

The Effects of the North West and the Adamawa Cross-Border Criminalities on Cameroon and Nigeria, 1990–2022

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Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.	
Citation: YUSUFU MOHAMADU WADA, & NJUAFAC KENEDY FONJU. (2026). The effects of the North West and the Adamawa cross-border criminalities on Cameroon and Nigeria, 1990–2022. UKR Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2(8), 204-223.	<i>The issues of cross-border criminalities in Africa is an inevitable phenomenon. To the criminals, it's a lucrative business for survival, while the government terms it a crime against humanity. Cross-border criminalities are among the urgent challenges facing Cameroon with its immediate neighbors in Africa. The North west and the Adamawa border of Nigeria and Cameroon have in recent decades faced challenges from various criminalities such as illegal migration, smuggling, cattle rustling, kidnapping, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and the bribery of border security forces in both Cameroon and Nigeria borderland. The focus of the study is to examine how this crime have damaged trusts between Cameroon and Nigeria, it shows that criminals groups often use the border to escape, hide and get weapons to supplies. The trans-border crimes have led to accusation, military tensions and the diplomatic disagreements between the two states from 1990-2022. At the same time, the two governments have tried to work together through joint border patrols, security meetings and agreements to fight crimes. The paper further illustrates the repercussion of cross- border criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa on the socio-economic and political atmosphere of both Cameroon and Nigeria. The effects of the crimes are visible in the borderland including the hinterland of Cameroon and Nigeria. The methodology applicable here is the qualitative model with the consultations of primary and secondary sources such as books, articles, theses and oral interviews related to cross-border criminalities as our sources of information.</i> Keywords: Border, Borderland, Criminality, smuggling, security challenges, illegal Migration, Kidnapping and Cattle Rustling.

Introduction

The effects of cross -borders criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa on Cameroon and Nigeria is a complex issue that has significance implications on Cameroon and Nigeria domestic and foreign affairs. however, these implications are not only limited with the frontiers of Cameroon and Nigeria as it also affected the foreign relations of the two neighboring states of west and central Africa. From the colonial to independence dates of Cameroon and Nigeria in 1960, the two countries have shared a common border and their border relations have been characterized by cooperation's and tensions

influenced by circumstances that ranges from History, culture, security and Nature (relief).The focus of this paper is to look at how cross -borders criminalities in the North West and the Adamawa regions effected Cameroon and Nigeria as well as the influence of the border criminalities on Cameroon and Nigeria inter-states relations over time from 1990 to 2022. Although the study is delimited to the North West and the Adamawa borders, the effects on it parts are wide beyond these border regions The effects of the border criminalities were many and ranges from socio-economic and political.¹ For proper presentation, the paper

¹J.TAI, Babatola (2012), "Nigeria – Cameroon Boundary Disputes: The Quest for the Bakassi Peninsula", *International*

Affairs and Global Strategy, Vol.4, pp.1-21.

is presented in two phases, with the first part base on the effects of cross-border criminalities on Cameroon, the second part base on the effects on Nigeria as examined below.

Part One: The Effects of Cross-Border Criminalities on Cameroon and Nigeria

The effects were many and ranges from socio-economic and political effects that affected the states of Cameroon and Nigeria from the borderland to the hinterland as examined below.

1.1. Political effects of cross border criminalities in Cameroon

1.1.2. Border criminalities caused Political Instability from 1980s

Firstly, cross- border criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa region of Cameroon largely contributed to political instability in the regions, this instability is caused by intensive border robbery, inter-tribal wars and security weakness in the borderland caused by bribery. ²In the border routes like Dumbu, Sabongri and Sonkolong, Jarginas has created an atmosphere of mutual fear, suspicious and the distrusts on one another. Intensive cattle theft along the border routes of Sabongari and the kidnapped of many herders and trans -border traders somehow introduced ethnic hatred particularly on the Fulbe in the borderland suspected by others communities.³

The stealing and the smugglings across the border also created many inter-Tribal wars across the border of Cameroon – Nigeria. For instance, the war between the people of Hidoua Cameroon and Hidoua Nigeria on May 7th, 1989 was a result of the theft of cattle whose traces were seen in the Nigerians villages of Hidoua during which the cattle owner crossed the border and recovered his cattle in Nigeria.⁴The incidents annoyed Nigeria's and as such, launched a punitive expedition to the village of Cameroon at the border during which a Nigerian was killed. Nigerians reacted angrily and the following morning Nigerians decided to launched an assault on the village which disputed the peace of the community.⁵

Also, the conflict between the Bourha (Cameroon) and the Mulduguva (Nigeria) in 1980 was also another typical

example of political chaos caused by cross-border criminalities. The mass influx of the Igbo, Mambilla and the Fulbe across Cameroon border from the Taraba state of Nigeria also caused a lot of Chaos in the Donga Mantung and Bankim Division of Cameroon. The wave of their migration is a threat to the political health of Cameroon in that, the borderland people faced new challenges with acts of robberies, stealing of Animals and looting of farms crops from local storages. ⁶

The Igbo immigrants in particular claimed a lot of rights in many Cameroon border settlements like Sabongari where they settled in mass number, here the Igbo molested many Cameroonians youths taking advantage of the Igbo business potentials. In the societal aspects, the Igbo in many aspects intimidated Cameroonians borderland people in Cinema Video clubs to support the super eagle and favorites Nigerians clubs Like Chelsea FC where many Nigerians players were signed in the past.⁷

Apart of border instability created by border criminality, illegal immigration has caused many conflict both between Nigerians and Cameroonians in Cameroon as well as the conflicts between Nigerians themselves inside the Cameroon territory. For instance, from early 1990s , a lot rivalries between the Igbo and the Hausa are registered in Cameroon as well as the conflicts between the Igbo Immigrants and the Ibibio in Cameroon .To begin with Igbo –Hausa conflicts , the hatred and distrust between these two Nigerians immigrants dated from 1966 when the first Nigeria military coup took place , note that the Coup was first launched by the easterners dominated by the Igbo military officers leading to the death of the first democratically elected Northern Minster Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa . ⁸ The coup has been the root cause of the Biafra war of 1967-70 which nursed an endless hatred between the Hausa in the North and the Igbo in the Eastern part of Nigeria.

For the above mentioned reason, the Hausa and the Igbo right in Nigeria started undermining the ability of each other in Nation development, they began calling each other's a kind of mockeries names such as the *Awusa*. given to the Hausa/ Fulani by the Igbo, while the Hausa called the Igbo *Nyamuri* (people that tirelessly eat everything).

²NAB,QF/a/1980/1., Cameroun –Nigeria boundary Security Report on 1980 - 1986, Lettre du sous-préfet d'isangele au prefet au Ndian, au 16 aout 1984.

³ Interview with Yakubu Usman, a Cameroonian trans-border bike rider and a teacher, age 64, on the 14th of August 2026.

⁴M.Krager, "Cameroon's Democratic Cross Roads, 1990 – 1994", *Journal of Modern Africa Studies*, Vol. 32. No.4.1994. pp.23-31.

⁵Interview with Dr Tanyi Yusufa, age 60, a Cameroonian in University of Bamenda, on the 14th of August, 2026.

⁶Atem, George. "Cameroon-Nigeria Relations 1884-1961: A Study in

Political, Economic and Social Interactions between Two Neighboring States." Doctoral Dissertation: University of Calabar. 1984. p.45.

⁷ Interview conducted with Elvis Opara, a Cameroonian business man in Sabongari, Nwa Sub Division, age 32, consulted on 7th of August 2026.

⁸ G. Njang, Ndi., "The Economic and Social History of the Igbo in Cameroon "1961-2002. A Thesis Submitted in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award PH. D/Doctorate Degree in History. University of Yaoundé 1. 2012. pp. 56. pp. 264-66.

In Cameroon, the Igbo Hausa conflict persisted in areas around Northern Cameroon where the Hausa outnumbered the Igbo. In this community, the Igbo traders faced a lot of challenges from insults given by the Hausa especially in Market places. The Igbo largely hated the Hausa and has never forgotten about the sharing of the Federal fund in Nigeria based on the population size. For this reason, Chidi-Chidi the spoke man of the Biafra's people declared that "we are not Nigerians, we do not want to be counted during the 1970 population census in Nigeria."⁹

The Igbo – Hausa conflicts isn't the only inter-ethnic political chaos caused by Nigerians immigrants in Cameroon, others notable examples was the conflict between the Igbo and the Ibibio's in Cameroon. The age of the conflict can be traced from the British mandate and later trusteeship before 1960 during which Nigerians in large number migrated and settled southern Cameroon. The Igbo from Enugu, Imo, and Bayelsa migrated in large number, then settled in the Kalahari's (Ibibio) land from the cross river. These immigrants claimed as colonial masters over southern Cameroonians and imposed commercial discriminations like the price of touch and pay including the idol ratio of Kerosene and petrol's, the evil activities of the Igbo were hotly contested by the Ibibio ethnic group in this corner of the country.¹⁰

1.1.3. Nigerians colonization's of Cameroon–Border towns in North west and Adamawa

It's undisputed fact that Nigeria is the giant of Africa. Being an African giant, Nigeria lead in aspects related to populations, economy and crimes. The populations pressure has in many ways pressured Nigerians to illegally occupied Cameroon border communities from the Nethermost part of Maroua to Doula on the Gulf of Guinea. However, the migration, colonization and the effective occupations of Cameroon border communities by Nigerians has been done in different phases. Firstly, we have the Nigerians populations that illegally immigrated and occupied most of Cameroon border communities.¹¹

secondly, they are Nigerians soldiers and police that established military hegemony over certain Cameroonians border communities with the pretext to protect Nigerians settlers inside Cameroon territory and finally, the Nigerians authority established civilian's administration in Cameroon border communities protected by the federal government.

The manifestations of Nigerians colonization include the provisions of Nigerians border schools inside Cameroon borderland like the case of Furu-Awa in the North west region, Military bases and police post in Kontcha, the establishment of provocative notice boards claiming the territory to be Nigeria like the case of Bakassi as well as the hoisting of the Nigerians flag in certain localities around Maroua in the North.

1.1.3.1. Nigerians colonization's of Cameroon Adamawa Border Communities in 1990s.

Notable examples of border communities colonized by Nigerians immigrants are **Kontcha** in Faro Et Deo Sub Division, Banyo Division in the Adamawa region of Cameroon. In Kontcha, the Nigerians population from the border of Tongo municipally in Nigeria massively migrated and occupied the Cameroonians border community of **Tipsan** where the Nigerians are illegally cultivating Cameroonians food crops. The community has a sandy Heterogeneous soil that attracted Nigerians desperate farmers to leisurely occupied the area to the detriment of Cameroon borderland people. The community is bordered to the south by the Lamidat of Kontcha, to the North and East by the Lamidat of Lare in the Faro Division, and to the west by the Lamidat of Tongo and Gagne local government in Nigeria. The Tipsan although a Cameroon territory, recently the community is leisurely occupied by Nigerians.

The Nigerians colonization of this area is motivated by economic reason in that the soil fertility supported the cultivations of Yams of 70cm and 10kg of weight are harvested here. The Tipsan colonization by Nigerians raised a problem between Nigeria and Cameroon until 10th October 2002 when the International court of Justice mediated in negotiating the problem alongside some North west issues.¹²

Also, Nigerians through this community violated the Cameroon air space by means of military aircrafts. In several occasions, local administrative authorities reported the fly over at very low altitudes mostly in the nights for a reason base known by the Nigerians. The Senior Divisional Officer for Faro et Deo Division reported that on the 4th, 6th, and 10th of February 1987 toward midnight and unidentified aircraft flew over Cameroonian territory in the locality of Kontcha in Cameroon.¹³

⁹ BAU, Note to the Director of territorial organization to MINAT on the 18th of September 1973.

¹⁰ BAU, Note to the Director of territorial organization to MINAT on the 18th of September 1973.

¹¹ N. AZIEH (2018), Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon's Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018 (A PhD Dissertation, University of Maroua , Cameroon). 2018. Pp 123.

¹² BAU, Note to the Director of territorial organization to MINAT on the 18th of September 1973.

¹³ Y. Mohamadu Wada., N.T. Sogang N. K. Fonju., 1962-2022. "The security challenges faced by Cameroon and Nigeria in the fight against cross-border criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa from". In *UKR Journals of Arts and Humanities studies*. 2026. pp148-151.

The across-border criminalities in the North West and the Adamawa borders left many political legacies in Cameroon borderland, firstly, Nigerians immigrants from the Taraba State border communities of Mbanga, Hainare, Nguroje, Leme, Yerimaru, Dorfi, descended and occupied border communities like Likop, Yang, Lip, Songkolong, Gidan Saidu Nsomi, including Barach in Bankim Division. These Nigerians dominated the traditional government in most of these border villages using money power during which the culture of the villages, commerce and markets patterns are reorganized to suit the Nigerians patterns. Also, the Nigerians bought many border farmland and started cultivating Cameroon pepe, Maize, cassava and exported most of the rice cultivated in the Mbaw plain of Cameroon. The massive export of Nigerians to their country affected the mbaw plain in that the prices of Cameroon border rice increased to the sum 8, 000 CFA in a bucket.

Also, Nigerians from the Adamawa region of Cameroon occupied Cameroon border villages of Sambo Labbo, Lelewal, Lugga Kumbi and Bujumbura, Fulfulde became the Lingua Franca. Nigerians traders harvest crops in Cameroonians farmland, these crops are taken to Nigeria. The massive immigration of Nigerians let to what the Cameroonians authority terms as the invasion of Cameroon villages by Nigerians.¹⁴

The Nigerians populations became majority in many Certain Cameroonians border villages and later claimed ownerships of the said villages, This was the case of Ibadabo in the Indian Division in the South west region of Cameroon.¹⁵ The Bamusso Brigade commander stated that out of the 33,000 Nigerians living Bamusso Sub Division, only a few Igbo has their official documents to live in Cameroon soil. Others Nigerians like the Ibibio's, Brass, Calabar and Ijaw has no legal documents, they illegally occupied Cameroon and were very aggressive to most of Cameroonian borderland people.¹⁶

1.1.3.2. Nigerians colonization's of Cameroon North West Border Communities

Influenced by Topography, Nigerians in large number from early 1990s migrated down to the North west region precisely in the Donga Mantung valley around Mantung Valley, Nwa Sub –Division. The mantung valley on a Cameroon side is a gentle slope contrary to the Nigerians side with a very steep slope that by nature given Nigerians with very little or no land for agriculture and grazing, while

large extensive land was empty inside Cameroon territory. For this reason, Nigerians in largely number illegally occupied this Cameroon area to regularly graze and farm, Cameroonians farmland were confiscated by these Nigerians immigrants in which they came with arm men for defense in case of any threats from Cameroonians in this borderland. In curtains localities, these migrants went as far as convincing Cameroonians to declared Nigerians citizenships as a conditions to recover their confiscated land by Nigerians.¹⁷

In the Fura-Awa Valley on the left bank of the Germana River which serves as natural border in this area, one could observe regular incursions of Nigerians in this part of Cameroon. The purpose is purely agriculture as the Nigerians cultivated vast land in Cameroon territory and escaped back to Nigeria each time raid is organized in the area. These Nigerians immigrants are also noted for tax evasions in that each time news of tax collectors reached this area they vanished back to Nigeria with their harvest. It should however be noted that these Nigerians crossed the territorial boundaries to do harvest in Cameroon without any authorizations. The colonization's and the rapid incursions of Nigerians into Cameroon territory by Nigerians has security on Cameroonians in the borderland, this act on the contrary remains beneficial to the Nigerians.¹⁸

1.1.4. The influenced of Nigerians settlers on West Cameroon politics after 1961.

Another visible political effects of cross border criminalities on Cameroon is that, illegal migrations and settlements of Nigerians in British Cameroon at the eve of 1960s largely contributed to the loss of Northern Cameroon to Nigeria during the 1961 plebiscite. This is because, Nigeria in hundreds illegally occupied British Cameroon and some acted as political voters on behalf of Northern Cameroon as if they were borne Cameroonians. These Nigerians voters chose integrations with Nigeria during the plebiscites given victory to the integrationists with Nigeria against the wishes of Amadu Ahidjo and French Cameroonians. The loss of Northern Cameroon to Nigeria largely affected the political health of the territory leading to the National day of mourning of Cameroon on the 1st of June 1961 when Ahidjo instructed all Cameroonians from North to south, East to West to wore black dresses to grieve the Loss of Cameroon northern corner to Nigeria.

¹⁴ Y. Mohamadu Wada., N.T. Sogang N. K. Fonju., 1962-2022. "The security challenges faced by Cameroon and Nigeria in the fight against cross-border criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa from". In *UKR Journals of Arts and Humanities studies*. 2026. pp148-149.

¹⁵ BAU, Note to the Director of Territorial Organization to MINAT on the 18th of September 1973.

¹⁶ BAU, Letter of the prefect of the Department of Faro et Deo to the Governor of the Province of Adamawa, 18th January 1991.

¹⁷ N.AZIEH, Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon's Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018 (A PhD Dissertation, University of Maroua, Cameroon). 2018. p.127.

¹⁸ BAU, Report of the North west Governor Visit to Yang Border community in Nwa Sub-Division, 1st April 1994.

Although our inferior date is 1961, understanding the Southern Cameroon (1957-1961) history warrants us to look at the History from the 1950s, the distance origin of the political evolution in this corner of Cameroon can be trace from the summer of 1950s, when Southern Cameroon politicians were unable to completely compromise on the political future of the territory due to the differences in party's ideologies and opinions. The KNDP/OK alliance led by Foncha and Nde Ntumazah wanted nothing but independence of Southern Cameroon through reunifications with French Cameroon (Reunificationists) , The KNC / KPP Alliance led by EML Endeley and NN Mbile wanted independence of Southern Cameroon through integration with Nigeria (Integrationists) while the KUP/CCC Alliance led by Paul Monyomgomo Kale and Chief Nyenti of Mamfe wanted nothing but independence of southern Cameroon without reunifications nor integrations (secessionists).¹⁹

The inability of these politicians to agree on the independence nature call for the UN intervention to decide on the fate of the territory after the independence of British colony of Nigeria on the 1st of October 1960 and before that French Cameroon got her independence on the January 1st 1960 to the Republic of Cameroon. ²⁰The UN sent a Visiting mission in the territory and decided to organize a plebiscite in the territory for the people in British Northern and Southern Cameroon to vote of their future.²¹

On the question of the Qualifications of voters, it was agreed that only those born in the territory were allowed or qualified to vote. The plebiscite was organized on the 11th of February 1961 and electorates in British southern Cameroon voted in the UN Organized plebiscite during which Nigerians immigrants into British Northern Cameroon in large number played a great role to the loss of British Northern Cameroon to Nigeria.

The KNDP/OK Alliance won during the plebiscite in favor of reunifications with French Cameroon with a total of 233571 against 97741 that voted in favor of integration with Nigeria. the representatives of the OK Party led by Marcel Bay-Bey Eyidi and Nde Ntumazah argued that result be interpreted in bloc.²²The KNDP/OK victory during the plebiscite resulted to series of Historical

constitutional conferences summoned by Southern Cameroonians politicians to prepare for reunifications.²³

These conferences started with the Bamenda all Party conference in June 1961 to draft constitutional proposals to Fumban conference that was summoned on the 17th -21st of July 1961. The fumban conference led to adoption of the federal system of government proclaimed on the 1st of October 1961 during the reunification day between Southern Cameroon and the Republic of Cameroon to form the federal Republic of Cameroon made of two federated states of East Cameroon (Former French Cameroon) and West Cameroon (former Southern Cameroon).²⁴

The reunifications of Southern Cameroon with French Cameroon changed the border history of Cameroon and Nigeria in that the former international boundary between British and French Cameroon defined by the picot line became an internal boundary with the federal Republic of Cameroon while the former internal neglected boundary neglected boundary between British Nigeria and British southern Cameroon became an international boundary between independence federal Republic of Nigeria and the federal Republic of Cameroon with new defined laws established Cameroon and Nigeria first Africans governments administering's sovereigns Nations .this could be explaining from the fact the British colonial administrators during the mandate period didn't properly administered British Nigeria as a territory and was neglected leading the poor consideration of the internal frontier between Nigeria and British Cameroon.²⁵

During the reunifications, British Cameroon was poorly developed compared to French Cameroon and the government of the Federal Republic of Cameroon that took over the territory and it people in 1961, had to put in place instruments like Identity cards, birth certificates and border security to prevent the in and out free movements of people to Nigeria and Cameroon as it was formerly freely done during the mandate and trusteeship periods. The policy makers in Cameroon and Nigeria started negotiated on the restructure of the borders between the two newly independence states aimed to *Cameroonise* the border populations that have part of Nigeria for forty years since the partition of Cameroon in 1916.²⁶

¹⁹ V.J., NGOH, Cameroon from a Federal to Unitary State 1961-1972. Limbe; Design House. 2004. pp 70-77.

²⁰ G., NGWANE.G., The Memorandum on Plight of English Speaking Southern Cameroon Limbe: The New expression. 1994. pp. 45-53.

²¹ FRANCIS.N., Negotiating an Anglophone Identity. Leiden, The Netherlands: 2003. pp. 15-21.

²²V.G., FANSO., Cameroon History for secondary and Colleges Vol 1 from precolonial time to the Nineteenth Century. Oxford: Macmillan education LTD. 1989. pp. 45 – 56.

²³ N.N., AWASON, & MBU. E, The Devolution of power of the trust territories of Cameroons 1946- 1960. In V.G. Ngoh & C.A. Nama (Eds) Epsa Moto Vol. N°5. pp .45-55.

²⁴G., PROSSER , G. & W.R.,LOUIS. : Britain and Germany in Africa: imperial rivalry and Colonial Rule. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1967. pp 67-72.

²⁵K. CHUKWUEMEKA,NWOKO "Cameroon-Nigeria border conflicts settlements and Matters Arising. Brazilians journals for Africans studies. 2018

²⁶ For example, the Greek villages of Rio Del Ray are settled by Nigerians fishermen that are settled by Nigerians fishermen that are very loyal to Nigerians authorities and law instead of Cameroon remained a source of

The political crime of Nigerians illegal occupants on the results here was that, the British qualified the Nigerians through genuine residents as voters during the plebiscites in 1961, These Nigerians hated and feared integration with French Cameroon and for this reason, they dominated the election result in the Northern part of British Cameroon headed by Mallam Abba Habib. Their influence cannot be undermined as till date the Territory remain with the federal Republic of Nigeria.

1.1.5. Nigerians refusal to integrates while settlings in Cameroon border communities.

The Nigerians migrants and settlers in the North west and the Adamawa border communities for so long completely refused to integrate nor recognize the sovereignty of Cameroon. Though living in Cameroon border communities like Ako, Benakuma, Abongshie (notably before Anglophones crisis in 2016), including Adamawa border communities like Songkolong, Atta, Bujumkuura and Lelewal refused to considered living in Cameroon. These Nigerians pretends to considered themselves at home while living in Cameroon. the used of Naira in some Cameroon borders markets including Fulfulde as the dominant lingua Franca were obstacles to Nigerians integrations.²⁷

The localities of shell creeks, Ndo locations, Idemanbassi, Gold coast and the Massanjo Island were all border communities in the south where Nigerians leisurely lived refusing Cameroonians identity despite all efforts made by the administrations and the local authorities of the area. Also, the people of Effik, Oron and the Ibibio fishing villages paid allegiance to the King of Calabar since colonial days refusing the traditional administration of Cameroon border chiefs. Also, the chiefs of Jabane were as well against the inclusion of Jabane to Cameroonians territory. The Effik in particular exercised political dominant over the Balondo in Cameroon, These Effick Merchants from Nigeria have a habit of crossing to Cameroon from Nigeria and arrest traders inside Cameroon who owed them money borrowed in Nigeria.²⁸

For Instance, in 1989, The Effik from Nigeria arrested two traders in Balondo, Cameroon that owed money from Nigeria. The outcome of this wide condemnation of chief Eyo Honesty III of Greeks Town in Calabar, Nigeria who

masterminded the non-respects of Cameroonians' border in which he claimed to be part of his tradition.²⁹

1.1.6. Border criminalities let to the patrols in Cameroon territory by Nigerians forces 1990s.

Nigerians soldiers, police and Navy have violated Cameroon territorial integrity for decades by freely patrolling in Cameroon land without the knowledge of Cameroon government. The patrolling of Nigerians forces in the land of Cameroon has been witnessed in several Cameroonians border communities from late 1990s. for instance, in 1998, Five Nigerians border police descended into Cameroon border Markets of Yang in uniform and guns from their posts of service. The incidents created clashed between Nigerians and the Cameroon border police. The Cameroonians police reacted by firing guns to the atmosphere in the evening of Thursday during a market day. The guns firing (symbolism of external threats) closed the market in that traders and markets visitors escaped for safety.³⁰

The Nigerians police were questioned for their actions of unauthorized visit during which they claimed their mission was attending the border market and buy Cameroonians food stuffs locally known as *Mbombolo* and Tilapia fish. The incident signals the extend at which Nigerians undermined Cameroon frontier and this let a brief clash between the forces of both Countries in that border market though without a casualty.³¹ The unlawful immigration of Nigerians forces into Cameroon borderland is fueled by the fact most of Cameroon border communities are neglected by the Cameroonians forces of law and order, this gives the Nigerians impression that it's their own territory.³²

In most of Cameroon border territories, there are no administrative buildings like customs, police and Gendarmerie posts. Also, Cameroon states failed to established hospitals and higher institutions in the borderland given the Nigerians impression that it's a no man land. For this reason, there is no doubt that the Nigerians border police are in collaborations with those Nigerians illegally living in Cameroon borderland about the Cameroonians security present in the border communities. For this reason, Nigerians forces patrolled the borderland regularly and make Nigerians settlers at the border to feel they are in Nigeria. According to Cameroonians border traditional administrators (Chiefs,

conflicts between Cameroon and Nigeria. Interview conducted with Isaac Walla a 52years Bamusso Divisional Officer on the 9th December 2016.

²⁷ BAU, Note of the Director of Administrative Organization to the Minister of Territorial Administrations, July 13, 1973.

²⁸ BAU, DOT MINAT Note of September 18th 1973.

²⁹ BAU, DOT MINAT Note of September 18th 1973

³⁰ BAU, CCO meeting held at Bamusso on Thursday July 12th, 1973, concerning the deportations of Nigerians for Irregular situations in the Bamusso Sub-Division.

³¹ Interview with Alhadji Hassan, a Cameroonian in Yang border village, Nwa Sub-Division, North west region of Cameroon, on the 23rd August 2025

³² BAU, CCO meeting held at Bamusso on Thursday July 12th, 1973, concerning the deportations of Nigerians for Irregular situations in the Bamusso Sub-Division.

Sarkis and Ardos), Nigerians are having secret intelligence agents in Cameroon border towns. predictably, the district officer of Idabato in Cameroon southern Sub Division wrote the following note to his hierarchy *“With petroleum product discovered in this district, our neighbors can provoke troubles at all cost to make us enter in an open war with them aim to seize this area “.*³³

1.1.7. Border criminalities let to Anti-Cameroon media propaganda in Nigeria.

Politically, cross-border criminalities between Nigeria and Cameroon ushered to a period of military mistrust, suspicious and distrust on one another between the States. From the decades of land disputes over the Bakassi, to the advents of border criminalities related to humans and bones trafficking's , the Nigerians media has published a lot of propaganda information against the state of Cameroon the Nigeria described a stubborn state populated by police and Gendarmes officers molesting Nigerians people at the borderland . for instance, The Nigerians Newspaper known as the Nigerians chronicles in it editions of January 13th, 1982, N° 2236 reported that the Republic of Cameroon had annexed six Nigerians border villages.³⁴

These villages included Abana-Ntuen, Ine –Ekoi, Atabong, Ndian, Usak Edet and Idombi . this information created the public hatred and desire for in Nigeria against Cameroon. Also, the Nigerians that settled in most Cameroon border communities rarely attend meetings organized by Cameroonians border authority. In the Adamawa border communities of Songkolong, Lugga –Kumbi and Bujumkuura, many border chiefs of Nigerians immigrants refused to salutes the Cameroon flag. These chiefs also failed to celebrates National days in Cameroon such as 11th February and the 20th may. in several occasions, the chiefs and their subjects travelled in large number across the border to feast in Nigeria.³⁵ For instance, at the invitation of a cultural association in the Eastern Nigerians state of cross river, Nigerian's population living in the southern border villages of Cameroon left in large number at the expense of Cameroonians authority to party in Nigeria.³⁶

The visit was also an opportunity by which the Nigerians exploited to complain about the Cameroonians forces of law and order they claimed were molesting Nigerians living in Cameroon community. For this reason, Nigerians forces in large number started crossing into Cameroon land

to protect settled Nigerians in Cameroon. for instance, on the 15th of December 1980, the district head of Idabato places the incursion of Nigerians soldiers into Cameroon land during which the Cameroonians soldiers informed Nigerians living in Cameroon to alert them in case of any civilian's molestations on Nigerians inside. In was vin this regard that the district officer and his collaborators felt into hand of ambush men in the District of Kombo Abedimo. They were abducted by Nigerians soldiers and taken to Kang for interrogation's.³⁷

1.2. Economic effects of cross border criminalities in Cameroon

1.2.1. Tax Evasion by Nigerians settlers.

By their distrust, most Nigerians migrants and trans-border settlers has been a threat to the economic health and progress of Cameroon in that, Nigerians merchants at the border in several occasions and for decades refused to pay taxes to Cameroonians authorities. For instance, Nigerians fishermen at the Creeks of Rio Del Ray refused to offer taxes to Cameroonians authorities in the area and this largely affected the tax treasury leading to Cameroon – Nigeria conflicts in future agreements in by early 1980s on the settlements of border criminalities.³⁸

The Nigerians border settlers inside Cameroon in several occasions didn't only refused to pay taxes but they went as far by attacking Cameroonians tax collectors. This situation became critical that alarmed National concerned.³⁹For this reason, the minister of National Defense Sadou Daoudou Said in 1974 that:” The period for sensitization is over and regretted the fact Cameroon didn't used the most recent incident deport from Cameroon these Nigerians foreigners leisurely living in Cameroon land as it was a conquered land “. He also believed that it was a weakness and fear that hindered Cameroonians authority from brutally reacting on these stubborn Nigerians “. ⁴⁰

The Divisional officer of Issangele in Bakassi Clement Ngerrema Mbuagba stated that: “peaceful and persuasions means by the Government of Cameroon on these Immigrants has failed, and forceful means is the only way “. He stated:

There is therefore no other alternative than to compel them to do so. The only language the Ibibio and on the whole, the

³³ Report on the kidnapping and the detention of the district chief of Idabato

³⁴Letter from the Commander of Gendarmerie Brigade in Bamusso Victoria Gendarmerie company Commander, July 30th, 1973.

³⁵Interview with Hamman Modibbo, a Cameroonian in Sambo Labbo ,Banyo Division , Adamawa region of Cameroon, on the 23rd August 2025

³⁶ H. PIETER.,F.Bekker.,“Land and Maritime boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon V. Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea Intervening)”, *The American Journal of International Law*, Vol.97, 2003.pp.387-398.

³⁷BAU : Message from the Minister to Idabato Detachment of the Arm forces of April 27th, 1974.

³⁸ Lettre du sous-prefec d'isangele au prefec du Ndian, du 16 Aout 1984.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Letter of the minister of Defense to the General secretary of the presidency of the Republic of Cameroon on the 15th of May 1974.

average Nigerians known is force.⁴¹ I not see any reason why our governments should temporize on the issue. If Nigerians threw out all Cameroonians last from Nigerian who were purported to be illegal immigrants, there is no moral justifications why we should appeal to the Nigerians in a similar situation in our Country.⁴²

The Nigerians refusal to integrate while living in Cameroon was part of the conflict between Cameroon and Nigeria in 1990s. The former Nigerians president Shehu Shagari stated that:”

“what complicated the Cameroonians case is that many Nigerians living in Cameroon territory where they spent part of their lives to fish and farm while there in search of livelihood, they often crossed the boundaries frequently. Also fishermen and traders from Nigeria didn’t actually border about the current position of the border while in the territorial water of each of the two countries until they were advised as the case may be.”

From his speech, it seems the Nigerians government is aware of the cross border crime committed by its citizens that are unwilling to honor Cameroon sovereignty. In border communities of Dumbu, Benakuma, Songkolong and Sabongari, Nigerians businessmen escaped back to Nigeria as means to evade tax. In these communities, many Nigerians traders practiced the trade activities of “*Buyam Sellam*” rather establishing fixed shops. With the *Buyam sellam* commercial, it became very difficult for the Cameroon governments to locate Nigerians businessmen for tax collections. Also, Nigerians Igbo traders illegally crossed Cameroon borders largely caused shortage of food resources at the border Markets. The repercussion of this is that it led to the increased cost of living in border markets like Atta, Songkolong, Sabongari and Lele–Wal.⁴³

The Nigerians population in some border communities in Cameroon land even attacked Cameroonians forces they termed as occupations forces. For instance, in April 1974, Nigerians immigrants attacked Cameroonians team of tax collector in Jabane border community. This violent population even succeeded in seizing the watch of Cameroonian tax team leader in an attempt to seize his gun. The Igbo business men in Sabongari border community cultivated a habit of insulting Cameroonians border police

and tax collectors with a protest they have been repeatedly subjugated in tax payments contrary from the Cameroon businessmen at the border pay to the Cameroonians authority.

1.2.2. Exploitations of Cameroon soil by Nigerians farmers.

In Cameroon North west border communities like Sabonagri, Ngomko and Ako, many Nigerians farmers from Mambilla plateau crossed into Cameroon borderland and rented farmlands in which crops like Cameroonians pepper, Maize and rice are cultivated in hectares. The cultivation of crops in Cameroon by Nigerians isn’t evil in itself but the outcome is that these crops are never sold in Cameroon. The Nigerians farmers export all the output or harvest to Nigeria cultivated in Cameroon soil.⁴⁴

Also, Nigerians farmers dominated farming in the southern border villages of Akwa 1,2 and 3, Amoto, Boron, Bateka and Idibanyanga producing about 75% of foodstuff of Isangele sub Division and Kombo Abedimo. Their harvest is exported to Nigeria leaving Cameroonians border people with limited resources for consumption. Also, the Nigerians farmers in most cases prefer to live in the bush and forest where they live temporary for farming and moved to Nigeria after harvesting than living in Cameroon border town where they can invest to benefit Cameroonians in the borderland.⁴⁵

The Nigerians immigrants also exploit the tropical forest in the North west border communities like Tim, Jator and Manton where timbers are felled for plank taken illegally to Nigeria for constructions. The massive felling of these trees destroyed Cameroon border ecosystems. The present of Nigerians armed forest exploiters transported tons of woods to Nigeria that happened sometimes with the complicity of local forest staffs in Cameroon seduced with bribery from Nigerians officials. Apart of the timber exploitation, Nigerians tappers crossed Cameroon border hill villages and still honey in Cameroonian’s nursed long-hive taken to Nigeria.⁴⁶

⁴¹ NAB, QF/a/1980/1., Cameroon –Nigeria Boundary Security Report on 1980-1986

⁴² NAB, QF/a/1980/1., Cameroon –Nigeria boundary security Report on 1980-1986, Lettre du sous-prefect d’isangele au prefet au Ndian, au 16 aout 1984.

⁴³ N. Azieh, Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon’s Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018 (A PhD Dissertation, University of Maroua, Cameroon. 2018. pp. 129.

⁴⁴ Interview with Brain Nyandi Yora, a Cameroonian farmer and teacher in Ngomko border village, Nwa Sub-Division, North west region, age 45, on the 28th of August 2025.

⁴⁵ NAB, QF/a/1980/1/Cameroon –Nigeria boundary on security report on 1980-1986, Report of Administrative Tour in Ndian Division to which the diplomatic mission of Cameroon was associated during the period from the 3rd to 9th January 1982.

⁴⁶ Interview with Brain Nyandi Yora, a Cameroonian farmer and teacher in Ngomko border village, Nwa Sub-Division, North west region, age 45, on the 28th of August 2025.

1.2.3. Oil smugglings from Nigeria let to SONARA oil crisis in Cameroon in 1990s

The Societe Nationale de Raffinage (SONARA) is a National Oil Refinery company responsible for refining crude oil and producing petroleum products for the markets of Cameroon. The society of National Oil Refinery (SONARA) was created in 1973 and inaugurated in 1981 situated in the South west region of Cameroon. The refinery is at the disposal of the petroleum products like butane, gasoline, jet fuel, kerosene, fuel oil and distillate widely used almost throughout Cameroon with Nigerians crude oil dominating at the border towns.⁴⁷

However, the deflationary policy of Nigeria in 1990s encouraged smugglings in that Nigerians flooded Cameroon and its neighboring markets with Nigerians goods and oil to the detriment of Cameroonians home made products including economic supply and strength of SONARA witnessed a sharp decrease. In 1990s, close to 70% of oil used in Cameroon was fraudulently imported from Nigeria with a price lower than that of Cameroon oil. For this reason, many Cameroonians turned to Nigerians oil sold at cheap prices which affected the economic health of SONARA.⁴⁸

The units of measuring Nigerians imported petrol are 60 liters sold for 26,000 CFA, 30 liters for 18,000 CFA, 20 liters for 9,000 CFA, 10 liters for 5,000 CFA, 5 liters for 2,500, 2 liters for 900 CFA, 1 liter for 500 CFA and ½ liter for 300 CFA in the years 2000. The prices and changes over time and recently the price for 60 liters is sold in Cameroon border markets of Sabongari for 48,000 CFA yet considered cheaper than Cameroonians petrol.⁴⁹

The implication of Nigerians oil fraudulent import to Cameroon was that, SONARA was producing without selling, economic progress is stagnant because SONARA became stagnant causing problems like the salaries of workers and installations which negatively affected Cameroon Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1990s.

1.3. Socio-Cultural effects of Cross border criminalities on Cameroon

1.3.1. Loss of Culture and languages

Culturally, the North west and the Adamawa borders criminalities have affected the borderland people in

Cameroon and Nigeria in several ways, linguistically, the mass influx of Nigerians citizens in Cameroon borderland from the North to the south has imported Nigerians languages and ways of life that assimilated many Cameroonians living at the borders with these Nigerians. In the North, Nigerians immigrants introduced Hausa as the dominant language along the borderland regions of North and the extreme North with Nigeria. The inhabitants though partly interact with their natives languages like the Kanuri, the Moundum and the Tupuri, Hausa remain the lingua franca in this borderland.⁵⁰

The case in the North west border with the Nigerians Taraba state, Fulfulde is the lingua franca. Nigerians immigrations also came with them the widely spoken Fulfulde that also became the lingua franca that dominated the Cameroon markets. In the border towns of Sabonagari, Abongshie, Fur' Awa, Benakuma, Yamba and Yang, over 70% of these borderland people fluently speak the Fulfulde imported by the Nigerians immigrants. It's important to note that in Nigeria, Fulfulde is the second dominant language after English that is recently taught in many Nigerians schools.⁵¹

Also, in the Mambilla plateau in Nigeria -Cameroon border, the Mambila from the Nigerians settlements of Bang down, 3 corners Bang, Hainare, Gembu and Nguroje settled in the North west and Adamawa border areas of Cameroon. The immigrants as well introduced the Mambila language in these border towns in which the people largely assimilated into these foreign languages. In the southern border villages around the cross river, Pidgin English was brought by the Nigerians fishermen that also became the lingua franca in these parts of the country.⁵²

Apart of the pidgin English in this part of the country, Efik replaced the local languages in the Issangele Sub Division by 1980s. The Efik language became the principal language of communication although some areas in the Calabar speak the Ejagham with their vocabulary made up of the Efik words. In this regard, Nigerians immigrations into

⁴⁷ About SONARA National oil Refinery ; Available at <https://sonara-cm.cm> ...consulted on the 24th of August 2025.

⁴⁸ Y. Mohamadu Wada., N.T. Sogang N. K. Fonju., 1962-2022. "The security challenges faced by Cameroon and Nigeria in the fight against cross-border criminalities in the North west and the Adamawa from". In *UKR Journals of Arts and Humanities studies*. pp148-149.

⁴⁹ Interview with Amadu Uamru, a Cameroonian Trans-border crude oil businessman in Sabongari, Nwa Sub-Division, North west region, age 45, on the 28th of August 2025.

⁵⁰ N. Azieh, *Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon's Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018* (A PhD Dissertation, University of Maroua, Cameroon. 2018. pp. 124.

⁵¹ C. Julius, Tanjong., E. W. Nengieh Lizzie., T. E. Manka., B.D. Enow., *Nexus of conflict reporting: Analysis of Cameroon newspaper coverage of cross border conflicts*. JOURNAL OF THE CAMEROON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Vol. 13, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University Buea. 2016. p. 59.

⁵² BAU, MINAT Note of September 18th 1973.

Cameroon border communities led to the disappearance of Cameroonians culture along the border communities.⁵³

Apart of languages, Nigerians immigrants took over control of local jobs formerly occupied by Cameroonians. For instance, the Tiv are well drillers and specialists in the constructions of toilets in collective's homes inside Cameroon land. because of their social mobility, the Tiv invest very little or nothing in Cameroon and most of what they end in Cameroon from drillings wells and buildings toilets is used instantly in wines, parties and ladies. On the other hand, the Ibibio, the Orhobo, the Yoruba, The Itsekiri, the Ijaw, the Okrika, The Opobo and all Ogoni people are specialized fishermen in the southern border villages around cross river in Cameroon. The particularity of fishing in the southern coast by Nigerians is that the entire fishes caught are sold in Nigeria and no dine is paid to the Cameroonians treasury by these Nigerians.⁵⁴

In July 1973, the Cameroonians police launched an operation to control Nigerians leisurely living in Cameroon borderland without identifications papers to returned to Nigeria and officials' their stays in Cameroon by making papers before returning. During the tour, many Nigerians escaped to Nigeria and started spreading propaganda about the Cameroon military claiming they were molested. Those Nigerians escaping gathered at the Ikang beach where they were communicating the most scattering language about the Cameroonians forces. As noted by Nyemnji Nchinda, the commander of the Bamusso Gendarmerie Brigade , “ instead of telling their authority the truth and the real reason for their escaped , they thought the right thing to do was to tell lies about the looting and harassments of the Cameroonians military.⁵⁵ Even if we can give them credit to the declarations of Nigerians excursive and its worthy of note that the declaration of administrative authorities blamed Cameroonians forces for their brutalities and exercise greedy in the peninsular which was the cause of most their complains.

1.3.2. The introduction of Witchcraft in Cameroon by Igbo Immigrants

The Igbo immigrants in Cameroon are generally held by some Cameroonians as witches and wizards in the exercise of their farming and trades in Cameroon. in many places along the Cameroon Nigerians border communities of sabongari, Songkolong, Ako including the southern border

villages of Cameroon, the Igbo dwellers manifested witcrafts especially in market places to gain clients from Cameroonians border traders.

For instance, in Kumba, a section of the market caught fire in a brought day light where Cameroonians traders deprived the Igbo immigrants from selling. The incident was attributed to a witchcraft committed by the Igbo, also, instances of Igbo expulsion from the town of Edea for Warcraft where registered in which the Nigerians traders were accused in bewitching their Cameroonians frontline traders in order to gain control of their own clients.⁵⁶

In 2010, an Igbo Trans-border trader named Ojukwu James was expelled from Sabongari border town back to Nigeria for manifesting witchcraft in bush markets where Cameroonians and Nigerians traders compete in buying Cameroon pepper from the Fulani farmers that cultivate pepper in this part of the country. The trader manifested mysterious act in two ways. Firstly, The Fulani pepper sellers in villages of Nyurong , Bini and Kumchum refused selling pepper to their usual Cameroonians clients except this Nigerian client even when Cameroonians buyers opted buying higher. Secondly, The Nigerians traders was accused for using Witchcraft in measuring pepper in his mysterious bucket whereby his bucket was taking almost twice the quantity of what a single bucket of a Cameroonians seller can Take. Evidence against him was that he never in a day accepted for a pepper he was buying to be measure in any bucket other hand his black outdated bucket. For this reason, Cameroonians traders in Sabongari rallied and petition him to Ngom Palace where he was expelled back to Nigeria and conditioned never to return back to Cameroon before leaving for Nigeria.⁵⁷

The phenomenon of witcrafts along the border has been real with the Igbo present, activities and manifestations, Cameroonians in many cases realized things were growing unusual with the Igbo arrivals, their greetings nature of the Igbo, the politeness and isolated meetings inside Cameroon land were all subjects of suspects. The Cameroonians in their areas were growing poorer while the just arrived Igbo traders were growing richer in commerce despite their newly small stores before many Cameroonians. Extended to inter-relations among the society, the gap between the rich and the poor, the aborigines and the strangers are all attributed to Witchcraft phenomena's.⁵⁸

⁵³ N.AZIEH , Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon's Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018 (A PhD Dissertation , University of Maroua , Cameroon. 2018. P. 231.

⁵⁴ Letter of the commander of the Gendarmerie Brigade , Bamusso Victoria Gendarmerie company, Commander ,July 30th 1973.

⁵⁵ BAU,CCO Meeting held at Bamusso on Thursday 12th July 1973 concerning the deportations of Nigerians in irregular situations in the Bamusso Sub-Division

⁵⁶ C.F. Fisiy and Geschiere , P., Sorcery, Witcraft and accumulation. Regional Variation in South and West Cameroon, in critics of Anthropology, Vol.11. 1991. pp. 251.

⁵⁷ Interview with Adamu Musa, a Cameroonian Pepper trader in Sabongari, Nwa Sub Division, North west region, age 45, on the 19th of August 2025.

⁵⁸ B,Nyamnjoh ” Dilution of the Developments and the Enrichments of Witchcraft Discourses in Cameroon, in Moore H.L, and T Sanders(eds), Magical interpretations, Material Realities, Modernity's, Witcraft and the

The catalogue of the Witch in the North west border towns involving the Igbo and the local people includes the believe that the Igbo Witches used their medicines to harms crops and people, causing sickness, failures and deaths on kids at large. Its common in places like Songkolong, Atta and Sabongari where sicknesses that failed to respond to treatments are attributed to witchcraft as it sources. In Cameroon border communities, its widely believe that calamities such as storms, deaths from Snakes bites, floods on farmland and landslides including fire outbreaks are manifestations of Witches and wizards with Nigeria as their source of these Diabolic activities. Also, rumors link witchcraft to the rich and powerful Igbo who allegedly owed their success to the used of Varied Occults sources and forces.⁵⁹

Although the phenomenon of Witchcraft in Cameroon border communities is believed to be imported by Nigerians that illegally crossed the border to Cameroon since decades past, from early 2000s, Cameroonians farmers, hunters, bike riders and traders has practiced this diabolical acts in aspects of farming, business, educations and ridings in societal observations and detriments. For instance, intensives calamities in sabongari like landslides in Nabwe Hill in 2011 in Sabongari that covered vast farmlands destroying maize beneath the hill, water flood that carried hectares of farmland, fishes in Mfi , Mangi, Mamfo and Jator rivers that consumed planted rice in farmland from 2010 called for public attentions.

For this reason, the Fon of Ngom palace (powerful traditional chief in Sabongari) sent his town Cryer (Chinda) in Sabongari markets usually on Wednesdays to invite the mases to his palace to witnessed a traditional ritual as a community cleansing against calamity. During the performance, many markets women's confessed of committing the landslide destroying farmland to invite hunger so people can buy rice they were selling's.⁶⁰

Others Witches and wizards in the borderland of North west are Late Pa Tamfor in Sabongari convicted by the community in 2020, Also pa Abanda in Ngomko border village exiled from the village to barrage in west region for killing 5 of his children in witchcraft. also, students' in Ngomko, Jator and Sabongari primary and the secondary schools are reported to be initiated in witcrafts that are used to be executing suicides missions in Nwa Sub Division. in

all, Nigerians presents in the North west and the Adamawa border communities Came along with Witcraft to gain socio-cultural positions in places like markets and land ownerships, this Nigerians sold witchcrafts to Cameroonians closes collaborators along the border desperate for power used to acquire positions, revenge and conquests.⁶¹

1.3.3. Trans-border Transhumance let to the spread of cattle diseases

The word Transhumance is derived from Latin "Trans" (across) and "Humus" (earth, country). transhumance therefore refers to the periodic movements of livestock's and herdsmen to the mountain and plain depending on the climatic conditions and seasonal changes. to the Cameroonians authority, Transhumance is the seasonal movements of cattle and Shepards in search of pasture and Water. The activity is characterized by an arrival and departure time because the Cameroonians topography is defined by ecological zones.

In Cameroon, transhumance is largely practiced across the border of North west and the Adamawa region of Cameroon where dozens of cattle crossed the border frequently from Nigeria to Cameroon and vice versa influenced by the changes in season. during the dry season (March – November), herdsmen from Mambilla plateau in Nigeria state of Taraba moves with cattle across Cameroon border with Nigeria to the Mbaw plain inside Cameroon territory for grazing.

The activity is a threat to Cameroon sovereignty in that, the grazers in many occasions are not even aware the International line separating Cameroon and Nigeria commanded permission before crossing. Transhumance is widely practiced in Sub –Sahara Africans Nations like Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Central Africans Republic and Cameroon. The increased pressure on land, improvements in agriculture and the growth of towns and cities are all factors that together escorts Transhumance across the border of many Africans states with Cameroon and Nigeria being not an exemption.⁶²

Cross border transhumance results every year in incidents linked to the non-respects of National law, agro-pastoral conflicts and loss of animals (conflicts between farmers and grazers that resulting to the killing and lootings of animals).

Occult in Post-colonial Africa; London and New York, Route Ledge , 2001, pp 102.

⁵⁹ Interview with Nyandi Yora, a Cameroonian Traditional chief in Ngomko village, Nwa Sub Division, North west region, age 76, on the 19th of August 2025.

⁶⁰ Interview with Nyandi Yora, a Cameroonian Traditional chief in Ngomko village, Nwa Sub Division, North west region, age 76, on the 19th of August 2025.

⁶¹ Interview with Nformi Ephiane, a Cameroonian Teacher in Ngomko village, Nwa Sub Division, North west region, age 31, on the 19th of August 2025.

⁶² The FAO defines small transhumance as the movements of cows to space for crops cultivations or in search for greener pasture for their cows. On very rare occasions does small transhumance involved the crossing the international borders. Details on this can be seen on the rapports of cross border transhumance and an action plan for the food and Agricultural organization of June 2012.

The movements of cattle from Nigeria to Cameroon for grazing has been a challenging security threats and the social health's on Cameroon cattle. For instance, in 1991, cattle from Nigeria brought into Cameroon the Toot and Mouth Disease (FMD) that took the life of dozens of animals in Cameroon, these cattle cross the border to Cameroon with contentious disease to Cameroon. The FMD popularly known as *Mboru in Fulfulde* is a dangerous sporadic animal's disease that stop cattle from grazing. That dozens of underage cattle and many others loss weights affecting their market prices in Cameroon. The reappearance of rift valley fever and it rapid dispersion in certain part of Cameroon in early 2000s was the consequence of transhumance from Nigeria in those days.⁶³

Generally, transhumance from Nigeria is mostly towards Cameroon regions of North west and the Adamawa depending the place of departure in Nigeria. The Geography of Mayo Banyo Division in Cameroon for example causes this area to be lower in altitude's compared to the Nigerians' administrative units on the other side of the border.

For this reason, when water dries off in the dry season in Nigerians units, herdsman and their cattle moved down to Cameroon for pasture and water during the dry season and returned to Nigeria during the rainy season. The security weakness at the border of Cameroon ad Nigeria is exploited by herdsman that leisurely moved across the border with unvaccinated cattle to Cameroon. The social implications of this is that hundreds of thousands cattle are killed by this diseases in Cameroonians border communities like Sabongari , Atta , Banyo Division , Ako and Abongshie.⁶⁴

Apart of disease imported by cattle through transhumance, other vulnerable disease that came from Nigeria to Cameroon was bird Flu in the years 2000. This was because the great security measure taken by this giant neighbor of Cameroon including the restrictions on the movements of poultry products, quarantine closure of poultry markets in affected areas and borders closures measures were not fully implemented. The entry of livestock's in the North west and Adamawa from Nigeria has a negatives implication on the Cameroonians livestock's and farmers living in Cameroon border land.⁶⁵

Apart of cattle diseases, cross border criminalities contributed largely to the importations of Ebola disease from Nigeria to Cameroon in 2015. The distance origin of

the disease can be since 1976 when it appeared in Zaire forest and briefly went beyond the regions of the Equatorial states in Africa, in modern world, the disease of Ebola first re-surfaced in Guinea Conakry in December 2013 which later became the widest spread disease in modern History. This disease though witnessed in Guinea, it later in the short run went beyond the entity of Guinea by reaching west Africans countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali, Senegal and Nigeria within a space of one year. In Cameroon, cases of Ebola were witnessed in 2015 imported from Nigeria by way of illegal migrations through the North west and the Adamawa regions of Cameroon.

Evidence of Ebola virus in Cameroon were registered with highest rates among the pygmies (Baka people) and rain forest farmers (Bantu people. In a large scale survey of non-human primates across Central Africa. reported serologic evidence of exposure to Ebola infection in Chimpanzees in Cameroon. These findings exposure to the Ebola virus and show that a less-virulent virus could be circulating in Cameroon, accounting for the absence of human cases and/or observed epizootics. The Southeastern equatorial rain forest of Cameroon harbors fruit bats which are reservoirs of Ebola virus, as well as animals susceptible to Ebola virus disease. Being that this is part of the tropical rainforest of the Congo Basin; inhabitants of this area are at a high risk of exposure to the virus. In addition, studies have revealed a high exposure to nonhuman primates in Cameroon. A larger investment is needed for containing rather than preventing an Ebola virus disease outbreak; prevention is therefore preferable to containment in areas at risk such as the rainforest of Cameroon.⁶⁶

1.3.3. Congestion at the borderland.

From decades of 1960s to 21st century, Nigerians in hundreds of thousands were busy leisurely crossing into Cameroon borders communities, these movements were sponsored by circumstances related to political upheavals in Nigeria, business ambitions of Nigerians, ethnic relations and historical factors. The Nigerians immigrants through the North west, Adamawa, North and the southern borders of Cameroon – Nigeria are today found in all corners of the country. according to the Adeneur and Agnes, the total populations of the town of Kumba in early 1960s was

⁶³Arrete N° 2010/00/15/A/MINEPIA du 30 aout 2010 portant cahier de Charge précisant le conditions et Mondialiste d' exercice des compétences Transférées Par L' Etat aux communes en Matière de promotion des activités des production pastorale et piscicole.

⁶⁴Arrete N° 2010/00/15/A/MINEPIA du 30 aout 2010 portant cahier de Charge précisant le conditions et Mondialiste d' exercice des compétences

Transférées Par L' Etat aux communes en Matière de promotion des activités des production pastorale et piscicole.

⁶⁵ The Guardian on Sunday 17th of June ,1990.

⁶⁶F. Sevidzem Wirsy, A. Um Bock and A.F. Kihla Tatah Akoachere., Assessing the determinants of Ebola Virus Disease Transmission in Baka Community of the Tropical Rainforest of Cameroon. 2015.

11,000 during which Nigerians constituted 5000 people just in this town.⁶⁷

The situation was more serious in Cameroonians creeks where the populations was about 95%, in certain creeks in Ndians, there are no Cameroonians at all and Nigerians accounted about 60% of commercial activities in limbe, Kumba closed to 80% while Mamfe and Tiko close to 90%. In Adamawa border communities of Lugga –Kumbi, Bujumkuura and Lele-wal , majority of the populations of these communities are Nigerians and Fulfulde is even the lingua franca in these border towns . In Nwa sub Division, North west region of Cameroon, most of the border villages like Likop, Lih and Yang are inhabited by the Mambila migrants from Nigerians Taraba state.⁶⁸

The same scenario is found in the Adamawa border communities of Songkolong and Atta where the Mambila migrants from Nigeria state that came to Cameroon for seasonal farming instead stayed and purchased farmland in which many got married to Cameroonians ladies. In Sabongari quarters of Ngom and black water, the inhabitants are mostly Nigerians migrants that fully descended here for reasons best known to them. Whatever the case, Nigerians migrants here though increased Cameroonians populations, The Nigerians lives in temporal settlements doing faming and businesses in Cameroon but invest in Nigeria.⁶⁹

1.3.4. Cross border criminalities and Humanitarians crisis in Cameroon

Before the outbreak of the Anglophones crisis in 2016, Cameroon was a peaceful heaven to many Nigerians, Chadians and people from Central Africa Republic (CAR) affected by political chaos like civil wars and terrorism. As what concerns the case of Nigeria, United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has equally highlighted the fact that the BOKO HARAM crisis is forcing Nigerians to flee their country to find refuge in Cameroon. They have registered the presence of more than 19,000 Nigerians in Cameroon with more than 10.000 staying in villages in the Far North Region, North, and Adamawa. In sum, as of August 2014, the country was hosting more than 240.000 displaced people according to UNHCR report in 2015. Cameroon alone needs over \$54.8 million to manage its refugee problem.

Though it receives financial aid from UNHCR, the resources are always in short supply. Moreover, the financial assistance does not solve the problem of security if as it has sometimes been observed the refugee camps become hiding grounds for militants as well as targets for attacks. The burden of managing refugees is not the only problem facing Cameroonians. The Government also has the obligation of defending its borders and citizens. Cameroon's efforts to contain Boko Haram have cost the country in money and lives. Soldiers have died during fighting and the government is spending millions of francs every day to maintain a military presence specifically designated to fighting the insurgency in the Northern, Eastern and South Western Regions of Cameroon also affected by crisis of Central African Republic. There is a heightened sense of loss as parent's witness more and more military deaths in border towns.⁷⁰

A profession that once was regarded as an easy route to earning, income has become a nightmare. This outcome has resulted in a sharp decrease in the number of young people who want to sign up for the army and the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR). The Nigerian and CAR conflicts have equally in kidnappings and deaths. Boko Haram, with the assistance of the ANSARU Group of Islamists Extremists operating within the Extreme North of Cameroon have kidnapped Cameroonians and Europeans whom they have used in negotiation for ransoms that sometimes get to billions of Francs CFA. As reported by Cameroon Tribune, Cameroon's National Daily, Boko Haram was responsible in 2013 for the kidnapping of seven French tourists in February 2013, the kidnapping of a French Priest in November 2013 and attacks on several Cameroonian villages in various parts of the North.⁷¹

In 2014, the Sect kidnapped ten Chinese workers from a construction site in Waza on May 16. This was complemented with the attack of Kolofata where the Chief of the village and the visiting wife of the Vice Prime Minister of the country were kidnapped. It is believed that about fifteen people died in this attack. Military sources reported that Boko Haram attacked Amchide (a town located at about sixty kilometers from Maroua) on December 17, 2014 with the outcome being the death of one soldier and 116 militants. They also attacked Makari, Amchide, Limani and Achigachia on December 27 and 28, 2014. It should equally be noted that the disbanding of

⁶⁷ Letter from the North west Governor on September 16th, 1978.

⁶⁸ N. Ikome., *The Inviolability of Africans colonial boundaries; Lessons from Cameroon-Nigeria border conflicts.* Johannesburg South, Institutes for international Global Dialogue. 2004. pp 34.

⁶⁹ Letter from the South West Governor to MINAT on the 4th March, 1986.

⁷⁰ ONUOHA F.C (2014). *A Danger not to Nigeria alone –Boko haram's Transnational reach and regional responses.* Friedrich-Ebert-Shifting. P. 67.

⁷¹ C. Julius, Tanjong., E. W. Nengieh Lizzie., T. E. Manka., B.D. Enow., *Nexus of conflict reporting: Analysis of Cameroon newspaper coverage of cross border conflicts.* JOURNAL OF THE CAMEROON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES Vol. 13, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University Buea .2016. p. 53.

militia in the CAR left so many militia men with guns that they sell for a living.

To that effect, Cameroon has become a fertile ground for arms trafficking. In 2013, AK 47 rifles (5,400) that were being smuggled to Nigeria through the long and porous borders between Nigeria and Cameroon were seized in Maroua by the Cameroonian military. The guns were officially identified as coming from the Sudan and the CAR.⁷²

More over the inter-tribal wars between the Fulbe and the Mambila in Nigeria Taraba from 2007 caused hundreds of Fulbe minority groups from Taraba state to escape as refugees to Cameroon border villages and towns of Sabongari, Yang, Lih, Ngomkow, Songkolong alongside their survived cattle. The implications of this refugees in Cameroon is that it led to shortages of foods and residence in Cameroon borderland. Most of these refugees were in several occasions living in public places like Sabongari primary and secondary schools and many others in market public places like sheds. As multinational groups ethnic groups, the Mambila people living in Cameroon had clashes with the Fulbe in Cameroon regions of North west and Adamawa over the Nigerians refugees in Cameroon, the conflicts were fueled by ethnic solidarity the Cameroonians Fulani's has in sympathizing with their Nigerians brothers under agony.⁷³

The Nigerians refugees were dubbed by many Cameroonians business men at the time of their arrival in that, their cattle in Sabongari and Songkolong cattle markets were sold some times less than 10,000 CFA since they had no mastery of Cameroon currency. On the other hand, the refugees faced problems of Cattle thefts in Cameroon border communities as youths were exploiting the inter-tribal looting cattle taking to the hinterland of Cameroon to enriched themselves. The United Nations High Commission for refugees (UNHCR) intervened through the provision of food to these refugees in Nwa Sub Division in the years 2003 and 2017 but it was limited. The implication of this shortage was the increased cost of living in the Cameroon borderland.⁷⁴

1.3.5. The consumptions of contraband Narcotic drugs let to addictions and mental disorder in Cameroon borderland.

According to interview conducted in the field of Cameroon borderland chemists and hospitals, the borderland of the North west and the Adamawa regions of Cameroon is having higher number of people with mental disorder than in most Cameroon hinterland Communities'. The dustbins, streets and markets of Sabongari, Songkolong, Atta including Nigeria border Towns of Gembu, 3 Corners Bang and Nguroje are crowded with people having mental disorder caused by the consumptions of contraband drugs like Marijuana combined with tramadol.⁷⁵

Per information obtained in the field by means of interview, most of these people are suffering from temporal madness arising in moment they took or consumed the drugs imported from Nigeria state of Taraba. Apart of temporal madness, over 70% of the youths in the borderland are already addicted to drugs like Tramadol that gives them extra energy to perform their daily service like farming, driving, playing football and riding motorcycles to Nigeria border Markets of Bang Down, Gembu and Nguroje. For instance, a popular star footballer in Sabongari Name Jango is currently in mental disorder caused by Marijuana. Information gathered in the field revealed that Jango was the main supplier of Marijuana in Sabongari since the years 2000, over consumptions of the Cannabis transformed him to a street mad man despite his football talents.⁷⁶

Apart of mental disorder, the combinations of Marijuana and tramadol is the cause of Epilepsy that affected many youths in Cameroon borderland. For instance, a popular Nigga in Sabongari named young Money died of Epilepsy in 2012 by falling into Mfi River where he was smoking Marijuana, he was only noticed after three days with his eyes, palm and testicles already eaten by fishes. In 2017, other recorded death of Epilepsy caused by drugs was witnessed with the passing away of Pa Ngu in Sabongari Sabonagri border Town. The patients of Epilepsy in borderland are increasing with advancement in time, the consequence of this increase is the persistent increase in the consumption of drugs in Cameroon borderland.⁷⁷

⁷²J. Mohammed, A., Pinto, A., Nkanta, C., Gun Violence in Nigeria: A Focus on Ethno Religious Conflict in Kano. Journal of PHazenuh Public Health Policy. 2013.pp 67.

I. Bello an Analysis of Cross Border Crimes: Evidence of Nigeria and Cameroon. Baze University. Abuja, Nigeria. 2022. pp 89.

⁷³ M. SANGO NDEH., Talking Across National border: ICT and Black market economy along the Cameroon- Nigerian border at Ekok-IKOM since 1961. Available at International Journal of International Relations Media and Mass communications studies Vol. 2 N° .3 published by European Center for Research Training and development August 2017. pp 33-46

⁷⁴ OCHA (2014) Central African Republic Crisis and its Regional Humanitarian Impact: An overview of needs and requirements

⁷⁵ Interview with Dahiru Kaffoi, a Cameroonians medical Doctor in Sabongari Catholic center, Nwa Sub Division, age 34, on the 29th of August 2025.

⁷⁶ Interview with Yuri Judith, a Cameroonian nursing Doctor in Sabongari Catholic center, Nwa Sub Division, on the 29th of August 2025.

⁷⁷ Interview with Dahiru Kaffoi, a Cameroonians medical Doctor in Sabongari Catholic center, Nwa Sub Division, age 34, on the 29th of August 2025.

However, the consumptions of Narcotic Contraband drugs is not only limited to negative implications as the drugs are as well beneficial in in dozens of aspects. some of the use of the drugs helpful to the society are in the field of medicine. for instance, Panadol, Tramadol and Mofin are used as pain killer on people short by guns, this helped to remedy pain obtained from bullets. Narcotic drugs as well gives it consumers extra energy to perform hard work like farming which increased productivity in the borderland.⁷⁸

1.3.5. Nigerians creations of border schools in Cameroon territory

Another implications of cross border criminalities in Cameroon is that the Nigerians authorities in several occasions crossed into Cameroon land and hoisted Nigerians flag in Cameroon border isolated communities such as Yang in Nwa sub Division, Donga Mantung. The raising of Nigerians flags are signs of taking over Cameroon land illegally by Nigerians officials. Apart of the hoisting of Nigerians flag, the Nigerians governments have created many Nigerians schools in Cameroon border communities with Nigerians curriculums taught in these border schools inside Cameroon land. for instance, in 1993, the Nigerians government created state secondary schools in Achibong and Atabong in Cameroon without the knowledge and the approval of Cameroonians authority.

The creations of Nigerians schools at the border attracted Nigerians settlers in to Cameroon creating havocs on Cameroonians living in the border land. Add to this, Nigerians authorities in many occasions are reported collecting taxes inside Cameroon border communities as if they are in Nigeria. The Nigerians Fulani attacked in Issimbi, Bunkum Sub Division in 2011 was influenced by the Nigerians claimed over Cameroon land. Another strong visible Nigerians presence is exercised through the use of Naira (Nigerians currency) in this community at the detriments of Cameroonians currency. Also, the use of Nigerians illicit fuel commonly called *Fungeh* in many Cameroon border community is a sign that Nigerians has over power many Cameroon border land.⁷⁹

Chapter Two: The Effects Of North West And the Adamawa Border Criminalities on Nigeria from 1962.

Similar to Cameroon, North west and the Adamawa border criminalities affected Nigeria in diverse ways, these effects vary into socio-economic and the political effects as

examined in the subsequence bellow paragraphs as examined bellow.

2.1. The Raid of Nigerians borders villages by Cameroonians Gendarmeries.

Cross border criminalities such as illegal migrations and violations of national integrity has affected Nigerian in that, several Nigerians border villages from the North around Like to the southern coast of Atlantic were raided by Cameroonians forces. The cause of this attacks are stimulated by Nigerians border immigrants that destabilized Cameroon border villages and return to Nigeria border towns for safety. For instance, according to Nigerians tribune newspaper in it issue N° 6768 of 15th January 1982, Cameroonians Gendarmes armed with machines guns has raids six Nigerians border villages in the Southern coast of Cameroon border with Nigeria.⁸⁰

The Newspaper further stated that, the Nigerians at guns' points were forced to deny their Nigerians citizenship for Cameroonians nationalities, to use Cameroonians currency for their border transactions, pay taxes to Cameroonians authorities no more Nigerians governments. According to the press, any Nigerians that opposed this measure was arrested and severely punished with a fine of 600 Naira back then during which four traditional chiefs were taken to Cameroon where they were brutally punished by means pouring a mixture of petrol and kerosene on them while lying under the sun.⁸¹

On the 17th of June, 1990, Nigerians Newspaper titled the Sunday Guardians published a remark of Nigeria lecturer named Jide Papoola who stated that he was tired of incessant attacks of Nigerians villages by Cameroonians forces. According to him, the Cameroonians forces has cultivated a habit of doing military tourism in Nigeria border villages. Also, many villagers in Nigeria border communities were in the cross river were brutalized, tortured and arrested by Cameroonians visiting forces while the regime of General Shehu Shagari was doing nothing to avenge what Nigerians were going through from the Cameroonians forces. The newspaper further described Cameroonians forces to be wild. "He emphasized that federal government should better react military and return

⁷⁸ Interview with Abdu Yaya Kaffoi, a Cameroonians medical Doctor in NABO Health center ,Etoudi Yaounde , age 35, on the 6th of September 2025.

⁷⁹For instance, Nigerians authority renamed Cameroon border villages such as Akwa that was renamed Archibong, Isangele was renamed Amote. At the same time the Bakassi local government area was created controlled from Calabar in Nigeria with effectives Nigerians collections of Taxes in these

Cameroonians border communities. Before this period as early as 1964, the Nigerians communities in Bakassi were made to vote in local elections organized in that country (NAB,file, N° Ba/1964/1/ secret Report of West Cameroon , 1964.)

⁸⁰ The Guardian on Sunday 17th of June ,1990.

⁸¹ Circular February , 1982.

a tooth for a tooth otherwise border countries like Cameroon wouldn't stop throwing garbage on our face".⁸²

On the Cameroonians' side, the Cameroonians Gendarmes invasions of Nigerians border villages was fueled by the fact some Nigerians states officials like the Governor of Cross River state in Nigeria, Navy Captain Archipong was pressurizing the Nigerians federal government to take over the control of many Cameroonians border villages which annoyed the Cameroonians forces to invade Nigerians border villages. same newspaper outlet reported that several meetings took place in Lagos looking upon Cameroonians military actions on Nigerians border villages.⁸³

2.2. Cross border criminalities increased Nigerians foreign exchange

As a former British colony, post independent Nigeria belong to the British pound sterling zone that was convertible in Foreign exchange. during this period, Nigeria economy trade facilitated foreign exchange by means of export before 1970. However, with the advents of the Nigerians civil war of 1967-1970, Political relations between Nigeria and the outside world became critical and complicated that partly contributed to the abandonment of the pound sterling zone for Naira as new Nigerians currency.⁸⁴

The implication of Naira on foreign exchange is that its non-convertible in world Bank, as such Nigerians business men at all coast needed Cameroon CFA that can permit them to have a wide choice in international market since the CFA is covered by the Bank of France where it reserves are base making the CFA easily convertible than others currencies. For this reason, the Nigerians traders from 1970s began smugglings Nigerians made good to Cameroon border markets to acquire the CFA for foreign exchange "pump CFA" as its commonly known.⁸⁵

The smugglings of Nigerians goods to Cameroon enabled Nigerians to acquire the CFA that in return enabled Nigerians to import luxury goods from developed world. the aspect is very important for Nigeria whose industries relied on foreign exchanged. Between 1984 to 1992, the real effective exchange rate between the CFA and the Naira was divided by 10 and this improved the competitiveness of Nigerians products. The practiced of the devaluations of

the Nigerians currency created an influx of Nigerians goods in Cameroon because depreciation of the Naira made products made in Nigeria competitiveness' and this encouraged smuggling from Nigeria to Cameroon for the benefits of the Nigerians.⁸⁶

In the grand North of Cameroon around the Mandara Mountain, Cameroonians inhabitants in this area import consumer's goods directly from the Nigerians market of Maiduguri, Mubi and Madagali in the Adamawa region of Nigeria. cross border criminality in the Northern part of Cameroon is largely influenced by monetary value to enable Nigerians trade with oversea markets via Cameroon using the CFA as international legal tender.⁸⁷

Generally, where the Nigeria Naira isn't convertible to others western currencies, Nigeria "pump" the CFA to guarantee the importations of it manufactured products from others Africans and Europeans countries. To achieve this, Nigerians divert parts of the competitive pressure from import in it Market to the markets of neighboring countries in the Franc zone in Africa. it's in this logic that in most of cross border transactions between Nigerian and Cameroon, the CFA is the currency in used because the currency gives Nigerians influenced in international markets.⁸⁸

However, for minor daily exchanges in the Northern and the southern coast border markets, Nigeria is the currency that's largely in used. For instance, the Divisional officer of Beka stated "It's almost impossible to buy in CFA, its either the seller refused the currency or gives you the difference with Naira ".⁸⁹

2.3. Cross- border criminalities promoted conflicts over border resources

The intensive movements of civilians and military across Cameroon –Nigeria borders also worked to the discoveries of mineral resources at the border which implicated Cameroon and Nigeria relations. The minerals resources were discovered in the North west and the southern borders of Cameroon and Nigeria. For instance, in early 2000s, it was rumored that copper was available at the border of Moktar mountain (Cameroon) and Ndumyaji (Nigeria) leading to tension between Nigeria and Cameroon at the border of Yang and Tosso to control the newly discovered

⁸²NAB, QF/a/1980/1, Cameroon –Nigeria Boudry Security Report on 1980-1986, Bulletins de Renseignement Sur le activateur de Gouverneur des Cross River, Mois d'Avril 1984.

⁸³ BAU, Letter of Idabato District Chief to the Governor of the South West Province of a Cameroon, August 25th, 1973.

⁸⁴S. C. Lawrence and Daniel Nzereogu: The Journey to Internationalization: The Nigerians Stock Exchange and the acting of a scripts, Nnamdi Azikiwe University ,Akwa , Nigeria; 1985-2021. PP 34.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶Mambilla plateau crisis: A thing of concern to General peace. Available at <https://thewp.org>. Consulted on the 29th of July 2025

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⁸⁸Isichei., Igbo Worlds:(1977) Anthropology of Oral History and Histories and Historical Descriptions, London, Macmillan.

⁸⁹ Cameroon –Tribune, N° 9773/5974, Wednesday,26th January,2011.

copper. The border conflicts over the resources control resulted from the fact that Nigerians considered the Moktar mountain in Cameroon as Nigerians territory to gain access over the resources.⁹⁰

The presence of forest reserves along the Cameroon – Nigerians international border is another factor of conflicts between the sovereign states. For instance, the Korup National park is adjacent to that of the cross - River of Nigeria. This park is another favorite area of Nigerians poachers that leisurely sneaked here for hunting violating Cameroonians sovereignty. Also, the Manton forest reserve in Nwa Sub Division , North west region of Cameroon is a subject of intensive exploitations by Nigerians poachers creating conflicts with Cameroonians local settlers. Conflicts over forest reserves as well extend to the southern border of Cameroon –Nigeria. for instance, the Ejhagam forest reserve in Manyu, South west region of Cameroon has been corridor of conflict between Nigerian and Cameroon in that Nigerians has been exploiting Eru, rattan (*Laccosperma*, *secundiflorum*, *Eresmospatha* and *Macrocarpa*) including medical plants such as *Enantia Chloranthia*. here, Nigerians also do poaching and the illegal logging of trees in alarming rate, the situation is similar with the Takamanda reserve in Manyu which is limited to the North west and North by Nigeria.⁹¹

During the visit of the Nigerian high commissioner to Jabane 1 in March 2011, the major concern of colonel joseph Nouam , the pioneer commander of the elite force and his staff was the illegal deforestations by Nigerians of the Ndian forest reserve that could bring environmental hazards in years ahead. the poachers that comes from Nigeria, bring alongside with guns threatening Cameroonians borderland people and do hunting in this area for their own survival. Their presence at their presence at the forest is a challenge to security concern in that, these poachers transform themselves into pirates when they need money leading to atrocities in Cameroon southern border. The Ndian forest reserve therefore has been an a venue of conflicts between Cameroon and Nigeria since many years ago.⁹²

Also, Hunters in Nigerians border communities of Lip, Bang down, Hainare, Leme, Warkaka, Ndumyaji and Bawuro have instantly raids Cameroon forests in places

like Bujumkuura, Lelewal , Manton and Lugga- kumbi were dozens of wildlife like monkeys and antelopes are shots and taken across the border to Nigeria. This activity in many instances has violated the Cameroonians forest reserve and sovereignty in that most of these Nigerians hunters using local guns and spears are in many occasions claimed ignorance that their hunting places (Cameroon forests à belong to Cameroon.⁹³

The activity's is fueled by border security neglects, vast forest nature and the poacher's desires for bush meats. Bush meat hunted here is sold in Nigeria border markets of Bang Down, 3 Corners Bang, Nguroje, Hainare, Tamnya, and Leme. The nature implications of Nigerians hunters in Cameroonians forest here is that it the Ecosystems is destroyed, the hunters as well are committed in stealing bush traps sets in the forest by Cameroon borderland people to catch cane rats, Monkeys and Pythons for consumptions.⁹⁴

2.4. Illegal Migrations contributed to Economic crisis in Nigeria in 1983.

In January 1983, The state of Nigeria in 1983 was affected by a severe economic crisis with high unemployment and growing resentments. Nigeria standard of living became too expensive, workers were poorly paid while towns and cities became congested with crimes rates. The outbreak of the economic crisis was blamed on foreigners that sneaked into Nigeria from Neighboring countries like Cameroon, Benin, Togo and Ghana. The implication of this was the outbreak of Xenophobia (hatred of foreigners) in Nigeria leading to the attacked on foreigners in Nigeria as a means to overcome the situation in Nigeria.⁹⁵

The Xenophobic attitudes of Nigeria in the year 1983 affected over 2 million foreigners in Nigeria with the population of Ghana as the dominants foreigners in Nigeria. The government of General Shehu Shagari implemented measures such as the mass expulsions of foreigners or undocumented people from Nigeria back to their countries of origin as a means to reduce the pressure on Nigeria available resources. The expulsion of foreigners from Nigeria send back here many Cameroonians, Togo, Benin with Ghana being the large affected. Nigerians in villages, towns and cities supported the policy of Shehu Shagari expulsion of the foreigners with a slogan “Ghana

⁹⁰ BRU, Report of the North west Governor to the secretary General to the resident of the Republic of the Republic and the Minster of Territorial Administration, April 20th, 1980.

⁹¹ BRU, Report of the North west Governor to the secretary General to the resident of the Republic of the Republic and the Minster of Territorial Administration, April 20th, 1980.

⁹² N. Azieh, Nigerians Vicinity and Cameroon's Defense and security Challenges from 1967 to 2018 (A PhD Dissertation, University of Maroua , Cameroon. 2018. P. 158.

⁹³H.Jean. “Land crisis on the Mambilla Plateau, Nigeria, West Africa” in *Journal of Biogeography*, retrieved at www.researchgate.net/publication/230148544 on 20st June,2025

⁹⁴ Interview with Aladon Ernest, a Nigerian hunter in Bang Down, Taraba state, age 67, on the 30th of August 2025.

⁹⁵ The Mail \$ Guardian. Available at <https://atavist.mg.co.za>. Ghana must Go: The Ugly History of Africa most famous bag . consulted on the 29th of August 2025.

Must Go”. The name refers to the matted Nylon bags used by many of the Ghanaians immigrants to carry their belongings back to Ghana.

These bags originally available and affordable were used and remembered as symbols of force migrations, resilience and the painful experience of forceful expulsions of Africans foreigners from a black Nations of Nigeria in Africa. in Nigerians History reflecting the mass expulsion foreigners.⁹⁶

The iconic pattern has been used in Music, fashion, art and design in later years as a memory about the painful of Africans reality. these symbols are similar to the events outside Nigeria in foreign memories like the “Turkish suitcase “in Germany and the “Chinatown tote” in the US linking them to others migrations stories globally.⁹⁷ The incidents nursed hatred particularly between Nigeria and her frontlines states including Cameroon where Nigerians nationals where targeted for revenge for the expulsions of foreigners from Nigeria. the case of Nigeria Ghana relations even became more strained till recent date where Ghanaians are busy repatriating Nigerians from Ghana promoting socials crimes in Ghana and like Yahoo Yahoo and prostitutions. for instance, in 2018, 723 Nigerians were deported from Ghana for prostitution, Yahoo and cybercrimes which helped to widened the gap between Nigeria and Ghana.⁹⁸

Conclusion

In all, the effects of the North West and the Adamawa border criminalities on Cameroon and Nigeria were many and multifaceted. The porous borders between the two countries have enabled in recent years’ various forms of criminalities ranging from rituals through trans-border kidnappings, cattle smugglings, illegal migrations, smuggling of contraband drugs and fuel, and border robberies. these activities affected the socio-economic and political life of Cameroon and Nigeria leading to security challenges. economically, Cameroon border security officials are deprived from income obtained by ways of import duties since goods are smuggled through bush path and Cameroon government pumped hugged money amount to fight against border criminalities. To Nigeria, smugglings of goods to Cameroon by Nigerians businessmen and company’s agents is a factor that enabled the Nigerians to buy CFA the Cameroon currency that facilitated Nigerians foreign imports and export since Naira was non-convertible in the foreign banks. The challenges faced by Nigeria and Cameroon caused by cross – border criminalities, contributed largely to Cameroon Nigeria security efforts against cross -border criminalities as examined above.

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Nchanji Job	Cameroonian	male	34	Trans-border trader	09/06/2026 Ako,North west region	675709182
Saleh Mustapha	Cameroonian	Male	38	Trans-border trader	11/06/2026 Sabongari North West	679155622
Musa Dauda	Nigerian	male	46	Border police	14/06/2026 Gembu, Taraba state	
Garewa Alphonse	Cameroonian	Male	56	Trans-border trader	11/06/2026 Sabongari North west	672645373
Yakubu Usman	Cameroonian	Male	43	Trans-border bike rider	11/06/2026 Sabongari North west	672029937
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