

# **TECTONIC MOVEMENTS AND STRUCTURAL CONTROL OF THE ACTIVITY OF MOUNT CAMEROON, AN ACTIVE VOLCANO**

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Located on the continental margin, at the north-eastern corner of the Gulf of Guinea, Mount Cameroon is an active volcano-tectonic complex, formed at the intersection point of some of the main faults which generated the opening of the Atlantic Ocean.

Built up by a combined volcanic and tectonic activities, its morphostructure is characterised by a SE-NW succession of more or less uplifted or sunk panels, with a symmetric geographical distribution on both sides of the volcano's central axis.

Almost all the volcano's manifestations are controlled by the tectonic structure. With an average of two events every three days, mainly distributed along large extension fractures zones, (Bokosso, Tiko and Limbe faults), earthquakes come both under volcano-tectonic activity of the Mountain and the relative instability of the continental margin between Luanda (Angola) and Conakry (Guinea).

The volcanic active zone, with more than 350 parasitic cones and 6 eruptions since 1909, extends along the central axis fault system and its 4 main radial extensions on the south-western and north-eastern slopes of the Mountain.

The hydrothermal manifestations are concentrated on the upper plateaux, with hot zones and hundreds of fumaroles vents distributed along opened fissures.