

La norme pénale a l'épreuve de la protection de l'environnement au Cameroun

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RÉSUMÉ

La protection de l'environnement est devenue l'un des sujets majeurs du 21^{ème} siècle. Ce regain d'intérêt pour la problématique de la protection de l'environnement est à l'image des nombreuses menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement. Comme la plupart des pays dans le monde, le Cameroun fait recours au droit pénal pour sanctionner les atteintes perpétrées sur son environnement. Ce droit pénal de l'environnement camerounais présente néanmoins deux facettes. La première révèle un droit pénal de l'environnement attrayant, marqué par une floraison d'instruments juridiques consacrés par le législateur camerounais destinés à protéger l'environnement. La seconde facette est moins reluisante. En effet, il est regrettable de constater que l'arsenal juridique mis en place reste lettre morte. En réalité, les cours d'eaux continuent d'être pollués, l'exploitation illégale des essences forestière et faunique continuent de plus belle sous le regard impuissant d'un droit pénal de l'environnement pourtant dense. Le droit pénal de l'environnement camerounais s'apparente ainsi à un géant, mais dont les pieds méritent d'être affermis.

SUMMARY

Protecting the environment has become one of the major topics of the 21st century. The renewed interest in environmental protection reflects a number of threats to the environment. Like most countries in the world, Cameroon resorts to criminal law sanctioning attacks perpetrated on its environment. It is worth mentioning that the Cameroonian environmental criminal law is of two facets. The first reveals an attractive environmental criminal law enriched with legal instruments consecrated by the Cameroonian legislator intended to protect the environment. The second facet is less brilliant. Indeed, it is regrettable to note that the legal arsenal put in place is not absolutely and completely applicable. In reality, rivers continue to be polluted, illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife species continue unabated under the helpless gaze of a dense environmental criminal law. Cameroonian environmental criminal law is thus, akin to a giant whose feet deserve to be strengthened.