



# ICAO AFI INTER-REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKSHOP, 17 TO 21 JUNE 2024, LUANDA, ANGOLA

*SESSION 2.2 : States' experience related to SAR*  
*18 June 2024*

## **Cameroon experience:** **A strong Civil – Military Cooperation**

Presented by Mr. **Patrick BEMBA KOUDAOU**,  
Head of Airspace Surveillance and Aviation Crisis Management Unit,  
Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA)



# OUTLINES

- INTRODUCTION
- ORGANIZATION
- RESCUE SUB CENTER
- SAR EVENTS
- COORDINATION AND COOPERATION
- CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES



# INTRODUCTION

## SAR System Requirements

- Optimum Performance
- Cost-effective and
- Safe



# INTRODUCTION

In the case of Cameroon,  
the optimum performance, the cost-  
effectiveness and the safety of  
operations is sought through a strong

**Civil – Military Cooperation**





# INTRODUCTION

As a nation, Cameroon had two major painful SAR events:

➤ Flight 3701, Camair, B 737-200, 1995







# INTRODUCTION

As a nation, Cameroon had two major painful SAR events:

- Flight 3701, Camair, B 737-200, 1995
- Flight 507, Kenya Airways, B 737-800, 2007





# ORGANIZATION

The cameroonian territory is shared between the search and rescue region (SRR) of N'Djamena (N'Djamena FIR), and the SRR of Brazzaville (Brazzaville FIR).



SRR N'DJAMENA

SRR BRAZZAVILLE



# ORGANIZATION

## NATIONAL SAR POLICY

It is defined by the Ministry of Transport (Civil Aviation Authority) with regard to general organization and administration, and the Ministry of Defense (Air Force) for operational aspects.

Consultation between all the organizations and administrations involved in the SAR service is ensured through a national SAR committee.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

**The RSC is both a civil and military organization**

Ministry of  
Transports / Civil  
Aviation Authority

Ministry of Defense /  
Air Force

Administration

Operational

RSC



# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## RSC ORGANIZATION





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION

Expenses borne by the Civil Aviation Authority :

- Office supplies ;
- Incentive for RSC staff ;
- Training of SAR personnel ;
- Fuel for RSC vehicles.

Expenses borne by the Air Force:

- Acquisition and maintenance of SAR equipment (Distress beacon, survival equipment, life jackets, life boats, etc ...) ;
- Expenses related to the participation in SAR operations.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

- Located at the Air Force Base in Yaounde ;
- Operational since June 2012 ;
- 24/7 operation.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

SAR Point of  
Contact (SPOC) of  
COSPAS SARSAT  
system







# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The RSC staff is provided by the Ministry in charge of Defence (Air Force Headquarters).

Number of RSC staff : 17







# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

All RSC staff attended a SMC (SAR Mission Coordinator) training course.

Cameroon hosted three SMC training courses delivered by EAMAC of Niamey and relocated at Yaounde RSC in 2012, 2015 and 2019.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority Training School has developed a SMC training course.

The first session took place from 18 to 29 September 2023.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

To date, the Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority has trained 43 personnel as SAR Mission Coordinators (SMC), including:

- 27 militaries;
- 16 civilians.

In addition, 04 personnel (civilian and military) received the qualification of SAR Administrator and ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Instructor.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority Training School has developed an English Language Proficiency Test for SMC.

Required levels:

- level 4 for the Director of the RSC and the Head of Training ;
- level 3 for operators.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

Training courses are organized every year for the Air Force crews to enhance their operational readiness.







# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING







# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The Cameroon Civil Aviation Authority Training School has developed a SAR Inspector course.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## EXERCISES

Communications exercises are regularly organised by the RSC (quarterly).

A coordination exercise has been organised in 2023.

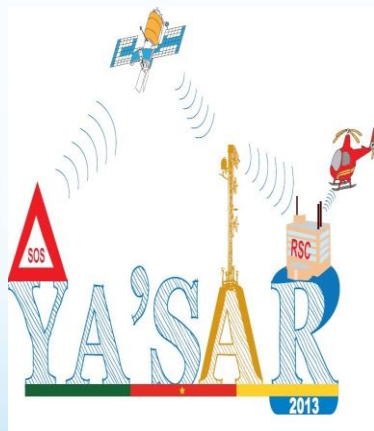
Two full-scale exercises has been organized in 2013 and 2017.





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## EXERCISES





# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## SAR ASSETS

Cameroon does not have specialized SAR resources (aircrafts permanently assigned to the SAR service).

The assets used for search and rescue belong to military and civilian agencies (Army, Gendarmerie, Police, Fire Brigade, Aircraft Operator, Navy, etc ...)







# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## SAR ASSETS



## RESCUE EQUIPMENT

- Rescue boat ;
- Largable SAR Chain ;
- Dry suits ;
- ...etc.



# RESCUE SUB CENTER

## SAR ASSETS



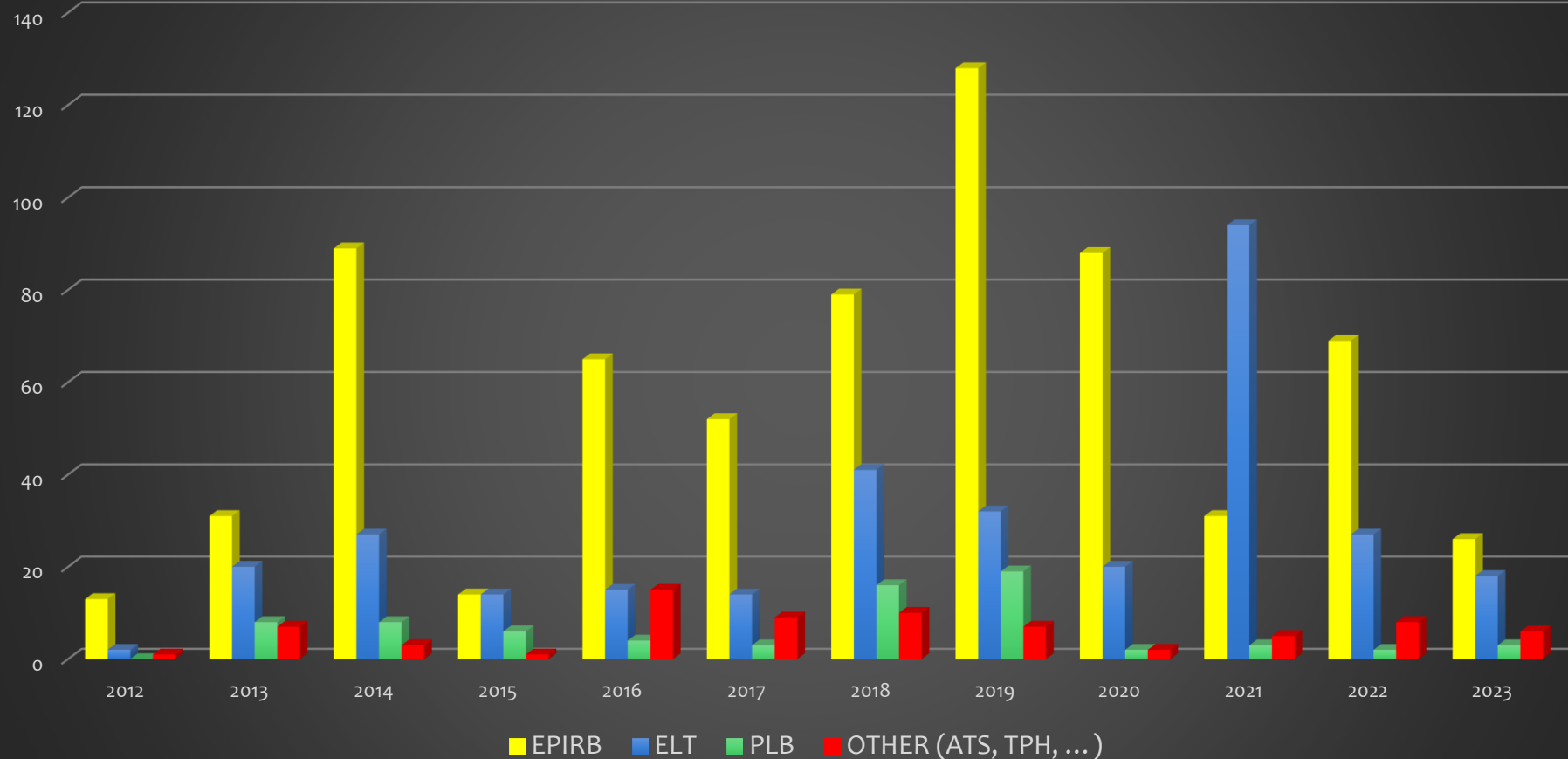
## RESCUE EQUIPMENT

- Survival kits ;
- Life jackets ;
- Distress signals ;
- Survival rations.



# SAR EVENTS

## STATISTICS OF DISTRESS ALERTS BY YEAR AND ORIGIN FROM 2012 TO 2023





# SAR EVENTS

## ***THREE REAL CASES***

### REAL CASE 1

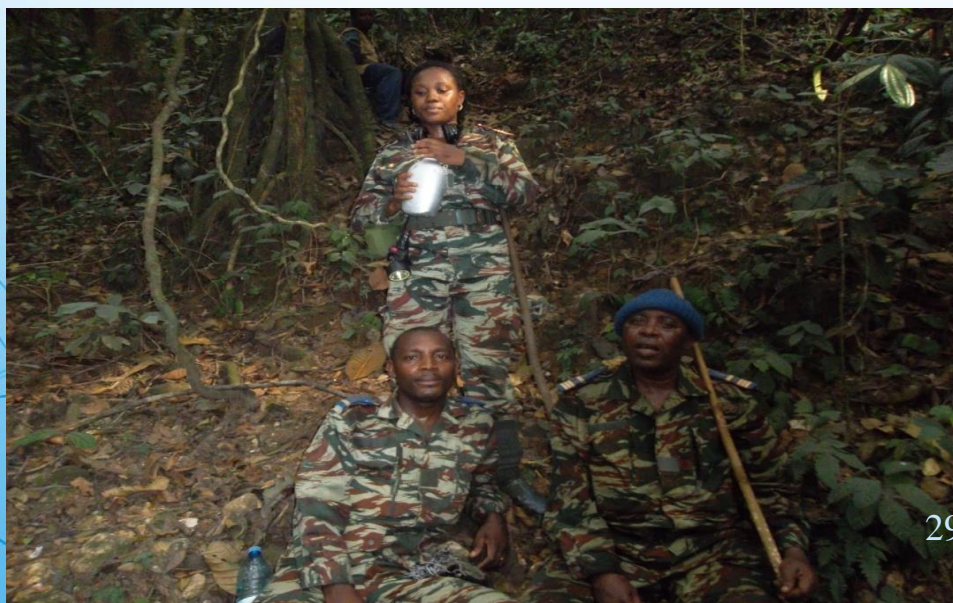
- Operation N° 142 of 22 June 2014 regarding the CESSNA C172 registered N9748L ;
- 70 hours 20 minutes of aerial search ;
- Wreckage found after 9 months and 24 days.





# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE 1







# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE 1





# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE N°2

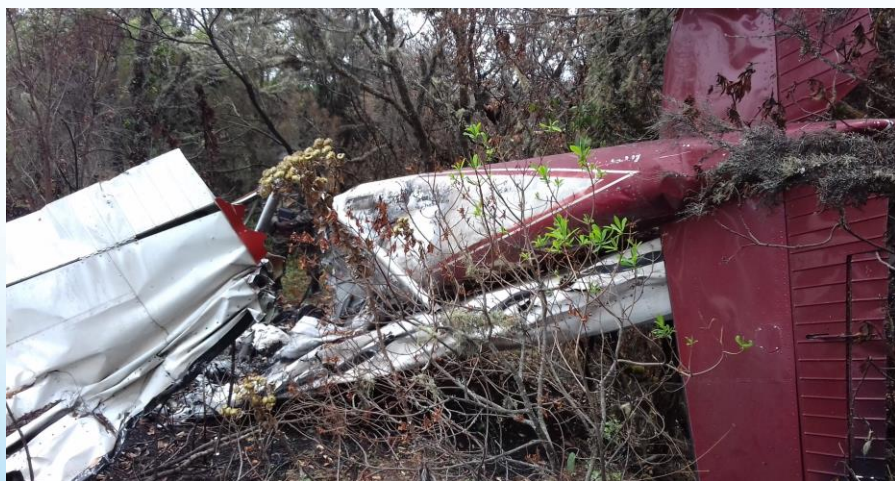
- Operation N° 165 of 12 August 2014 regarding the CESSNA C182 registered DEKQO ;
- Wreckage found on Mount Cameroon (Altitude : 4100 m).





# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE N°2





# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE N°3

- Operation No. 1211 of 11 May 2022 regarding the DHC-6-400 registered TJ-TIM operated by CAVERTON and chartered by COTCO, 11 pax ;
- Wreckage found in the middle of the forest;
- Difficulty for coordination: many stakeholders;
- big media coverage.

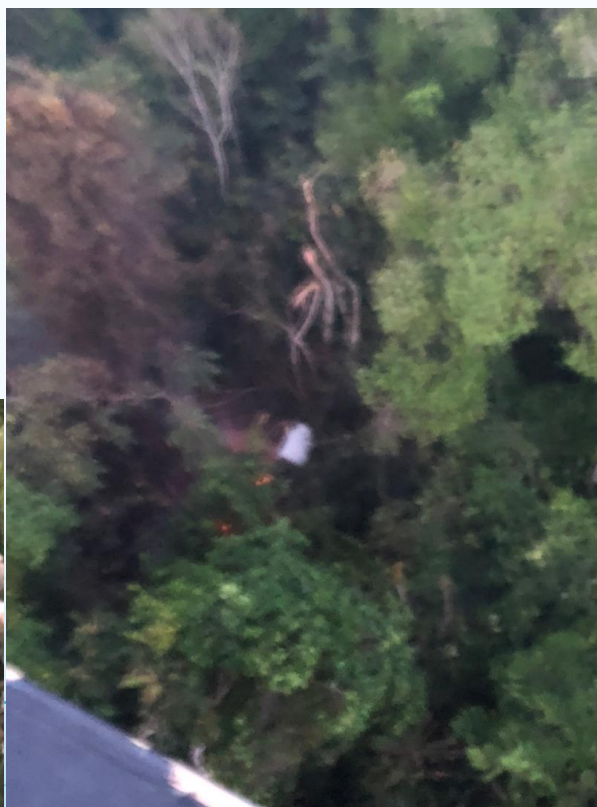






# SAR EVENTS

## REAL CASE N°3







# COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

SAR Agreements have been signed between Cameroon and the following neighboring states: Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad.

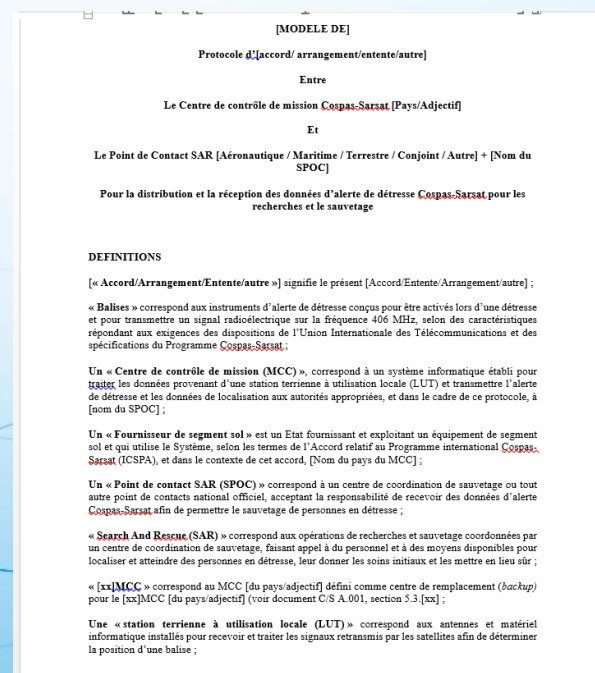
The draft SAR Agreements between Cameroon and the following neighboring States have been validated and are ready for signature: Nigeria and Central African Republic.





# COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

- Working arrangement between the Mission Control Centre (MCC) of Las Palmas and the RSC of Yaounde for the distribution and reception of COSPAS-SARSAT distress alert data for search and rescue;
- Memorandum of understanding between the RSC and the ATS providers. Its purpose is to describe the terms of sharing responsibilities between the RSC and the ATS provider.





# CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

## CHALLENGES

- Geographical Challenges: Remote or rugged terrain, inhospitable areas (forest, mountain, etc.);
- Coordination with RCCs in the SRRs;
- Coordination with maritime organizations;
- Very slow regulatory process;
- Many false alerts.





# CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

## SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

- Construction of a new RSC, more suitable for the activities of the Center, and equipped with modern facilities;





# CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

## SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

- Construction of a new RSC, more suitable for the activities of the Center, and equipped with modern facilities;
- Organization of the second session of the SMC training course;
- Organisation of a full scale SAR exercise in 2024.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND  
ATTENTION**