

LAW No. 2025/006 OF 25 AVR 2025

GOVERNING BIOSECURITY IN CAMEROON

PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
SERVICE DU FICHIER LEGISLATIF ET REGLEMENTAIRE
LEGISLATIVE AND STATUTORY AFFAIRS CARD INDEX SERVICE
COPIE CERTIFIEE CONFORME
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

*The Parliament deliberated and adopted,
the President of the Republic hereby
enacts the law set out below:*

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

I - SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES

SECTION 1: This law governs biosecurity in Cameroon.

SECTION 2: (1) It shall apply to:

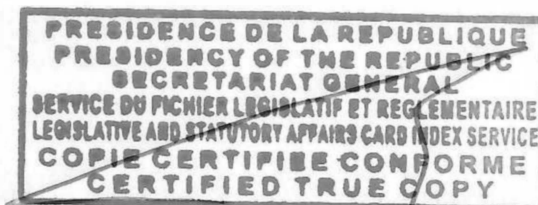
- any person in the national territory of the Republic of Cameroon or abroad engaged in activities that pose a biosecurity threat to the national territory;
- any vector of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives that pose a biosecurity risk, such as persons, domestic animals, containers, goods, means of transport, especially vessels, aircraft, trains, vehicles and other means of land transport owned and operated by public or private entities;
- all means of transport, containers and goods intended for import, export or transit that pose a biosecurity risk to the national territory or to the importing foreign State;
- all points of entry and establishment of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives, such as seaports, airports, border posts, post offices, railway stations, bus stations and other means of road transport;
- any warehouse, store, silo, enclosure, farmland or other premises within the national territory containing regulated products, invasive alien species, living modified organisms or their derivatives;
- any laboratory, institute or centre engaged in the research and analysis of invasive alien species, living modified organisms or their derivatives, including through the use of biotechnology;
- any local and native species.

(2) The scope of this law shall include:

- the introduction, management and control of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives;
- the risks and adverse effects of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives on food safety, human, plant and animal health, environmental protection, trade and industry, including agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, transport, tourism, import and export.

SECTION 3: (1) Biosecurity principles shall include:

- the principle of State responsibility;
- the prevention principle;
- the precautionary principle.
- the principle of participation;
- the principle of collaboration.



(2) According to the principle of State responsibility, the State shall be responsible for coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of measures to prevent, manage and control biosecurity risks.

(2) The prevention principle requires everyone to prevent or reduce to a minimum, scientifically established risks and adverse effects of invasive alien species and living modified organisms and to respond to them in a timely manner.

(4) The precautionary principle requires that where there is uncertainty due to lack of technical, scientific or economic knowledge at a given time, risk management measures should be taken to prevent serious damage to the environment and human health.

(5) The principle of participation relates to the obligation to consult and involve authorities and local communities exposed to biosecurity risks in fulfilling the obligations referred to in (2), (3) and (4) above.

(6) The principle of collaboration relates to the obligation of consultation between the State and the regional and local authorities of biosecurity control zones and those of invaded areas under control, in order to:

- a) ensure that the management of invasive alien species and living modified organisms is integrated in local development plans;
- b) facilitate reporting to ensure the effectiveness of measures to prevent, manage and control biological risks and invasions;
- c) promote and mobilize community support for the management of biological invasion.

II - DEFINITIONS

SECTION 4: Within the meaning of this law and its implementing instruments, the following definitions shall apply:

Biosecurity officer: sworn officer responsible for carrying out biosecurity duties;

Biosecurity risk analysis: overall process of identifying, assessing and reporting biosecurity risks;

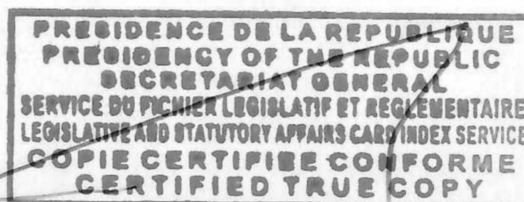
Biosecurity: all the following, considered together or separately:

- strategic and integrated approach, including policies and regulatory frameworks for the analysis and management of risks to food safety, animal life and health, plant life and health and related environmental risks;
- legal and technical measures governing (i) the introduction of plant pests, animal parasites, diseases and zoonoses; (ii) the introduction and release of genetically modified organisms and their derivatives; and (iii) the introduction and management of invasive alien species and genotypes;

Phytosanitary certificate: official document certifying the phytosanitary status of plant products intended for export or re-export;

Veterinary certificate: official document certifying compliance with animal health requirements for products intended for export or re-export;

Biosecurity risk report: information on the actors concerned by biosecurity risks and the measures to be taken to manage them;



Biosecurity declaration: written document providing information on the nature, quantity and origin of a product, consignment or other related details;

Invasive species: subspecies or lower taxon whose introduction and/or spread poses a threat to ecosystems, habitats or species and causes environmental damage;

Invasive alien species: species that are intentionally or unintentionally removed from their natural habitat and introduced into habitats where they can establish, invade, outcompete and dominate their new environment;

Biosecurity risk assessment: identification and assessment of risks posed by a particular species or associated with a particular sector;

Biosecurity risk management: set of measures or conditions designed to control, reduce or minimize risks;

Biological invasion: invasion or attack by a biological invader;

Introduction: entry and establishment of an alien invasive species or living modified organisms and their derivatives in a particular ecosystem;

Biosecurity threat: likelihood of damage or adverse effects to animals, plants, humans or the ecosystem due to the introduction or spread of a regulated invasive alien species under control or a living modified organism and its derivatives;

Living modified organism (LMO): living organism containing a new combination of genetic material obtained through biotechnology;

Passenger: person transported from one place to another by land, sea or air with or without payment of a fare;

Re-exporting country: country on whose territory a container or consignment of goods has been opened and repacked for export;

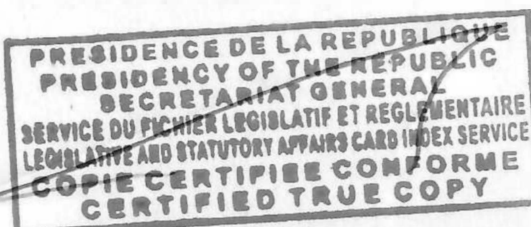
Biosecurity permit: (i) authorization to move a product or consignment out of a holding area for export or import; or (ii) authorization for a ship, aircraft or land vehicle to unload goods or disembark passengers posing a risk;

Animal product: any animal derived material or substance, whether or not combined with any other material or substance, and including:

- meat, fat, milk, lactoserum, cream, butter and other products of animal origin;
- animal excrement, urine, faeces, saliva, bone, blood, or any product or substance derived from animal excrement, urine, faeces, saliva, bone or blood;
- animal secretion;
- any biological product or preparation derived from animal tissue or secretion;
- any fishery product;

Regulated product: plant, animal and living (modified) organism and its derivatives, any genetic material, non-living organism, host material, waste and any other item, substance or good prohibited or controlled within the national territory;

Plant product: plant material or any product made in whole or in part from one or more plants;



Quarantine: isolation of a regulated product and any means of transport for inspection, testing or treatment in order to prevent or limit the introduction or spread of a regulated invasive alien species or living modified organism and its derivatives;

Risk: likelihood of the introduction or spread of an invasive alien species or living modified organism and its derivatives that may cause harm to animals, plants, humans or the environment, and the potential magnitude of such harm;

Carrier: natural or legal person who undertakes to transport persons or goods from one place to another under a contract of carriage by land, sea or air;

Emergency: (i) alleged or actual introduction of a regulated invasive alien species or living modified organism and its derivatives into any part of the national territory, or (ii) existence of any other threat requiring urgent action through eradication, containment or any other form of response;

Vector: means by which a potentially hazardous invasive species, living modified organism and its derivatives may be transported;

Pathway: means or route by which a potentially invasive alien species, living modified organism and its derivatives may be transported;

Holding area: area where incoming or outgoing products or consignments are held pending inspection;

Control area: area declared to be under control because of a biological invasion or risk, or an area declared to be free from a biological invasion after being controlled in accordance with the provisions of this law and implementing instruments;

Quarantine border area: area adjacent to a seaport, airport or land border designated for the quarantine of ships, aircraft or land transport vehicles pending inspection;

Storage area: area where goods are stored after inspection.

CHAPTER II BIOSECURITY PREVENTIVE MEASURES

I – BIOSECURITY RISK ANALYSIS

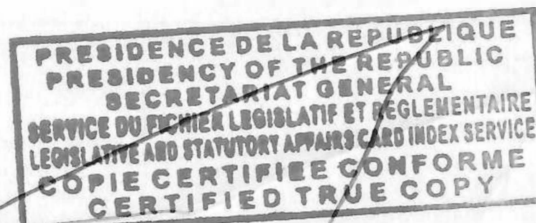
SECTION 5: (1) The State shall carry out a risk analysis for regulated sectors, species and products in order to determine points of entry, points of exit and holding areas.

(2) The risk analysis referred to in (1) above shall include the identification, assessment and reporting of risks.

(3) risk analysis must be based on:

- scientific data and case-by-case analysis;
- expert opinion given by accredited persons or institutions.

(4) The conditions and procedures for carrying out the risk analysis shall be established by regulation.



SECTION 6: Where an invasive alien species or living modified organism poses an unacceptable risk, as determined in accordance with the risk analysis guide, appropriate measures should be taken to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

SECTION 7: Risk reporting must be carried out throughout the risk analysis process, especially during dialogue with communities and other relevant stakeholders.

II – BIOSECURITY SURVEILLANCE MEASURES

SECTION 8: The State and regional and local authorities shall be responsible for administrative and technical surveillance.

SECTION 9: The State shall implement a surveillance system for the exchange and processing of information and an appropriate surveillance mechanism to address potential risks in a cross-cutting manner.

SECTION 10: The State shall establish mechanisms for collaboration between local and foreign public bodies and States, to improve the flow of information.

III - INVENTORY OF BIOSECURITY POINTS, THREATS AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES

SECTION 11: (1) In order to limit the risks associated with the introduction and handling of regulated products, invasive alien species and living modified organisms, the State shall:

- include certain organisms, materials, products and substances on the list of invasive alien species, living modified organisms or derivatives;
- restrict or prohibit the importation of such organisms, materials, products and substances;
- subject such organisms, materials and substances to official control or risk analysis;
- designate points of entry into and exit from its territory;
- designate border holding areas;
- designate storage areas.

(2) The conditions and procedures for implementing the provisions of (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 12: (1) The State shall compile and update a list of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives, including particularly organisms of plant or animal origin, genetic material, non-living organisms, host material, waste and other products, substances or goods.

(2) The items on the list referred to in (1) above may, as appropriate, be subject to:

- an import ban;
- an import restriction;
- official control or risk analysis.



SECTION 13: The points of entry into and exit from the national territory referred to in Section 11 above shall include:

- sea, river and lake ports;
- international airports;
- posts offices;
- railway stations;
- land borders where regulated products may enter or leave the national territory.

SECTION 14: The border holding areas referred to in Section 11 shall include:

- holding areas for ships;
- holding areas for aircraft;
- holding areas for vehicles or other means of land transport;
- postal holding areas.

SECTION 15: The storage areas referred to in Section 11 shall include:

- storage areas for containers and goods arriving or departing by sea;
- storage areas for containers and goods arriving or departing by air;
- storage areas for containers and goods arriving or departing by road or other means of land transport.

CHAPTER III

BIOSECURITY THREAT RESPONSE MEASURES

I - INTERNAL BIOSECURITY INVESTIGATION

SECTION 16: Any person who knows of or suspects the presence of an invasive alien species, living modified organism or derivatives thereof shall be required to notify the State.

SECTION 17: (1) The State may, on its own initiative or on the basis of information received, order an investigation in any part of the national territory to determine the status of invasive alien species, living modified organisms and their derivatives, as well as the biosecurity risks associated with the movement of animals, plants, humans or organisms, within or outside the locality.

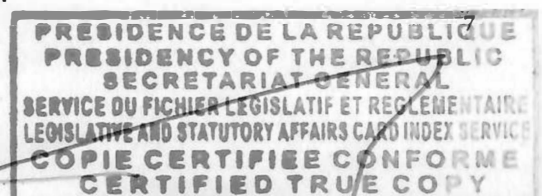
(2) The procedures for carrying out the investigation provided for in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

II - INTERNAL BIOSECURITY CONTROL

SECTION 18: (1) On the basis of the internal biosecurity investigation referred to in Section 17 above, the State may declare any part of the national territory, including buildings, to be a biosecurity control area, in the event of the presence of or contamination by specific invasive alien species, living modified organisms or their derivatives.

(2) The biosecurity control area may be extended to adjacent land as necessary to contain the risk or invasion.

SECTION 19: Without prejudice to the separate laws and regulations in force, the following measures may be taken within a biosecurity control area:



- access at any time by the competent authorities to any property to verify the status of a regulated biological invader;
- restriction of movement of persons, animals, plants or their products;
- seizure, confiscation or destruction of property that poses a proven biosecurity risk or is necessary to address the biosecurity threat.

III - BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

SECTION 20: (1) For the purpose of controlling or eradicating a particular invasive alien species, a living modified organism and its derivatives, the State may release beneficial organisms or biological control agents within the perimeter of a biosecurity control area.

(2) The release referred to in (1) above must not present any present or future uncontrollable risks to human, plant, or animal health or to the environment in general.

SECTION 21: (1) The release of useful organisms or biological control agents shall be subject to prior authorization.

(2) The conditions and procedures for granting, suspending and revoking the authorization provided for in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

CHAPTER IV

SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT, IMPORT, EXPORT AND BIOTERRORISM

I - SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER TRANSPORT

SECTION 22: Any passenger or passenger carrier, by air, sea or land, bound for Cameroon shall be required to:

- make a declaration on arrival;
- apply for and obtain a biosecurity permit for disembarkation, where applicable.

SECTION 23: All passenger shall be required to make a biosecurity declaration before leaving the national territory.

SECTION 24: The conditions and procedures for making the biosecurity declaration and obtaining the biosecurity permit referred to in Sections 22 and 23 shall be established by regulation.

II - SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RULES FOR IMPORTS

SECTION 25: (1) Any product introduced into the national territory shall be subject to:

- a biosecurity inspection at the border;
- a biosecurity import permit.

(2) The conditions and procedures for carrying out the inspection and granting the authorisation referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 26: Regulated products transiting through Cameroon shall be subject to the same rules as those provided for in Section 25.

III - SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RULES FOR EXPORTS

SECTION 27: (1) Any product leaving the national territory:

- shall be subject to biosecurity inspection at the point of departure;
- shall comply with the requirements of the country of destination.

(2) The conditions and procedures for implementing the provisions of (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

SECTION 28: The biosecurity requirements of the country of destination should be based either on the laws and regulations of that country or on an international agreement to which Cameroon is a party.

IV - SPECIFIC BIOSECURITY RULES FOR BIOCRIME AND BIOTERRORISM

SECTION 29: (1) Any form of use of biological materials, organisms or substances, whether or not in combination with other products that is likely to cause death, endanger physical integrity, cause physical injury or damage to property, natural resources or cultural heritage, with the intention of committing criminal or terrorist acts, shall be prohibited.

(2) The conditions and procedures for implementing the provisions referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by separate instruments.

CHAPTER V

MEASURES FOR MANAGING BIOSECURITY CRISES OR EMERGENCIES

I - BIOSECURITY QUARANTINE

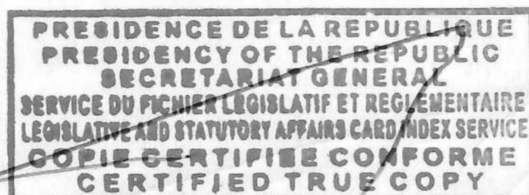
SECTION 30: (1) In the event of a biosecurity threat, the State may quarantine:

- any part of the national territory;
- any means of transport;
- any product.

(2) The biosecurity quarantine of any part of the national territory may be extended to territorial or adjacent waters.

SECTION 31: (1) In the event of a biosecurity threat or risk of parasitic infection or infestation, a disease or other regulated biological invader, the State may:

- quarantine a ship, aircraft or any means of land transport entering its territory;
- prohibit the entry of the said means of transport into its territory.



(2) If the threat persists despite the biosecurity quarantine, the State may order the removal of the means of transport referred to in (1) above from its territory.

SECTION 32: Any regulated product entering the national territory may be placed under biosecurity quarantine:

- in the event of a breach of the provisions of this law relating to importation, or of separate instruments;
- where quarantine is a requirement for the importation of the product;
- in the event of any other form of biosecurity threat.

II – BIOSECURITY EMERGENCY

SECTION 33: As part of the management of biosecurity control and quarantine areas, the State may declare a biosecurity emergency to eliminate or mitigate the health, social or environmental consequences caused by the incursion of a biological invader.

SECTION 34: (1) Upon the declaration of a biosecurity emergency, the State shall conduct a detailed investigation to determine the scope and severity of the incursion or other threat and the most appropriate response measures.

(2) The appropriate response to the biosecurity emergency referred to in (1) above must be in accordance with the biosecurity emergency response plan and the specific emergency plans prepared.

SECTION 35: (1) Regional and local authorities and local communities in and around an area declared a biosecurity emergency area shall participate in biosecurity control, management and surveillance measures to contain or prevent the incursion.

(2) The participation of the regional and local authorities and local communities referred to in (1) above shall be laid down by regulation.

CHAPTER VI PROSECUTION OF BIOSECURITY OFFENCES

I - INVESTIGATION OF OFFENCES

SECTION 36: (1) Without prejudice to the prerogatives of the Legal Department and judicial police officers with general jurisdiction, the State shall appoint biosecurity inspectors to investigate and establish violations of this Law.

(2) The officers referred to in (1) above shall take an oath before the Court of First Instance with territorial jurisdiction.

SECTION 37: (1) The sworn officers referred to in Section 36 shall perform their duties in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Code.

(2) The reports drafted and signed by these officers shall serve as prima facie evidence unless proven otherwise.



II - PENALTIES
I – ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

SECTION 38: Failure to comply with the provisions of this law shall render the offender liable, where applicable, to the following administrative penalties:

- seizure of regulated products;
- suspension or revocation of the biosecurity authorization or permit;
- immediate enforcement of measures of removal or destruction at the offender's expense.

SECTION 39: The terms and conditions for imposing the penalties provided for in Section 38 shall be laid down by regulation.

II – CRIMINAL PENALTIES

SECTION 40: Without prejudice to any civil liability, the importer, exporter or agent of a regulated or non-regulated product shall be liable for damage caused by:

- the removal, detention, quarantine, inspection, seizure, containment, sampling, testing, treatment or destruction of a product, aircraft, vessel or means of land transport in a biosecurity holding or quarantine area;
- the movement and detention of a vessel, aircraft or means of land transport in a biosecurity border or quarantine area, and any treatment or other measure applied there;
- the unlawful introduction into or use of a regulated product on the national territory.

SECTION 41: (1) Any person who:

- a) fails to make a biosecurity declaration;
- b) obstructs a biosecurity officer in the performance of his duties;
- c) removes a notice affixed to a product, vessel, aircraft or means of land transport;

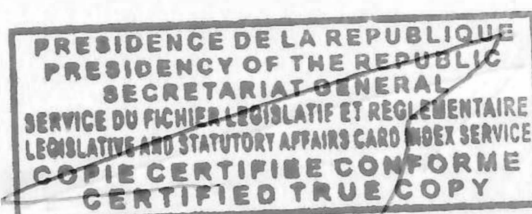
shall be punished with imprisonment of from 1 (one) to (3) months and a fine of from 50 000 (fifty thousand) to 500 000 (five hundred thousand) CFA francs or either of these two penalties.

(2) The penalties provided for in (1) above shall be increased in the event of an assault on a public official in the performance of his duties.

SECTION 42: Any person who:

- a) forges a biosecurity document and passes it on to a third party;
- b) makes a false document;
- c) makes a false biosecurity declaration;

shall be punished with imprisonment of from 1 (one) to 3 (three) months and a fine of from 5 000 000 (five million) to 10 000 000 (ten million) CFA francs or either of these two penalties.



SECTION 43: Any person who:

- a) imports or attempts to import a regulated product or an invasive alien species, a living modified organism or prohibited derivative without prior authorization or without a biosecurity declaration;
- b) possesses, uses or consumes a prohibited product on the national territory without a valid reason;

shall be punished with imprisonment of from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) years and a fine of from 10 000 000 (ten million) to 20 000 000 (twenty million) CFA francs or either of these two penalties.

(2) The penalty shall be doubled if the product is sold by the offender.

SECTION 44: The following shall be punished with imprisonment of from 3 (three) to 5 (five) years and a fine of from 20 000 000 (twenty million) to 30 000 000 (thirty million) CFA francs or either of these two penalties:

- a) a crew leader or conductor who causes a vessel, aircraft or means of land transport arriving at or departing from a port, airport or border point that is not a biosecurity entry or exit point to dock, land or park;
- b) anyone who imports, or attempts to import or export, a regulated product by a route other than a biosecurity point of entry or exit.

SECTION 45: Any person who:

- a) enters or leaves a biosecurity emergency, holding, quarantine or storage area without authorization;
- b) without authorisation, moves a product out of or within a biosecurity area or from one place to another within the same area;

shall be punished with imprisonment of from 1 (one) to 3 (three) years and a fine of from 5 000 000 (five million) to 15 000 000 (fifteen million) CFA francs or either of these two penalties.

SECTION 46: Any biosecurity officer who releases a product under biosecurity quarantine in contravention of this law shall be punished with imprisonment of from 1 (one) year to 2 (two) years and a fine of from 5 000 000 (five million) CFA francs to 10 000 000 (ten million) CFA francs, or either of these two penalties.

SECTION 47: Any biosecurity officer who performs or purports to perform the duties of an importer or exporter under this law or who, by collusion or coercion, participates in the commission of an offence under this law, shall be punished with imprisonment of from 5 (five) to 10 (ten) years and a fine of from 10 000 000 (ten million) CFA francs to 20 000 000 (twenty million) CFA francs or either of these two penalties.

SECTION 48: The penalties provided for by this law shall be imposed without prejudice to the penalties laid down by separate instruments.



SECTION 48: The penalties provided for by this law shall be imposed without prejudice to the penalties laid down by separate instruments.

CHAPTER VII
MISCELLANEOUS, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS


SECTION 49: Licensing, seizure, expulsion and destruction operations shall give rise to the payment of fees and taxes for the benefit of the State, the amount, methods of collection and allocation of which shall be laid down determined by the Finance Law.

SECTION 50: The services and organizations concerned with biosecurity issues shall have 18 (eighteen) months to comply with this law.

SECTION 51: This law, which repeals all previous provisions repugnant hereto, shall be registered, published according to the procedure of urgency and inserted in the Official Gazette in English and French./-

YAOUNDE, 25 AVR 2025




PAUL BIYA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

WWW.PDFCAMP.COM