on large infrastructure projects. The main challenge for governments is to make the best use of all sources financing of infrastructure and, in particular, sources of investment to promote growth and reduce poverty on the continent».

2.3 Sino-African Cooperation.

The “periphery centre” paradigm was born from the ontological proposal to world as well as under the European vision which tends to make others strange cultures and peoples living outside the continent. According to Benessaïeh (2010), history of the twentieth century, as it is told in most textbooks of international relations, is essentially narrated from the perspective of a few powerful states, a Eurocentric perspective indifferent to the experiences States and peoples outside the West.

If we interpret this thought and transpose it into perspective and dynamics of development in Africa, we could qualify it as "Chinese centrism". China will be seen as the centre, and would claim that the development can only happen through it. That is, Africa does it will be able to emerge from underdevelopment only with the aid and the funding coming from China. Moreover, to take up the ideas of Weber (1995), the problem of development of Africa would offer two different avenues. On one side we look at the Africans as children incapable of an autonomous development, incapable to embark on the paths of growth without showing them the road or that we push them there; on the other, there is the path which would lead to a sustainable development but which requires that we treat Africans as adults.

If we place ourselves in the context of sustainable development, for the World Commission Environment and Development (WCED), "the sustainable development is a development that makes it possible to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to respond to theirs needs". Besides its famous quote, the report takes care to clarify that: two concepts are inherent to this notion: the concept of "needs" and more particularly of essential needs of the most disadvantaged to whom the highest priority should be given and the idea of limitations that the state of our techniques and of our social organization the ability of the environment to respond to current and future problems (CMED, 1989). In this regard, the Brundtland report takes into account not only the problems at the origin of sustainable development (limited

resources and satisfaction of needs) but adopts a development concept that prioritizes human.

This report opts for a sustainable approach with a strong emphasis on Satisfaction of needs. In this approach, he supports a continuation of the growth which must enable human needs to be met by rising from 5% to 6% in developing countries and 3% and 4% in industrialized countries. In sum, the CEMD associates a certain number of objectives with sustainable development specific to the resumption of growth and modification of the quality of growth. In the process of operationalizing sustainable development, this are the environmental problems which have taken precedence over social problems. In industrialized countries, the question of resource limits favours a significant mobilization is to the detriment of poor countries. Indeed, the question of inequalities are far from being solved, because the North-South relations that generate them are strengthened with the growing openness of economies. For twenty years, we have observed a physical disconnect between economic growth in the North and the implantation of the renewable resources of the South. We see with desolation and deterioration in the terms of trade for these primary products in from the South.

This deterioration prevents internalisation of environmental externalities in product prices. We are witnessing a transfer of wealth from the South to the North. Phenomenon described by Muradian and Martinez-Alier, (2001) of exchange unequal eco-logic. We also note with the Chinese cooperation that the Chinese aid links and connects enterprises, ministers and financial institutions. It is a real asset for African States, which have capital, maneuverer and a wider choice, but it has its setbacks. If the Africans propose, it is the Chinese State which distributes, because it is he who is proprietary of the extraordinary foreign exchange reserve. He chooses profitable projects and takes into account the risk-country. The dependence of the countries of the South on the West continues with China, but through other means. It applies the same strategies of European co-ordination by using all above "barter", that is to say the construction of Infrastructures against hydrocarbons and minerals do have some Africans countries.

The Chinese weigh their trade with Africa by talking about the slogan "winner-winner". But according to Chaponnière (2018), a specialist in China-Africa relations, these relations have been mainly beneficial to oil and gas exporting countries. Miner's products that have benefited from the rise in prices and diversified their outlets. In the years to come, they could be for other countries especially those who are coffee and cocoa exponents who will benefit from the evolving tastes of the Chinese middle class. Since Africa has diversified its cooperation, by putting heading towards Asia, this cooperation is highly criticized on the international scene. Because a "south-south" cooperation is not well perceived on the international scene and even by certain Africans. And like all economic partnerships between North and the South, there will always be fewer opportunities and many negative impacts.

At the end of this second chapter, we can say that China has set up a real locomotive for the conquest of Africa, all areas

were taken from the comb. In the political domain, we first created two departments (North Africa and Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa) for China's cooperation in Africa. Second according to Boillot and Dembinski (2013), the Chinese offensive is very strong associated with a very active and ubiquitous official diplomacy for decades with 47 embassies and 7 consulates established in Africa.

On the economic level, according to Niquet (2006) and China has today, official delegations in forty-nine (49) countries of the African continent, unlike France which has only eleven (11). According to Brautigam and Tang (2011), to attract Chinese companies to invest more in Africa and especially in the manufacturing sector, the Chinese government has created eight (8) special economic zones (SEZs) in Africa. These special economic zones are geographical regions benefiting from a specific legal regime from the rest of the country; whose aim is to attract foreign investment. They allow companies to adjust their investment, financing and operations reduced in relation to a classic economic environment. The first specific economic zones were created in China in 1979. Approx. iron fourteen (14) are located in the provinces of Guangdong and Fujian in the south of China. These economic zones offer long-term businesses preferential conditions (customs rights, free repatriation of investments and benefits). [No taxes for more years, then very low taxes, and extraterritorial status for executives who come to work there]. The objective of these ZES is to strengthen competitiveness by mainly encouraging companies to from the manufacturing industry to invest, but also local investors in order to create synergies at the level of industrial poles focused on agriculture, agro-industry, light and heavy manufacturing activities.

On the human level, Sino-African cooperation is bi-framed, because it is greater in number of individuals present on African soil. There is an impressive Chinese number who lead all the projects implemented by their country (Tsafack, 2014). That it is under the pretext of the proper construction, of the technical cooperation, equipment maintenance, investment, there is a strong Chinese community that is settled in Africa sub-Saharan, and particularly in Cameroon to support all projects won by it. From Cabestan (2013), the statistical data of the Chinese community were estimated between 100,000 and 200,000 then 800,000 Chinese in Africa, mate as a result of numerous data compiled, statistics count between 2 and 5 million Chinese present in Africa today (Statistical yearbook, 2012; Guerass Imaff, 2019), particularly in Algeria, Zimbabwe, Angola, Nigeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Senegal, Mali, Sudan, etc. In Cameroon, this cooperation is very specific because of the large number of projects (11 projects) that China signed with Cameroon in 2011 during the visit of the Cameroonian President to China. And at the social level we have the creation of the Confucius Institute in 2007 to promote culture, civilization and the Chinese language in Cameroon and particularly in Central Africa.

2.4 Opportunities of the Cooperation

In this section, it will be question of the long-term Sino-Cameroonian cooperation based on the construction of

infrastructures in the different socioeconomic sectors. We will also analyze the agricultural sector in its long term in focusing on the beautiful, land grabbing and direct impacts inherent in this situation. In the second section, we will analyze the short term cooperation properly, which is characterized by commercial exchanges in the various sectors such as telecommunications, sanitation and Finally, we will try to identify the various impacts resulting from this short and long term cooperation. That is to say the impacts felt at the end of the Cameroonian population.

Like any partnership, there are both positive and negative impacts, as well as direct and indirect impacts. In the case of Cameroon, a few elements suggest that these will be negative impacts. It will therefore be question of the negative impacts on the socio-economic plan in terms of environmental standards (pollution), the destruction of the ecosystem (deforestation, climate warming), health and safety at work and finally the political impacts in terms of rights humans. Because it seems that China is cooperating closely with the Africans regimes without conditions and without privileges by simply advocating the mutual respect and the sharing of interests. A cooperation that they themselves alike "Win-win", with principles based on the Beijing consensus and documented in the white book. So the principle is that China has forbidden itself to interfere in the internal affairs of the African governments with which it cooperates.

2.4.1 Cooperation Based on Infrastructures

Here, we will tackle the China-Cameroonian cooperation from the angle of the construction of infrastructure (1) and that of agriculture (2) as determining elements of the partnership relations between Cameroon and China.

2.4.2 The Construction Of Buildings, Dams And Roads

The vision of certain town planners and architects suggests that it is the construction of buildings which make the beauty of some of the world's great cities. Like everywhere in Africa, China shines on the one hand through its know-how in the construction of buildings and in public works (BTP) and other paid by the particularity of relatively low costs of the works, compared to those proposed by competing European and Americans companies.

China has attracted the attention of different African countries and particularly that of Cameroon in the infrastructure sector. Four road sections of approximately 13 km in the town of Douala with one of 9 billion CFA francs (17.8 million dollars). Other projects are in construction courses such as the project and construction of 15,000 seat stadiums including 200 seats in presidential boxes and 100 seats in Limbe in the southwest region and Bafoussam (Western region). They are built to Fifa standards and their support infrastructures each cover an area of 123,500 m² (Tsafack 2014, Gweth 2010. Again, Operational for almost two years, the port of Kribi is a complex to house four terminals, among others, the container, multipurpose, mining and oil terminal. The first phase of construction of this port infrastructure cost 330 billion FCFA (585 million USD), mainly financed by Eximbank China.

We also report to others works of public equipment's such as

modern urban roads, 1,500 housing units social, the Mfoundi channel, an optical fiber installation over 3,200 km in across the country, the imminent completion of the Yaounde-Douala highway road and other large-scale buildings and achievements such as the hospitals of Mbalmayo and Guider (Tsafack 2014, Gweth 2016. Since the independence of Cameroon, no other country has built so much infrastructure in such a short time. Shortage communication infrastructure known by Cameroon for a longtime year (1980) and deplored by international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank) is being resolved through Chinese cooperation.

2.4.3 Cooperation in the Agricultural Sector

According to the National Forestry Office, the main object of agriculture is cultivation in view of the production of useful plants to man and the animals raising. We can therefore say that agriculture is a process through which men first ecosystems meets the food needs of their societies. Africa, like Cameroon, is faced with food security and the food self-sufficiency of its populations. Is Collaboration with China in this area be a solution for the future? In the agricultural sector, Chinese cooperation is felt in technical assistance, rice cultivation, cassava farming, breeding, fishing and food. It is still enough difficult to establish reliable statistics on public aid in the agricultural sector. But we can note that West Africa and Southern Africa are regions which benefit the most from official development assistance in the agricultural sector. According to a study carried out by (the French Development Agency in February 2013, a census of one hundred (100) projects in the agricultural domain has been made. These projects are supported by over 60% Chinese private investors and 35% by public investors. Almost 60% of these projects are in Africa West (Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Benin) and 40% are found in Africa Austral (Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe).

According to Tsafack (2014) and Kretz, (2018), if China intervenes in the agricultural sector by supporting agricultural promotion through "demonstration centers" agricultural and productive projects such as the operation of agriculture, irrigation projects and projects in the rural engineering sector, it is because China has an overpopulation that it must feed in the years to come. Chinese lands being already overexploited; it therefore sets out to conquer the vast arable lands of Africa to develop an agro-industry in order to supply its population with food. Chinese companies invest in food crops and market gardening, industrial crops. Beyond the aid provided to the agricultural sector, China is mainly interested in fertile African lands. With 20% of the world population, China has only 7% of the arable land. She therefore has needs for cultivable land to produce in large quantities to meet its high domestic demand.

In Cameroon, in particular and in the field of agricultural development, China has a great deal of experience. It is for this that an agro-industrial project was launched in April 2006 in Nanga Eboko, for the cultivation and processing of products such as rice, maize and cassava, ostrich farming, and for training and research into agricultural techniques. This project was extended in other towns of Cameroon such as Mbandjock, Njoré and Santchou with the opening of ten pilot centers. And according to the terms of the agreement,

the "production generated by this project and agriculture was intended for local consumption and not for export to China.

If we refer to the resolutions taken during the Sino-African Cooperation Forum in November 2006, China has respected its word by creating a Pilot Center Agricultural Technologies in Nanga Eboko where 250 species of rice are tested for an industrial agriculture. The cost of this building is estimated at 27 billion of FCFA (48 Million USD) financed entirely by China, and the first step was laid on 02 July 2009. The missions of this center will be the popularization of agricultural techniques. Chinese and the training of agricultural technicians in Cameroon.

We note that the Sino-Cameroonian cooperation on the agricultural sector is beneficial to China, because the products from this agro-industry are directly shipped to Chinese populations around the world. The local populations are hardly profiting from this production, whereas the agreements stipulate that it must first serve local populations and if there is overproduction, it should be marketed outside the country.

2.5 Environmental Impacts

China is conquering arable land in Africa, to feed its enormous population of 1.3millions inhabitants and Cameroon is no exception to this Chinese arable. We therefore noted environmental impacts linked to the conquest of agricultural land (1) and deforestation (abusive co-operation of essences) by Chinese companies (2).

2.5.1 The conquest of arable land

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Arable land is understood to mean land that can be plowed and cultured. It includes field crops, vegetable crops, meadows artificial and fallow land Arable land is fertile land, that is to say conducive to the development of plants that are sown or grown there. When they are intensively cultivated and plowed, the Arab soils lose some of them. their quality and richness in humus and in water retention and purification capacity. According to 2012 World Bank statistics, Cameroon has 12.61% value of arable.

According to Tsafack, (2014) and Gweth, (2015), in 2006 the Cameroonian state had ceded 10 000 hectares of agricultural land for a period of 99 years to a Chinese company Sino Cam Iko, a Chinese multinational specializing in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products. The Chinese company is established on three sites including Njoré, (4000 hectares located at 100 kilometers from the Cameroonian capital) and Nanga-Eboko (2,000 hectares located 170 kilometers from Yaounde), the third site is not yet occupied and remains to be determined. All of these areas are considered to be very fertile areas for the cultivation of flour and vegetables. In Nanga-Eboko, Sino Cam Iko, has planted experimental crops of fruits, vegetables and corn, as well as 200 varieties of rice. In Njoré, this company is devoted to the cultivation of cassava for making whiskey. According to the experts of the Cameroonian ministry of agriculture, rice production in Cameroon by Chinese should help reduce importations by 400,000 tons

per year for a production of 50,000 tons. According to Chinese diplomats, this production should be used for local consumption. But that's not what happens on the field after the harvest. This production is fully marketed through the world.

Cameroonian consumer associations have noted that this production is directly packaged and exported either to China, or to countries where there is a strong Chinese community, and also to global markets. Several NGOs Cameroon Ease denounce this land grabbing which threatens the sovereignty of Cameroonians food. When we know that the earth also becomes a strategic resource just like oil and minerals, the Cameroon government should therefore revise these agricultural agreements with the Chinese authorities, so that these agreements are beneficial to both parties. Because agriculture is a major sector that participates in the development of a country and the fight against poverty. If it is to be modernized, it is necessary that this agricultural mode first of all guarantees the food security of the Cameroonian populations and the surplus will then be exported. Just like the natural resources, the heritage the land should also be preserved for future generations.

2.5.2 Deforestation or the Trafficking of Rare Species

According to the National Forestry Office (ONF), deforestation still called deforestation or clearing is the decrease in the area covered by forests. In nowadays, it's more particularly aimed at the reduction of equatorial forests, which for many results from reckless exploitation and desire of certain countries to develop human presence in these areas. The direct impact consequence of this phenomenon is an aggravation of the consequences on the climate and on the biodiversity. According to the ONF, the annual deforestation represents 7.3 million ha for the period 2000-2005. Important disparities emerge from a review of statistics regional: for the period 1990-2005, forest areas fell by 19%, in central Africa, by 9.1% in Africa. But there again, disparities continue to exist. Cameroon is not spared from these environmental consequences following the dislocation it currently undergoes in its eastern and southern regions.

As we indicated above, Cameroon exports to China 40% species, which are directly processed by the furniture industry and offering thus thousands of jobs for the Chinese. Cameroonian forests will seem to be looted by Chinese companies, which operate without a policy of cutting and reforestation of rare species, thus letting waves of heat settle intermittent in the large comfortable Cameroonian towns and causing considerable climatic reheating in the country. The country's ecosystem is threatened by greenhouse gases leading to the dispersal of thousands of species both animals and vegetables.

A minority part of the indigenous population of eastern and southern Cameroon (the pygmies) would seem to be threatened in their camps by the effects of deforestation. They see their daily life in upheaval and their eating habits deteriorate continually, they who live essentially only from hunting and gathering. In such conditions the pygmies are

very worried about their daily survival, but the Cameroonian government remains deaf and impassible to their concerns and their demands on the pretext that we must develop this province. We completely agree that the region should be developed, but this development must take into account the internal needs of the population and the local realities. Without, however, exposing them to environmental scourges which will be harmful for their survival. A development that takes place without association, or even without participation of the local populations concerned is always a source of conflict. Because as in the majority of cases, the income from the resources of this Regions are of little benefit to locals.

3. Data Analysis and Results

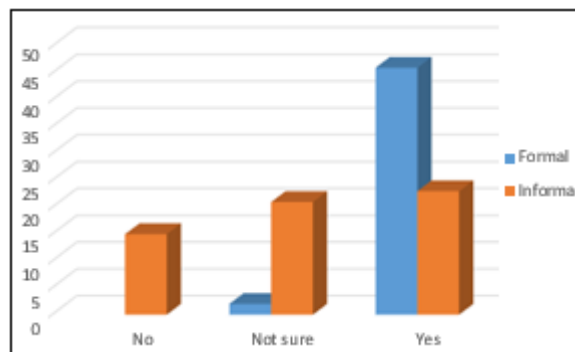
3.1 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The tools represented above have enabled us to collect the data that we are going to present to you, analyzed and interpreted in the following lines.

3.1.1 Table 7 and Figure 2: Type of business and informal sector share in Cameroon

Types of Branches Informal importance in Cameroon	Formal Sector	Informal Sector	Total
No	0	15	15
Not Sure	2	21	23
Yes	46	23	69
Total	48	59	107

Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020



Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

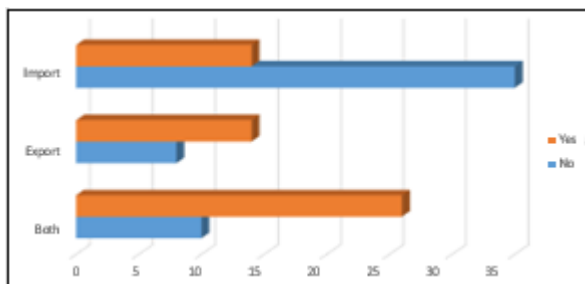
From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 15 operators that are operating in the informal sector things that the informal sector does not constitute an important share in the Cameroon Economy. While 23 out of the 107 operators are not sure of it, 46 operating in the formal sector and 23 operating in the informal sector believes that the informal sector constitutes an important share in the Cameroon's Economy making it a percentage rate of 64% for yes it is an important factor share in the Cameroon's economy over 36% that it is not.

3.1.2 Table 8 and figure 3: Variation Cameroon affiliates companies in China over imports and exports

Branches in China Nature of Business	Formal Sector	Informal Sector	Total
Both	10	26	36

Export	8	14	22
Import	35	14	49
Total	53	54	107

Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020



Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

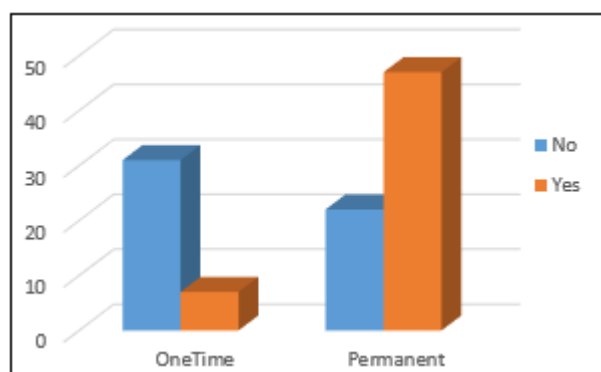
From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 10 operators that do not branches in China do both Imports and Exports of goods and services whereas 26 of these operators that have branches in China equally do imports and exports of goods and services from and in China.

It should equally be noted that, more Cameroon economy operators that have branches in China do essentially in exports (14 over 8 that does in imports) and same, we have more importers who do have branches in china than those in China. These therefore, leads us to a percentage rate of 46% for importers, 19% for exporters to Chins and 35% for those economy operators that do both imports and exports.

Table 3: Variation Cameroon affiliates companies in China over onetime and permanent buyers

Type of buyer	Branches in China		Total
	No	Yes	
One time	31	7	38
Permanent	22	47	69
Total	53	54	107

Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

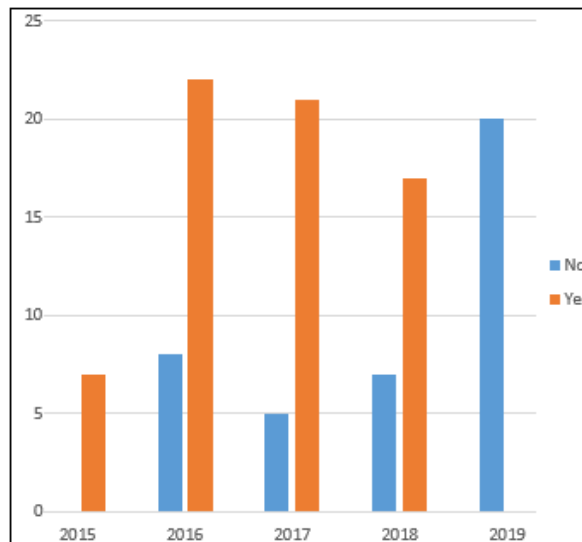


Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

Figure 4: Variation Cameroon affiliates companies in China
From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 31 operators that do not have branches in China are one time-buyers and only 7 that have branches in China are one-time buyers whereas, 47 economic operators that have branches in China are permanent buyers and in regards of 22 who do not have branches in China are permanent Buyers. This therefore making it a percentage rate of 64% who are permanent buyers over 36% who are one time buyers.

Table 4: Variation between year of starting activities and profit making before 2015

Year Deut	Profit making		Total
	No	Yes	
2015	0	7	7
2016	8	22	30
2017	5	21	26
2018	7	17	24
2019	14	6	20
Total	34	73	107



Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

Figure 4: Variation Cameroon affiliates companies in China

From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 7 Cameroon economy operators that started business in 2015 where already making profits, 22 out of 30 who started in 2016 where equally making some profit compared to 8 who could not make some profit.

Again, in 2017, we can see 21 who were making profits out of 5 who did not and in 2018, 17 out of 24 made equally some profit. However, very few Cameroon economy operators made profit in 2019 out of all the 20 who started their business that year. We went and questioned 10 out of the 14 and we got the reply that, actually the profit of the year is calculated the following year and since ending 2019 and 2020 is a year touched by covid-19, business where slowed down and disrupted severely.

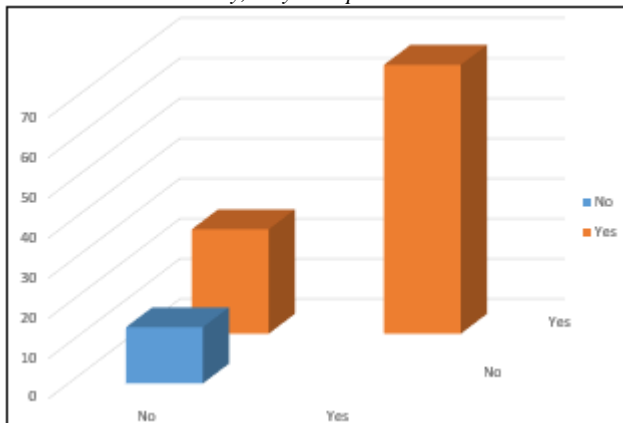
Nevertheless, the 6 Cameroon economy operators that succeeded in making profits during this year confessed to us that they re-orientated that business of masks and medical stuffs. This therefore leads us to a percentage repartition of profit and non profit of 100% for profits for 2015, 73% got profits and only 27% made non-profits in 2016, 81% made profits and 19% did made non-profits in 2017, 71% made profits and 29% made non-profits in 2018 and finally the only year where non-profit is greater than profits, 30% made profits and 70% made non-profits in 2019.

Table 5: Analysis between profit making before 2015 and with the advent of the Silk Road

Advent-Silk Road	Profit making		Total
	No	Yes	

Before 2015			
Formal	14	26	40
Informal	0	67	67
Total	14	93	107

Source: Individual survey, July to September 2020



Sources: Individual Surveys, July to September 2020

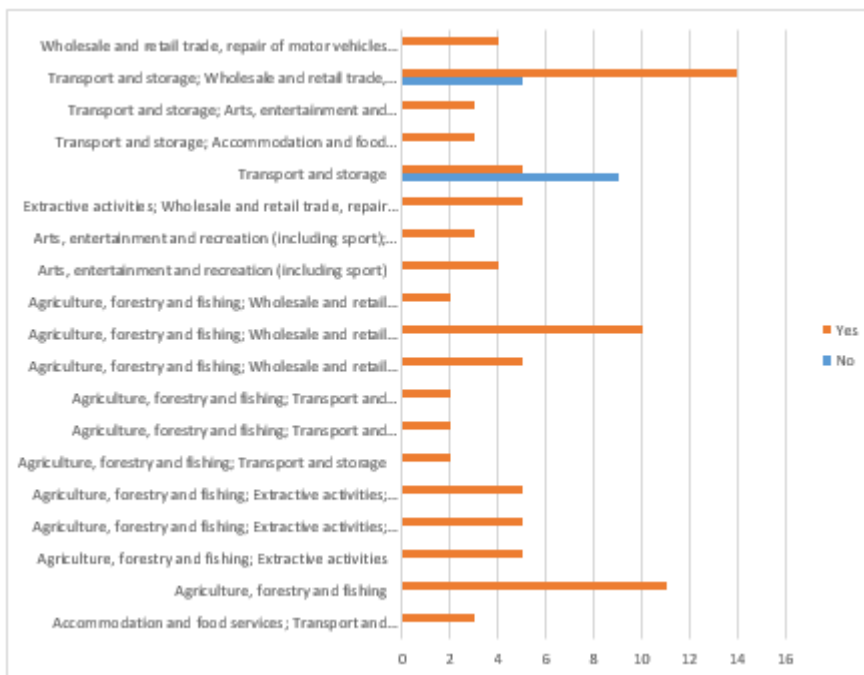
From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 26 Cameroon Economy operators that were not making business with china before 2015 made profits above 100 000 USD/year with the advent of the silk road and the signing of a multitude of commercial agreements that were signed between both nations.

On the other hand, up to 67 Cameroon Economy operators that were making business with china before 2015 made

more profits of above 100 000 USD/year with the advent of the silk road and the signing of a multitude of commercial agreements that were signed between both nations. This therefore making it a percentage rate of 100% of profit makers with the Belt road who started business with China before 2015.

Table 6: Analysis between profit making before 2015 and with the advent of the Silk Road

	Advent Silk Road	No	Yes	Total
Two main activities				
Accommodation and food services; Transport and storage	0	3	3	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0	11	11	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0	5	5	
Agriculture, Transport and storage	0	5	5	
Agriculture, Wholesale and retail trade	0	5	5	
Agriculture, Transport and storage	0	2	2	
Agriculture, Transport and storage	0	2	2	
Transport and storage; Wholesale and retail trade	0	2	2	
Forestry and fishing; Wholesale and retail trade,	0	5	5	
Wholesale and retail trade, Transport and storage	0	10	10	
Transport and storage; Arts, entertainment and recreation (including sport)	0	2	2	
Arts, entertainment and recreation (including sport), repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	0	4	4	
Arts, entertainment and recreation (including sport); Education	0	3	3	
Extractive activities; Wholesale and retail trade,	0	5	5	
Transport and storage and Wholesale and retail trade	9	5	14	
Transport and storage; Accommodation and food services;	0	3	3	
Transport and storage; Arts, entertainment and recreation (including sport)	0	3	3	
Transport and storage; Wholesale and retail trade, and motorcycles	5	14	19	
Wholesale and retail trade, Transport and storage	0	4	4	
Total	14	93	107	



From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, Transport and storage; Wholesale and retail trade and Agriculture are the three activities that are operated by Cameroon's economy operators and are equally the three activities that generated more profits with the advent of the silk road and the signing of a multitude of commercial agreements that were signed between both nations. It should be noted that, 28% of Cameroon's Economic operators' go in for Agriculture, 51% of Cameroon's Economic operators go in for Transport and

storage and 42% of Cameroon's Economic operators go in for Wholesale and retail trade.

On the other hand, 19% of Cameroon's Economic operators' go in for Forestry and fishing, 9 % of Cameroon's Economic Operators' go in for Arts, entertainment and recreation (including sport), 5% of Cameroon's Economic Operators' go in for Extractive activities, 4% of Cameroon's Economic Operators' are in repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

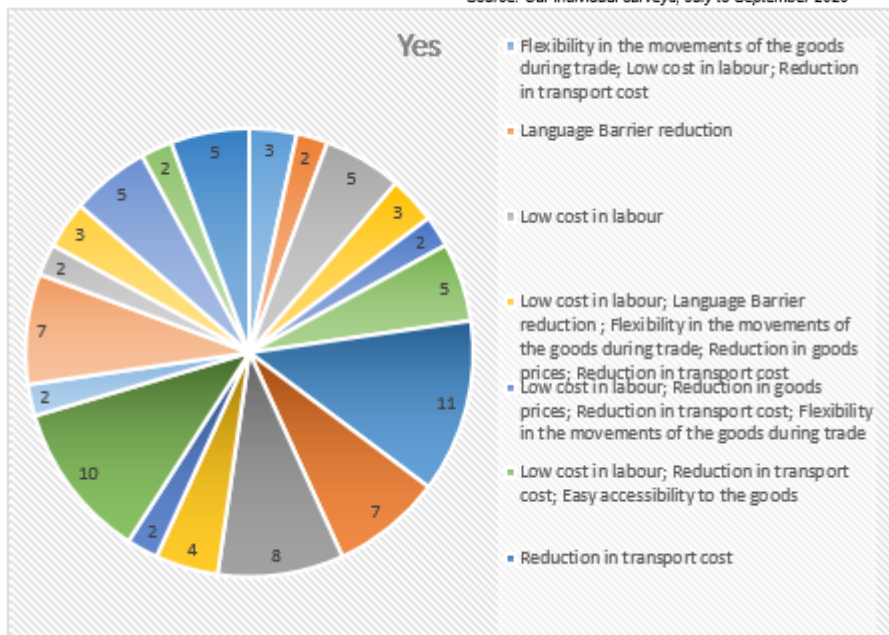
and only 3% of Cameroon’s Economic Operators’ are having Accommodation and food services as their activities.

It should however be noted that one Economic operator can go in for more than one activity.

Table 7: Variation between profit with the advent of the Silk Road and their causes

Cause of Increase	Advent Silk Road	Yes	Total
Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade; Low cost in labour; Reduction in transport cost		3	3
Language Barrier reduction		2	2
Low cost in labour		5	5
Low cost in labour; Language Barrier reduction ; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade; Reduction in goods prices; Reduction in transport cost		3	3
Low cost in labour; Reduction in goods prices; Reduction in transport cost; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade		2	2
Low cost in labour; Reduction in transport cost; Easy accessibility to the goods		5	5
Reduction in transport cost		11	11
Reduction in transport cost; Easy accessibility to the goods		7	7
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour		8	8
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Easy accessibility to the goods		4	4
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade		2	2
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade; Easy accessibility to the goods		10	10
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; More quality products; Language Barrier reduction ; Easy accessibility to the goods		2	2
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Reduction in goods prices		7	7
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Reduction in goods prices; Easy accessibility to the goods		2	2
Reduction in transport cost; Low cost in labour; Reduction in goods prices; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade		3	3
Reduction in transport cost; Reduction in goods prices		5	5
Reduction in transport cost; Reduction in goods prices; Flexibility in the movements of the goods during trade; Low cost in labour		2	2
Reduction in transport cost; Reduction in goods prices; Low cost in labour		5	5
Total		88	88

Source: Our individual surveys, July to September 2020



From the above table and figure, 88 Cameroon’s Economic operators gave a positive respond to the fact that the advent of the Chinese Silk Road and different commercial agreement signed between the two countries made these business men and companies to make numerous profits on their business. However, these profits were caused by a number of reason thanks to the One Belt One Road launched in 2013 by president Xi Jinping. So far as the reduction in the transport cost is concerned, 75 out of 88 Cameroon economic operators who made profits due to the new silk road affirms that it was a major factor that contributed to their profits thereby making it a percentage of 85%.

Secondly, low cost of labour in China is concerned, 61 Cameroon economic operators affirms that It’s a factor that contributed to their profit making it a percentage of 69%.

Again, is the easy accessibility to the goods. Here, 30 out of 88 Cameroon economic operators who made profits due to the new silk road affirms that it was a major factor that contributed to their profits thereby making it a percentage of 34%. More again, is the reduction in the goods prices, 29 out of 88 Cameroon economic operators who made profits due to the new silk road certifies that it was a major factor that contributed to their profits thereby making it a percentage of 32%. Moreover, comes the flexibility of the movement of

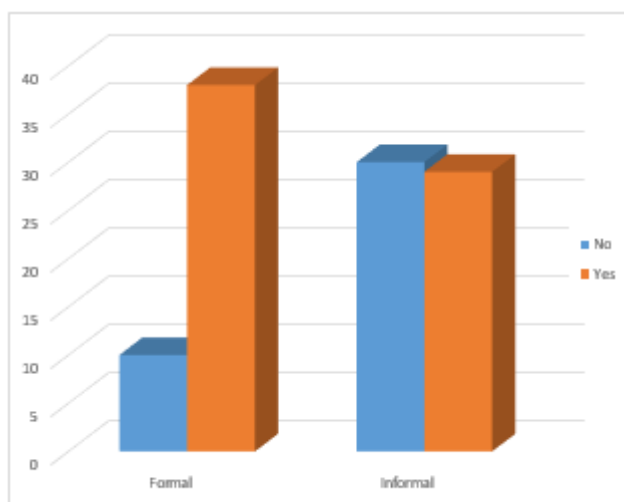
goods during trade, 25 out of 88 Cameroon economic operators who made profits due to the new Silk Road confirmed that it was a major factor that contributed to their profits thereby making it a percentage of 28%.

In addition to, is the reduction in the language barrier? 7 out of 88 Cameroon economic operators who made profits due to the new silk road affirms that it was a major factor that contributed to their profits thereby making it a percentage of 8%. It should however be noted that one Economic operator could select more than one factor that led to an increase in their profits in regards of the One Belt One Road.

Table 8: Variation between types of business and profit making before 2015

Type of business \ Before 2015	No	Yes	Total
Formal	10	38	48
Informal	30	29	59
Total	40	67	107

Source: Individual survey, July to September 2020



Source: Individual surveys, July to September 2020

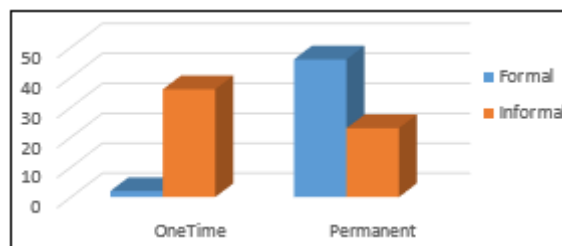
From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 38 operators that are operating in the formal sector started doing business with China before 2015 and where already making profits of more 100 000 USD / year whereas 10 of them in our days that are in the formal sector did either started business before 2015 or where not generating profits of up to 100 00 USD / year.

While on the other hand, 29 operators in the informal sector started doing business with China before 2015 and where already making profits of more 100 000 USD / year although 30 of them in our days that are in the informal sector did either started business before 2015 or where not generating profits of up to 100 00 USD / year.

This therefore gives us a total percentage of 79% in the formal sector where already doing profits above 100 000 USD and 49% for those that where operating in the informal sector. It should however be noted that a great number of Cameroon economy operators entered the activities after 2015 making it a percentage of 51% new operators after 2015.

Table 9: Variation between Business and Buyer

Type of business \ Type of buyer	No	Yes	Total
One time	2	36	38
Permanent	46	23	69
Total	48	59	107



From the above table and figure, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 36 operators that are one time-buyers operate in the Informal sector and only 2 operators operate in the formal sector making it a percentage of 95% for informal businesses and only 5% for Formal businesses. This clearly shows us that more one-time buyers prefer to operate in the informal sector than in the formal sector.

In addition to, out of 107 of the Economic operators surveyed, 23 operators that are one permanent buyers operate in the informal sector and up to 46 operators that are permanent buyers operate in the formal sector making it a percentage of 33% for informal businesses and over 67% for Formal businesses. This clearly shows us that more permanent buyers prefer to operate in the formal sector than in the informal sector.

3.2 Summary of the Analysis

Diplomatic relations between Cameroon and China date from 1971. They can be described, very objectively, as particularly solid and were reinforced in the year 2018 which ends with the 6th and 7th stays of the President of the Republic in China respectively in March (State visit) and in September (3rd Summit of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum). From our survey and results, the 2016 marked a decisive turning point in the evolution of the Sino-Cameroon relationship. Indeed, bilateral trade between the two countries has reached 2.5 billion USD and China is now the main trading partner and the first provider of foreign direct investment (FDI) in major development projects in Cameroon. These projects are mainly located in the drinking water supply, health, road and port infrastructure, social housing, civil aeronautics and telecommunications. Indeed, the Chinese giant has operated in a dazzling economic boom in four decades, recording growth rates above 10% for almost 30 years. With the Zouchuqu movement which means "to cross borders" which he launched in 2000, Chinese investments abroad have increased 40-fold. It should however also be noted that, Cameroon's economy operators that have been in intense business with China most do with the exportation of primary products (agriculture sector, fishing and mineral natural resources).

China sits on colossal foreign exchange reserves of nearly 3 trillion dollars and its president, His Excellency Xi Jinping,

with whom the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul Biya, maintains a remarkable relationship is today perceived as ardent defender of a balanced and sustainable globalization. The renewed intensity recorded in the multidimensional relations between China and Cameroon rests on the ability of the two leaders to engage in projects that generate immense reciprocal opportunities. This is the case, for example, with major projects such as that of the Silk Road for China on the one hand that has started generating wonderful profit results on Cameroon's economy operators and on the other hand the ambitious program of the emergence of Cameroon by 2035. In This movement, eight cooperation agreements were signed in 2018 between China and Cameroon including, among others, an unrequited donation worth 334 billion FCFA (598 million USD) for 2018 and 84 billion (150 million USD) for 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Sino-Cameroon relationship will therefore also be further strengthened.

4. Conclusions

Historically, China is not a newcomer to Africa. Although its relationship with the African countries seems to have been symbolic for a long time. Our study showed us that China is involved in internal and development of sub-Saharan Africa for several decades. Even though the China advocates the principle of non-interference in its international policy, war of Darfur has gravely damaged this principle with its involvement (Kitissou 2017). In the separatists' federation, China had established diplomatic relations with many African countries, she has also worked with the Africans in the various international forums and the United Nations to correct its image and impose its political vision. In the 1980s, Sino-African economy relations were limited to technical assistance based on construction of infrastructure (stadiums, convention center, bridges, and railways), all this in exchange for the principle of recognizing of a single China. Our main vision was to analyse Chinese cooperation in Africa. That is to say conduct an examination of the Chinese presence in terms of trade and financing in the development of Africa. And also to evaluate the various impacts inherent to this cooperation. For this, our thesis has leaned on studies and on all existing data. We have selected those that came into our domain and took care to analyse them and make a synthesis, while keeping a critical vision on them. We then found that these data are scarce in terms of statistics on the amounts of aid that China would grant African countries, but available on the scale of China-Africa cooperation thanks to the numerous studies of researchers and experts, and also to data that China is willing to disseminate when it suits it. In terms of financing and investment, the data are weak, unreliable, often contradictory, sometimes anecdotal or simply absent. And on the side Africans, there is a lack of scientific surveys and analyses. Nevertheless, the documentation available was abundant and important and the use of this proved to be more practical and economical.

In short, after analyzing these documents, then according to our personal experience, we can say that China is neither a threat nor an opportunity for Africa, where it is both a threat and an opportunity. She is a new partner like all the other

traditional partners of Africa, which has been able to design and adapt the management mechanisms of its economic cooperation according to the realities of each African country. Because we don't stop asserting it, China did not come to Africa for philanthropy, but to conduct business (trade) and exploit raw materials. China seeks to acquire the status of the world's premier power to compete with United States, Africa set it a springboard to achieve the goals it has set for itself by 2035: first, to become the world's leading economic power and second, to control African raw materials. Because as they feel researchers, the power that will control Africa and its wealth (natural resources), will control the whole world. This is why China and the United States are in competition, and have embarked on a frantic race to occupy all Africa's geostrategic spaces. The results of our research have therefore helped to support that Africa should review its partnership agreements with China, especially in terms of trade if it wants to emerge as a winner to this "south-south" cooperation. Because the growth of our research suggests many negative impacts in the economic and environmental field.

Sub-Saharan Africa does not benefit from Chinese public aid. This important investment goes essentially in the infrastructure sector, whereas it will have to be diversified. It is therefore necessary to carry out a follow-up and an evaluation of this aid to better appreciate its impact on the expected results, such as the reduction of poverty and increased growth. If possible, direct it to others more priority sectors than infrastructure. Likewise, it would be wise to put in place a process for evaluating policies including effective systems impact assessment in the projects, which will provide additional arguments in favour of Chinese public aid which remains elusive, see unquantifiable by multilateral and international organisations such as the OECD.

Finally, it will be necessary to enforce environmental standards at all Chinese companies that come to invest in Africa. The social responsibility of enterprises should be a non-negotiable principle with China. Because China is a bad example with regard to the pollution, it has never signaled the agreement of Kyoto on the climate with regard to greenhouse gas emission, when it is one of the most popular countries in the world. If China does not respect and does not apply environmental standards in its own territory, this is not Africa that it will come to respect and apply them. So all the Chinese people companies should be asked to integrate a protocol on standards in their contract and implement it, under penalty of being taxed, amended or totally withdrawn from calls for tenders and contracts do not respect them.

Ultimately, Sub-Saharan Africa should not be kidding itself by this friendship. China is not a friend, but a consistent partner, to whom it will have to make no concessions. Because China itself does not have clear intentions towards Africa. Its main objective is to accumulate as much as possible African resources before Africans realizes the impacts. As Charles De Gaulle said, "in international relations, there is no friendship, there is only interests that matter". African authorities should think about the legacy that they will leave to future generations, which cannot be a

small debt, but a flourishing economy and a prosperous future.

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