

PRESS RELEASE

9 November 2021, Glasgow

-Since 1st November, the city of Glasgow in Scotland has been hosting the 26th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26). The meeting, which brings together representatives of nearly 200 countries, Governments and the civil society, is already considered a crucial summit, the most important on environmental issues in recent years, after the Paris Agreement of 2015. Considering the stakes, Cameroon which is COMIFAC member country, is attending this meeting with an ambitious agenda, the main articulations of which were presented by the delegation led by the Minister of External Relations, Mr. Lejeune Mbella Mbella, personal Representative of the Head of State and including Mr. Hélé Pierre, Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Mr. Jules Doret NDONGO, Minister of Forestry and Wildlife, who also doubles as the current President of COMIFAC.

Although Cameroon and COMIFAC countries are essentially committed to protecting forests in order to preserve the carbon sinks they represent, these countries, which have already benefited from the announcement by a group of donors of 983 billion in funding for the preservation of these forests, have the opportunity during this high-stakes COP to state their specific priorities and expectations. Cameroon, whose revised NDC is already presented

as a model to follow, both in terms of its level of commitment and the methodology used, has various innovative actions and approaches in its roadmap to achieve these ambitious objectives. Among which is, the Biochar Initiative, which will officially be presented during this conference. This will take place on 9 November, during a special panel at the COMIFAC stand.

Indeed, at COP26, Cameroon is gaming, among other things, on long-term carbon sequestration, by becoming one of the pioneers in the world to integrate biochar into its climate and development strategy.

In this regard, a strategic partnership will be announced with the NETWERO Company, to construct about fifty biochar production sites by 2030. It has a twofold objective; to significantly accelerate Cameroon's efforts to combat climate change by removing and sustainably storing at least 250,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year, on the one hand, and to take advantage of the significant agricultural and energy co-benefits of biochar to improve the development of rural areas and agricultural production sites on the other hand. Cameroon thus becomes the first country to integrate biochar in its climate and development strategy.

What is Biochar ?

Biochar is a solid product with a high carbon content, similar to charcoal powder. It is produced from agricultural residues





from which carbon is extracted by pyrolysis. It is a climate solution validated by the IPCC to sequester atmospheric carbon in the soil for hundreds of years. Mixed with the top layer of agricultural land, biochar is also a proven way to sustainably improve water and nutrient retention in soils, and thus yielding of crops. Finally, the biochar production process releases renewable energy in the form of gas, which can be converted to electricity.

Biochar is obtained by pyrolysis of agricultural residues, from which carbon is extracted.

Thus, it improves soil quality and enhances agricultural productivity. At the same time, the carbon sequestered in the soil remains stable for hundreds of years.

The first plant in Africa

The first production site, constructed by NETZERO has just been completed within 4 months in Nkongsamba (Littoral Region, Cameroon). This is the first biochar production plant in Africa.

The potential for replication in Cameroon is enormous, given that millions of tonnes of unused agricultural residues is been generated by the agro-industrial sector. The Ministry of Environment, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, will have to play a vital role in identifying future sites, facilitate relations with local stakeholders and support the dissemination of biochar to farmers, while NETZERO will provide the necessary operational expertise and funding.

In order to present Biochar and the investment plan for its deployment in Cameroon in a more concrete term, a high-level panel will be open to the media and partners on 9 November at 2:00 pm, with the following speakers:

- **Mr. Pierre Hélé**, Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development;
- **Prof. Jean Jouzel**, Climatologist, Former IPCC Vice-President;
- **Mr. Axel Reinaud**, NETZERO President.

