



WHITE BOOK

**GENESIS: THE END OF DOUBT, THE BEGINNING OF HOPE... THE
REALIZATION OF ACTION.**

SAFA | Let's build a sustainable world | November 2020



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PREFACE

The world as we knew it yesterday has changed, and continues to change at high speed. To the problem of peace and security of yesterday is added today the problems of climate change, environmental preservation, famine, access to drinking water, divisive digital development among others. Hence the all-out mobilization of players on the national and international scene in order to provide global solutions to these global scourges.

Almost everywhere in Africa, as in Cameroon, the effects of climate change are observed on agriculture and contribute to accentuate the famine among the underprivileged social strata; education is still at insufficient standards. And to this are added multiple security crises, such as those that are shaking the Central African region and our country Cameroon in particular. Such global problems that should have the participation of all actors and especially civil society organizations. It is in this momentum that the association was formed to respond to this urgent call to contribute to peace, the protection of the environment and the sustainable development of planet Earth, starting from Cameroon: the heart of Africa in miniature. In the image of this formula "think global,

It is in this context that it was proposed to me to support this vast humanitarian project for the reflection and the establishment of the organization. Given my dual professional experience as a military and in the civil administration as administrative assistant to decentralized communities. I considered that I could be useful to this important initiative.

In 2018, we began legal, structural and functional work for the creation phase of the organization, in particular in the development of the memorandum of association, the establishment of the headquarters, the holding of preparatory meetings and the holding of the first Constitutive General Assembly... Which led to the legal birth and administrative recognition of the organization. One of the things that struck me and which is undoubtedly one of the first culmination points of the association is the

implementation of the PAPES-DIDAC Program in 2020, a support program for schools: education in sustainable development and distribution of didactic materials made from wood waste. As part of its distribution component, I contributed to the logistics coordination of the RE-DISMA1 project in the northern regions of Cameroon, area where I served nearly 12 years as a military instructor. This intergenerational opportunity allowed me to appreciate the enthusiasm and professionalism of those whom I affectionately call “my children”: the SAFA volunteers.

Therefore, I bring you all my blessing in the pursuit of this vast project. It is high time for a new generation to contribute and evolve in this direction in our country for the sake of peace, education, the environment in order to achieve a better future for humanity. You will excuse me for ending on a martial tone by reminding you that your action is part of a cause, a fight, a long and perilous fight for the survival of humanity; and I tell you as in military jargon “You are humanitarian soldiers. Soldier with a valiant heart, nothing is impossible”. Go forward!

Benoit TSOPFACK

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Ancient Army Battalion Chief Warrant Officer
Medalist of the Public Force of Cameroon

FOREWORD:

Through this book, our association SAFA offers its philosophy, its actions, concrete solutions to help understand sustainable development and above all to establish it firmly in our daily operations. We thus wish to participate in a global vision of our common heritage, through an awareness built around endogenous solutions.

Starting from the declaration of the millennium in the year 2000 affirming the advantages of globalization proclaimed by the former Secretary General Koffi ANNAN ... in the event of the 2030 agenda adopted in 2015, where the 17 Development Goals are officially defined. The SDGs complement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) while reducing the classic institutional divide to focus on a global agenda addressing not only States but everyone, in particular civil society actors, businesses, etc...

To be effective in the environmental field, which has become crucial, it is essential to take collective action based on national and international provisions in order to participate in a global response. This white paper is the result of a SAFA working group which was inspired by the advice received from several professionals in various fields (lawyers, engineers, humanitarians, teachers, etc.) and the reflections of our members in 2019. It reflects the state of our thinking at the time of publication in November 2020.

CONSTITUTIVE CHARTER

As one organization of civil society both for solidarity and for the promotion of sustainable development:

Aware that peace, education, the environment are assets that guarantee a better world;

Considering that poverty, environmental degradation, under-education of populations, climate change, the growth of certain irresponsible digital technologies, social crises of all kinds weaken the prosperity of our common heritage;

Aware that our individual and collective behavior bears a present and future responsibility for the destiny of humanity;

Affirming that the national associative regulatory framework is conducive to action. Encouraged by international provisions in terms of achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

Thus, as a social solidarity association, we are inspired by major global reflections on humanitarian and sustainable development issues to act at the local level.

SAFA is associated with national and international action to respond to the challenges of eradicating the global scourges with which we are confronted.

Introduction

I-1- OBJECTIVE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS WHITE PAPER

This white paper aims to present the vision, the approach of the association in its contribution to the reduction of the human impact on the environment and the promotion of sustainable development. Through several themes including: education, culture, technologies, biodiversity. In this perspective, the white paper seeks to present the modalities of our humanitarian and environmental solidarity initiative with a view to participating in the implementation of the principles of environmental preservation and sustainable development as defined by national and international strategies in this area. .

After an introductory part presenting the objective, the history and the institutional context, we will successively expose the SAFA philosophy, its mission. Then it will be a question of explaining our areas of intervention which constitute the pillars of our organization through culture in the promotion of peace, education, the environment or the promotion of sustainable technologies. The last part presents the deployment strategy of our network at local and national level, while keeping in perspective our international ambition. A conclusion draws the end of sharing and considers some perspectives for the future of our organization.

I-2- HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

SAFA was founded in 2019 by William DONFOUET, is a passionate actor in humanitarian and sustainable development. Internationalist graduated from the Institute of International Relations of Cameroon (IRIC). The association was born on the baptismal font other initiatives like TICAR, Arcade¹and AIESEC² where he carried out activities in the field of social solidarity, particularly in urban and rural areas.

The legal form of SAFA: independent, non-profit association in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 90-53 of December 19, 1990 on freedom of association is

¹Arcade the word designates here the name given to an association. TICAR, stands for Information and Communication Technology in Rural Areas.

²AIESEC (International Association of Students in Economics and Commercial Sciences), considered the largest student organization in the world. Is a member of the UNESCO Standing Committee.

chosen to serve humanitarian and environmental projects; this assumes that it fulfills a mission of general interest and that it knows how to show integrity with providers. The flexible but structuring legal form of the 1990 law associations provides our initiative with a comfortable, secure shelter, giving it both legal autonomy and institutional legitimacy.

II- The SAFA Philosophy

The philosophy of our association is based on the principles of universalism, political and denominational neutrality; on ideals of humanist morality, individual and collective responsibility to guarantee a better future for our planet. Considerably marked by the star governing our planetary system: the sun. Our motto, charter, slogan are in line with terms that characterize the light and warmth of the invigorating action of Man in harmony with his nature. The sun teaches us to give, to unite and above all to act without discrimination, without borders. We have a particularly optimistic view of the future of our planet.



II-1- MOTTO

SUA motto:

Solidarity

Unity

Act.

Our motto: "Let's build a sustainable world"

II-2- THE CHARTER

Our charter is as follows:

Solidarity

Organization

Loyalty

Commitment

Integrity

Leadership

II-3- OUR MISSION: "TO DO BETTER EVERY DAY FOR TOMORROW"

We act, we work to carry out various activities and projects to contribute to humanitarian solidarity and sustainable development, through various themes, in order to facilitate their appropriation and integration into our daily actions.

Our mission in short is to bridge the gap between local involvement and the global vision of sustainable development.

III- Our areas of intervention

To meet the current needs of society without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We focus our interventions on four major areas, namely the promotion of peace, environmental preservation, education, the promotion of sustainable technologies.

III-1- CULTURE, PROMOTION OF PEACE

Peace is essential, it is the prerequisite for any harmonious development. International news is still tormented by socio-political crises, armed conflicts around the world and the globalization of terrorism.³. These crises that are antithetical to peace and the development of Humanity are generally capitalized in terms of destruction, victims and also many refugees and displaced persons.⁴. However, no development can be achieved in the absence of lasting peace. This is why SAFA considers the establishment of peace as the bedrock of sustainable development. The association encourages mutual aid, the promotion of cultural diversity, social dialogue.

III-2- ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

The environment is an extremely broad concept, it includes all natural resources (water, land, minerals, energy, etc.). The purposes of safeguarding our ecosystem are, among other things: the fight against global warming, the preservation of biodiversity and resources. A recent World Bank report⁵ devoted to the challenges of global warming indicates that if the global temperature rises by 4 degrees Celsius, water stress will increase in certain regions of the globe. The billion people living in monsoon-dependent basins and the 500 million people living in deltas are particularly vulnerable. The poorest countries, which are the least prepared for this crisis, will be hardest hit. Indeed, to provide an effective response, it is also essential that each citizen also adopts the right gestures on a daily basis; for example, water saving, organic or natural agriculture, and above all waste recycling are themes dear to SAFA in the design of its programs.

³ Adrian Edwards, Global Trends Report, ed. Leo R. Dobbs

⁴William Donfouet, UNHCR's contribution to reducing the environmental impact of refugees in Gado-Badzéré in Eastern Cameroon, dissertation CA2D - Institute of International Relations of Cameroon 2016

⁵The World Bank and water, /www.banquemondiale.org/ /water-ressources-management-results-profile



III-3- EDUCATION

Education is the essential link in the value chain of our society. According to William DONFOUET "Any child who is educated in the long term, forms a man, a citizen who is won over in the construction of a sustainable world" SAFA supports the schooling of children, environmental education in schools. In Cameroon, environmental education in schools is not a new practice. Already in 1995, the State's General of Education recommended the introduction of environmental education in the formal education system.

III-4- PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGIES

Sustainable technologies include green or ecological technologies (which aims to reduce GHG emissions); agricultural and food technologies, health technologies, and financial technologies (which empowers populations without access to banking services). According to the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, scientists see technology as an important factor that can help achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). The technological accumulation of the last 3 decades has sometimes been accompanied by many perverse effects; SAFA on the other hand

carries an optimistic techno vision; our association wishes to promote science, technology and innovation at the service of development and green growth.

IV- Developing the national network... with a universal vision

When you look at the planisphere, you can easily see that Africa is at the heart of the world. When we observe the African continent, we roughly identify Cameroon in the center of Africa. Due to its geographical and human diversity, Cameroon is generally qualified as Africa in “miniature”. At the heart of this Africa in miniature is the city of Ngaoundéré which is a pivotal locality of the country; transition and transit zone between the far north and the far south. It is from this city in the heart of the world that the Sustainable Act For Africa (SAFA) was founded.

Our deployment at the national level takes into account the proximity with the target populations. For the moment, the mapping of our operations is mainly oriented towards the northern and coastal areas of the country. SAFA's administrative head office is therefore in Ngaoundéré, with a secondary office in Yaoundé. The association has about forty members and volunteers spread in 5 of the 10 regions of the country: Adamaoua, north, extreme north, littoral, west. The ambition is to move progressively towards a sub-regional network.

V- Conclusion

Sustainable Act From Africa poses the problem of ownership and involvement of citizens and Cameroonian and international civil society organizations in the promotion of integral sustainable development. Our state of mind is driven to action by favoring areas of intervention such as intercultural dialogue, education, the best use of water and energy resources, the promotion of sustainable technologies. In this year when we are laying the groundwork for our organization, we would like this document to be a reference guide for ourselves, our future volunteers and to be able to further inspire the continuous improvement of our commitment.

