

Cameroon



Connection

The Newsletter of the Friends of Cameroon · October 2006

China to Double Aid to Africa

Nicholas Reader
IRINnews.org
November 4, 2006

BEIJING-- Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday pledged to double his country's assistance to the African continent by 2009, and proposed a raft of new loans, development projects in health and agriculture, and debt cancellations.

In his speech opening the two-day China-Africa summit in the Chinese capital Beijing, Hu said China wants to be Africa's "partner".

"China and Africa share increasing common interests and have a growing mutual need," he told the 48 African heads of state and representatives.

In his 15-minute speech, Hu pledged to double China's assistance to Africa during the next three years and to increase China's involvement in direct development aid.

Top of the agenda was US \$5bn in loans and credits to be provided to Africa over the next three years.

Hu also announced the creation of a \$5bn China-Africa development fund to encourage Chinese companies to invest in Africa and provide support to them.

China will also build a conference centre for the African Union, cancel the poorest countries' debts, give Africa preferential customs treatment, and establish trade and economic zones on the continent.

Bottom of Hu's eight-point list of offers to Africa was a pledge to train 15,000 Africans, send 100 senior agricultural experts to Africa, build 60 hospitals and malaria clinics, provide Chinese-made anti-malaria drugs, send 300 youth workers to Africa, build 100 schools, and increase scholarships for Africans.

"Building strong ties between China and Africa will not only promote development on each side, but also help cement unity and cooperation among developing countries and contribute to establishing a just and equitable new international political and international order," Hu said.

China-Africa trade has swollen from about US \$10bn in 2000 to an expected \$50bn this year. Oil,

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Cameroon Connection

Cameroon Connection is the newsletter of the Friends of Cameroon (FOC). It is published quarterly and distributed to members. Readers are invited to submit articles and other information about Cameroon. Submissions must arrive by the first day of the last month of each quarter for inclusion in the next issue.

Emma Stephens, *Editor, Layout*
Steven Durbano, *Editor*

FOC was founded in 1988 as a collection of individuals who are interested in the people and culture of Cameroon. FOC seeks to assist Cameroonians in Cameroon by funding in-country activities, to assist Cameroonians in the U.S., to inform and educate Americans about Cameroon and to assist members to renew linkages with Cameroon and with those with whom they have lived and worked.

Board of Directors/Activity Liaison

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Vice President/Development Projects

Margaret Equopi Bate (218) 575-9345

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Lisa Reeves Zenner (510) 769-7310

Secretary/Worldwide Schools Liaison

Judy Kallal (307) 634-2816

Member-at-Large/Newsletter Coordinator

Steven Durbano (858) 780-2570

Send hardcopy, FAX or email material to Cameroon Connection at:

Friends of Cameroon
13201 Stravinsky Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Http://www.friendsofcameroon.org
Email: newsletter@friendsofcameroon.org

FOC membership dues are \$15 per year. Joint membership with the National Peace Corps Association is \$50 per year. Overseas members, add \$5.

Announcements

The New FOC Website is up and running!

Check it out at:

<http://friendsofcameroon.org/>

Find out about FOC funded projects, more news from Cameroon, and events in your area
We welcome member submitted material and any and all comments on the website or the newsletter!

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And the combined income of the richest 500 people in the world exceeds that of the poorest 416 million.

The report says that one of the central challenges of human development is to "diminish tolerance for the extreme inequalities that have characterised globalisation since the 1990s."

"Globalisation has given rise to a protracted debate over trends in global income distribution, but we sometimes lose sight of the sheer depth of inequality, and how greater equity could dramatically accelerate poverty reduction," Mr Watkins said.

Full Report available at:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6131922.stm>

Cameroon News

Cameroonians React to Biya's Cabinet Reshuffle

James Butty
September 27, 2006
voanews.com

WASHINGTON -- President Paul Biya of Cameroon over the weekend fired five Cabinet ministers and swapped the positions of two other senior officials. A government statement said the president fired the ministers of communication, public service, housing and forestry. The Sports and Physical Education Minister was also fired. The statement did not give reasons for President Biya's action. But some Cameroonians were hoping President Biya would fire the economic affairs minister. Eugene Nforngwa is news editor for the English language Herald newspaper of Cameroon. He explains to VOA English to Africa reporter James Butty why.

"He's been at the center of a number of controversies, some allegations of embezzlement, inexplicable wealth that is displayed in the form of many mansions."

Nforngwa said the minister, Polycarpe Abah Abah, who is supposed to disburse funds to various government departments, has largely crippled government action by withholding payment from the government treasury.

"People thought that he had created a lot of instability in government. Certain government departments were not functioning well, because they didn't get their money in time. A lot of projects were suspended because money didn't come in

time," Nforngwa said.

Although the Economic Affairs minister was viewed by many as not a good team player, still Nforngwa says President Paul Biya might have spared the minister for both professional and political reasons.

"Like I said, he's quite an effective manager when it came to the management of public finances. The IMF and the World Bank that have been controlling Cameroon's reforms have given quite a good appraisal of the way the budget of Cameroon has been managed over the two years..."

Nforngwa says the appointment of ministers in Cameroon is also a highly political issue. He says President Biya might have retained economic Affairs minister Abah Abah because they both come from the South Province.

Cholera kills 28 in Cameroon
IOL.co.za
November 2, 2006

YAOUNDE -- A cholera outbreak has killed at least 28 people in Cameroon's Far North province neighbouring Lake Chad, state radio reported on Thursday.

Health authorities blame the outbreak on living conditions and lack of clean drinking water which forced people to fetch water from polluted sources, the radio said.

"The hardest hit is the Logone and Chari division where 28 people have died out of 541 cases regis-

tered so far," Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV) reported.

The provincial delegate for Public Health provided the figures during an emergency meeting in Kousseri, capital of the Far North province, to seek a solution to the crisis.

Cholera, caused by water-borne bacterium, is a seasonal problem in much of West Africa. An outbreak last year killed more than 800 people across several countries in the region.

The bacterium spreads through contact with faeces and is associated with heavy rains that flood latrines and contaminate drinking water.

The disease can kill within 24 hours by inducing vomiting and diarrhoea that cause severe dehydration and shock, but it is easily treatable with a mixture of water and re-hydration salts.

According to the United Nations, West and Central Africa has the lowest levels of clean water and sanitation in the world. One in five children die before the age of five, often due to diarrhoea and water-borne diseases.

Foreign Journalists Denied Entry
The East African Standard
November 8, 2006

NAIROBI -- Eight international journalists have been denied entry into the country over invalid travel documents.

The science reporters from Iraq,

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Jordan and Cameroon, who arrived in the country to cover the ongoing United Nations conference on climate change, have been holed up at the at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for the last four days.

An airport official told The Standard that their travel documents were not in order. Mr Jean-Marc Fleury of the World Federation of Science Journalists and a Kenyan science journalist, Mr Otulah Owuor, were by Wednesday still trying to have them released.

Kenyan authorities, however, denied that they had detained the journalists, saying that they were free to leave the country at any time, but had chosen to remain at the airport's transit lounge in the hope that they would be allowed to the UN Nairobi Office in Gigiri, the venue of the talks.

Mr Armand Faye, a veteran science reporter from Senegal, described the action as scandalous.

Faye said it reflected badly on Africa. He said as a result, important information on global warming would not reach vulnerable communities, especially in the continent.

Those detained include Prof Gervais Mbarga of the University of Yaounde in Cameroon and the country's radio reporter, Mr Louise Ngo Pom. Others are Mr Hanine Alramahi and Mr Mahmoud Aldwiri of Ammanet radio, and Mr Janfar Alomary of ATV in Jordan.

Iraqi journalists are Mr Kawthar Abdelamir of Aswat Al Irak (Iraq's Voice) newspaper, Mr Hadi Hassan

Hadi, of Attaakhi newspaper and news agencies, and Mr Haydar Nigm of the daily, Acharq al Awsat.

Meanwhile marginalised communities want the ongoing climate change conference to recognise their contribution.

They accused the 12th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework of the Convention on Climate Change talks of neglecting them.

"We are concerned that the parties do not consider our contributions," said Ms Lucy Mulenkei, a representative of the International Indigenous Network.

Mulenkei demanded that the UN accredits them as indigenous peoples, not as non-governmental organisations.

"We want effective participation of in all levels of planning, decision-making and implementation of climate change programmes," they said.

Mulenkei said the communities have been ignored in the planning and implementation of Clean Development Mechanism projects. She said the projects must respect their resources and cultures.

Cameroon Wildlife Sanctuary Awaits 'Taiping Four'

Tansa Musa
Reuters.com
October 31, 2006

DOUALA -- An animal sanctuary in Cameroon, home to dozens of primates endangered by the illegal bushmeat trade, is preparing to wel-

come some famous guests: the "Taiping Four" gorillas smuggled to Malaysia four years ago.

Felix Lankester, director of the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon's main port city of Douala, said the centre had gone to great lengths to be ready for the return of the western lowland gorillas, currently held in Pretoria Zoo in South Africa.

Taiping Zoo in Malaysia acquired the animals, smuggled out of the West African country via Nigeria, in 2002 but Cameroon has been lobbying for their return ever since.

"We have constructed a quarantine facility as an annex to our existing gorilla facility," Lankester told Reuters at the weekend, dismissing earlier suggestions by Pretoria zoo that his centre did not have the right facilities to host the gorillas.

"In 2005, the construction of a new 2,500 square metre gorilla enclosure was completed. They will live in this new enclosure with the 11 other gorillas that live here."

Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife said the gorillas were expected any time between November and February, ending a lengthy campaign for their return.

Their move to Malaysia sparked condemnation from Cameroon and some 67 environmental and animal welfare organisations.

Amid the outcry, Malaysia sent them back to their home continent but not their home country in 2004: they ended up in South Africa. Pre-

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toria zoo officials questioned whether they came from Cameroon and DNA tests had to be carried out.

In September, after Cameroon threatened to seek damages, South Africa's National Zoo said it was sending them home.

Western lowland gorillas are grey brown, grow up to 6 feet (1.83 metres) tall and can weigh as much as 275 kg (606 lb). Their intelligence and physical structure make them one of man's closest relatives.

Man is their only predator, with hunters tracking them for bushmeat and timber companies destroying their natural habitat. Cameroon is one of the few countries where they still exist in the wild, although numbers are fast dwindling.

Due to an increase in illegal hunting, sanctuaries all over Africa are dealing with an influx of bushmeat orphans in need of lifelong care. This year alone Limbe has rescued four chimps.

Although the centre has no plans yet to release the animals into the wild, it is proposing to develop a protected field site where the monitored release of them will be possible.

Transnational Automotive
Launches Cameroon Bus Operations

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON -- (MARKET WIRE) -- October 12, 2006 -- Transnational Automotive Group, Inc. (OTCBB: TAMG)

("TAUG") today announced the successful launch of LeBus, its urban bus system in the Republic of Cameroon's capital city, Yaounde', on September 25, 2006.

In adherence to its agreement with the Government of Cameroon to provide bus service throughout the entire country, TAUG effectively began the first phase of systematic bus operations by launching 7 buses on the first of 13 lines planned for the city. During the first week of limited operations, the Company transported over 20,000 enthusiastic passengers who have not experienced organized transportation in Yaounde' for almost two decades.

On October 2, 2006, the Company launched its second line with 9 additional buses, bringing the first-phase operation to 16 buses with one reserve vehicle. Again, the demand for this second line has been strong with steady ridership growth each day as more people learn that they can rely on the schedules, safety, comfort, and low fares -- at prices substantially below alternative, unsystematic means of transport previously servicing Yaounde'.

During the Launch Ceremony, which was attended by Cameroon's Prime Minister and Head of Government, Ephraim Inoni (a strong advocate of the new urban transport system), U.S. Ambassador Niels Marquardt noted that this public-private investment venture would "create jobs, hope, lodging and urban transportation in Cameroon" and that its success would be "a beacon to others". According to the Ambassador (himself an active supporter of the project), September 25 would symbolize not only the day

when the nation's capital saw the relaunching of bus service in the city, but also the day "when Cameroonians could see that private investment is coming to Cameroon to help them (grow and improve their economy)."

"Not only have we achieved a major milestone in our business plan as we have started to generate revenue, but importantly, we have started to transport passengers systematically and effectively," stated Mr. Don Durand, TAUG's President of Africa Operations. "The public and media response has been overwhelming and the performance of our staff is a testament to their training and their professionalism."

"This is a significant event for the people of Cameroon and their Government," said Dr. Ralph Thomson, Chairman of the Board for TAUG. "The growing cities of Cameroon have been without adequate urban transportation and, in particular, the city of Yaounde' has been without bus transportation worthy of a major capital for too long. We at TAUG and LeBus are very proud to play a part in this type of transformation which we are convinced will have a profound impact on the people and overall economic and social development of this well-positioned country."

Transnational Automotive Group (OTCBB: TAMG), a Nevada corporation, is a transportation management, sales and manufacturing company. Our vision is to become a leading provider of transportation management and vehicle sales in the developing world. Headquartered in Seattle, WA, TAMG has

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been established through key acquisitions of leading transportation and automotive businesses.

This news release contains certain "Forward-Looking Statement" within the meaning of Section 21E of the United States Security Exchange Act of 1934. All statements, other than of historical fact, included herein are forward-looking statements that involve various risks and uncertainties. There can be no assurance that such statements will prove to be accurate, and actual results and future events could differ materially from those anticipated in such statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the Company's expectations are disclosed in the Company's documents files from time to time with the Securities Exchange Commission.

Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila has a strong lead over his rival

www.bbc.co.uk

November 10, 2006

Mr Kabila has 61%, while former rebel leader Jean-Pierre Bemba has 39%, according to results on the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) website.

Peacekeepers have increased their patrols in the capital fearing violence when final results are announced.

Mr Bemba's supporters have claimed they have evidence of rigging.

Source: CEI

United Nations observers say the election is the most significant in Africa since Nelson Mandela was elected as South Africa's president in 1994. The elections are the first since the end of DR Congo's five-year civil war, in which up to four million people died.

They are seen as the country's first free elections since independence in 1960.

Run-Off Results	
Kabila	61%
Bemba	39%
Turnout	67%
Votes counted	65%

The commission has until 19 November to announce the results and stresses that no "trend projection" can be made on the basis of the provisional results.

Both men have pledged to respect the outcome of the election.

The first round of elections showed a regional divide, with Mr Kabila gaining a landslide in the Swahili-speaking east, while Mr Bemba got

most support in the west, where Lingala is the common language.

The world's largest peacekeeping force - 17,000-strong - is in DR Congo, tasked with ensuring security.

At least 23 people were killed in gun battles between security forces loyal to the two men in the capital, Kinshasa, after the announcement of first round results.

Mr Kabila won 45% of the vote, while Mr Bemba got 20%.

International observers generally praised the vote as being well-run, despite some disruptions in the north-east of the country.

The election was intended to close the door on decades of dictatorship and conflict.

Counting the votes is a time-consuming process as all the ballot papers had to be transported from sometimes remote locations to compilation centres.

DR Congo is two-thirds the size of western Europe and has just 300 miles of paved roads.

The country's rich reserves of minerals such as gold, diamonds and coltan - used in mobile phones - have attracted a series of armed groups, both Congolese and for-

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for Technology Studies (ACTS), climate change could make it difficult for some developing countries to achieve the millennium development goals. Tom Owiyo, one of the authors of the ILRI report said: "Climate change presents a global ethical challenge as well as a development, scientific and organisational challenge in Africa."

Separately, "LDC's [Least Developed Countries] development objectives cannot be separated from adapta-

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minerals and other natural resources, and Chinese-made weapons make up most of the trade.

China's critics say it extracts what it needs from the continent, while ignoring environmental and anti-corruption standards, and the continent's progress in improving good-governance.

African presidents shunned by the West, like Sudan's Omar al-Bashir and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, both of whom are attending the summit, have shored up strong relationships with China based on extensive reserves of



natural resources in their countries.

But a South African diplomat told IRIN: “We are very excited about these offers – this means a lot for Africa. It will especially make a huge difference for the poorest countries in the region.”

The Beijing summit promises to broadly echo pledges made by Hu last year to stomp up loans and drop the debts of the least developed countries, provide medical assistance, and train 30,000 people from all developing countries before 2008.

China has also used the summit to negotiate several deals with African countries, Reuters reported on Saturday. The Chinese state oil and gas firm Sinopec will start preliminary explorations for oil in Liberia, and China's Sino Hydro Corporation is in negotiations to build a hydroelectric dam in electricity-short Ghana, Reuters said.

African expatriates living in Beijing said they hoped African leaders would take more than China's promises home with them.

“It's a good chance for [African leaders] to learn how China evolved this fast. They have to learn and this is a good opportunity,” Projestus Kagashani, 38, from Tanzania said.

“China is going through what we hope to go through, and it did it recently, not 100 or 150 years ago,” Samuel Ahadu, 43, Ethiopia, who runs AACCS Corp, a trading company that exports Chinese products to Africa agreed.

For Steven Mark Mwamkpa, 20, a nightclub manager from Nigeria, lessons from China's fight against corruption are the key lessons he wants Nigerian leaders to take home.

“Corruption in China doesn't stop the wheels of development, but it does in Africa,” he said.

UN urges end to 'water apartheid'

David Loyn
www.bbc.co.uk
November 9, 2006

A new report from the United Nations Development Programme has demanded a big increase in spending to provide clean water.

The UNDP wants another \$4bn (£2bn) a year spent, and says that water has not received the attention it deserves. Water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea kill far more people than HIV/Aids and malaria combined, it said.

And the difference is particularly stark for children: water-borne diseases kill five times as many children as HIV/Aids.

The report says that water is a key part of human development - and warns that, in particular, sub-Saharan Africa is lagging behind the rest of the world in the provision of basic services.

The report says that 2.4 billion people in the world do not have access to safe sanitation.

Some steps are simple and can have dramatic results - just putting in a safe standpipe can reduce mortality by 20%. But Kevin Watkins, the report's author, says that the world needs to think on a much bigger scale than this.

He says a similar initiative is needed as that carried out 100 years ago in major European cities, including London, to provide water and sewage treatment.

Back then, diseases such as cholera, carried in dirty water, were affecting the rich as well as the poor.

In the modern world of what Mr Watkins calls "water apartheid", the rich do not suffer in the same way, and the incentives for government to act are less.

"You can't help wondering - if the children of the wealthy were suffering the same fate as the children of the poor regarding water and sanitation, if high income women were also walking four hours a day to collect water - whether something would have been done about it."

"I think something would have happened a long time ago."

The report finds that the big arguments about privatisation in recent years miss the point.

There have been some high-profile failures where western companies have not been able to deliver their promises in developing countries.

But slum dwellers in places including Nairobi in Kenya already pay for private water supplies, delivered by truck. The amounts they pay are huge and this water is more expensive per litre than in London or New York.

The poorest people in Latin America can pay up to 10% of their household income for water. As well as the loss of life and the cost of disease, the time spent collecting water has other economic effects.

The report calculates that the cost to

Africa is equivalent to about 5% of the continent's economic growth, about the same amount of growth as is generated by money received in aid.

Mr Watkins says: "This is one of the biggest potential setbacks to human development in Africa for a century."

But he says that water has been left out of recent announcements on development by the richest countries in the world.

The report does not believe that water represents a major security threat, and the prospect of 'water wars' is not as serious as others have predicted.

But it does warn of severe consequences if there is not a major strategic plan for water use across country borders, especially as climate change reduces the capacity of the poorest countries to grow food for themselves.

The report highlights the growing gap between rich and poor, not only in income, but also in the provision of basic services.

And it shows the glaring gaps not just between rich and poor countries, but between the rich and poor within developing countries.

Children in Indonesia, for example, are four times as likely to die before their fifth birthday if they are born into the poorest 20% of the population instead of the richest 20%.

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Africa: Adapt or face crisis, warn climate analysts

Nicholas Reader
IRINnews.org
November 8, 2006

NAIROBI -- Africa must learn to adapt to the world's changing climate if lives and livelihoods are to be saved, according to a report on the effects of global warming on the African continent.

Many Africans could be facing severe hunger problems as extreme weather conditions on the continent deplete food production, says the new study focusing on climate change in the Horn of Africa and East Africa.

According to Mario Herrero, co-author of the report titled 'Mapping Climate Vulnerability in Africa', farmers will need help in adapting to the frequent droughts and floods that are expected to hit the arid and semi-arid areas in the region.

Speaking at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Nairobi, Kenya, Herrero said that small-holder pastoralists were the most vulnerable to the vagaries of changing weather patterns.

"Africa appears to have some of the greatest burdens of climate change and is also generally limited in its ability to cope and adapt. Yet it has the lowest per capita emission of greenhouse gases," he said.

The changing weather patterns and varying amounts of rainfall will also affect crop-livestock farming systems in Rwanda and Burundi, added the report commissioned by

Britain's Department for International Development.

"While a peasant farmer may not understand climate change, he appreciates that it is increasingly becoming difficult to time the planting seasons as rainfall is unpredictable," Beneah Daniel Odhiambo, a Geography professor at Kenya's Moi University, said.

"As a result, there is high crop failure resulting in famine in many parts of Africa. Prolonged seasons of drought also cause the migration of people to other areas and is a potential source of conflict between communities competing for scarce resources," he added.

According to Herrero, efforts to reduce greenhouse gases must be accompanied by a quest to help poor countries adapt.

"People will experience great problems unless there is investment in adaptation options," he told IRIN, adding that water conservation projects in drought-prone areas could alleviate the problem.

Andy Atkins, advocacy director of the development agency Tearfund, said governments must take into account the effects of climate change before implementing projects.

"Before governments embark on major agriculture projects, they must understand how increasingly erratic rainfall will affect water supply and crop yields," Atkins said ahead of the launch of a report by Tearfund entitled 'Overcoming

Barriers'.

"By the end of the decade this climate-proofing of development must become the norm, not the exception. Without urgent action, billions of dollars of aid money could be wasted and many lives needlessly jeopardised," Atkins added.

Pastoralist communities are being urged to diversify their farming activities to limit the effects of global warming. According to Herrero, farmers need to introduce drought-resistant food crops, and rely less on livestock which could be wiped out by disease.

Adapting to climate change is high on the agenda at the UNFCCC which runs until 17 November.

According to Yvo de Boer, who heads the conference: "The urgency of adaptation has increased because of the awareness of the problem."

One of the topics under discussion is how to manage the UNFCCC's Adaptation Fund, designed to help developing countries adjust to the changing climate through changes in farming and water conservation.

Projects already underway in East Africa include the building of dams to save water in southern Kenya, and crop diversification in Tanzania.

A report published by the Nairobi-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, and the African Centre

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Music Review: Sally Nyolo

Studio Cameroon
Sally Nyolo and the
Original Bands of Yaoundé
Riverboat Records/World Music Network
2006

By: Bob MacKenzie
Blogcritics.com
October 25, 2006

I may not know much about art, but I know what I like.

I'm afraid I'm in the position of the proverbial art gallery patron who was heard to exclaim 'I may not know much about art, but I know what I like.' I'll be the first to admit that I don't know a whole lot about African traditional music, especially its regional variations in areas such as the small nation of Cameroon. Fortunately most of the songs on this release, while they contain traditional elements, are really the stuff of popular music in the new genre, World Music. The music has a familiar ring to it.

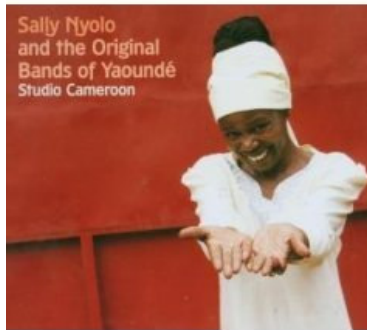
If we forget hokey adventure movies featuring lots of frantic drumming and chanting, I suppose my first exposure to African music came almost sixty years ago, when my parents were listening to Americanized versions of African songs such as The Weavers' 'Wimoweh' released in 1952. A decade later, artists like Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela brought African music to North American airwaves and, pop songs like Millie Small's hit 'My Boy Lollipop' introduced the rhythm of Ska to teens around the world. Since then, I've discovered the African elements that have influenced Jazz, Blues, and Rock & Roll Music over the decades.

Sally Nyolo is a Cameroon expatriate who had moved with her family when she was 13 to live in Paris. In Paris, she built a career first as a back-up singer and then as lead singer and finally headliner. Her work with the group Zap Mama and as a solo act earned her a degree of stardom in both Europe and America. Drawing upon her success as a proponent of African music to the world, Nyolo returned to her native Cameroon with the goal to develop the local music scene. There she set up a modest studio and sought out talented musicians across the nation. This compilation is the result.

With tracks by thirteen separate artists plus one by Nyolo

herself, it would be difficult to comment on the tracks individually. Separately and together, these songs exhibit a very high quality of musicianship that's a joy to hear. This bright, lively music can't help but have a cheering influence on the listener. The high quality of the recordings belies the promotional tale that Nyolo had set up her recording studio in 'a modest tin-roofed building' so that she could meet with her musicians in a relaxed environment.

In the literature, it's often unclear what is meant when music is attributed to the new 'World Music' genre. If any music exemplifies this genre, it's the music on this release. While the language of the vocals is sometimes the African language of Cameroon, the lyrics often contain elements of English and French and sometimes seem to be a sort of Creole, mixing two or more of these languages in a new configuration. While at root African, the music is just as diversified, often incorporating very European sounds that bring to mind French or Spanish music with the rhythms sliding between purely Afro beats, something like Ska, and a more complex style that sounds more like Jamaican Rock-Steady or Reggae music.



The musicians appear to be playing a mix of European and traditional African instruments, bringing to the music a varied and rich sound that often defies being tied down to any specific locale. The result is that the arrangements have a depth and fullness that enriches the experience of the listener.

Even the vocals on several of the songs seem to belong less to Africa than to French popular music. What sounds most African to me in the vocals is the backing chants and choruses and the call and response that fills the space behind the lead singers. In a number of the songs, there are also powerful drum rhythms that, at least to the North American ear, evoke the sound of Africa.

I may not know much about African music, but I know what I like. I like the music on this compilation very much. Sally Nyolo and the artists who worked with her have created a delightful anthology to represent the music of Cameroon to the world. This is a release of which they should rightfully be proud.

To learn more about Sally Nyolo, go to the RFI Musique website. Unfortunately, there appear to be no clips available online at this time to give to a sense of this wonderful music.

Friends of Cameroon Membership Application and Update Form

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Location in Cameroon: _____		
Service Date: _____		
Affiliation (USAID, Peace Corps, Cameroonian Citizen, State Dept. etc.): _____		

Information about yourself to be included in the newsletter:

Electronic Distribution Request

Over the last few years the cost of printing the quarterly newsletters and annual directory has increased significantly. In addition, most FOC members now have access to the internet and have email accounts. We are requesting that you accept that the newsletter and annual directory be sent to you electronically. You will be informed by email as to where you can download these documents using a standard web browser. The email will also contain a password that will allow you to unlock the document. All documents will be distributed via Adobe PDF format. If you do not accept electronic distribution, you will continue to receive these documents via regular mail as in the past. Please indicate your selection below. If accepting, please assure you entered a valid email address above.

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- Please continue to send the quarterly newsletter and annual directory via regular mail

Payment Information

<p>Make Checks payable (in \$US) to Friends of Cameroon and mail to:</p> <p><i>Friends of Cameroon 13201 Stravinsky Drive Silver Spring, MD 20904</i></p>	All Membership Dues valid for 12 months (three year option available: go to www.rpcv.org)	
	Single Membership in FOC (\$15)	\$
	Single Membership in both FOC and NPCA (\$50)	\$
	Couple/Family Membership in FOC (\$22.50)	\$
	Couple/Family Membership in both FOC and NPCA (\$65)	\$
	New RPCV Membership (within one year of COS) (FREE)	\$
	Donation	\$
	Overseas Address, add \$5	\$
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

Welcome New Members!



If you are a new member and do not see your name, we apologize.
Let us know and we will include it here in the next *Connection*.

If you are aware of any errors or missing information, complete the FOC Membership and Renewal form and send it to us. You may also reach us at administrator@friendsofcameroon.org.

Friends of Cameroon
Les Amis du Cameroun
13201 Stravinsky Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904

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