Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10850

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon

Countries
Cameroon

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Acess to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Innovation

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Significant Objective 1

Land Degradation

Submission Date

11/30/2022

Expected Implementation Start

4/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

3/31/2026

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee($)

190,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-3-8	Implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS	GET	2,000,000.00	19,732,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**2,000,000.00**	**19,732,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrues tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1. Institutions are capacitated to implement the Nagoya Protocol and stakeholders involved in the issuance of an authorization carry out promptly and legally their mandate in line with the access to ABS permit. Outcome Indicators 1.1 1. Existence of a national policy framework for ABS that incorporates the Post-2020 Strategy and with due consideration of gender equity. 2. Number of staff with a balanced representation of women and	Output 1.1.1 Post-2020 strategy and action plan with due gender consideration updated and adopted for the full implementation of ABS measures in Cameroon. Output 1.1.2. ABS law and its implementation instruments as well as standards with due gender considerations appropriated by stakeholders and the incentive investment framework which gives due consideration to women for farmer organizations and other private actors implemented. Output 1.1.3 The Competent National Authority (CAN) issues an increasing number of permits to applicants in compliance with gender-sensitive regulations and standards, and the ABS data and knowledge are published through the ABS Clearing-House	GET	400,000.00	5,250,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		men of national and regional competent authorities trained in ABS to facilitate the implementation of the national ABS framework.				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1: Increased awareness and capacity of national actors and farmer organisations to benefits from the exploitation of the ABS regime and related value chains Outcome Indicators 2.1 1. Percentage of researchers, local authorities and industry, and representatives of local populations with due gender consideration aware of the regulatory and institutional framework pertaining to ABS and TK and its different dimensions.	Output 2.1.1 A detailed ABS awareness-raising strategy on the national ABS framework including materials tailored for specific stakeholder groups (women, ILCs, civil society, researchers, private sector, and government entities involved in ABS implementations) developed and rolled out in Cameroon. Output 2.1.2. Sustainable regeneration and associated management practices are well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain Output 2.2.1- An increased number of farmer organizations with balanced men and women participation (ILCs, cooperatives) intensify the value chain trade on GRs and share benefits with an increased number of stakeholders and are able to use the information disseminated by the operational market information system (MIS) for decision-	GET	618,182.00	8,750,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		2. Number of potential bioprospecting projects with balanced participation of women and men identifies as a result of improved stakeholder awareness and capacity Outcome 2.2- Farmer organizations are well-informed and able to use legal instruments to negotiate a MAT reflecting their needs, concerns, and rights relating to conservation, use, and access to Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK) Outcome Indicators 2.2 1. Number of ABS agreements	making on their GR Business. Output 2.2.2. An increased number of PICs, MATs signed by farmer organizations with balanced gender representation, and ABS permits delivered on the supply services and value of aTK on GR with an increased number of investors and volume of financial investment following the framework of GRs? Investment Plan and ABS Law. Output 2.2.3. At least an increase of 20 to 25% of the income of farmer organizations with balanced participation of women and men involved in the valorization of their GRs and aTK.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		with balanced men and women roles negotiated and implemented enabling equitable sharing of benefits between users and providers in the South-West and Far North Regions 2. Monetary and non-monetary benefits with due gender consideration received by the State and local communities (of Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup? Manengouba, and Meme Divisions), accruing from the development of value chains of Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica 3. Number of baseline ABS agreements that consider gender balance (prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms) for project development and the biodiscovery process.				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Piloting ABS agreements that demonstrate best practices of PIC, MAT and ABS permit, including the effective fair and equitable sharing of benefits.	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1. Effective ABS agreements demonstrated by: 1. Four ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol 2. ABS agreements established between national providers and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Outcome Indicators 3.1 1. Number of formulations based on standardized extracts from Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites	Output 3.1.1. At least 4 ABS agreements established between communities, government, private sector and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica Output 3.1.2. A business model for local biodiversity women-led value chain targeting key products in Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?Manengouba, and Meme Division developed Output 3.1.3- Seed funds through the Grant mechanism for organized communities? groups and the private sector to support the development/valorization of potential ABS value chains in accordance with the adopted Policy and Guidelines on CMCI.	GET	800,000.00	5,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica evaluated for applications in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, food and beverage, or industrial sectors 2. Level of capacities at the national level with due gender consideration to undertake scientific surveys on bio-chemicals, apply chemical techniques, generate disease bioassays, and manage collections. 3. Number of women operating businesses built on ABS and aTK value chains of Irvingia wombolu, Monodora	Output 3.1.4- Stocktaking exercise of best practices and lessons learned from the valorization of value chains of GRs and their associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK) reviewed to inform ABS? Investment and support to local and national development plans. Output 3.1.5 ? Annual national forums on Marketing of GR and aTK organized Output 3.1.6 Research activities on the GRs using aTK in the aim of adding value to products carried out.			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing ($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica				
				Sub Total ($)	**1,818,182.00**	**19,000,000.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	181,818.00	732,000.00
Sub Total($)	**181,818.00**	**732,000.00**
Total Project Cost($)	**2,000,000.00**	**19,732,000.00**

Please provide justification

N/A

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	Grant	Investment mobilized	750,000.00
Donor Agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	332,000.00
Private Sector	Nesk Sant? Nature (Natural Essences of Sylvain KOUOKAM Sant? Nature SARL)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,900,000.00
Civil Society Organization	The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	GIC (Groupe d'Initiative Commune) des Amis de la Nature - GICAN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	GIC (Groupe d'Initiative Commune) des Amis de la Nature - GICAN	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	ETS Yahki	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	ETS Yahki	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,500,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**19,732,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The Government of Cameroon Investment mobilized will come from counterparts funds from the Ministry of Environment (MINEPEDED) budget. The Deutsche Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH investment mobilized will come through the global project BioInnovation Africa II which will collaborate with and provide parallel funding up to 182 000 $US through its ongoing technical activities related to Biodiversity protection and promotion of Biodiversity value chains and valorization of genetic resources in Cameroon through African-European business partnerships. The Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF) in cash contributions shall come from the Mount Bamboutos Forest Regeneration And restoration project. The Mount Bamboutos landscape cuts across three regions; the West, South West, and North West regions of Cameroon. Specifically, the project aims to restore 35,000 hectares of degraded landscape through the planting of 15 million agroforestry and indigenous tree species to secure the livelihoods of over 30,000 people Yahki Investment mobilise will come its project: ?Projet de lutte contre la Pauvret? avec les produits locaux dans le Mayo Kani- Extreme Nord?

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**2,000,000.00**	**190,000.00**	**2,190,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

45,662

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,338

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	45,662	4,338	**50,000.00**
			Total Project Costs($)		**45,662.00**	**4,338.00**	**50,000.00**

Please provide justification

During the PPG, a detailed analysis of the private sector engagement in the project will be conducted, and specific and targeted interventions with the identified private sector will be conducted. A Technical Working Group (TWG) composed of main stakeholders and specialists in the ABS field shall be put in place to provide technical guidance in the approval of key project deliverables. The Project Local Executing Partners (PLEP) to be selected during the PPG will be responsible for the implementation of projects at the chosen sites. Adequate complementarity and synergy will be identified and negotiated during the PPG phase.

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	42,800	42,800		
Male	64,200	64,200		
Total	107000	107000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Once the legal framework, administrative and permitting system is appropriated by stakeholders and the incentive investment framework for farmer organisations and other private actors implemented, it is anticipated that over 2 000,000 indigenous and local people who are the stewards of genetic resources and associated TK will benefit from benefit sharing ABS agreement, of which at least 40% would likely be women. It is expected that the implementation of the ABS law and permitting systems will substantially increase the number of beneficiaries, particularly through the establishment of proper procedures and systems for promoting agreements for benefit sharing of genetic resources and increasing their income. Records of people involved in farmer organization beneficiaries of the support and training reports will validate the core indicator 11. Sustainable Development Goals The project remains highly relevant to the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the Government of Cameroon has committed to achieving by 2030. The project will specifically contribute to the following SDGs and relevant targets for Cameroon: SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed. SDG Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Target 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. Aichi Targets The proposed project will contribute to the following Aichi Targets: Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits

to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services, Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Located in central Africa, Cameroon is one of the world?s biodiversity hotspots, harboring globally significant ecosystems such as tropical rainforest (in which the South West Region project location is found), mangroves, wetlands, as well as agricultural and marine ecosystems. The tropical forests of Cameroon alone, spread across 22 million hectares, are a vital part of the Congo Basin Forest ecosystem. The savanna landscapes in which the Far North Region project area is located are no less diverse. Indeed, it is estimated that there are approximately 10,000 species of tropical plants in the Congo Basin, 30 per cent of which are unique to the region. Cameroon ranks fifth for fauna diversity and fourth for flora in Africa. But mushrooming bushmeat and international wildlife trade has pushed many species to the brink of extinction. There are around 8,300 plant species, 335 mammals, 542 fresh and saline water fish, 913 birds, 330 reptiles and over 200 amphibians in the country. This rich biodiversity is a pointer to the richness of genetic resources of the country. Some of these resources offer potentials to address some of humanity?s biggest health challenges. For example, the Ancistrocladus korupensis is a species of liana endemic to South-West Region of Cameroon (specifically to the Korup National Park). Research has found that mature leaves of Ancistrocladus korupensis contain michellamine A, B and C, atropisomeric alkaloids which have been found to inhibit HIV viral replication . Michellamine B is particularly active against the NID-DZ strain of HIV-2 . Also, the species targeted by this project for valorization through ABS (Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica) have been shown to possess diverse pharmaceutical, cosmetic and food industry uses that are beneficial for humanity as a whole.

Cameroon is home to incredible genetic diversity associated with its extraordinary biodiversity, the preservation of which is contingent on adequate financial resources as well as local and national political support for its management. These genetic resources offer enormous use value as a source of nature-based goods with the potential to greatly contribute to disease control and food supply globally. Several studies have highlighted the potential importance of the genetic resources of the biota through their work on the rich traditional knowledge of medical ethnobotany in the populations of Cameroon and the Central African region. This traditional knowledge was preserved through the numerous socio-political events that have marked the rich history of Cameroon, including competition with western medicines. In Cameroon the complexity of tracking ethnobiology across language groups, especially in view of the historical social disturbances the country has faced in the past three decades, means that the understanding of these issues is still limited.

There are challenges associated with the health of this rich biodiversity. More than 630 species in Cameroon are listed as threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, of which 183 are endangered and 115 are under critically endangered, according to US Fish and Wildlife Service. The population of endangered species such as critically endangered western lowland gorilla, endangered Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzee, threatened forest elephants and pangolins have been driven to alarming levels of decline.

The current project is therefore, especially important for improving the implementation of all three CBD objectives, including biodiversity protection and long-term use. The project will also contribute to biodiversity conservation by: (1) raising awareness among key audiences about the existence, use, and option values of biological resources; and the existence of markets based on the sustainable use of biodiversity and its components; and (2) allowing the government and other stakeholders to derive greater economic benefits from GR and generate incentives that favor in-situ and ex-situ conservation and ecosystem management. The current project's incremental support will generate the additional levels of capacity and awareness needed to scale up and consolidate this situation, allowing Cameroon to enjoy full control and ownership of these processes, generating benefits for the country (in terms of investment and employment) that will motivate increased levels of investment in biodiversity, GR, and aTK protection.

Threats:

The main threats to biodiversity are driven by human activity and most notably include: the over-exploitation of biological resources including through poaching; the destruction or degradation of natural habitats most notably through an expansion of cultivated areas linked to an increased demand for food; growth of human populations and related urbanization and infrastructure development; and extractive activities and pollution.

Expansion of agriculture: Clearance of natural vegetation to provide land for industrial and subsistence agriculture is the biggest threat to the forest landscapes of the South-West Region. This clearing is done mainly (but not exclusively) by small and medium-scale land users. In the South-West Region, small private owners are also involved in the clearing of a considerable portion of the coastal and lowland forests for the establishment of small plantations of oil palm, rubber, or cash crops such as cocoa. The local population practices shifting or ?slash and burn? agriculture in the area. It is a major cause of deforestation and forest degradation around settlements since it involves land conversion from forest to permanent agriculture land, reducing the soil fertility and the natural vegetation cover. It is estimated that in the 20th century alone, about 80% of rainforests in Cameroon were converted to agriculture-forest mosaic . Opening of the land through clearing contributes to degradation. Forest degradation has greatly impacted biodiversity. For example, some of the resident bird, mammal, and reptile species in forests of the South-West Region are under threat of extinction due to habitat loss from deforestation. In addition to destroying biodiversity habitat, deforestation together with frequent burning in the sloping areas also degrades other important ecosystem services, including disruption to watershed functions and reducing agricultural land productivity through landslides and soil erosion.

Hunting and fishing: Hunting is a major activity in the area. Several villages and local people are known to rely heavily on hunting as an important source of income and for subsistence. The sale of bushmeat is common practice in local communities of the project areas. It is for the moment a lucrative way through which the local communities derive direct economic benefit from the forest. The use of cable snare trapping is the most common form of hunting in the area, and guns are mainly used during the night to kill large mammals. These animals are sold in urban areas where bush meat is in great demand. The use of indiscriminate and wasteful methods such as cable snares on long trap lines, as

well as poaching, have severely depleted the primate and forest elephant populations in the area. Fishing is the major economic activity in coastal villages. It is the main protein source and almost all local populations rely heavily on it for subsistence and as source of income.

Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources: In a system with an economy that depends on natural resources, the quest for land for agricultural development is one of the principal driving forces of biodiversity loss. Land use change have resulted from industrial agriculture with increasing conversion of forests, savannahs and even semi-arid lands to mono-culture plantations, unsustainable agricultural/pastoral expansion, mineral exploitation in biodiversity-rich locations, and the poor coordination or absence of the land use plans resulting in multiple conflicting uses by mining against logging concessions/farmers/conservation zones, grazing zones against agricultural land etc. The unsustainable exploitation of natural resources includes overexploitation, and the use of unsustainable practices constitute a major driver of biodiversity loss. Illegal exploitation of wildlife species and excessive poaching for food and commercial purposes is a threat to terrestrial and aquatic mammals and avifauna. Illegal exploitation of timber and exploitation in the informal sector for domestic markets, bio-piracy through research for development is increasingly of great concern with the illegal exploitation and transfer of plant/animal material and associated traditional knowledge.

Climate Change: The Far North Region of Cameroon is already witnessing climate change. Rising temperatures and scarcer, more unpredictable rainfall has been reported in the Lake Chad area. The evolution in the coverage of Lake Chad is a vivid illustration of the changing climatic conditions of the region. Lake Chad is an expanse of shallow water and swamps that at one time was the size of Lake Erie, extending its shores to four countries ? Cameroon (the Far North Region), Chad, Niger and Nigeria. But it has lost more than 90 percent of its surface area in six decades, reduced from 26,000 square kilometers in 1963 to less than 1,500 square kilometers today. Climate change and climate variation are major sources of pressure on the health of ecosystems inducing changes with increasing negative impact on fragile ecosystems especially in the semi-arid, savannah, freshwater, and marine/coastal ecosystems. Increase in temperature and inversely drop in rainfall, river discharge and sea level rise.

Logging and illegal timber exploitation: Timber exploitation is the main economic activity in the South-West Region (as is the case in most rainforest regions of the country). Although logging damage is moderate and has limited effect on the forest biodiversity any degree of damage represents a capital loss in terms of trees and deterioration of the biotic and physical environment. Logging creates skid trails that allow easy access for poachers, and encourage settlers to establish forest camps, villages, and farms. Furthermore, felling damage includes breakage of saplings and residual stems and hinders the growth of seedlings by discarded crowns of felled trees.

Bushfires and other disasters: Bushfires are a phenomenon of land cover change characteristic of both the savanna regions (the Far North Region project area), and the equatorial rainforest region (the South-West Region). Most of the cases of bushfires are intentional situations that frequently occur as vegetation is burnt for subsistence farming purposes (slash and burn). It is also used locally to clear locations to harvest wood, and some non-timber forest products (NTFPs). In the South-West Region, the cultivation of certain food crops such as some forms of calabash seeds (locally referred to as egusi) is thought to be impossible without an initial burning of the vegetation in the planting location and

planting the seeds in the burnt location. The nature of changes induced by bushfires are the elimination of animal and plant species, as well as the destruction of soil microbes. This leads to the loss of plant and microbial species. Introduction of new species.

Root Causes:

There are two main root causes to these threats: (i) Human population growth: Human population growth is a major root cause of irreversible human encroachment into wildlife habitats, increased pressure on natural resources, land use changes that are harmful to biological diversity, land degradation, and a shrinking area for indigenous biodiversity. This growth is expected to be around 3% every year. (ii) Natural resources governance challenges: Another fundamental cause of ecosystem function loss in Cameroon is forest exploitation practices, particularly in the household wood and timber sector. Domestic timber (excluding fuelwood) accounts for almost 2.1 million m3 Equivalent Round Wood (ERW) in Cameroon, with informal output equaling or exceeding formal production levels.

Human population growth: Human population growth is a major root cause of irreversible human encroachment into wildlife habitats, increased pressure on natural resources, land use changes that are harmful to biological diversity, land degradation, and a shrinking area for indigenous biodiversity. This growth is expected to be around 3% every year. Human population growth necessitates increased demand for food, habitat, and a variety of environmental resources. Out-migration is frequently an indicator of land carrying capacity being exceeded or under extreme pressure with current technology and land usage. The South-West Region has been a receiving zone for migrants from other parts of the country, primarily in quest of fertile agricultural areas. This is especially true for migrants from the West and North-West regions. The Western Highlands' densely inhabited zones are two of the key out-migration areas towards the South-West Region. Populations are drawn to the Far North Region by opportunities provided by the declining Lake Chad, as well as chances provided by cross-border commerce between Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria. The growing population necessitates a continual and increasing supply of wood energy, particularly for cooking and roasting, which is commonly accomplished by wood energy, firewood and charcoal. Overexploitation of wood products (particularly in Cameroon's Northern and Far Northern zones) is thus a major contributor to the degradation of the surrounding woods. While charcoal production occurs in the forests of the South-West Region, the availability of more wood biomass in moist forests, combined with these forests' higher regeneration capacity, mitigates the environmental impacts of energy-driven deterioration. Estimates of annual firewood collection vary depending on the source and range from 9.5 million (FAO) to 12 million m3. This is especially true in Cameroon's Far North Region. Indeed, approximately 80% of the population of Maroua centre (Far-North Region) uses fuelwood equivalent to 400 ha of forests and woods per year. Preference for wood energy is also cultural, as locals consider that portable household coking gas is unsafe, if not dangerous.

Natural resources governance challenges: Another fundamental cause of ecosystem function loss in Cameroon is forest exploitation practices, particularly in the household wood and timber sector. Domestic timber (excluding fuelwood) accounts for almost 2.1 million m3 Equivalent Round Wood (ERW) in Cameroon, with informal output equaling or exceeding formal production levels . Between 2002 and 2010, the amount of lumber harvested from the non-permanent forest estate (NPFE) more

than doubled to 662,000 m3. This informal, unregulated sector typically disregards sustainable forest management principles. Moreover, industrial logging (formal sector) does not always adhere to defined quantities and species quotas, approved felling places and practices, and infrastructure development requirements, all of which are essential for the sustainable, regenerative use of natural forests. These unsustainable techniques are frequently supported by local forestry officials in cooperation with license holders and in violation of approved management plans or operational procedures . In addition to unsustainable forestry practices, the 1994 Forests and Wildlife laws establishing permanent and non-permanent estates, as well as today's extensive mining permits, have resulted in extensive jurisdictional overlaps; local versus forestry and mining license holders; and even between forestry and mining; resulting in yet to be resolved property rights conflicts. Although PFEs directly controlled by the state create significant fiscal revenues and foreign exchange earnings for the state, despite explicit institutional structures, benefits to local councils and communities do not always follow the clearly specified paths. This results in local compensatory measures that frequently result in even less regard for forest monitoring protocols, use, and, finally, resource degradation. Furthermore, conflicting land uses with associated stakeholder disputes, insufficient governance, and a dis-enabling, top-down institutional structure does not effectively foster co-management and benefit sharing, resulting in non-optimal use of forest resources and degradation.

Eliminating these threats and addressing these root causes will contribute to the effective implementation of ABS in Cameroon. However, there are barriers to unleashing the full potential of the country?s GRs and aTK to support social, economic and cultural development.

Barriers

The barriers to be overcomeinclude: (i) The weak implementation of the access and benefit-sharing legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks in order to effectively operationalise the Nagoya Protocol; (ii) The limited technical capacities, awareness, and knowledge/information dissemination to maximize access and benefits sharing from genetic resources; and (iii) The weak financial capacity and experience of farmer organisations in applying ABS mechanisms to access, manage and promote GRs and associated Traditional Knowledge.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Legal baseline: An abundance of multilateral environmental agreements including the Nagoya Protocol on ABS to which Cameroon is party are of significance to biological and genetic resources and provide the framework for implementation on ABS at national level. For many years, dispersed provisions in many sectoral statutory instruments and regulations constituted a framework for the application of ABS systems. These instruments include:

? Law N?96/12 of 5th August 1996 related to environmental management. Articles 64 and 65 establish the system of the control of access to GR; Scientific exploitation of biological and genetic resources in collaboration with national research. The Decree to lay down conditions under which foreign researchers, Cameroonian research institutes and ILC shall collaborate.

? Law No. 2003/006 of 21 April 2003 lay down safety regulations governing modern biotechnology in Cameroon. Its Articles 2, 3 and 4. regulate activities of modern biotechnological research and development and lay down the procedure for cross-border movement of genetically modified organisms; Provide a mechanism for assessing, managing, communicating and controlling the risks inherent in the use, release and cross-border movement of genetically modified organisms or those having new traits as a result of modern biotechnological activity that may negatively affect the environment, and by extension the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. Art 25 stipulates that any research activity in the field of modern biotechnology is subject to authorization by the Administration. Art 40 indicates that local communities must be involved in any testing or application of GMOs in the open.

? Law No. 2021/014 of 09 July 2021 to govern access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. Activities targeted by the Law are related to conditions of access (PIC, MAT, ABS permit), benefit sharing, intellectual property rights, management bodies (NCA; National ABS Committee, ABS CH, checkpoints) inspection, monitoring and control, sanctions

? Law No. 94-01 of 20 January 1994 which lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations. Articles 11, 12; 13; 26, 36, 37 of that Law note the State sovereignty over biological resources, prior authorization for any exploitation of GR, import and export conditions, the right to use ILCs

? Decree No 95/531/pm of 23 August 1995 laying down the procedure for implementing the forests system modified by decree N?2000/092/PM of March 27 2000, its Articles 3,13, 14, 15, 86, 88 related to prohibition of non-scientific collection in protected forests, authorization for collection of GR for scientific purposes, sharing of research results; certificate of origin for all imports and exports, sharing of research results with relevant administrations, exploitation permit for harvesting forest products

? Decree N?95/466/PM of 20 July 1995 to lay down the conditions for the implementation of wildlife regulations. Art 40, capture permit for scientific or commercial use of wildlife. Art 41 a capture permit with conditions of use

? Decree N?95/413/PM of June 20, 1995, fixing the modalities of application of the fishing regime. Art 13 scientific fishing permits. Art 15 authorization for export and import

? Law N?2001/014 of July 23, 2001 on seed. The Art 1 relates to the conservation of national plant genetic resources Art 13 relates to Certification operations, uniformity-stability distinction tests (DUS) and agronomic and technological value tests (VAT) for registration of varieties in the Catalogue as well as conformity tests. Art 18 relates to the protection of new plant varieties as defined by this Law shall be governed by the provisions of Annex X of the Agreement of February 19, 1999 revising the Bangui Agreement of March 2, 1977 establishing the African Intellectual Property Organization

? Order N?00002/MINRESI/BOO/COO of May 18, 2006 setting the conditions for granting a research authorization. Articles 1, 2 sets out the conditions for issuing a research permit. Art 5 Financial benefits and intellectual and industrial property resulting from the research conducted. Art 7. Valorisation of results and partnership with foreign institutions

? Order No. 0977/4/MINSANTE/SESP/DROS of April 18, 2012 on the organization and functioning of Research Ethics Committees for human health within the structures of the Ministry in charge of public health. Art 6 to give its opinion on human health research projects whose execution involves institutions or communities belonging to several regions, to give its opinion on human health research projects whose execution involves regions that do not yet have a Regional Research Ethics Committee for Human Health, to give its opinion on human health research projects whose execution involves clinical trials, to give its opinion on human health research projects whose execution involves research projects that involve the transfer of biological materials abroad

? Law N?2015/018, of 21 December 2015 approved the new legal framework on commercial activities. Article 2 It applies to all. production, distribution and service operations

However, since July 2021, Cameroon has a specific law on ABS. This innovation brings more clarity to the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol including targeted activities, conditions of access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, benefit sharing, management bodies, monitoring and control mechanisms. The ABS law (Law No. 2021/014 of 09 July 2021 to govern access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization) does not repeal all of these provisions, but adds new elements consistent with the NP, which must now coexist with these other biological resource management systems.

The innovations of the ABS law strengthen this legal framework to considerably reduce biopiracy. It is still necessary to mutualize the understanding of this legal framework by the various stakeholders in order to effectively capture all the activities subject to the ABS law when issuing permits and sectoral authorizations.

Building on the the existing legal baseline, Cameroon govermnent has acquired singificant experience with ABS agreement applications and documented lessons learned. Two cases are worth illustrating here in the baseline, as examples that demonstrate best practices of PIC,

Case 1: The case of access of Echinops giganteus by French flavours and fragrances company V. Mane Fils (MANE) in the Magha-Bamumbu community

The Echinops giganteus is a family of flowering plants easily recognized by its big spiny leaves and rounded head. In Cameroon, children use the tip of the Echinops giganteus, a species of thistle native to that part of Africa, as a football. Its roots are used as a spice in traditional dishes. Local people also use the flowers and leaves to treat a range of ailments. In 2012, the French flavours and fragrances company V. Mane Fils (MANE) began exploring the aromatic properties of Echinops giganteus. In particular, the roots can be crushed and distilled to obtain the essential oil or extracted with a supercritical fluid resulting in a woody, earthy extract. MANE considered the characteristic aroma of Echinops giganteus as potentially interesting to the perfumes sector. It also saw an opportunity to develop a supply chain based on ethical sourcing practices and to use the case as a pilot for ABS compliance. Key actors to advance the project: MANE collaborated with a local NGO, the Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDef), which is already active in valorizing local plants as an alternative source of income for local communities. ERuDef was charged with identifying

a local partner for the Echinops giganteus supply chain and ABS agreement. ERuDeF identified the Kingdom of Magha-Bamumbu, a region where the plant is widespread. Addressing the utilization of genetic resources required engaging the national government, particularly the Ministry for Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). At the time that the project was being executed, Cameroon has just very recently acceded to the Protocol and has not adopted legal or regulatory requirements on ABS. As a result, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, jointly with other project such as a bottom-up approach to ABS: community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon (Echinops giganteus), were critical in bringing actors together and providing a platform for negotiations.

ABS agreements associated with the V. Mane Fils case

Separate agreements were signed in relation to the research and commercialization phases. In May 2014, V. MANE and the MINEPDED signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) highlighting initial research on Echinops giganteus. This MoU focused on information exchange and management, and reflected elements of both PIC and MAT. In April 2015, the agreement for the commercialization of essential oils and extracts of Echinops giganteus was signed by V. MANE, the MINEPDED and the King of Magha-Bamumbu. In this agreement, considered as MAT, V. MANE guaranteed the annual purchase of 1000, 1500 and 2000 kilograms of dried roots from 2015 to 2017, with a fixed price of ?4.10 per kg. V. MANE also pledged to share 25 per cent of profits directly attributed to Echinops giganteus. Such monetary benefits are to be deposited in a fund owned by the local community and managed by the King, who committed to disclosing the amount and use of funds for the benefit of the community. For example, with the initial funding provided by V. MANE, the Kingdom of Magha-Bamumbu created the Mount Bamboutos Echinops Co-operative Society and built drying stations for the plant material. Non-monetary benefits include recognition of the origin of the plant, a manual on good cultivation and sourcing practices, financing for local development projects, scholarship grants for local students (particularly women) and capacity building activities.

Lessons learned from the the V. Mane Fils case

Collaboration on the Echinops giganteus case has proved positive and constructive for actors involved ? indeed, other projects are now in the pipeline. The combination of ABS compliance and ethical sourcing practices seems to be particularly valuable; it creates additional business incentives on one side, and strong links with local development and sustainable use of biodiversity on the other. The project had some lessons learned along the way. Negotiations were lengthy ? more than initially envisaged. This meant, for example, that Parties agreed for certain R&D activities to begin prior to finalizing the MoU, as a way to avoid further delays. Additionally, there were other procedures that needed to be advanced in parallel, including requests for research permits and prior informed consent. Streamlining processes and paperwork may be useful to facilitate putting in practice ABS requirements as well as it increases transparency and cooperation among actors. Nevertheless, working in line with ABS requirements undoubtedly adds a layer of complexity, particularly in the initial stages of R&D projects.

Case 2: The case of access of some selected spices by a French flavours and fragrances company Firmenich, in the Pimbo community

In 2019, Firmenich a leading company in the fragrance and flavour sector bought a range of spices, available on the market. It subsequently identified Cameroon as the country of origin of those spices. Prior to including the spices in its Taste&Beyond research programme, and in line with ABS principles and rules and its own policies and practices on ABS, Firmenich requested a permit to conduct research and development and explore the spices? molecules for their potential use as a flavour or flavouring compound for the food sector. At the time, no ABS permit had yet been granted in Cameroon.

Identifying a local provider

Firmenich, not having accessed the spices directly from Cameroon, could not identify the local provider of these genetic resources. Under ABS rules in Cameroon, access to genetic resources must be negotiated with a local provider. Identifying a provider was thus key to allow for the negotiation of a benefit sharing agreement and securing a permit. Once the Cameroonian National ABS Committee had approved the Firmenich ABS application, MINEPDED took charge of the task of identifying a local provider. It carried out surveys among traders and markets in Cameroon to identify where the spices were likely to come from: the coastal region was identified as most relevant. In addition, in early November 2020, MINEPDED and BioInnovation Africa (BIA) project local staff visited the area and met with various communities, including Pimbo, a small village in the coastal region of Cameroon. Pimbo had not only significant knowledge and experience with the selected spices, which women harvest for use in food, but also interest in building a partnership and investing in local development. The community was therefore selected as the local counterpart to negotiate fair and equitable benefit sharing.

Developing capabilities

Another challenge was the limited experience with ABS negotiations among parties. Firmenich has an internal expert on biodiversity, as well as other staff trained on ABS issues. However, it was still necessary to further develop capabilities to put ABS into practice. This meant engaging several Firmenich teams, including business, research, legal, sustainability and senior executives. Several meetings and discussions took place internally and were considered critical for Firmenich to build a solid benefit sharing proposal that established the basis for long term partnership. On the provider side, the Pimbo community had never been involved in an ABS case: for their inclusive and proactive participation, it was necessary to introduce them to ABS concepts and support them in negotiations. In late November 2020, MINEPDED and BIA project local staff conducted a two-day training on ABS for the community. This training, conducted by experts and facilitators, provided background on concepts related to mutually agreed terms, such as permitted uses, transfer to third parties and benefit sharing. It also offered basic training on negotiation processes and approaches. Finally, it guided the community in selecting a diverse and representative group of people, including women and youth, to participate in the negotiations.

Bringing actors together

In early 2021, preparations began for the negotiations. Given the distances and difficulties in reaching the Pimbo community, it was decided that negotiations would take place in Edea, a city located along the Sanaga River in Cameroon?s coastal region. Restrictions linked to the COVID pandemic meant

Firmenich representatives could not travel to Cameroon. Negotiations thus could only happen in a hybrid manner, with both physical and online participation. Additionally, Firmenich engaged a local expert to act as a company spokesperson - someone the community could approach and exchange with more easily, in person. MINEPDED and the BIA project provided constant guidance and support in preparing for negotiations. For example, the BIA project organised the venue and the Pimbo community representatives? travel to the negotiations, as well as provided facilitators with strong ABS credentials and deep knowledge of local communities in Cameroon. Prior to the negotiations, BIA project experts and facilitators also organised an additional workshop to provide further training for the Pimbo community representatives. MINEPDED, on its side, shared its proposed template for mutually agreed terms to allow legal experts from both parties to prepare and share proposals prior to the negotiations.

Building mutual understanding

In February 2021, a two-day negotiation session took place in Edea. This session involved a 15-person delegation from the Pimbo community, including the village chief and legal counsel, MINEPDED representatives, BIA project local staff, the Firmenich spokesperson and two facilitators. Additionally, Firmenich staff and other BIA project experts participated online. Negotiations were based on the template developed for mutually agreed terms. However, all participants hoped not only to agree on specific text, but also to come to a mutual understanding of the project and develop a partnership that would promote local development and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In this regard, the most significant moments during the two-day exchange were the sharing of information, aims, and experiences of both Firmenich and the Pimbo community. For example, it was important for Firmenich to explain that the research project was still at an early stage, with uncertainty about results and commercialisation potential. Another key point was clarifying that, though small quantities were to be harvested as part of the agreement, the project would not necessarily involve building a supply chain. On the other hand, it was important for the Pimbo representatives to explain their needs, priorities, and preferences for how benefit sharing might take place.

Benefit sharing agreement associated with the Firmenich case

Negotiations were successful. The intense February 2021 negotiating session concluded with traditional songs and an agreement on terms of access and on benefits to be shared. After a final legal review, the benefit sharing agreement was signed in July 2021, in presence of the Cameroonian Minister of Environment, Minister of Forestry, and Minister of Basic Education, as well as German diplomatic representation. The signatory ceremony was an unforgettable moment, engaging senior executives from Firmenich with the Cameroonian counterparts in a hybrid event. A permit was issued, and an internationally recognised certificate of compliance was published shortly afterwards. The Pimbo community and Firmenich benefit sharing agreement seeks to set the basis for a win-win, long-term collaboration. In line with the official template for mutually agreed terms, the benefit sharing agreement involves mandatory elements, such as the obligation for both parties to report annually on their progress, the obligation for Firmenich to acknowledge Cameroon as the country of origin of the genetic resources in any scientific publication and the obligation of the Pimbo community to inform Firmenich if any issues or difficulties arise during the partnership. Additionally, Firmenich and the Pimbo community agreed on milestone payments linked to progress on the research project, which

involved investments into a list of possible projects for local development, including vegetable gardens, boreholes, solar panels, and school infrastructure. These projects will be directly controlled by the community, which will also receive training on project management as part of the benefit sharing agreement.

Lessons learned from the Firmenich case

In many ways, this case is unique. Cameroon had not yet enacted a law on ABS. Negotiations took place during the COVID pandemic. The BIA project provided significant logistic and expert support, including facilitators with extensive knowledge of local laws, customs, and practices. Yet, there are lessons that may be valuable for future ABS negotiations in Cameroon and beyond.

ABS negotiations must be inclusive: ABS is often seen to involve bilateral negotiations, between user and provider. Yet users and providers often involve many different groups and individuals, which must be fully engaged. In this case, Firmenich conducted work to promote internal awareness and alignment on ABS. Internal alignment and support allowed the company to be dynamic and proactive in negotiations. Additionally, there was significant work, thanks to the support of the BIA project, to include and prepare the Pimbo community to actively contribute to negotiations and advance its own views and suggestions. Beyond user and provider, involving other experts and stakeholders may be key to smooth negotiations. In this case, for example, the role of MINEPDED, as the competent national authority, was critical, as it built trust and ensured balanced process and outcome.

Focus on practical solutions: Even with ABS rules and procedures in place, there are always unforeseen challenges and opportunities as actors negotiate access and benefit sharing. In this case, dialogue and the openness of actors and competent authorities to explore options and find solutions were critical. In this way, initial uncertainty regarding the identification of a local provider turned into a strong partnership, a research project was harnessed for benefit sharing, and benefit sharing arrangements were discussed in a way to ensure that there is positive impact for the Pimbo community.

Consider replicability: Given the importance of the BIA project support to the success of this case, there is significant concern that such a process could not be replicated on a, larger scale. What happens if no project funding is available to provide local support and guidance? How can requirements for users to submit applications in person, for example, be adapted for international companies? How can clauses in the agreement ensure a meaningful and timely sharing of benefits? How can applicants obtain technical and logistical support to support their engagement with local providers? How can the user support the provider during negotiations without compromising the process? Can ABS promote biodiversity-based innovation from Cameroon if a separate agreement is necessary for each species to be researched? These questions must be considered as Cameroon and other countries roll out procedures to implement and advance the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol.

Institutional baseline: The State is the major actor in the sustainable management of biodiversity in Cameroon because it defines the general policy of the forest-environment sector and grants exploitation rights. As far as the conservation of biological diversity is concerned, for the well-being of its populations, the Cameroon State has put in place an institutional mechanism that ensures its sustainable management in various fields. The establishment of a legal framework allows state institutions and

duly designated competent authorities to monitor and control activities related to the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (research, marketing). The Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development is the institution in charge of biodiversity that followed the process of negotiation and adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, as well as its ratification. It is this fact that has been formalized in the provisions of Law No2021/014 of July 09, 2021 governing access to genetic resources, their derivatives, associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use. ARTICLE 33 (1) The Ministry in charge of the environment is the competent national authority for access to genetic resources, their derivatives and/or associated traditional knowledge in the national territory. (2) In this capacity, it is responsible for a) issuing the Prior Informed Consent and the ABS permit provided for in this law, after advice from the National ABS Committee-' b) supervising the negotiation and conclusion of the Mutually Agreed Terms c) establishing and guaranteeing the application of the conditions for obtaining Prior Informed Consent and the modalities for concluding the Mutually Agreed Terms; d) to grant access to genetic resources, their derivatives and/or associated traditional knowledge; e) to coordinate the activities of the National ABS Committee. ARTICLE 34 - A National ABS Committee is hereby created, with the task of issuing technical opinions on all matters relating to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. ARTICLE 35 - A National Clearinghouse on Access to Genetic Resources, their Derivatives, Associated Traditional Knowledge and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, abbreviated as CH-APA, is hereby established. ARTICLE 36 - A National Correspondent on Access and Benefit Sharing arising from the Exploitation of Genetic Resources, their Derivatives and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge, is designated within the administration in charge of the environment. In addition to the NCA, there are several administrations involved in the process because of their role in the management of activities related to ABS. These include the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF); the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI); the Ministry of Finance (MINFI); the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT); the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER); the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA); the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development (MINIMDT); the Ministry of Health (MINSANTE); the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) ; the Ministry of Higher Education (MINESUP. Other major stakeholders include Civil Soci?ty Organisations (CSOs) and Non Governmental Organisation NGOs working in the development of biological and genetic resources, NGOs specifically working with Indigenous and Local Communities, Associations or Economic operators of non-timber forest products dealing in bio-trade, other private sector investors and industries, Associations of Tradi-practitioners, etc.

The national ABS Committee is already serving as framework for consultation that will improve synergy of action. But there is a need for inclusive mechanisms that build bridges between services of different institutions to ensure effective monitoring and control of the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Significant role of Indigenous and Local Communities (ILC): Indigenous and Local Communities play an important role at the institutional level through their contribution in decision making. In fact, as a major actor in the process, they:

? are fully involved in the negotiation of MAT as the main party next to the user;

? take part in all stages of consultation or policy orientation regarding ABS and;

? are members of the National ABS Committee.

Particular case of research institutions : Cameroon institutions which can be cited here as conducting research on genetic resources and traditional knowledge include: The Research Laboratories of the Universities; The Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD);The Institute of Medical Research and Studies of Medicinal Plants (IMPM); The National Herbarium; The Botanical Gardens; NGOs working in the valorization of biological and genetic resources; Associations of non-timber forest product harvesters, associations of traditional practitioners, etc and Logging companies. From a practical point of view, many policy and strategic documents note that the results of research are little valorised. This is an obstacle to the sharing of non-monetary benefits from the use of genetic resources. In a national context of promoting the valorization of research results in the local economy (administrations in charge of research and innovation, technological development, small and medium enterprises etc.), national research institutions must be strongly involved in the process of developing a national ABS framework. Because capitalizing on research results at the product development level at the level of local farmers or community-based organizations will be an opportunity, a significant advantage for ABS value chains for the benefit of ILCs (valorization of their associated traditional knowledge and increase of their income).

Capacity building baseline: Representatives of administrations involved in the issuance of authorizations in link with ABS permit need to be trained with an enforcement of institutional capacity, to interpret ABS provisions of national ABS law, understand the ABS rules and procedures, including granting of permits, assessment of ABS applications, core principles of PIC and MAT and their application, and rights and roles of local communities. This is to ensure that all authorities dealing with ABS will have a common and coordinated national approach.

There are many projects and initiatives related to ABS which operated in Cameroon either at national level or at regional or global levels, and onto which the current project can build. These include:

National baseline projects:

- GEF funded project ?A Bottom-up approach to ABS: Community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon (Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei?: GEF ID:5387. This was one of the first major ABS projects implemented in the country. As already highlighted above, the GEF-UNDP project on Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei has built a foundation for collaboration in the development of community protocols, agreements and other ABS related processes that will be further refined by the current project.

- The BioInnovation Africa project (2019 ? 2022): This project was developed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in the context of the German Marshall Plan with Africa. The project aims to encourage and support the private sector to invest in Africa and to enter into sustainable and mutually beneficial business partnerships in accordance with ethical, social and environmental standards. The project will collaborate with business and governmental partners in pursuit of: a) Regulatory compliance ? particularly with respect to the national Access and Benefit

Sharing (ABS) regulations, implementing the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity; b) Ecological sustainability ? foster R&D and sourcing schemes that respect people and support biodiversity conservation; c) Innovation for new products and jobs ? promoting technology transfer, long term business partnerships for a reliable supply of natural ingredients and better products; and d) Advocacy ? showcasing successful and sustainable North-South business partnerships as ?proof of principle? will help to increasingly integrate BioTrade and ABS in cooperation portfolios. In its first three-year phase, 2019 to 2022, BioInnovation Africa is considered to focus on Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa.

- World Wildlife Fund initiatives: Since 1992, WWF Cameroon has supported the Government of Cameroon in five critical areas: (i) Protected Areas Development and Management, including the Boumba-Bek, Nki, Lobeke, Bakossi, Campo Ma?an and recently Mount Cameroon national parks. (ii) Sustainable Forest Management and Certification. (iii) Flagship Species Conservation. (iv) Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) including support to local communities in managing community hunting zones (in southeast and northern savannah areas). (v) Policy, Advocacy and Process - up-scaling of local and national realities to national and international (the CBD, RAMSAR, UNFCCC) decision making processes ..

- The Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Cameroon (2017-2023) project. This project is being executed by Cameroon?s Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, with the United Nations Development Programme as the Implementing party. The project objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Cameroon by improving biodiversity enforcement, resilience, and management with a key focus on the portion of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. The UNEP-GEF Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in Western Cameroon ? SUFACHAC (2017-2022). The project objective is to develop and promote integrated land use planning that integrate biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in Bakossi Banyang Mbo terrestrial ecosystems in order to facilitate increased cross sectorial investments and improved livelihood for the local communities and ensure restoration and management of ecosystem services in the context of a green economy.

- The UNEP/GEF: Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plan for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystems (PINESMAP- BPCE) (2017-2022). The project aim at ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and improved management of Bakassi ecosystems through integrated ecosystem management plans including ecosystem valuation. Both PINESMAP-BPCE and SUFACHAC projects will provide a solid foundation for the proposed project particularly with regards to community-based management of natural resources, livelihood generation and land planning and management.

- IUCN project ?Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of Local Plant Species and Tree Products (Bambusa ssp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon? (9519): In progress. This medium-sized project which was approved in 2018 aims to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods. It includes components that will provide important opportunities

for knowledge sharing, including on strengthening capacity for SFM and the development of NTFP value chains.Integrated Management of Cameroon?s Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin (GEF Project Grant: US $9,608,257; GEF Project ID: 10287): The child project of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP) aims to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon?s globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and livelihoods for forest dependent people. This project lays a good foundation for the preservation of genetic resources in Cameroon, as biodiversity and genetic resources go hand in hand. Lessons learned and models of community engagement from this project will be useful un guiding the current project in its community engagement approaches.

The above projects have made it possible to carry out a significant number of activities that have substantially contributed to the implementation of the axes of the national biodiversity strategy. In general, it concerns:

-stakeholder awareness capacity building of institutional actors and local communities;

-development and distribution of outreach tools;

-setting up of the information exchange framework;

-development of implementation tools and procedures;

-support to the ABS permit process;

-development of ABS value chains.

Specifically, the above projects have significantly contributed to:

- Supporting the process of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by Cameroon;

- Developing the legislative and regulatory frameworks;

- Strengthen the capacities of stakeholders (researchers, private sector, indigenous and local communities, relevant administrations, etc.);

- Establish a framework for consultation and collaboration between the institutions involved (National ABS Committee);

- - Develop and support ABS value chains;

Regional Policy Baseline: The 2015 African Union Strategic and Practical Guidelines for a coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa.

With financial and technical support from the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the African Union Commission spearheaded a multi-stakeholder participatory approach through the period of 2012 to 2015 with the aim of developing policy instruments to guide to African countries in their efforts towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. As a member of the African Union, Cameroon is

entitled to use the results of this process as regional baselines and references in the process of developing an effective Nagoya Protocol compliant ABS regulatory framework at the national level. The principal instruments that resulted from that process and were endorsed by the African Union heads of States in 2015 are:

(1) The African Union Strategic Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from their Utilization and,

(2) The African Union Practical Guidelines for the Coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa.

These two instruments encapsulate not only the main three clusters of the key obligations (i- Obligations in respect of Access; ii- Obligations in respect of benefit sharing and ; iii- obligations in respect of compliance) of NP that parties are expected to fulfill, but also the institutional apparatus required for the administration of the implementation of the protocol through domestic ABS measures and the support mechanisms that should be set up to ensure both effective and efficient governance and regulation of the domestic ABS operations. Taken together, the rationale of the strategic and practical guidelines is to assist African countries in a step-by-step approach to domesticate the Nagoya Protocol through the development of relevant administrative, legislative and policy measures as required by the protocol, in a way that enables them regulate access to and the utilisation of GRs and the a TK and earn to benefit from these access and utilisation processes. Through national fulfillment of the NP obligations, countries can equally apply ABS principles in other value chains as appropriate such as in commodity trade or BioTrade trade. Eventually, the application of NP compliant ABS measures will enable African countries such as Cameroon to diversify their income generating as well as contributing to poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outcomes.

The Strategic Guidelines outline the principal issues African countries must pay attention to when formulating their domestic ABS policy and regulatory frameworks. For example, when formulating the objectives of national ABS measures, countries must pay attention to the use of the terms that are defined in article 2 of the NP and article 2 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and capture them in the relevant provisions of national ABS regulations in a manner that delivers clarity and legal certainty. Other key issues outlined in the Strategic Guidelines are awareness raising and information sharing; benefit sharing approaches including issues to consider during negotiations of MAT; monitoring and compliance of the implementation of the ABS measures; the protection and promotion of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, community and farmers rights and economic development; capacity building, capacity development and technology transfer.

On its part, the Practical Guidelines provide the step-by-step approach to the implementation of the NP at the domestic level - that is, a step-by-step approach to addressing in their domestic ABS measures, the issues outlined by the Strategic Guidelines. As intended by the African Union Commission, the objective of developing these instruments is to establish a coordinated and cooperative regional approach to preventing misappropriation of African GRs and / or traditional knowledge associated with GRs, as well as sanctioning such misappropriations when they occur.

These continental voluntary ABS policy instruments are important baselines policy references for the domestic efforts towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Cameroon. They can help the country to contextualize its Access and Benefit Sharing policy ambitions to address domestic interests. These could be primarily relating to conservation and sustainable use of GRs, valorization of GRs, development of value chains and economic or social development, as well as the broader realization of the SDGs or the enhancement of research and development capacities the country sets itself to achieve through the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at the national level.

International policy baseline: Focus on the three clusters of the core obligations of the Nagoya Protocol, the institutional framework and other support mechanisms

There are three main clusters of Nagoya Protocol core obligations that parties to this multilateral environmental treaty must fulfill. These are: (1) Obligations in respect of Access; (2) Obligations in respect of fair and equitable sharing of benefits and, (3) Obligations in respect of compliance. The effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Cameroon should therefore result in the country capturing these three clusters of obligations in the relevant provisions of national ABS measures, be they administrative, legislative or policy, designed to operationalize the Protocol.

? Access Oblications: Regarding the obligations in respect of access, the Nagoya Protocol requires Parties like Cameroon to set out in their domestic ABS administrative, legislative or policy measures, and unless they decide otherwise, that access to genetic resources for their utilisation shall become subject to the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) (Article 6.1). Parties can also subject access to GRs over which indigenous and local communities have established rights (under domestic law) to the PIC of these communities (Article 6.2). The position adopted by the Africa Union Commission in the two ABS guidelines mentioned above is that they advise African countries to de facto include the PIC requirement in their ABS measures as a condition to access to their GR. As a result of making the choice to require PIC for access to the country?s GRs in domestic ABS measures, the Nagoya Protocol obliges parties to ensure that such ABS measures deliver legal certainty, clarity and transparency (Article 6.3.a). Furthermore, domestic ABS measures shall provide for fair and non-arbitrary procedures (Article 6.3.b); must establish clear rules and procedures in matters of PIC and MAT (Articles 6.3.c; 6.3.f and Article 7; 6.3.g); provide for the issuance of a permit or its equivalent when access is granted (Article 6.3.e), and such permit when published to the ABS clearing house, becomes an internationally recognised certificate of compliance (article 17.2). This internationally recognised certificate of compliance shall serve as evidence that the GRs which it covers were accessed in accordance with the PIC of the provider country (Article 17.3). Furthermore, the ABS measures that subject access to GRS, subject to PIC, are encouraged to create conditions conducive to promoting and encouraging research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (Article 8.a); take due account of current or imminent emergencies that threaten human, animal or plant health (Article 8.b) and take into account the importance of genetic resources related to food and agriculture for food security (article 8.c). In relation to Traditional Knowledge (TK) associated with GRs, parties are expected, in accordance with their domestic laws, to take into account the customary law of indigenous and local communities as well as their community protocols and procedures (Article 12), in the design and subsequent implementation of domestic ABS measures, with the effective participation of these communities . Importantly, considering that these communities are likely to lack

capacities for their effective participation in national ABS processes, the Nagoya Protocol encourages parties like Cameroon to support them, including the women in these communities in the development of community protocols in relation to access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (article 12.3.a).

? Benefit-Sharing Obligations: Alongside the obligations in respect of access and consistent with Article 15.3 and 15.7 of the CBD, the NP obliges parties to take measures at the national level to ensure that the benefits arising from the utilisation of GRs, as well as subsequent applications and commercialisation, are shared in a fair and equitable manner with the provider of such resources, based on mutually agreed terms (MAT) (article 5.1). The national ABS measures which can be administrative, legislative or policy measures (article 5.3) should also aim at ensuring that, where indigenous and local communities have established rights over GRs pursuant to domestic law, fair and equitable benefits are shared with such communities, equally based on MAT (article 5.2). National measures must consider that the benefits to be shared may be monetary or non-monetary (Article 5.4) and can refer to the suggested list of monetary and non-monetary benefits which is annexed to the Protocol. The protocol indicates that benefits to be shared can be drawn from subsequent applications and commercialisation of GRs. This is significant and should draw the attention of legislators and policy makers in Cameroon when delineating the scope of the country?s domestic ABS measures that implement the Nagoya Protocol. In doing so, Cameroon must take into account the definitions of the terms ?utilisation?, biotechnology? and ?derivative?... provided for in Article 2 of the Nagoya Protocol. Cameroon must also factor the implications of these definitions in the delineation of the scope of the measures, and in the negotiations of the MAT / benefit sharing agreement under the rules and procedures for requiring and establishing MAT consistency with article 6.3.g of the Nagoya Protocol. Furthermore, the support that parties are encouraged to provide to indigenous and local communities in the establishment of minimum requirements for MAT and model contractual clauses to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with GRs (article 12.3.b&c) should capture the possibility of further applications and commercialisation of such knowledge. Two important provisions that can potentially impact on the domestic ABS measures specifically in respect of the benefit sharing dimension of such measures for a country like Cameroon are article 10 on the Global Multilateral benefit sharing mechanism and article 11 on transboundary cooperation. While the process is underway within the CBD/NP circles in the context of which parties are considering the need for and modalities of a global benefit sharing mechanism, parties like Cameroon are strongly advised to get involved in these processes and be ready to capture the outcomes of these deliberations and update their domestic instruments when necessary. However, from the perspective of a sub-regional cooperation, it is important that Cameroon legislates in its domestic ABS measures on how the country intends to address cases of GRs and traditional knowledge associated with GRs that straddle across borders, or for which, Cameroon may recognise GRs as originating from its territory, but which were accessed with no PIC or MAT.

? Compliance Obligations: The obligations of the parties to comply with national laws and regulatory requirements represent a major progression brought about by the Nagoya Protocol in comparison with the CBD. Indeed, in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, Parties must include in their domestic ABS measures the following: Provisions to ensure that GRs and TK used by partners in their jurisdiction have been accessed in compliance with domestic ABS rules of the provider country,

meaning that access was based on PIC, and MAT were established (Articles 15 and 16). In addition, Parties should take measures to monitor the use of genetic resources at all stages of the value chain. The principal institutional tool of this monitoring scheme is the designation of checkpoints that must be effective and should perform the functions that are relevant to the utilisation of GRs or to the collection of relevant information at any stage of research, development, innovation, pre-commercialisation or commercialisation (Article 17). As indicated above, one of the tools to ascertain that the user complied with the access measures of the provider country is the internationally recognised certificate of compliance, which is simply the access permit that was issued by the provider country and published in the ABS-CHM. In the event of violation of the established access regulations of a provider country, the NP encourages Parties to take measures that enable them to cooperate in search of a solution to the problem (Articles 15.3 and 16.3). In addition, the parties must provide the possibility of recourse in their legal system in the event of a dispute arising from the implementation of MAT (Article 18.2); and take measures regarding access to justice (Article 18.3). Lastly, at the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, Parties adopted decision NP1/14, which includes the Cooperative Procedures and Institutional Mechanisms to Promote Compliance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, and to address cases of non-compliance pursuant to article 30 of the NP. The cooperative procedures establish a compliance committee and outline a set of procedures that a party like Cameroon can refer to, in case it is faced with pertinent cases of violations of its ABS measures.

Cameroon is expected to fulfil the three clusters? core obligations of the Nagoya Protocol described above through relevant provisions in its domestic ABS measures. One of the support mechanisms is the institutional framework that should be designed to administer the implementation of the ABS measures. In this respect, the NP proposes that parties should designate a Competent National Authority (CNA) (or competent national authorities) (Article 13) and should undertake to share relevant information through the ABS Clearing House Mechanism (ABS-CHM). This implies the designation at the national level in Cameroon of an agency, and the appointment of a dedicated focal point/publishing agency for the ABS CHM. As indicated above: Under the compliance cluster of the NP obligations, parties will have to set up institutional checkpoints. In addition to the institutions, the NP provides for several supporting tools that can aid the effective implementation of domestic ABS measures. These include the development of mode contractual clauses (article 19), codes of conduct, guidelines, and the best practices and /or standards (article 20), as well as undertaking awareness raising (article 21) and capacity building (article 22).

Lessons learned from experiences in the implementation of ABS globally:

The newly released GEF-funded study , which was one of many studies conducted to evaluate national and regional approaches to benefits sharing and ABS highlights how 27 countries are ?investing in biodiversity for people and planet,? a comprehensive paper Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing 25 Years on: Progress and Challenges (2018), which argues that there is evidence to suggest the need for a shift in the narrative on, and policy options for ABS that is adapted to a changing R&D landscape, and an earlier study Accessing Biodiversity and Sharing the Benefits: Lessons from Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity . These papers and case studies demonstrate that many countries face similar barriers to implementing successful ABS. Several lessons can be

learned on the likelihood of developing effective national ABS policies 25 years after the CBD was enacted, including the following:

1. To speed up the clearance of applications and the negotiation of benefits, clear access processes for ABS needs must be determined. Flexibility in application can also stimulate increased private sector engagement: (a) No two ABS projects are identical, and they frequently differ in terms of their goals, the partners they involve, the scientific or technological field to which they apply, and the methods by which biodiversity and its constituent parts are accessed from in situ sources or an ex-situ facility and then used. In order to enable regulators interpret and apply the rules and regulations, it is necessary to account for flexibility while designing policies, laws, and regulations. Regulators must have the legal authority to oversee and apply these frameworks with the required latitude to create a climate that is conducive to ABS while also receiving clarification from the law; (b) The private sector must be flexible to some extent since different business models have different levels of sophistication and require different stages and types of R&D. Regulators must pay close attention to these many aspects when determining which frameworks and specific rules to implement.

2. Building local capability will help ensure that ABS laws and policies are implemented effectively and efficiently: (a) Delays in project application responses and potential missed opportunities for benefit sharing are caused by a lack of skilled assessors and negotiators; (b) Organizations in the community that might be participating in benefit negotiations need to be given capacity.

3. Positive bioprospecting project outcomes that clearly benefit the main users and stewards of biological variety are likely to foster an atmosphere that is conducive to political and social success.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

Business-as-usual scenario (without GEF funding)

In the business-as-usual scenario, locally significant incentives will be developed; however, they will not be enough to overcome the barriers for contributing to the application of the Nagoya Protocol in Cameroon, since these would be independent, uncoordinated efforts in the context of a national policy for the enforcement of ABS to achieve a general approach for benefit-sharing that involves the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. The potential baseline scenario for the project can be divided into three areas, which correspond to the three Components of this project.

Component 1: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework: Under the business-as-usual scenario, limited steps have been taken to ensure that the existing ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework is fully functional and robust. This has resulted in: (a) The approval of the national ABS policy and development of the national ABS legislation would take considerably longer. (b) Limited technical expertise input towards the development of implementing administrative and permitting procedures and supporting information sharing mechanisms and guidance materials. (c) Inter-agency coordination on the implementation of ABS regimes remains weak, resulting in potential conflicts and confusion, which may adversely affect

investor confidence. (d) Resources are not adequate to support the level of capacity building needed to bring the CNA, checkpoint authorities and other stakeholders to implementation readiness in the short term, and local experience and information-sharing on the development of PIC, MAT and benefit-sharing. (e) Bioprospecting, biodiscovery, and use of GRs and aTK for local and national development continues to be weakly regulated, therefore indigenous local communities in the South West and Far North Regions would remain at risk of losing out on the benefits associated with bioprospecting and there will be little incentive for improving the security of biological resources at local level.

Component 2: Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for implementation of the National ABS Framework: There is absence of a framework to build specific awareness and capacity on ABS and TK-related matters across the wide range of interested stakeholders. The business-as-usual scenario does not seek to build specific awareness and capacity on ABS and TK-related matters across the wide range of interested stakeholders. In absence of such a framework, ABS-compliant agreements cannot be developed and implemented between government, private sector, and local populations, including holders of TK. This impedes the creation of livelihood and wider economic and benefit-sharing opportunities through ABS agreements. Until a comprehensive regulatory and institutional framework is adopted, ABS will remain a missed opportunity for the South-West and Far North Regions in particular, and for Cameroon and a whole.

Component 3: Piloting ABS agreements that demonstrate best practices of PIC, MAT and ABS permit, including the effective fair and equitable sharing of benefits:

In July 2021, Cameroon enacted Law No 2021-014, governing access to genetic resources, their derivatives, traditional knowledge, and benefit-sharing. Implementing regulations are under development. Prior to the 2021 law, interim measures on ABS were in place. These measures established the terms and conditions governing access to genetic resources, their derivatives and associated traditional knowledge in Cameroon. The National ABS Committee, an interministerial advisory body, reviewed access applications.

Key findings already highlighted in the baseline section in the case of a) of access to Echinops giganteus by French flavours and fragrances company V. Mane Fils (MANE) in the Magha-Bamumbu community; and b) The case of access of some selected spices by a French flavours and fragrances company Firmenich, in the Pimbo community indicate that:

- Collaboration on the Echinops giganteus case has proved positive and constructive for actors involved ? indeed, other projects are now in the pipeline. The combination of ABS compliance and ethical sourcing practices seems to be particularly valuable; it creates additional business incentives on one side, and strong links with local development and sustainable use of biodiversity on the other. The project had some lessons learned along the way. Negotiations were lengthy ? more than initially envisaged. This meant, for example, that Parties agreed for certain R&D activities to begin prior to finalizing the MoU, as a way to avoid further delays. Additionally, there were other procedures that needed to be advanced in parallel, including requests for research permits and prior informed consent. Streamlining processes and paperwork may be useful to facilitate putting in practice ABS requirements as well as it increases transparency and cooperation among actors.

- Jn the case of Firmenich in Pimbo community, as Cameroon had not yet adopted a law on ABS. Negotiations took place during the COVID pandemic. The BIA project provided significant logistic and expert support, including facilitators with extensive knowledge of local laws, customs, and practices.

Alternative scenario (with GEF funding)

The alternative GEF scenario will facilitate and speed up negotiation for ABS agreements. The GEF alternative will identify measures for compliance with NP provisions, including introducing a comprehensive ABS framework to enhance access and coordination of information for permitting and monitoring as well as support community protocols of securing PIC/FPIC and MAT and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of both monetary and non- monetary benefits for the use of the genetic material, products, and knowledge.

Component 1: GEF alternative under this Component will: (1) in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol, update the current national ABS framework. and (2) reconcile current policies on bioprospecting, scientific research and development, and commercialization of genetic resources, as well as traditional/indigenous knowledge linked with them. The project will strengthen multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration in ongoing research till its commercialization potential to promote ABS agreements. Institutional processes will be built to inform and cross-check any research undertaking with other agencies, as well as to link them with the business sector for possible uptake. The GEF alternative under this Component will also include the development of a support information system, such as a database on genetic resource research and associated traditional knowledge/indigenous knowledge.

Component 2: A nation-wide information dissemination, education and public awareness campaign on ABS and its related policies and procedures will be undertaken under this component. The capacity building will include: strengthening capacities crafting and enforcing policies on ABS, strengthening national systems on intellectual property rights of researchers and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) of the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?-Manenguba and Meme Divisions; improving capacities of national government agencies and IPLCs to engage with private sector with regard to ABS; monitoring and tracking bioprospecting of Cameroon?s GRs (particularly of the South-West and Far North Regions) and its aTK after permits have been issued; strengthening capacities of IPLCs, etc. to ensure the recognition of their rights over their genetic resources (GR) and associated Indigenous Knowledge System and Practices (IKSPs) and TKs, including rights to full, effective and meaningful participation in decision-making processes; strengthening capacities of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation and protection of IKSPs/TKs associated with GRs so that they may sustainably enjoy its benefits; establishment of a model research and development practice that promotes ABS.

Component 3: A key outcome of the GEF alternative under this Component is to facilitate the negotiation of at least four ABS agreement. Without GEF funds these agreements will not be possible. The initiative will assist in the formulation and review of ABS agreements in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol's national ABS framework. This component will also support community protocols of securing PIC and MAT and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of both monetary and non-monetary benefits for the use of the genetic resources and its associated traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Further under this component, conservation strategies of specific resource covered by the ABS agreement will be planned. To this end, the project will develop at least 4 formulations (bio-products) based on standardized extracts from Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica.

Project Theory of change

The proposed project will address the identified barriers described in and achieve the proposed long-term solution through three complementary components, which will be implemented in close coordination with the baseline activities, including the development and updating of a national policy, legal, and institutional framework, as well as the building and strengthening the capacity of national institutions to implement ABS. The project's three interconnected components cover the complete value chain, from identification to commercialization and consumption. In general, the primary parties in ABS are the biological resource owners and those seeking access to the resource for technical progress (researchers, research centers, and private companies). The fundamental issue to be addressed is that each transaction between them must be known and completely understood by all participants, as well as include full appreciation of each's participation. In a polarized political context, the information, understanding, and trust required to accomplish this level of communication between parties is difficult to achieve, and transaction costs can be quite expensive.

Components 1 and 2 will collaborate to produce a more transparent and equitable system at each stage of the value change, lowering transaction costs and better conserving the biological resource. Lessons from the implementation of the GEF funded project ?A Bottom-up approach to ABS: Community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon (Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei?, as well as ABS experiences from other countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region show that, as simple as it may appear, capacity building and awareness raising on the topic of genetic resource conservation, access, and prospecting must be treated seriously in order to build a policy that addresses these issues with legitimacy. To close the gap, significant efforts in capacity building and awareness are required. Component 2 aims to remove this barrier by providing training and raising awareness among a diverse range of stakeholders, including national and local governments, academics and researchers, intellectual property groups, and the commercial sector. Through Component 3, this GEF project offers a unique chance to address these many impediments by demonstrating with the implementation of ABS, through the signing of agreements, community protocols, the addition of value to project-selected genetic resources, and the sharing of benefits from GRs and aTK in the South-West and Far North Regions of the country.

The idea, as shown in the theory of change graphic (Figure 8), is that once communities actively engage with the research community and apply their customary laws and community norms to bioprospecting opportunities, this type of study will become routine and efficiently conducted. The idea of change also implies the following: If the project has (i) an institutional framework in place to facilitate ABS implementation; (ii) a broad understanding of the ABS regime and traditional knowledge exists; (iii) an improved roadmap for research and commercialization is in place; and (iv) selected ABS value streams are socially acceptable and economically viable, then it will achieve its goal of increasing economic opportunity and biodiversity conservation for local communities and indigenous peoples in the region.

The theory of change (Figure 8) further illustrates that designing, establishing, and implementing an ABS framework will make it easier and faster to negotiate and develop ABS contracts that meet CBD and Nagoya Protocol requirements for PIC, MAT, and benefit-sharing with holders of GR and associated TK (in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?-Manenguba and Meme Divisions of the South-West and Far North Regions), as well as other stakeholders. The project will enable various actors (including public institutions, the private sector, local populations, and research institutions) to sustainably benefit Cameroon's biodiversity and GR in accordance with international and national conservation and sustainable development obligations and priorities derived from the CBD.

The theory of change diagram below describes the process towards achieving the project objective of supporting the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrue tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable and sustainable manner. This will require a full implementation of the ABS Law, outreach and capacity building of smallholders in the targeted areas, stimulated private sector investment for smallholder bio-traders in biodiversity species in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic or food industries improve sustainable use of biodiversity and livelihoods in Cameroon (indicated in LO1-LO4). Arriving at these long-term results is predicated on a number of assumptions indicated in A-1 to A-3. Also, three key barriers need to be overcome (Barrier 1-3): (i) the weak ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks; (ii) the limited technical capacities, awareness, and knowledge/information dissemination to maximize access and benefits sharing from genetic resources; and (iii) the weak financial capacity and experience of key local stakeholders in applying ABS mechanisms to access, manage and promote GRs and aTK. The drivers of unsustainable GR use, conservation and management include the commercial exploitation of the forests, population growth and migration, monoculture and overgrazing, and the lack of awareness and social practices (D1-D4). These drivers lead to direct anthropogenic causes of GR degradation and loss as indicated in (C1-C3). C4 is a cause of GR degradation and loss that is not anthropogenic in

character, but whose effects can be exacerbated by human activities.

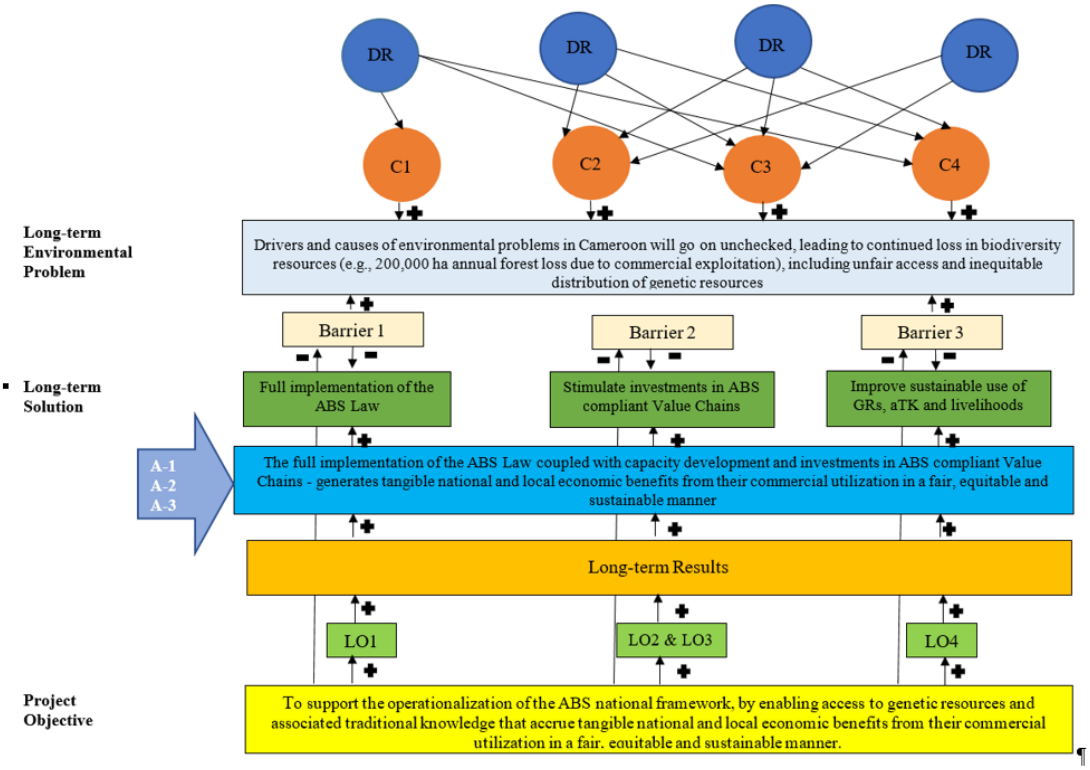


Figure 8. Project theory of change.

Key to the Theory of change

DRIVERS	CAUSES
DR 1. Commercial exploitation of the forests DR.2 Population growth and migration DR 3. Monoculture and overgrazing DR 4. Lack of awareness and social practices	C1: Biopiracy and poaching of wild plants and animals C2: Bush fires C3: Pollution, poor waste management and urban management C4: Climate change
BARRIERS: Barrier 1: Weak implementation of the access and benefit-sharing legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks in order to effectively operationalized the Nagoya Protocol: Barrier 2: Limited technical capacities, awareness, and knowledge/information dissemination to maximize access and benefits sharing from genetic resources Barrier 3: Weak financial capacity and experience of farmer organizations in applying ABS mechanisms to access, manage and promote GRs and associated Traditional Knowledge.	

ASSUMPTIONS:

A-1: the project can show either short-term or long-term financial and/or non-financial benefits

A-2: The ABS mechanism is sustained and continues to deliver monetary and non- monetary benefits after the project ends

A-3: Efforts by the international humanitarian community contribute to peace that permits activities of the project to be implemented without undue interference or delays

LONG-TERM RESULTS

The progressive implementation of the ABS Law, outreach and capacity building of smallholders in the targeted areas, stimulated private sector investment for smallholder bio-traders in biodiversity species in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic or food industries improve sustainable use of biodiversity and livelihoods in Cameroon.

LO 1: Institutions are capacitated to implement the Nagoya Protocol and stakeholders involved in the issuance of an authorization carry out promptly and legally their mandate in line with the access to ABS permit.

LO 2: Increased awareness and capacity of national actors and farmer organizations to benefits from the exploitation of the ABS regime and related value chains

LO 3: Farmer organisations are well informed and able to use legal instruments to negotiate a MAT reflecting their needs, concerns and rights relating to conservation, use and access to Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK).

LO 4: Effective ABS agreements demonstrated by: (i) Four ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol, (ii) A minimum of 04 new ABS agreements established between national providers and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

This project will be an important and innovative step forward in Cameroon's collaborative, inclusive, and participatory governance of GRs and aTK. The development of the ABS framework is also expected to generate additional revenue for biodiversity management. The project's results, which are part of the first cohort of such projects worldwide, can provide valuable lessons that can be applied later through the dissemination of project results, experiences, and best practices in the development and early implementation of national ABS frameworks, including ABS agreements and PIC processes. The adoption of ABS agreements by both users and providers of GR is expected to increase at the national level once the regulatory and institutional framework is in place.

This project is also required to improve the implementation of a key CBD objectives for Cameroon ? that of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The project will help to reduce biodiversity loss by (a) raising awareness among key audiences about the existence, use, and option values of biological and genetic resources, as well as aTK; and the existence of markets based on the sustainable use of biodiversity and its components; and (b) allowing the government and other stakeholders to derive greater economic benefits from GR and generate incentives that favor in-situ and ex-situ conservation and ecosystem management.

In light of the aforementioned, the proposed project's Theory of Change appropriately takes into account the environmental issues driving and causing biodiversity loss, including the loss of GRs and aTK, to the absolute socioeconomic disadvantage of both their direct consumers and the national economy. This is especially important at the national level given the developments in both biopiracy and the uncontrolled and/or illicit economic exploitation of forest resources. According to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, the project's Theory of Change (see Figure 8) acknowledges the importance of enhancing the ABS Law's implementation in Cameroon, empowering small-scale biotraders, and

encouraging investments in biodiversity species used in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and food industries. These actions will improve biodiversity's sustainable use overall and increase the socioeconomic opportunities of those who use biodiversity resources. In this regard, the long-term solution will involve stopping and reversing trends in the loss of biodiversity, GRs and aTK, as well as the unfair access and inequitable distribution of benefits arising from the use of GRs and aTK. The full implementation of the ABS Law coupled with capacity development and investments in ABS compliant Value Chains will generate tangible national and local economic benefits

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The project contributes to the GEF-7 BD Focal Area, Objective 3: Further development of biodiversity policy, legal and institutional framework through implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.; Expected Outcome: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing to implement the Protocol is increased, including, inter alia and as appropriate, measures for mutual implementation with other relevant international agreements, coordination in transboundary genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and/or procedures to issue internationally recognized certificates of compliance. Program 9: Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, achieving Outcome 8.1: Legal and regulatory frameworks, and administrative procedures established that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. This project is compliant with the priorities of GEF-TF and eligibility criteria for receiving by the Government of Cameroon the support to develop national ABS framework in compliance with the requirements of the Nagoya Protocol.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

Baseline (B)	GEF Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
Implementation of the National ABS Framework		

A lackluster national regulatory and administrative framework for ABS encourages the use of competing and overlapping authorities to manage genetic resources, which is against the Nagoya Protocol. The current administrative order of ABS gives rise to the following: (I) ABS policies are in place, but there hasn't been much progress on bioprospecting and commercialization. (II) Access to GR has been very bureaucratic, with multiple agencies involved in issuing access and collection permits. (III) Getting FPIC has been a long process. (IV) There isn't a way for ABS agencies at the national level and from local to national to work together to make sure people follow the rules. (V) The lack of a systematic way to document and register TK has led to piracy of TK on medicines and industrial products developed by IPs and scientific research results of students, researchers, and scientists; (VI) There is no monitoring in place when free permits or their results are sold; (VII) At the moment, ABS rules and regulations are not part of Research, Project Development plans.	National ABS regulatory and permitting structure that is enabling Process simplification for unambiguous bioprospecting, research, and development protocols, procedures, and recommendations To facilitate the implementation and compliance of the national ABS framework, functional mechanisms, including administrative systems, institutional arrangements, monitoring, and financing mechanisms, are in place. System for safeguarding of local and traditional knowledge	Increased local and national economic development while protecting Cameroon?s genetic diversity and biological resources from exploitation The project's enhanced expertise and knowledge advance the field of ABS and the global community of practitioners (by combining a KM platform created for ongoing and pipeline research, traditional IPLC information, and access permits) Creation of an inter-agency framework for tracking and monitoring GR
Improvements in Capacity		

Weak or limited understanding and awareness from the private and research sector restricts the opportunities to engage in ABS partnerships. Weak institutional capacity of state agencies limits the development and implementation of national and local ABS norms, weak capacity and awareness of IP and local communities who hold traditional knowledge undercut the value of genetic resources and their benefits, and weak or limited understanding and awareness from IP and research organizations limit the value of ABS partnerships. Four ABS institutions reported on the capacity assessment scorecard that they have zero to one (some capacities exist) in ABS for the five main areas (refer to Capacity needs assessment for key stakeholder groups in Section 2.3 of the project document). They have essentially little capacity to develop, access, or use information and knowledge on ABS at the local level in either region.	Improved capability and capacity for ABS negotiation, implementation, and monitoring. Increased knowledge of the function and advantages of ABS. Capacity building and awareness raising will lead to the emergence of a community of practice of ABS and NP. a national biodiversity and genetic resources database connected to a national ABS knowledge management platform	The conservation status of species will improve with increased understanding and awareness of the values of biodiversity and the actions to conserve and use it responsibly. Enhanced capability and expertise in managing genetic resources and biodiversity better conservation results (as measured by increase in UNDP ABS scorecard). Increased potential for the sustainable usage and long-term conservation of biodiversity, GR and aTK as a result of a deeper understanding of the value of traditional knowledge on biological diversity. Improved funding for programs connected to ABS
Conservation and Sustainable Management of Genetic and Biological Diversity		

The full economic value and benefits of genetic resources and biological diversity to present and future generations, as well as the transfer of economic benefits to local communities as a motivator for their protection, are not taken into consideration during the conservation of these resources. These are demonstrated by the following: (I) There is no functional mechanism for ABS at the local and community levels; (II) There is no mechanism for investing financial and non-financial benefits derived from the negotiation of benefit-sharing agreements; (III) There is no clear policy on how benefits are allocated; (IV) There are no rules or a system in place for reinvesting a portion of benefits from GR and TK into biodiversity conservation and community development.	An incentive system is in place to guarantee financial gains for IPs and nearby communities. System of incentives for the private sector to incorporate biodiversity preservation into their business plans There is a system that returns profits from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in products and services to the communities where they are endemic or indigenous	Improved management and sustainable use of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica* (though pilot ABS agreements and biodiversity management plans for in-situ conservation and management introduced into pilot agreement) The competitive pressures between the use of forests and protected areas for the conservation of biological diversity and GRs and their use for other anthropogenic demands is reduced. Establishment and institutionalization of a method to distribute monetary and non-monetary gains from the ABS to local communities.
Piloting of ABS agreements for *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica*		

Capturing the economic benefits of genetic resources is hampered by the insufficiency of scientific research capabilities and experience in negotiating and implementing ABS agreements. This will perpetuate the current conditions where: (I) Due to a lack of incentives, support mechanisms, and priority, commercial GR developers would keep making products at their own pace and according to their own priorities. (II) The Government of Cameroon (through its ABS-related ministries) are making efforts towards bioprospecting and biodiscovery. However, developing inclusive value chains may not be prioritized given the lack of grounding on ABS principles, and may be satisfied to comply with minimum bioprospecting laws. (III) The cohesion of industry and product development efforts for *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica* would be fragmented, with individual members racing to produce first to market with primary motivation of attaining market share and/or cost leadership. This way of thinking might not support the industry's vision of a fair value chain for project-identified species, which would lead to the development and preservation of these resources in a way that is sustainable and fair for everyone.	Demonstration of 4 pilot ABS agreements compliant with national legislation and Nagoya Protocol. The presentation of TK registries and the creation of bio-community protocols. On-the-ground experience, demonstration, and insights that will guide future benefit sharing agreement negotiations. These will include: (I) Accelerated biodiscovery in the sectors of food/beverages additives, cosmetics, and drugs based on *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica*. (II) Functioning business models for local communities (and women) based on GR and aTK value chains for project identified species in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kupe-Manengouba and Meme Divisions. (III) ABS agreements guide and support benefit sharing	The enhanced knowledge and experience acquired via the initiative contribute to the worldwide understanding of ABS and the international community of practitioners. In situ conservation measures and improved management in place to ensure security of concerned species in pilot sites.

	from GR and aTK value chain development.	

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The current project will promote a fair and equitable distribution of benefits resulting from the use of genetic resources (derived from Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica). By so doing, the project will facilitate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge not only at the national level (Cameroon) but produce advantages for access to GRs and aTK for potential use in global pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and food/beverage industries on a worldwide scale. This is especially the case, as the project will be partnering with the international private sector to implement bioprospecting and biodiscovery in the above sectors. The project will support the sustainable regeneration of ecosystems which harbour the project identified species and related biodiversity (Output 2.1.1). While this in itself is a benefit to the global drive to protect and preserve ecosystems which harbour globally important biodiversity, the added benefits of preserving GRs and aTK associated with these species because of sustainable regeneration represents compounding benefits.

The project will support an increased number of farmer organisations intensify the value chain trade on GRs and share benefits with an increased number of stakeholders and are able to use the information disseminated by the operational market information system for decision-making on their GR business (Output 2.2.1). This will encourage ownership of the biodiversity, GRs and aTK among communities in the project locations of the Far North and South-West Regions. By connective this sense of ownership to economic incentives for action by local stewards like local government, protected area managers, or rural communities, the project will help Cameroon address the threats to globally significant biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The second Component of the project focuses on capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework. This will contribute to increasing local and national understanding of biological variety, promote the preservation of related traditional knowledge. It will create a framework for managing access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, and create new capacities for evaluating, storing, and accessing biodiversity knowledge. Additionally, it will encourage the bioprospecting of genetic resources with potential for commercialization, reinforcing the significance of biodiversity and genetic resources for regional livelihoods and the creation of goods for sale. Thus, it will offer clear incentives to policy makers and local resource owners/users to safeguard these resources and the environments that support them.

The project will also increase opportunities for coordinated regional responses to biodiversity conservation in the Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Equatorial Guinea, which are already involved in managing trans-border conservation projects. These opportunities will benefit not only Cameroon but also other nations in the region, such as the Central African Republic.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness

There are several aspects of innovation in the current project: (i) At the level of Cameroon, project support for the provision of seed funds through a grant mechanism for organised community groups and private sector to support development of potential ABS value chains will be innovative. This will increase the potential for success in the implementation of bioprospecting and biodiscovery activities within the project. It will also improve the management and governance systems, business planning, and interventions on the Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica value chains, as well as support the development of linkages with input suppliers. (ii) Another key innovation of this project is the broad use of public-private partnership as ?proof of concept? on bioprospecting. While this has been experimented with in a previous project , the current project makes more extensive use of such partnership at all levels of engagement in the development of value chains for identified project species. In order to broaden the body of knowledge and develop national capacity for research on genetic resources and related traditional knowledge, this innovation is extended through the creation of partnerships with national and international research institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities. It will strengthen the process of screening for, discovery and commercialization of new products based on GR resources and aTK. (iii) Once products from biodiscovery, bioprospecting, and value chain development of selected project species have been piloted and found to merit scaling up, the project will mobilize project knowledge management and communications personnel, farmers? organizations, and the agricultural value chain interaction platforms to build demand for further product development. The project will look to its strategic partnerships with government, donors and relevant private sector operators to co-finance the scaling up of the key innovations.

Sustainability

Environmental sustainability: The project objective is: ?To support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrues tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner. Environmental sustainability is already at the heart of the project objective ? illustrated in the focus on ?sustainable manner? of harvest and use. In the same light, the project is based on a procedure that is already in place and on biotrade principles and requirements, which include biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of that biodiversity. The process is currently governed by a management plan for the species (Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica), which guarantees the appropriate use of the population of the species in the region. Also, the trees harvested are currently being harvested wither from the wild (such as the case of Irvingia wombolu and Accacia nilotica), or from mixed parcels (such as the case with Monodora myristica and Balanites aegyptiaca), with crop residue conservation, within the traditional agricultural systems of the local and indigenous communities, and with high standards for environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Institutional sustainability: Institutional sustainability relates to the improved capacity of the organizations associated with access to genetic resources and the equitable and fair distribution of benefits. This involves providing governmental and administrative entities with expertise in the management of ABS implementation in Cameroon, the know-how for public scientific research

organizations that develop activities regarding Cameroonian GRs, and the ability for local and indigenous communities that possess TK about the use of GRs to safeguard and benefit from the rights to them. This includes the ability for local and indigenous communities to effectively manage access to these GRs and aTK, as well as draw and distributes benefits from them. The updating and development of the national regulatory framework and legislation in the South-West and Far North Regions with regard to genetic resources and the distribution of benefits depends on the will of national- and provincial-level decision makers. To ensure the long-term commitment of the decision makers for the development and updating of these legal instruments, the project will generate awareness of the benefit that adopting such legislation for access to genetic resources and benefit distribution will provide to the country, as well as awareness of the need to adopt legislation regarding access to genetic resources and benefit distribution that is aligned with the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, from the organizational standpoint, the project?s sustainability will be ensured by building capacities regarding genetic resources access and benefit sharing in favor of three local stakeholders: national (MINEPDED, and other ABS-related national institutions); regional (the South-West and Far North Regions); and divisional (Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kupe-Manengouba and Meme Divisions) authorities working on the subject, local and indigenous communities from various provinces, and the scientific staff working in public biotechnology research institutions. The project?s institutional sustainability will also be achieved through the development of codes of conduct and best practices tailored to the needs of each sector of scientific and research activity, as these will be useful as a model of behavior to be followed by local stakeholders (especially research institutions) during access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. Similarly, the project will help develop benefit sharing agreement models, MATs and PIC, as this progress will promote effective management of GR access by the various stakeholders.

Economic sustainability: The project?s financial sustainability will be ensured by generating additional income for biodiversity conservation through the development of marketable products based on GRs and aTK from project selected plant species (Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica). The development of tools for monetary and non-monetary benefits (i.e., training, experience exchange, etc.) is essential to support the principles of sustainable use of biodiversity in this project. The collaborative development of ABS, PIC, and MAT instruments between GR and aTK holders in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kupe-Manengouba and Meme Divisions, V. Mane company, and ALELOR, France will provide the framework for equitable sharing of benefits, including financial benefits. Additionally, the adoption of sustainable management practices will allow producers and local communities to increase their income from the use of wild relatives of project-selected species, expanding the range of products (e.g., in the cosmetics, food and beverage, and pharmaceutical sectors) they can supply with the support of the regional administrative and divisional governments.

Potential for scaling up

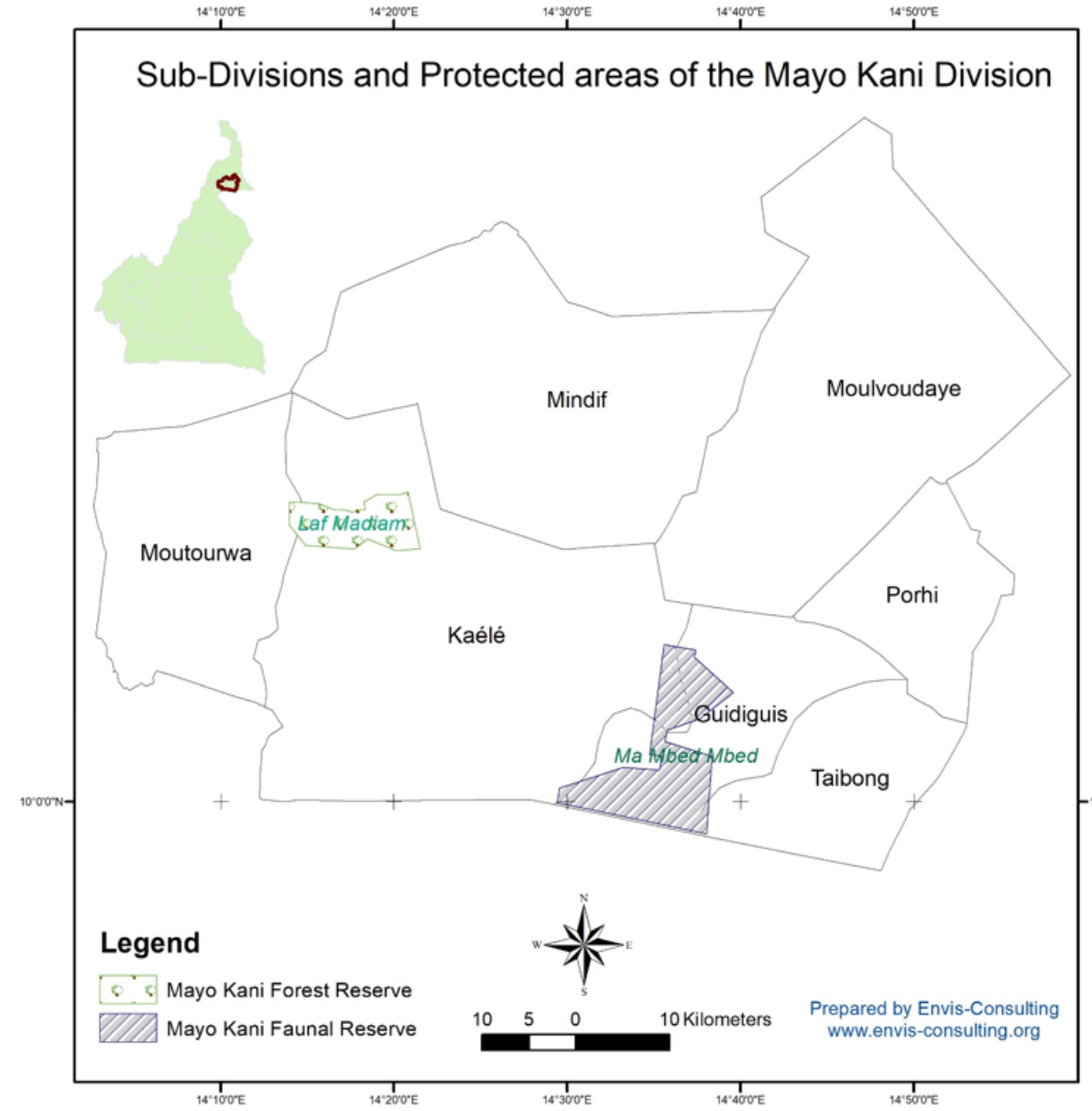
The most important output of the project will be an improvement in the effectiveness and efficiency of the legal system on , as well as an effective permitting system and coordinating mechanism among stakeholders for ABS in the country. These among other things, will be demonstrated through the development of functioning gender-sensitive business models for local communities based on GR and aTK value chains in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kupe-Manengouba and Meme Divisions. These activities

will build on previous experiences to provide the Executing Agency and ABS-related partners with practical understanding of on-the-ground ABS implementation challenges and potential solutions. The project and process will contribute to driving Cameroon?s ABS experience through maturity. As the lead agency for matters relating to ABS in Cameroon, MINEPDED, will streamline existing institutional structures that facilitates cooperation between national and provincial institutions to apply proper administrative and permitting procedures to enable the free and fair access to the country?s genetic resources. It will work closely with research institutions to identify existing and new genetic products that have potential for development, identify prospective suppliers and users of such genetic resources and faciliate resource agreements that can benefit local communities. MINEPDEP, through the Office of the National ABS Focal Point in Cameroon will promote joint public-private initiatives that will provide increased opportunities for income from activities such as collecting, cultivating, harvesting and transporting the medicinal plants for commercialization products, thereby ensuring increased financial and economic sustainability. The creation of value chains will generate revenues that can lead to stable financial resources for local communities that would provide an essential incentive for the conservation of genetic resources of medicinal plants and other genetic resources, and its wider replication in the country.

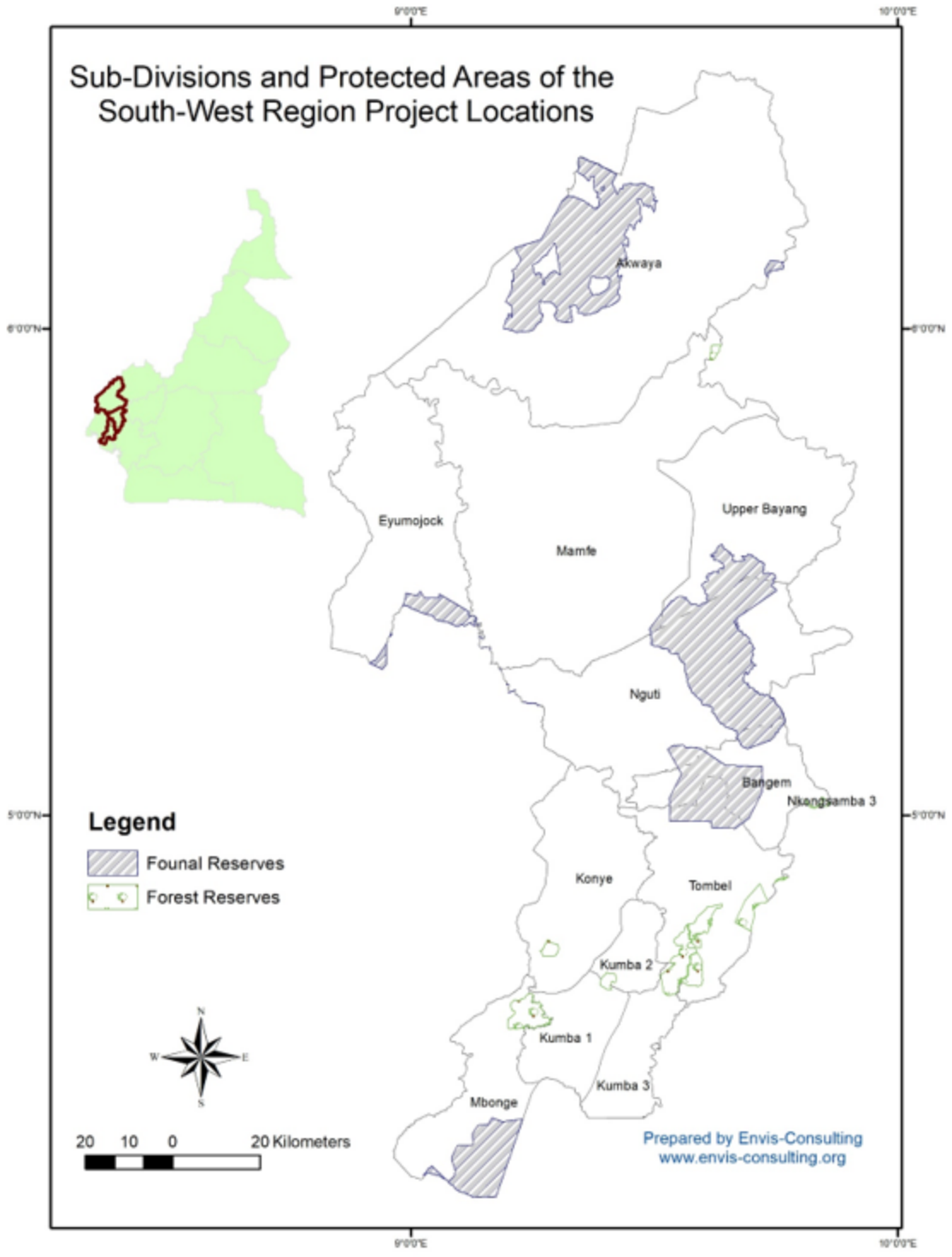
1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

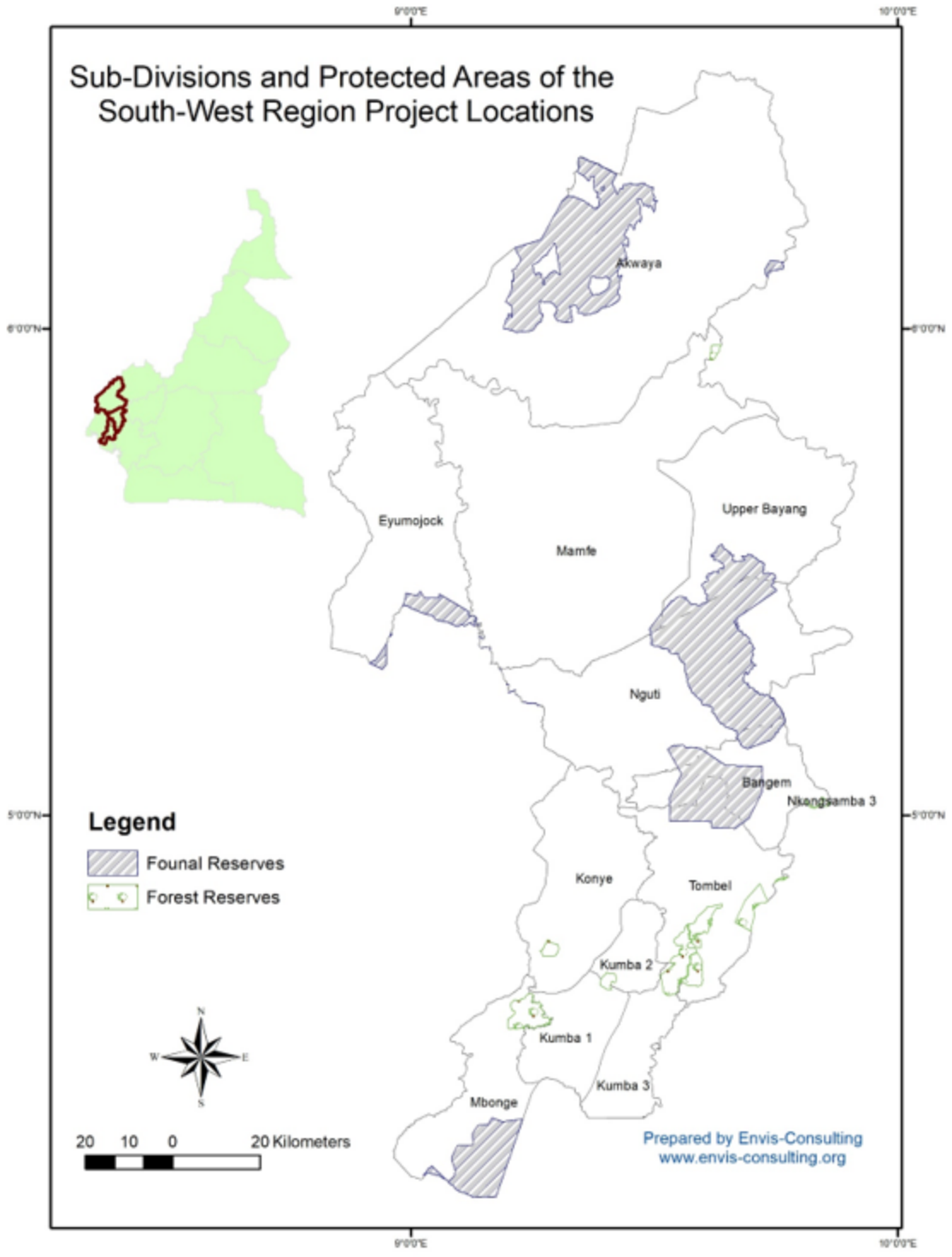
This project will be implemented at the national level in general as concerns the legal and institutional frameworks with a focus on the South West and Far North regions of Cameroon as target areas. The choice of the these target areas (South West and Far Northern Region) was adopted based on the significance of the areas and their representative networks for biodiversity protection. in Cameroon. Four criteria identified the two regions as areas that (1) contained unique and rare habitats; (2) included fragile and sensitive habitats; (3) were important for ecological integrity; and (4) were representative of all habitats in Cameroon. Another four criteria were based on species' attributes, including (5) the presence of species of conservation concern; (6) the occurrence of restricted-range species; (7) species richness; and (8) importance for life history stages.



FIGURE·1.·THE·FAR·NORTH·REGION·PROJECT·LOCATION·-·SUB-DIVISIONS·AND·PROTECTED·AREAS.¶



FIGURE·2.·THE·SOUTH-WEST·REGION·PROJECT·LOCATION·-·SUB-DIVISIONS·AND·PROTECTED·AREAS.¶



FIGURE·2.·THE·SOUTH-WEST·REGION·PROJECT·LOCATION·-·SUB-DIVISIONS· AND·PROTECTED·AREAS.¶

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

TABLE 2. STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLES IN THE PROJECT

Name and Location	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond
MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment, Protection, Nature and Sustainable Development)	- Mobilization, sensitization and training of different actors involved in the putting in place of the ABS process as stipulated by the Nagoya Protocol in Cameroon - Negotiating agreements, - Defining measures of rational management, - Public and stakeholder information, - Develop main plans for environmental issues - Coordinate activities on the ABS process in Cameroon - Deliver permits for the collect of genetic resources, - Supervision of the distribution of benefits - Development and examination of draft texts on ABS - Follow-up of actions and activities of NGO involved in the selected value chain in the concerned Community
Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)	- Provide research permits - Provide advisory counsel to the Ministry of Environment on research issues concerning genetic resources

Name and Location	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond
Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)	- Participate in the implementation of the Cameroon National A BS Strategy - Participate in the issuance of ICC (International Certificate of Conformity) - Participate in putting in place of the regulatory framework of Cameroon ABS
The local Councils Covering targeted area of intervention	- Participate in all the negotiations - Logistical support to producers - Collaborate with the local representative of MINEPDED
UNEP	- Support the ABS process in Cameroon - Developing the capacity of local NGO and the local community for the putting in place of the ABS process - Facilitate the conservation of local natural resources - Support the development of value chains under the ABS process
ABS Capacity Development Initiative	- Reinforcement of capacities of stakeholders - Support in the putting in place of the Nagoya Protocol, - Exchange of African ABS experiences and national needs of the countries involved, - Familiarization with certain existing ABS agreements in Africa
SUFACHAC	- Support the ABS process in Cameroon - Build the capacities of civil society, community-based organizations and the local and indigenous communities on ABS process - Facilitate and promotes the conservation of local natural resources - Support the development of value chain and biocultual protocols for *the selected value chains*
GIZ	- Implement all the dispositions and local, national and international responsibilities of ABS initiatives in Cameroon. - Mobilize stakeholders and resources - Share experiences
OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization)	- Participate in the patenting of value chains
Private Sector	- Is interested in some value chains in the selected regions: South West and Far North Regions
The laboratories	- Provide research result to advice on the selected value chain

Name and Location	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond
Local transporters (wheel barrows and vehicles) and international (aircrafts and boats)	- Local handling, - Transporting the products from farms to village by wheelbarrows - Transporting to metropolitan towns
Local community organisations	- Immediate users and custodians of biological resources, traditional knowledge practitioners, and primary beneficiaries of ABS. Local communities in the Meme, Manyu, Kupe Manenguba, and Mayo Kani will be the primary local beneficiaries of this project based on trial (and eventually formalized) access agreements based on mutually agreed terms. - Local communities will play an active role in the negotiation of the mutually agreed terms (MATs) and to give Protocol compliant Prior Informed Consent for all agreements.
Traditional chieftaincy and Customary Notables, guardians of traditional knowledge	- Mobilize, sensitize and orient the community - Secure local traditional knowledge - Protect the biologic resource - Negotiate PIC - Negotiate the MAT
Men, Women and Youth	- Domesticate the plant - Harvest and treatment of the plant?s roots - Conservation and sale of the roots - Negotiation of MAT
ERuDeF	- Community mobilization - Sensitization and training of - Producers - Organization and structuring of - Producers holder to be added - Approaching /connecting different - Actors in the chain - Assist the communities - Technically and facilitate accessand information sharing - Facilitate negotiations (PIC, MAT

Name and Location	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond
CASuDev	- Community mobilization - Sensitization and training of - Producers - Organization and structuring of - Producers holder to be added - Approaching /connecting different - Actors in the chain - Assist the communities - Technically and facilitate accessand information sharing - Facilitate negotiations (PIC, MAT
Local farmer organisations	- Regroup and represent producers - Managing local producers and developing their capacities - Develop segments of the value chain

Representatives of these institutions (above) have already been consulted and engaged on the Project during the project preparation phase and contributed in discussing their roles and expectations in project implementation. Although the PSC will be the main mechanism that policy-level stakeholders will participate in the Project, various project implementation and coordination mechanisms, including through sub-contracted work as well as co-management committees, communications as well as various co-funding partnerships will enable a strong and broad stakeholder participation, both at governmental as well as non-government levels. It will also be the responsibility of PSC to take into account interests and concerns of stakeholders on all key issues affecting the whole process of project implementation. Importantly, the PSC member institutions will have their institutional counterparts at the district and provincial level that will participate in relevant project activities. At the level of the protected areas, biodiversity management, and genetic resources management, in addition to staff from decentralized services of relevant ministries, local communities will participate in the co-management of pilot activities such as in biodiscovery and bioprospecting to genetic resources with potential for value addition. In addition, it is scheduled to implement a significant number of project-supported activities through sub-contracts that will provide a means to engage government agencies at provincial and county levels, key think tanks, universities and research institutions in the Project. Public - private partnerships have already been established with key institutions associated with the use of genetic resources in Cameroon. More of these partnerships will be explored during project implementation in a bid to encourage greater participation among key stakeholders in the Project.

Project implementation will begin with an inception workshop that will be designed to include wide participation from interested stakeholders. The workshop will be used to provide stakeholders with the latest information on the Project as well as identify and agree on collaboration. Depending on the

number of invited stakeholders and budgetary constraints, annual stakeholder consultations will be scheduled as part of the PSC meetings (e.g., as side meetings). Over lifetime of the, any adjustments required to project design, implementation and management will be made in close consultation with the relevant stakeholders, facilitated by the PMU and PSC and to be endorsed by UNEP.

TABLE 3. PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.

Engagement te chnique	**Stakeholders and partners**	**Purpose of engagement**
Information Centre and Information Boards	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Establish Information Boards in each Project area community.
Correspondence by phone, email, text, and instant messaging	? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners	? Distribute project information to government officials, organizations, agencies and companies ? Invite stakeholders to meetings
Print media and radio announcements	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Disseminate project information to large audiences, and illiterate stakeholders ? Inform stakeholders about consultation meetings
One-on-one interviews	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations	? Solicit views and opinions ? Enable stakeholders to speak freely and confidentially about controversial and sensitive issues ? Build personal relations with stakeholders ? Recording of interviews
Formal meetings	? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners	? Present project information to a group of stakeholders ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build impersonal relations with high level stakeholders ? Distribute technical documents ? Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses
Public meetings	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? Local communities ? National institutional partners	? Present project information to a large audience of stakeholders, and in particular communities ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Distribute non-technical project information Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations, posters, models, videos and pamphlets or project information documents ? Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses

Workshops	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities ? National institutional partners	? Present project information to a group of stakeholders Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyse information, and develop recommendations and strategies ? Recording of responses
Focus group meetings	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Allow a smaller group of between 8 and 15 people to provide their views and opinions of targeted baseline information ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Use a focus group interview guideline to facilitate discussions ? Record responses
Surveys	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Gather opinions and views from individual stakeholders ? Gather baseline data ? Record data ? Develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

In Cameroon, women also constitute the majority of the economically active population working in agriculture. Despite this numerical superiority, Cameroon does not rank in key global gender indices. For example, it scores 0.565 in the Gender Inequality Index, which ranks it 148th out of 169 countries. In the Gender Development Index it is categorized in Group 5, which comprises countries with low equality in Human Development Index achievements between women and men ? with an absolute deviation from gender parity of more than 10 percent . With regards to the Global Gender Gap Index, Cameroon has a score of 0.692, ranking it 97th out of 146 countries . In rural and peri-urban areas, women engaged primarily in food and horticultural production and raising small ruminants and poultry; in the fisheries sector, while in forestry women are engaged in planting seedlings and managing woodlots. They therefore interact with the environment and environmental resources (biodiversity and GRs) more frequently than the menfolk. Women are also very active in the use of GRs and aTK for diverse applications, such as for traditional medicinal uses, cosmetics, food and beverage production and additives, etc. Social inclusion (especially of women) in the strive for excellence in the implementation of ABS is therefore a prerequisite for success in Cameroon.

Social inclusion legislation Cameroon?s socio-economic policy, as expressed in the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE), seeks to establish an integrated sustainable human development framework in the medium term that will gradually lead the country toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Vision 2035. According to the DSCE, the social sector development strategies will not only improve the living conditions of populations but create strong human capital capable of sustaining economic growth. Within this framework, social policy is geared to making investments that will benefit different social categories, with special attention to youth and women and the integration and support of other socially vulnerable groups. The social inclusion policy centres on: (i) the formulation and/or finalization of sector policies for the protection and promotion of vulnerable populations; (ii) the drafting and enactment of laws for the protection and promotion of these targeted groups; (iii) the training of specialized social workers and educators to better serve vulnerable social groups; (iv) capacity building in organizations representing vulnerable people; (v) the creation of a national solidarity fund to provide an appropriate response to the requests for assistance from vulnerable social groups; (vi) the creation of a national civil service for participation in development; (vii) the creation of a national fund for the integration of youth; (viii) advocacy for the education of girls; (ix) the inclusion of marginalized girls; (x) the production of a guide to prepare people for marriage; (xi) the promotion of female entrepreneurship; (xii) the facilitation of women?s access to credit and self-employment; and (xiii) the development and implementation of programmes to reduce poverty. To promote gender equality, the Government plans to encourage parents and communities, especially in rural areas where traditional customs still reign, to permit girls to benefit from the same access to education as boys. These social inclusion policy and plans could be vital entry points to introduce agro-ecology programmes that benefit socially marginalised persons including women and indigenous communities.

Societal norms have defined gender roles for men and women, and in patriarchal societies, beliefs and practices continue to hinder women from assuming leadership positions and from being at the center of decision-making, including in land and forest governance bodies at the local and national levels. These

norms apply equally to activities associated with access to and use of GRs and aTK. The current project will undertake efforts to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into the implementation of the project, allowing women to reap as many benefits from the projects (capacity building, access to support for ABS value chain development, seed funding, etc.) as their male counterparts in the project locations. The table below summarizes actions that will be undertaken under each Component to achieve this mainstreaming.

Table 4. Gender mainstreaming approach by project component.

Project Component	**Mainstreaming considerations**
Component 1 Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework	? Gender will be strategically mainstreamed in the revised and harmonized rules and regulations for ABS ? Women stakeholders and communities will meaningfully participate in bio-prospecting research and development processes ? Functional mechanism shall be managed by a dedicated inter-agency working group on ABS with gender expert agencies. ? Gender-balance for membership n in national coordinating mechanism ? Collection of gender-disaggregated data through the national ABS clearinghouse
Component 2 Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for implementation of the National ABS Framework	? Women will equally benefit from a national roadmap on ABS, which will include a recognition of their important roles in safeguarding biodiversity species conservation. ? The CEPA Plan will deliberately pay attention to the position and role of women, as well as encourage their participation in the various aspects (R&D, science, business, conservation, etc.) of ABS ? Gender balance will be achieved in all capacity building programs and activities through equal opportunity for women and men trainers/resource speakers and participants. ? All materials produced by the project (including in awareness raising) will convey gender sensitivity and use of gender-fair language ? A gender-balanced approach will be adopted when local knowledge and TK is assessed, validated, documented, and disseminated to stakeholders. ? Documentation of good practices and lessons learned will adopt a gender sensitive and gender-balanced perspective

Component 3 Piloting ABS agreements that demonstrate best practices of PIC, MAT and ABS permit, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.	? The R&D output shall include socio-cultural aspects, including the roles of women and youth in the natural resource use of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica* ? Women and men will benefit from the commercialization of species of project interest and possible issues such as gender biases in the business and scientific community and gender pay gaps will be analyzed and addressed ? The model ABS agreement will provide opportunities to address gender inequalities and empower women such as by increasing women?s access to technology and participation in generating traditional and scientific knowledge, and securing livelihood opportunities for women and men along the *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica* value chains ? The conservation measures that will be put in place will also allow women (as one of the key stakeholders) to play an important role in the processes and outcomes of protected area management.

Gender action plan to ensure equitable access to participation and benefits

The project acknowledges four key factors for achieving gender equality in the Far North and South West Regions project locations, as well as the national context at large regarding ABS. These include (i) ensuring women's representation and participation in the sectors involved in the management of natural resources; (ii) creating conditions that make participation easier for women; (iii) giving women more power to take part in decision-making processes; and (iv) keeping separate records for men and women so that policies and projects can be monitored to make sure women are included. So, the project will make sure that activities related to community codes, genetic resources registers, Prior Informed Consent (PIC), associated traditional knowledge (TK), communication and raising awareness, as well as ABS negotiations, make an extra effort to reach out to men, women, and young people and make it possible for them to participate equally. Gender issues will be looked at to make sure that roles and responsibilities for both men and women on the ABS are clear and agreed upon. When the ABS is put into place, gender mainstreaming will take into account the political, legal, and institutional frameworks at the international and national levels. So, the project was made in line with the GEF's gender policy, which says that projects should move from a gender-neutral approach to one that promotes targeted measures to reduce inequality between men and women and give women more power where it makes sense.

Since 2014, the GEF has been putting its Gender Equality Action Plan into action. This plan outlines what needs to be done to make sure that gender equality is considered throughout the project cycle, including in knowledge, results-based management, and capacity building. So, gender issues will be looked at throughout the project cycle, and knowledge sharing will be encouraged to make sure that all stakeholders, regardless of gender, have full access to data and information.

The goal of the current Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming Action Plan is to give women a bigger say in how policies, rules, and administrative systems are set up so that everyone in the country can access and share benefits. It will also give women a say in how local decisions are made about conservation, the use of resources in a sustainable way, and the distribution of benefits, among other things. Some of the likely activities for the output are (see Table 4 for details on strategic objectives and activities):

(a) Putting in place an action plan for gender assessment and mainstreaming. This will be to ensure that: (i) Every set of activities is looked at from a gender-inclusive and socially inclusive point of view. (ii) Knowing about gender and social roles in ABS helps shape policies, laws, and practices,

and makes sure that everyone gets the same number of benefits. Information is gathered and shared across social and gender lines.

(b) Staff training on how to use gender mainstreaming in project communication and project activities, as well as awareness and outreach activities, will help women play a bigger role in local decision-making, especially when it comes to using genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

(c) There is a balanced gender representation in activities such as participation in relevant workshops, meetings, and decision-making forums.

(d) Review and regularly update the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan, which includes the results framework baselines and the Theory of Change, so that all parts of the project can be based on these findings.

(e) Incorporate gender dimensions when conducting mid-term (if required) and final evaluations in accordance with UNEP/GEF guidelines. Include and modify MTR recommendations to new project plans and monitor their execution. Use the final evaluation to gauge how well the project is progressing toward its intended goals.

TABLE 4. STRATEGIC ISSUES, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

Strategic issue	**Strategic objective**	**Expected result**	**Activities**

1. Gender mainstreaming in the fields of biodiversity and genetic resources is limited by institutional and human resource capacity.	1. Improve the management of knowledge and capability for access to and use of the environment and natural resources.	1.1. Increased the number of local/regional and country-level institutions in the public and private sectors that effectively mainstream gender and women's and youth empowerment in their policies, development plans, and corresponding strategies to promote gender equality and equity in biodiversity and genetic resource management and use. 1.2. Increased number of personnel informed and trained in gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment frameworks/tools	i. Conduct gender analysis and advocate for and support incorporation of gender mainstreaming targets in laws and policies that are under review. ii. Develop a gender mainstreaming toolkit for effective gender mainstreaming in respect of the use of biodiversity and genetic resources. iii. Undertake training and capacity needs assessments among gender focal points and planners in line ministries, various authorities and in all counties and develop appropriate training programs. iv. Develop and implement a gender mainstreaming capacity building program at national and sub national levels in collaboration with strategic partners v. Strengthen the capacity of MINEPDED to mainstream gender in environmental conservation and sustainable development programs and projects at the national, regional, and institutional levels. vii. Strengthen the capacities of county structures to mainstream gender in use of biodiversity and genetic resources.
2. There is a knowledge gap regarding the relationship between the environment, gender equality, and sustainable development, as well as gender mainstreaming in natural resource management and poverty reduction programs.	2. Increase how gender is taken into account in programs to protect the environment, manage natural resources, and fight poverty.	2.1. Increased number of women and men having equal access to the environment, natural resources, and sharing benefits from the use of genetic resources at the local and national levels. 2.2. At the national and county levels, gender equality is a priority in all programs to reduce poverty.	i. Educate, inform, and train the public about the relationship between gender, the environment, and poverty reduction. ii. Through education and training, work to make sure that men and women have the same rights and that the use of biodiversity and genetic resources is a part of all economic empowerment programs. iii. Give communities and civil society groups the power to ask for fairness and equality in the use and exploitation of genetic resources (lobby to legalize and promote free prior informed consent) (FPIC). iv. Develop guidelines and a toolkit for effective PIC in a way that is participatory and includes everyone. This will give the public, and women in particular, the power to demand fairness and equality.

3. Inadequate gender responsive and gender disaggregated data, as well as ineffective use of what is available	3. Improve policy analysis and gender-responsive research, as well as data management and monitoring and evaluation systems.	3.1. The governmental and business sectors, civil society organizations, and academic institutions can access and use reliable gender-disaggregated data for ABS and genetic resource policy. 3.2. Increased financing for gender-responsive research and its dissemination from donors and development organizations.	i. Develop and improve MINEPDED's internal monitoring and evaluation processes and encourage the use of them to evaluate the implementation of gender mainstreaming in relation to the environment and natural resources. ii. Build the skills of regional MINEPDED officers and community-based organizations working on gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation so they can keep track of gender equality in the use of biodiversity and genetic resources. iii. Initiate and support policy research on gender, environment and poverty reduction and building a sex/gender disaggregated data bank at the MINEPDED level. iv. Conduct a mid-term and final (at the end of 4 years) evaluation of the implementation of the gender strategy.
4. Limited and infective partnerships and coordination for gender mainstreaming in development sectors in the public, private and CSOs.	4: Promote partnerships, linkages and sharing of best practices on gender mainstreaming in the management and use of biodiversity and genetic resources nationally.	Outcome 4: Partnerships and linkages established and functioning to support gender-responsive access to and use of the environment and natural resources at the national and subnational levels	i. Identify and develop partnerships with key project stakeholders and the private sector for training, capacity-building, and research activities that are responsive to gender dimensions of use of biodiversity and genetic resources. iii. Launch and support a community of practice on gender mainstreaming with regard to the environment and natural resources and promote the sharing of best lessons on gender, climate change and the green economy.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The private sector is a strategic stakeholder and will be involved in the project as reflected in the stakeholder engagement plan. Not only is the private sector a key player in access to genetic resources and their commercialisation, it also is a critical actor in lobbying, awareness-raising and advocacy. The private sector will therefore be actively involved in discussions and development of strategies for PIC and MAT, so that the rules and regulations to be established will be mutually agreed upon and adhered to.

The GEF investment is critical for the success of the partnership between the private sector, local research institutions, protected area management and local communities in an ABS Nagoya compliant manner. Access and Benefit Sharing projects are affected by heavy investments on research and development where most industrial partners are unable to sustain the costs. The GEF investiment will contribute towards development of effective bioprospecting platforms and also provide venture capital for the GR product development and commercialization within the project?s framework (derived from Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, and Accacia nilotica). The benefits thereof that is both monetary and non moneytary will be realized on short- and long-term basis. The project will form part of best model examples to be used for effective biodiversity-based policy and legislative development.

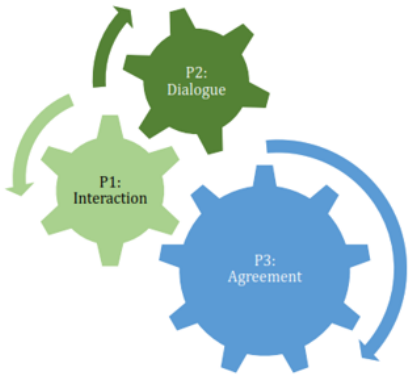
The project will facilitate private sector engagement and projects targeting investments in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in-situ. Lessons from this project will be used to develop ABS laws and regulations. In general, the private sector will contribute technically to supporting the project on the realization of bioassays, marketing, provision of supplies and technical know-how to the project. It will also support capacity building in these areas, thereby facilitating technology transfer to benefit national project partners and beneficiaries.

The partnership with the private sector will accelerate technology transfer that will lead to more product development and commercialization through agreed ABS agreements. The industrial partners, MISPEG Enterprise; MASS SPICE enterprise; V. Mane Fils; and Firmenich have had experience working with local communities in the South-West Region of Cameroon, and on GR-related projects involving protected areas in these communities and are committed to supporting the project through technology development and commercialization of the derived GR products. The local universities (University of Buea, and University of Maroua) will be actively involved in research and development of the industrial products in partnership with the private sector. The GEF funds will support the bio discovery process and technology transfer between the industrial partner and the resource providers in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol.

Strategic approach to private sector engagement

The project approach to engagement with the private sector will adopt the P3 Model, adapted from Barbara O?Hanlon, USAID funded SHOPS project (2011). In this model, the P stands for Phase,

although it is not essential for all PSE to reach all three phases, it merely implies that it is a stepwise process that can complete/end at any phase (see the Figure below).



P1: Public-Private Interaction
Emphasis on *communication* of information to assist each entity
P2: Public-Private Dialogue
Emphasis on *cooperation* around an issue of mutual interest
P3: Public-Private Agreement
Emphasis on *collaboration* formalized in a contract that is jointly designed and implemented

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Figure 1. P3 Model for private sector engagement.¶

With different degrees of complexity and formality, each of these levels of involvement builds on the previous one. A codified agreement, as in P3, emerges via purposeful encounters and discourse, as in P1 for the initial interaction and P2 for the dialogue. The sort of engagement should be determined and preceded by a series of non-linear processes, and will be determined by the country's needs, the priority areas of supply chain improvements, and the willingness of partners to be engaged.

Plan for engagement:

Stakeholder	Role in the project	Mode of engagement	Timing

Private Companies and Research Institutions *? MISPEG Enterprise* *? MASS SPICE enterprise* *? V. Mane Fils* *? Firmenich* *? University of Buea* *? University of Maoroua*	? Play an important role in building national capacities in bioprospecting, and as collaborators on research and commercialization of products from Cameroon?s genetic resources. ? They will guide technology transfer under Component 2. They with the other research partners will advise on the technical side of negotiations with resource owner communities, will advise on sample collection and study, database of samples, advice on ABS, and will oversee technology transfer to Cameroon national level. ? Support rationalization of a mode of operation with foreign pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies and supplies raw materials, essential oils, plant extracts.	? Regular communication by phone or through meetings, project progress updates and reports ? Official correspondence and meetings. ? Project progress updates and reports ? Participate in workshops, meetings, consultation activities, and field research etc. ? Regular reporting on project progress, impacts and undertaken measures. ? Bulletin board Grievance procedure ? Code of conduct. ? Information in contract, bulletin board, training.	? Throughout the Project implementation. ? Throughout the Project implementation. ? All project phases ? When scheduled ? All project phases ? Throughout the Project implementation. ? All project phases ? All project phases

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

In the table below, there is a risk analysis that rates the possible risks of the project and lists ways to deal with them during both planning and execution. During the project's execution, these risks and ways to deal

with them will be evaluated and tracked in more depth. Even though there were no major environmental or social effects found for the project, the agencies in charge of carrying it out will keep an eye on it and make sure that indigenous communities follow the principles of prior and informed participation and consent in every part of it. This is to make sure that customary rights and community access and tenure to natural resources and IP rights are not violated. From an environmental and economic point of view, the project is expected to have a mostly positive effect on the world as a whole. It is expected to help protect biodiversity and keep the environment stable by giving local communities financial incentives and making sure they will get a fair share of the profits from developing genetic resources. With a stronger legal framework for ABS, indigenous and local groups will have a better chance of making money from bioprospecting operations. This will also make it more likely that their traditional knowledge will be kept. Also, it is expected that the PIC and MAT procedures will give opportunities to reduce any environmental and social risks that may be caused by the ABS agreements. The project's risk matrix, which has been updated from the PIF, is given below:

Risks	Level	Mitigation approach
Socio political crises in the project area:.	Medium	The project will adopt a conflict-sensitive approach which (within the context of the project) highlights conflict prevention and peacebuilding programmes and processes by project staff and key partners. The objective will be to address natural resource risks and possibilities in the context of GRs and aTK, empower women and restore livelihoods for ex-combatants, limit adverse environmental consequences, and develop local capacity to reap the benefits of value addition in GRs and aTK. The project will identified local organised partners and communities lead and have them as key project execution partners
The Project could potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits if gender roles, relations, and capacities in the Project area are not clearly understood and gender is not mainstreamed across all Project components and the implementation of the Gender Plan is inadequate. At the policy level, gender will be	High	The administrative and permitting procedures to be developed through the project would include specific guidelines for FPIC to be undertaken during the development of community protocols and the subsequent development of commercial agreements. These Agreements will therefore include specific requirements to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits on Mutually Agreed Terms, to ensure women and vulnerable communities are proactively involved in decisions on ABS agreements. Article 5 of the Nagoya Protocol calls for fair and equitable benefit sharing from the utilization of genetic resources would be central to any legislation and/or policy that deals with ABS, but the gender oversight should ensure that the sharing is equitable across men and women as well. To safeguard the interests of women and avoid potential loss of participation and benefits from the project, a gender action plan has been developed which identifies measures to ensure women?s participation in project decision-making bodies, participate in the development of the ABS framework, development of templates for community protocols, etc.

The project promotes a framework that supports the use of genetic resources for commercial purposes that might result in over-exploitation of genetic materials and might impact on biodiversity and species and related community health	High	The Nagoya Protocol promotes not only the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the equitable use of genetic resources but also the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Conservation and sustainable use measures will be built into the policies, legislation and regulations. Further, model ABS agreements will also mainstream conservation and sustainable utilization of GR monitored for compliance through the administrative and permitting measures to be introduced through the project, with defined checkpoints to ensure enforcement of contract obligations. The review of the policies and administrative systems for access to GR (including model ABS agreements and monitoring and enforcement measures) will be undertaken to ensure that these new measures will not have deleterious impacts on the environment once enforced. While the project will only focus on the policy landscape, with no pilot projects implemented, a financial mechanism will be established through the project to channel funds for conservation of biodiversity once the ABS framework is established. In addition to the management measures outlined above, the following measures will be developed as part of the administrative and permitting system procedures for the implementation of the ABS legislation. The project will ensure that the templates and guidelines developed to support future ABS agreements include specific measures to (a) assess the status of the GR to be utilized; (b) define sustainable harvest levels and harvesting methods so as to avoid over-exploitation and destructive actions; and (c) establish measures to ensure compliance.

The use of traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources could result in erosion of cultural features	Moderate	The creation of a legal framework and institutions that regulate the use of traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources may not be effective, due to the lack of monitoring and enforcement. Meaningful and effective consultation with local communities (holders of GR and TK) so that the sourcing of these resources are only used with the consent of the affected communities, including vulnerable communities (applying of FPIC procedures). This will be ensured by community protocols in relation to access to GR and TK being developed by local communities (including Special Interest Groups and women) to define the rules for access of GR and TK and sharing of benefits. These protocols would set out the communities? cultural values, cultural rights and responsibilities for resource management. These protocols will be developed by this project and before any future ABS agreements are negotiated (once the national ABS framework is in place) so that it provides an agreeable basis for communities to ensure that resource use agreements are made on the terms and conditions set by the community. The project will also ensure that procedures for access and benefit sharing will ensure that such agreements are signed by the GR/TK owners based on mutually agreed terms, training programs and that capacity building will take place in local communities, and the internationally recognized certificates for GR/TK will be issued by government.
Government and other stakeholders? commitment to the ABS process might be limited	Moderate	The project will strengthen the capacity of government and stakeholders in the process of developing and implementing a national ABS policy and legislation. The project will focus on providing targeted training to CNA, research institutions and agency staff to enhance their capacity on tools in establishing appropriate bio-prospecting protocols, including processing ABS access application, negotiating ABS agreements; compliance monitoring; and development of certificate of origin and FPIC certificate. At the community level and for wider stakeholders, the project will create awareness on the adoption of a national law on ABS, and provisions on including FPIC requirements, the use of model ABS agreements, and relevant provisions of the Nagoya Protocol. By doing so, the project stakeholders will have better understanding of the benefit of ABS framework and increasingly adopt and commit to the process.

The holders of genetic resources and traditional knowledge might not have the capacity to claim their rights and ownership to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and government agencies may not have the capacity to recognize these rights.	Moderate	Limited knowledge by local populations of legal rights to resources and knowledge may impede rights-holders from claiming their rights, in particular as it relates to the access and use of GR and aTK, equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use, and the means to monitor ABS agreements. In keeping with Article 22 of the NP, the project will ensure that capacity building programs are conducted to enhance capacity of government officials and local communities to understand and be able to claim their rights and ownership to GR and aTK as defined by Article 18 of NP in terms of have capacity to develop and reach agreement of use of GR and aTK based on MATs. The following will be specific initiatives undertaken within this context to address this risk: ? Training programs to expose GR and TK holders, including special interest groups on their rights, ability to negotiate ABS agreements and related benefit sharing measures (using FPIC procedures), ability to monitor and control unsustainable exploitation of GRs, and be able to prepare their respective community protocols, document their TK, etc. ? MINEPDED is a key beneficiary of the project and is expected to continue to provide oversight, technical support, monitoring and extension services to potential future ABS agreements so as to continue to build capacity of the TK holders. ? Capacity building activities planned under the project is intended to expand the capacity of the MINEPDED, MINJUSTICE, MINFOF, MINRESI, and others to support ABS agreements, manage the TK registers and house the TK databases and ABS CHM, support identification of future bio-prospecting opportunities in consultation with local communities, etc.
Technical aspects relating to ABS are complex	Moderate	Technical aspects of ABS including proper valuation and cost sharing techniques for biodiversity resources are somewhat new methods in Cameroon. However, there are enough lessons and good practices in the country and the Sub-Saharan Africa region established to develop ABS framework. The project will draw lessons and practices that have advanced implementation of similar ABS projects, many of which have been supported by key UN agencies. The project will strongly focus on strengthening technical capacity of key government implementers and other relevant stakeholders while developing the policy and legislation for ABS.
Limited local expertise to develop ABS value chains and low involvement of national research	High	Several capacity building activities will be supported by the project to update scientific and technical skills of key actors.

The Project intervention can affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices.	Low	The project will be taking into consideration sustainable traditional practices in all action to be realized to avoid negative impact of commercialization or uses on the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples.
Lack of knowledge of local communities on mechanisms in place to respond to communities? grievances	Low	The project will work with local communities to develop a biocultural community protocol, including MAT and PIC procedures for the utilization of biological/genetic resources and in accordance with local practices and national law.
Overexploitation, over utilization of genetic resources	Low	Strict spatial sustainable management plans are in place that allow the communities to manage their own resources, yet with a number of caps in place to prevent overharvesting.
The governance risk that can appear in the procurement process and financial implementation of the project	Moderate	This risk will be mitigated by the fact that the UNEP will ensure strict application of the relevant rules of procedure. Furthermore, UNEP supervision missions and technical and financial audit missions will help to ensure conformity between the specifications, services and works effectively done, disbursements and the loan agreement.
Reduced commercial viability of the project.	Medium	Changes in the global market, changes in novel product approval regulations, currency fluctuations and other macro-economic changes all impact this project due to its reliance on global markets and integrated supply chains. Not all risks can be foreseen, yet the reliance on a variety of partners, a variety of funding sources and fairly flexible supply chains all help to mitigate these risks.

Risk related to COVID 19: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant economic and human losses. The number of deaths worldwide has surpassed 1 545 140 as of 9 December 2020 and is still rising (WHO). Lockdowns imposed by the government and other public health measures taken to protect people from the virus have caused the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Since the beginning of the pandemic in Cameroon (443 deaths by 9 December 2020), the government's health response has been centered on strengthening the health system, especially through the purchase of medical equipment specifically designed to combat COVID 19. The pandemic presented opportunities as well because it highlighted the government of Cameroon's desire to hasten the advancement of traditional medicine. Researchers and conventional healthcare providers have come up with a number of potential solutions in the race to find preventive and curative treatments for the care of infected patients. The government created a national solidarity fund of more than 180 billion FCFA to combat the Covid-19 pandemic in the face of structural and economic challenges. Following this, the Minister of Industry took a historic step by conducting feasibility studies on the growth of the local pharmaceutical industry in Cameroon on the Prime Minister's, Head of Government, high orders. This resulted in the adoption of a strategy for the development of an integrated national pharmaceutical industry and was consistent with the formulation of programs, projects, and business models to attract and improve the productivity of local pharmaceutical

companies. These policies, which primarily target the industrial sector and small and medium-sized businesses, do not take into account investments in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and restoration policies, nor policies for biodiversity-positive recovery.

Climate change risk: Thousands of Cameroonian rural and urban residents depend on the value chains for their livelihood. It is well known that value chains serve a variety of purposes in promoting human wellbeing. The products for food, shelter, medicines, fibers, energy, and cultural artifacts are provided by the value chains. They also give many households a way to generate income, either as a primary source of income or as a supplement to other means of subsistence. In Cameroon, the majority of rural households and a sizable portion of urban households rely on the products to fulfil some of their nutritional, health, house-building, and other needs, which helps to reduce poverty. High economic value and substantial employment are produced by the value chains. Additionally, they provide a crucial safety net for the livelihood in difficult times and help to improve nutrition by either incorporating it into the family's diet or by achieving food security for the home. While shifting weather patterns have an impact on the population, distribution, phenophases, morphology, and deterioration of indigenous peoples' means of subsistence, value chains also serve as a safety net to support communities in a difficult situation, like crop failure due to the current climate change. Their use is one of the defenses against climate variability and change.

Risks associated with ABS agreements and value chain development for genetic resources: In Output 3.1.1., the project will support the establishment of at least 4 ABS agreements between communities, government, private sector, and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica. There are potential risks associated with these initiatives. These include the following:

? Inconclusive or negative results of clinical trials: The project will support re-testing or research into other parts of the plants and consider sustainable means of obtaining more biological material through increased cultivation with community involvement.

? Insufficient biological material to satisfy a high demand: The project will support re-testing or research into other parts of the plants and consider sustainable means of obtaining more biological material through increased cultivation with community involvement.

? Permits for marketing are not obtained: The project will support obtaining the necessary ?market intelligence? to advance the positioning of products, product niches, including facilitation of Intellectual Property (IP), licensing and modification of product according to market preferences.

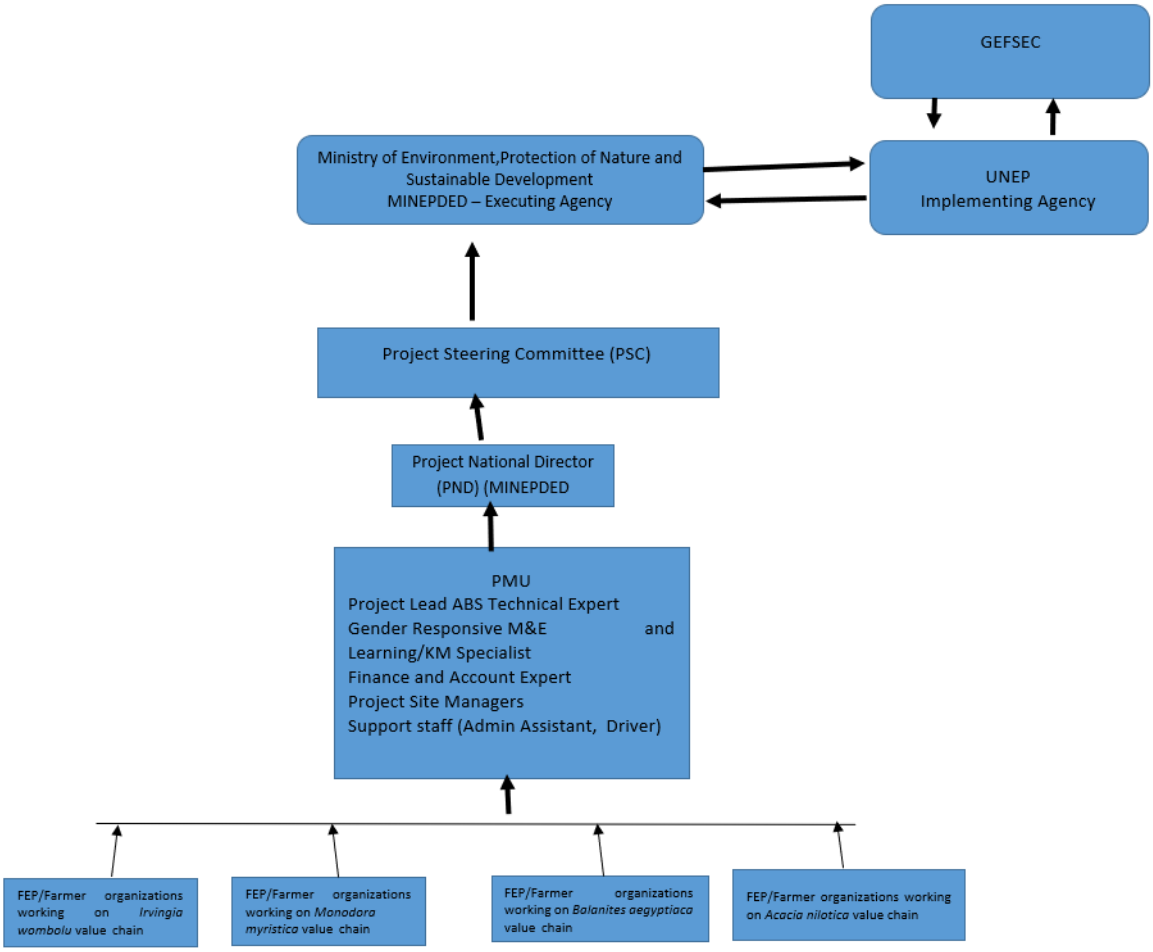
6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

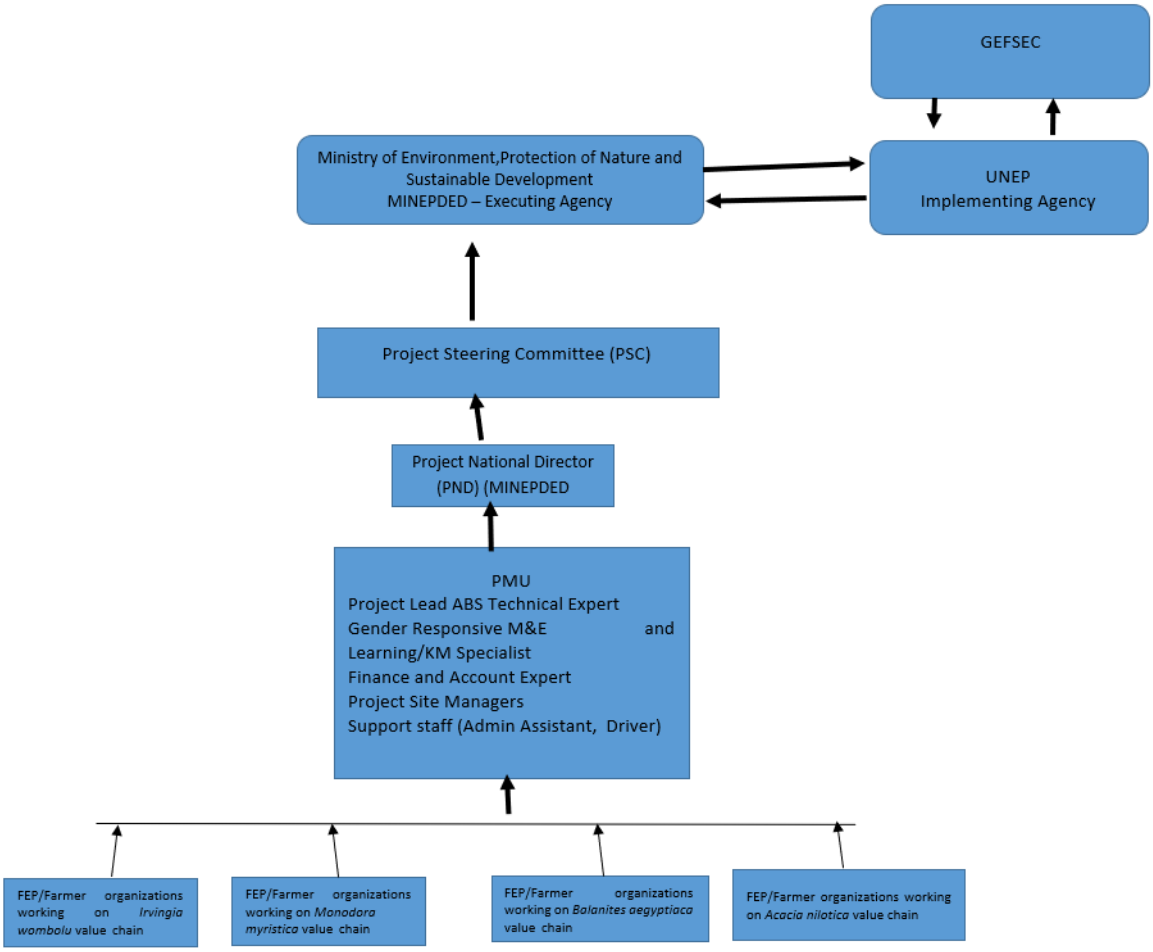
Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION is the Implementing Agency (IA) for this GEF project. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. It shall also in partnership with MTE and other key project partners engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilizing resources and partnership. Project supervision will be entrusted to the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director who will discharge this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director on the Project Steering Committee. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION will perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e., one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on an annual basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the Executing Agency (EA) and ensure that the Evaluation and Oversight Unit of UNEP arranges for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office.

Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED-Cameroon) is the Executing Agency (EA) of the project and shall take responsibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the (a) agreement to be signed with UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION, (b) agreed objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also coordinate activities with the other key Government and other relevant partners and address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. As Executing Agency (EA), the Ministry is committed to make best use of project resources and implement the project in the most effective manner.

The project?s organisational structure is shown in Figure 18 below.


GEFSEC
Ministry of Environment,Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINEPDED – Executing Agency
UNEP
Implementing Agency
Project Steering Committee (PSC)
Project National Director (PND) (MINEPDED
PMU
Project Lead ABS Technical Expert
Gender Responsive M&E and Learning/KM Specialist
Finance and Account Expert
Project Site Managers
Support staff (Admin Assistant, Driver)
FEP/Farmer organizations working on *Irvingia wombolu* value chain
FEP/Farmer organizations working on *Monodora myristica* value chain
FEP/Farmer organizations working on *Balanites aegyptiaca* value chain
FEP/Farmer organizations working on *Acacia nilotica* value chain



The following section describes the responsibilities of the main entities involved. A summary of the project reporting requirements and responsibilities is annexed as Appendix 7. The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) of the project partners, staff and key experts are included in Appendix 9.

GEF Implementing Agency (IA)

The UN Environment Regional Office ? through its GEF Task Manager (TM) ? will be directly responsible for:

? Providing consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives.

? Providing support to the Executing Agency in ensuring the technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables produced by the project, including adherence to international best practices.

? Liaising between the project and the GEF Secretariat.

? Ensuring that both GEF and UN Environment policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e., reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E).

? Approving budget revisions, certifying fund availability, and transferring funds.

? Organizing mid- and end-term evaluations and reviewing project audits.

? Providing technical, legal, and administrative guidance if requested.

? Certifying project operational completion.

Executing Agency (EA) ? MINEPDED

MINEPDED will be accountable to UN Environment for the disbursement of funds and the achievement of the project objective and outcomes, according to the approved work plan. MINEPDED will be ultimately responsible for:

? Overseeing project execution in accordance with the project results framework and budget, the agreed work plan and reporting tasks.

? Coordinating project activities in collaboration with project partners.

? Providing technical expertise to the project through its personnel and networks.

? Ensuring technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables produced by the project.

? Facilitating access to project sites and locations.

? Establishing project sub-contracts and monitor the performance of the sub-contractors.

? Compiling and submitting progress, financial and audit reporting to UN Environment.

? Supporting logistical project-related issues (e.g., organization of meetings and provision of relevant facilities), as required.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be constituted to serve as the project oversight, advisory and support body for the project. The MINEPDED will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) and assign a National Project Director (part-time) to coordinate the tasks of the project. In addition, a lead organization has been defined for each outcome/output which will have the main responsibility for the implementation of the activities. The PSC will meet at least once per year in person for the annual project progress and performance assessment, and more often ? e.g., through Skype, Teams, e-mail (or any other form of internet/electronic-based meeting), where required. It will be composed of representatives from MINEPDED (Lead), UNEP, MINRESI, MINFOF, MINSANTE, MINPMESA, MINAS, MINESUP, MINPROFF, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINJUSTICE, MINCOMMERCE, IRAD, University of Buea, University of Maroua, ICRAF, UN Environment, and IPLCs representatives from both targeted regions. The PSC should have adequate representation of women.

The PSC provides overall guidance and policy direction to the implementation of the project and provides advice on appropriate strategies for project sustainability. The PSC will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluation by assuring the quality of the project processes and products. The PSC will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, in order to:

? Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties.

? Provide monitoring for project implementation.

? Review and adopt the annual work plans and budgets prepared by the Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UNEP.

? Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by PMU and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary.

? Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented in the project area; and

? Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be considered during project implementation.

The members of the PSC will include:

o Chair: the designated Senior Staff from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

o Co-Chair: UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Task manager or mandated UNEP Official

o Members: GEF Operational focal point and representatives of various ministries, in particular those in charge of the environment, forests, protected areas, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mines, finance, justice,

land, women, tourism, scientific research and administration of the territory, as well as special economic zones. The specific roles within the PSC are based on the mandates assigned to each ministry.
The Secretariat to the PSC will be provided by the Project Management Unit.
As may be required on specific issues, an Advisory group can be formed to offer any other guidance or expertise as required by the specific agenda of the PSC.
Project Management Unit (PMU)
A PMU will be established within MINEPDED to lead the day-to-day management of the project activities. The PMU will be headed by the National Project Coordinator (GEF-funded), supervised by the Project Director (co-funded by MINEPDED), and will be composed of government staff as well as dedicated project staff. The PMU should have adequate representation of women.
The daily management of the project remains with the project team under the watchful eye of the designated Project Director. The PMU will serve as the critical link between the Agency, the project partners assuming the lead of thematic areas, and the different groups engaged on project activities, will ensure project planned activities are adequately executed and that lessons learned are shared among sites and within national committees and to provide visibility of the project at the national and international level. The PMU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all national and international partners. The PMU will elaborate and submit to the IA technical and financial progress reports. The Project Management Unit consists of:

? ?
? Project ABS Lead Technical Expert (National)
? Project Gender Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (National)
? Administration and Financial Officer (National)
? Project Site Manager (one in each region)
? Support Staff
? Field execution partners

See Appendix 5: Terms of Reference for Project Personnel for detailed overview of PMU roles.
The hosting costs of the PMU will be covered by the Government.

The project will learn from and coordinate with the following projects:
GEF funded project ?A Bottom-up approach to ABS: Community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon (Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei?: GEF ID:5387. As already described in the baseline section, this project will build and draw from the foundation for collaboration in the development of community protocols, agreements and other ABS related processes established by this project...
The BioInnovation Africa project (2019 ? 2022): This project was developed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in the context of the German Marshall Plan with Africa. The project aims to encourage and support the private sector to invest in Africa and to enter into sustainable and mutually beneficial business partnerships in accordance with ethical, social and environmental standards. The project will collaborate with business and governmental partners in pursuit of: a) Regulatory compliance ? particularly with respect to the national Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations, implementing the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity; b) Ecological sustainability ? foster R&D and sourcing schemes that respect people and support biodiversity conservation; c) Innovation for new products and jobs ? promoting technology transfer, long term business partnerships for a reliable supply of natural ingredients and better products; and d) Advocacy ? showcasing

successful and sustainable North-South business partnerships as ?proof of principle? will help to increasingly integrate BioTrade and ABS in cooperation portfolios. In its first three-year phase, 2019 to 2022, BioInnovation Africa is considered to focus on Cameroon, Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa. Areas of possible synergies between The BioInnovation Africa project and this proposed project, will include support to small holders in the following domains, but not limited to::

Shared Information: Each project will certainly generate information that will be useful to the other, this will be cost saving and facilitate the implementation of both projects;

Capacity building of stakeholders: both projects need to build capacity of key stakeholders like the government and indigenous local communities. Possible synergies here will be in line with identifying common interest and organizing this capacity building activities around an elaborate capacity building strategy and action plan that will be adopted.

Improved Sales and Marketing of GR: Both projects are targeting value chains that could be of interest to the same users. Areas of synergies here will involve presenting the genetic resources whose value chain is being supported in one project to the users of another project in case of interest. This will save cost of looking for other users who might be interested in a specific characteristic of the GR.

Research and Development: Both projects will develop synergies in support areas of research and development of GR in Cameroon. For example, one project may support a research centre with the required equipment that will be used in characterizing GR in the other project.

World Wildlife Fund initiatives: Since 1992, WWF Cameroon has supported the Government of Cameroon in five critical areas: (i) Protected Areas Development and Management, including the Boumba-Bek, Nki, Lobeke, Bakossi, Campo Ma?an and recently Mount Cameroon national parks. (ii) Sustainable Forest Management and Certification. (iii) Flagship Species Conservation. (iv) Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) including support to local communities in managing community hunting zones (in southeast and northern savannah areas). (v) Policy, Advocacy and Process - up-scaling of local and national realities to national and international (the CBD, RAMSAR, UNFCCC) decision making processes ..

The Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Cameroon (2017-2023) project. This project is being executed by Cameroon?s Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, with the United Nations Development Programme as the Implementing party. The project will be implemented over a period of six years. The total funds invested in this project is 29,710,281 USD, of which 3,907,500 USD constitutes grant funding from GEF. The objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species in Cameroon by improving biodiversity enforcement, resilience, and management with a key focus on the portion of the Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkebe transboundary area. The objective will be achieved through implementation of four interconnected components: (1) strengthening capacity for protected area governance and control of illegal wildlife trade, (2) improving management of globally significant protected areas by national and local institutions, (3) reducing poaching and illegal trafficking of threatened species at the project site, and (4) knowledge management.

UNEP project ?Removing barriers to biodiversity conservation, land restoration and sustainable forest management through Community-Based Landscape Management ? COBALAM? (9604): In progress. Although this GEF-6 project (approved for implementation in February 2020 for a period of 5 years) does not overlap with the proposed geographic scope of this Congo IP project, it also takes a landscape approach to looking at key questions of community forest protection, institutional alignment for integrated landscape planning, and SFM practices and enterprise management. These are all areas where there is the potential to learn and share experiences and best practices.

Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in Western Cameroon ? SUFACHAC (2017-2022). The project objective is to develop and promote integrated land use planning that integrate biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in Bakossi Banyang Mbo terrestrial ecosystems in order to facilitate increased cross sectorial investments and improved livelihood for the local communities and ensure restoration and management of ecosystem services in the context of a green economy.
Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plan for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystems (PINESMAP- BPCE) (2017-2022). The project aim at ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and improved management of Bakassi ecosystems through integrated ecosystem management plans including ecosystem valuation. Both PINESMAP-BPCE and SUFACHAC projects will provide a solid foundation for the proposed project particularly with regards to community-based management of natural resources, livelihood generation and land planning and management.
IUCN project ?Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of Local Plant Species and Tree Products (Bambusa ssp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon? (9519): In progress. This medium-sized project which was approved in 2018 aims to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods. It includes components that will provide important opportunities for knowledge sharing, including on strengthening capacity for SFM and the development of NTFP value chains.
Integrated Management of Cameroon?s Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin (GEF Project Grant: US $9,608,257; GEF Project ID: 10287): The child project of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP) aims to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon?s globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and livelihoods for forest dependent people. This project lays a good foundation for the preservation of genetic resources in Cameroon, as biodiversity and genetic resources go hand in hand. Lessons learned and models of community engagement from this project will be useful un guiding the current project in its community engagement approaches.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

This project is consistent with some of the country?s major priorities, strategies and plans. These include the following:
The Programme for Conservation and management of biodiversity (including forest genetic resources) in Cameroon (PCGBC): The goal of the project is to support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrues tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable, and

sustainable manner. In Outcome 2, the project seeks to achieve a situation in which farmer organizations are well-informed and able to use legal instruments to negotiate a MAT reflecting their needs, concerns and rights relating to conservation, use and access to Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK). Through the conservation dimension, the project is directly contributing to the country?s Programme for Conservation and management of biodiversity which initiated biodiversity inventories in Cameroon and whose main goals were to (i) promote the participation of local populations in biodiversity conservation, and (ii) encourage sustainable use of renewable natural resources and promote ecologically-sound development around protected area.

The National Development Strategy (NDS) 2020-2030: The NDS 2020-2030 is fully aligned to the SDGs and envisages actions to promote inclusive growth. It aims to place Cameroon on the path of Newly Industrialized Countries (NICs) and this joint programme is to contribute to SDG 17 by mobilizing resources to advance the rest of the 16 Goals. Beyond the approach of being the financing strategy of the National Development Strategy, the underlying approach of Integrated National Financing Framework is to mobilize substantial resources into SDG accelerators for Cameroon . This is supposed to be achieved by: (i) achieving economic growth close to double digits; (ii) reaching the 25% threshold as a share of manufacturing production in GDP; (iii) significantly reducing poverty by reducing its incidence to less than 10% in 2035; (iv) consolidating the democratic process and strengthening national unity while respecting diversity. The use of the country?s natural resources (and especially its rich biological resources) will be one of the key drivers of this transformation. Indeed its 15th development objective is to preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring that they are used sustainably, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse the process of land degradation and put an end to the loss of biodiversity. The current project aligns with this goal in several of its deliveries, particularly Output 2.1.2. ?Sustainable regeneration and associated management practices well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain.? Activities in this Output will support the preservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring that they are used sustainably managed and conserved for future generations.

Alignment with Cameroon?s United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2022-2026:

The UNSDCF for 2022?2026, which was signed in 2021 to advance the 2030 Agenda through progress towards the SDGs in Cameroon, represents the collective response of United Nations entities operating in Cameroon to the priorities outlined in the NDS30. This Project will directly contribute to the four strategic priorities under the UNSDCF: (i) Inclsuive and sustainable growth through structural transformation and green economy with creation of decent jobs (Strategic Priority 1); Quality, inclusive and equitable human and social development (strategic priority 2); Citizen participation and institutional Support (Strategic Priority 3) and Environmental sustainability and climate risks and disasters Risks management (strategic priority 4).

Under Strategic Priority 1: Inclsuive and sustainable growth through structural transformation and green economy with creation of decent jobs: The project will contribute to the following Outputs of the UNDSCF:

Output 1.1 The promising value chains (plants, forests, animals and fisheries), with high export potential are developed and promoted. Developing opportunities for job creation through value additions in GRs and aTK is consistent with the objectives of this priority.

Output 1.2 The very small medium size enterprises, cooperative societies and start-ups driven primarily by young people, women and vulnerable groups have better access to inclusive financing mechanisms. Under Outcome 3.1 of this project, seed funds through Grant mechanism for organised communities? groups and

private sector to support development / valorization of potential ABS value chains in accordance with the adopted Policy and Guidelines on CMCI, will be provided targeting Young people, Women and vulnerable groups.
Output 1.3 The capacities of institutions, VSMEs, cooperative societies and start-ups driven primarily by young people, women and vulnerable groups are strengthened for an effective contribution to the transformation of the economy. The current project involves many capacity building and awareness raising activities, such as in Outcome 2.1.
Under Strategic Priority 2: Quality, inclusive and equitable human and social development: The project will conmtribute to the following two ouptuts:
Output 2.1.7: Increased equitable and sustainable access for young people aged 15-35 to vocational training and learning opportunities, in line with the productive sector. At the hear of NP, is the implementation of ABS, which formalizes the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and how the benefits that result from their use are shared between the people or countries using the resources (users) and the people or countries that provide them (providers)
Output 2.1.4: The capacities of the national food and nutrition security surveillance and coordination system are strengthened to enable the effective use of data by users. This project will support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrue tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable and sustainable manner
Under Strategic Priority 3 Citizen participation and institutional Support: The current project involves many capacity building and awareness raising activities, such as in Outcome 2.1.
Under Strategic Prioirty 4: Environmental sustainability and climate risks and disasters Risks management: The project will support establishment of at least 4 ABS agreements between communities, government, private sector and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca. A business model for local biodiversity women led value chain targeting key products in Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup? Manengouba and Meme Division developed. Through these activities, the project will not only mainstream environmental sustainability, but will provide lndigenous people and local communities a better capacity to cope with economic and social shocks caused by crises and extreme natural events, to adapt and recover quickly without compromising the future in the medium- and long-term.
The Sectoral Programme on Forest and Environment (PSFE): Output 2.1.2. of the project seeks to achieve sustainable regeneration and associated management practices well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the GR aTK value chain. In the process of achieving sustainable regeneration of GRs, the project will support biomonitoring, biodiversity surveys, and sustainable forest management in project communities. Such activities will be contributing to the sectoral programme of the MINFOF, which is constituted of four components outlined in four programmes among which one concerns protected areas and wildlife management.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

8. Knowledge Management. Elaborate the ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project?s overall impact.

During the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that was held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 13?17 October 2014, NP parties adopted Decision NP 1/8 on measures to assist in capacity building and capacity development in accordance with article 22 of the NP. This decision includes a strategic framework for capacity building and development to support the effective implementation of the NP on ABS, which comprises five key areas. Two of the five key areas are the pillars upon which the knowledge management approach considered in this project is anchored:

? Key area (2) Capacity to develop, implement and enforce domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing and,

? Key area (5) Capacity of countries to develop endogenous research capabilities to add value to their own genetic resources.

Specifically, under key area 2, the strategic framework contemplates under 2.5 among others, facilitating the sharing of knowledge and expertise on ABS measures through on-job-training and peer-to-peer exchange programmes, regional and sub-regional learning communities and networks, the provision of technical assistance for the development of administrative procedures for implementing the ABS measures, development of guidelines for differentiating requests for access to genetic resources for commercial and non-commercial use, and development of guidelines for establishment of simplified measures on access to genetic resources for non-commercial research purposes. On its part, under key area 5, the strategic framework contemplates several actions spread across sub areas 5.1 to 5.3 such as the development of methodologies for assessing the potential commercial value of specific GRs and TK, building on good practices in the context of ABS, facilitation of the development of inter-linkages with other initiatives/methodologies/instruments for valorizing GRs and TK, for example through knowledge exchange; documentation and dissemination of case studies on good practices and lessons learned in order to develop understanding of the value chain through analyzing business models; provision of technical assistance to develop research capabilities of domestic institutions and universities to add value to genetic resources, supporting collaborative approaches to technical and scientific research and development programmes, providing technical assistance to support the development or strengthening of genetic resources databases, organization of trainings on bioprospecting and value-addition for genetic resources for IPLCs, small and medium enterprises and private sector, organization of trainings on research and taxonomic studies related to conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components and building capacity to undertake research and development of genetic resources to the commercialization stage.

Knowledge management and sharing, as well as its contribution to the overall impact is so important to this project that the approach taken is to put it under the direct responsibility of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the oversight of the Project Technical Adviser (PTA). In effect, the monitoring and evaluation officer (part of the PMU team and directly under the supervision of the PTA) will carry out knowledge management activities throughout the project. The specific activities will be drawn from the gamut of activities suggested under the specific sub areas 2.5, 5.1 and 5.3 of the strategic framework for capacity building and development to support the effective implementation of the NP on ABS, and will be approved by the PMU/PTA, but in general will encompass a great deal of recording, processing and disseminating key lessons, knowledge areas and experiences generated throughout the project. The implementation of the

activities planned under the three components of the project will certainly offer opportunities to record learning and best practices so that these can be shared widely and thus facilitate smooth implementation of the ABS measures when they are adopted. Such opportunities will certainly appear during e.g., the consultations, discussions pertaining to the design of the key elements to consider designing the access authorization procedures and the permitting system in Cameroon, in the deliverance of PIC and in negotiations of mutually agreed terms/ABS contracts. Other opportunities will be linked to the updating of relevant sectoral policies and other operational instruments such as the national parks research and partnerships policies in terms of streamlining the ABS principles in these sectors. Further opportunities for learning and best practices include the development of community protocols, and the approaches to include local communities and community forest owners in the PIC and MAT when their GRs and traditional knowledge associated with GRs are sought; the process of developing the valorization strategy and its uptake and implementation by national stakeholders e.g. in connection with the establishment of PPP in a bid to mobilize that can harness the scientific and commercial potential of GRs and traditional knowledge associated with GRs under the novel Nagoya Protocol compliant national ABS governance framework.
The monitoring and evaluation officer will not only use field visits for M&E to record key learning and best practices from the various stakeholders of the project under the M&E budget, but he/she will also be part of the training workshops and will join the pool of consultants recruited by the project during their field activities using the budgetary allocations for field activities. Another approach to record the key areas of learning and best practices worth wider dissemination will be by requesting the consultants and other technical experts who will be tasked to undertake the main experts? activities of the project to pay attention to key lessons, best practices etc. in the execution of their assignments (e.g., during the various training and consultations), highlight and report on these issues in their reports. These will then be picked up by the M&E expert and processed accordingly towards the delivery of the wider dissemination.
From the outset of the project a knowledge management platform will be established. This platform will comprise the pool of consultants and experts recruited by the project, staff of the PMU, especially the PTA, and the monitoring and evaluation officer and any other external resource person from academia as may be deemed necessary by the PMU. Guided by the ambition to deliver continued learning and exchange of best practices long after the project lifetime, the establishment of communities of practices (CoPs) will be among the priorities of the platform. These CoPs will essentially be organized around the main stakeholders? groups, notably local and indigenous communities, the scientific/research community, the private sector and policy and administrative officers, all of whom will have been involved in one way or another in the development of the panoply of ABS tools and best practices during the lifetime of this project. The number of CoPs to be formed will be decided at the initial meeting but is likely to be 4 CoPs (Local and indigenous communities; Private sector/civil society; research/scientific community; administrative/policy officers). The principal activities that will be carried out by the Knowledge management platform can be outlined as follows:

? Initial meeting dedicated specifically to internal PMU discussions on the knowledge management approach that will be pursued throughout the project.

? Constitution of the communities of practices (CoPs)

? Consultations by the project monitoring and evaluation officer with the consultants/experts on the recording of knowledge generated and best practices along the way

? Organisation of interactive knowledge and experience sharing and best practices amongst CoPs

? Wide dissemination of key learning topics generated through the project (publication in CHM e.g. in the form of guidelines and production of flyers, opens access publications)

? Compilation of detailed knowledge management report

The products emanating from the knowledge management activities will be shared nationally and will feed into the continued learning and training of stakeholders on ABS implementation in Cameroon. The products of knowledge management activities in term of best practices, success stories, will be formatted as e.g., guidelines, flyers and a manual of best practices. They will be part of the legacy of the project and will be used in the benefit of other ABS actors long after the implementation of this project to ensure long term impacts of the effective implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing of the Nagoya Protocol in the Cameroon and co management of other Forest parks and reserves and community forests. The cost of the knowledge management activities will largely be embedded in the running cost and travel budget of the PMU, the overall budgets of workshops, training sessions and other consultations, the consultants? budgets and the M&E budget.

Table 12 Components of the knowledge management plan:

	Components	**Actors involved**	**Comments**
1-	Initial meeting of the knowledge management platform	PMU Invited experts	An initial meeting will be needed. The meeting will be held in the premises of the executing agency in Cameroon, the ministry of the Environment, Climate Change and Natural resources. This will be an internal meeting within the PMU, chaired by the PTA and involving technical staff of the PMU to set the ball rolling on the knowledge management approach of the project.
2-	Formation of Communities of Practices	PMU	The CoPs will be constructed around the main categories of actors.
3-	Consultations by the project M&E officer with the consultants/experts on the recording of knowledge generated and best practices along the way	Project officer M&E and communication / PM	The M&E officer, under the supervision of the PTA, will interact continuously with experts/consultants to ensure that they pay attention in recording lessons, best practices and challenges throughout the project.
4-	Organization of interactive knowledge and experience sharing and best practices amongst CoPs	Consultants/experts/project officer M&E and communication	Training and capacity building sessions, as well as sensitization, awareness raising, and education sessions will provide the opportunities for these interactive exchanges. In addition, other cross CoPs knowledge and experience sharing interactive workshops will be organised if deemed necessary.

5-	Wide dissemination of key learning topics generated through the project (publication e.g., in the form of guidelines in CHM and production of flyers, opens access publications)	CHM publishing officer, project M&E and communication, Project Technical Adviser	Useful information that is CHM publishable will be submitted to the national publishing agency after validation by relevant authority(ies).
6-	Compilation of detailed knowledge management report	M&E and communication project officer, PTA and an expert identified by the PMU	The compilation of and editing of the final report is likely to be identified among the specific responsibilities of either the international expert on community and awareness raising or the national expert on communication, sensitization and awareness raising. The expert will work closely with the M&E expert under the supervision of the PTA.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP	25,000	30,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	PMU	0	4,000	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project progress and performance indicators	Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP	40,000	25,000	Annually
Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	25,000	30,000	Project inception
Mid-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	25,000	30,000	Mid-Point

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
End-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools?)	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	25,000	30,000	End Point
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	0	2000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	75,000	70,000	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	0	4000	Annually
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	0	2000	Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	50,000	60,000	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	25,000	50,000	At mid-point of project implementation

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Terminal Review/Evaluation *(whether a project requires a management-led review, or an independent evaluation is determined annually by UNEP?s Evaluation Office)*	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	40,000	90,000	Typically initiated after the project?s operational completion
Audit	PMU	0	50,000	Annually
Project Operational Completion Report	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	0	2,000	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report (including supporting evidence for in-kind co-finance)	Project Lead Technical Expert and input from other co-financiers	0	2,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e., on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	5000	25,000	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report

Project Inception Phase

A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be held within the first two (2) months of project start-up with the participation of the full project team, relevant counterparts, co-financing partners, and the UNEP Focal Point, as appropriate. A fundamental objective of the IW will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project?s goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework and the GEF Tracking Tool. This will include reviewing the results framework (indicators, means of verification, and assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalizing the Annual Work Plan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project. Specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at the inception workshop. These will be used to assess whether the implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the Annual Work Plan.

Additionally, the purpose and objective of the IW will be to a) introduce project staff to project stakeholders that will support the project during its implementation; b) detail the roles, support services,

and complementary responsibilities of UNEP staff in relation to the project team; c) provide a detailed overview of UNEP-GEF reporting and M&E requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), mid-term review, final evaluation and financial reporting. Equally, the Inception Workshop will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNEP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews including arrangements for the annual audit, and mandatory budget re-phasings. The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify each party?s responsibilities during the project's implementation phase. A report on the Inception Workshop is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants.

Monitoring Responsibilities and Events

A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: a) tentative timeframes for Project Steering Committee meetings (and other relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms); and b) project-related M&E activities.

Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Project Lead Technical Expert based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Director will inform the UNEP, on behalf of the Executing Agency of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The Project Director will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the IW with support from UNEP Task Manager.

At the inception workshop, specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed. Targets and indicators for subsequent years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will be done during the annual evaluation.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNEP Task Manager through six-monthly exchanges with the project implementation team, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock of and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. The UNEP Task Manager, as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to the project?s field sites, or more often based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/AWP to assess first-hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also take part in these trips, as decided by the Steering Committee and as determined by project resources. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the UNEP Task Manager and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Steering Committee members, and UNEP-GEF.

Annual monitoring will occur through the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to the Project Steering Committee meeting at least once every year.

The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve (12) months of the start of full implementation. The Project Lead Technical Expert will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNEP GEF Task Manager at least two weeks prior to the PSC for review and comments. The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions Project Steering Committee meeting. The Project Lead Technical Expert will present the APR to the PSC, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the PSC. The Project Lead Technical Expert will also inform the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. UNEP has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be conveyed by UNEP to project stakeholders at the IW, based on delivery rates and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.

The Terminal PSC Review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Lead Technical Expert with support of M&E Officer and guidance from UNEP is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNEP GEF. It shall be prepared in the draft at least two months in advance of the PSC meeting in order to allow review and will serve as the basis for discussions in the PSC meeting. The terminal PSC review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to the sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects being implemented.

Project Monitoring Reporting

The Project Lead Technical Expert, with support from M&E officer and guidance from UNEP-GEF team, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process and that are mandatory.

? A Project Inception Report (IR) will be prepared immediately following the IW. It will include a detailed First Year/AWP divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This work plan will include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNEP Task Manager or consultants, as well as timeframes for meetings of the project?s decision-making structures. The IR will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any M&E requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12-month timeframe. The IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions, and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the IR will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to the IR?s circulation, the UNEP/GEF will review the document.

? The Annual Project Report (APR). An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the PSC Review, to reflect the progress achieved in meeting the project?s AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following sections: a) project risks, issues, and adaptive management; b) project progress against pre-defined indicators and targets, c) outcome performance; and d) lessons learned/best practices.

? The Project Implementation Review (PIR) is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from on-going projects. Once the project has been under implementation for one year, a PIR must be prepared by the project management and submitted by UNEP to the GEF. The PIR should then be discussed in the PSC meeting so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project counterparts and the UNEP. The individual PIRs are collected, reviewed, and analysed by the UNEP Operational Focal Point prior to sending them to the GEF by UNEP-GEF Coordination Office.

? Half year (July?December) Progress Reports outlining main updates in project progress will be provided every six months to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager. The January ? June progress report stands as the PIR described above.

? Specific Thematic Reports focusing on specific issues or areas of activity will be prepared by the project team when requested by UNEP-GEF or the project implementing partners. The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNEP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learned exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNEP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.

? A Project Terminal Report will be prepared by the project team during the last three (3) months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements, and outputs of the project; lessons learned; objectives met or not achieved; structures and systems implemented, etc.; and will be the definitive statement of the project?s activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project?s activities.

? Publications/Technical reports. The project intends to publish some documents covering specific themes. In the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft list of publications that are expected during the course of the project and tentative due dates. Where necessary, this publications list will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Publications may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive and specialized analyses of clearly defined theme of research within the framework of the project. These publications will represent, as appropriate, the project?s substantive contribution to specific issues, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information at local, national, and international levels.

Project Evaluation

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP?s Evaluation Policy, all GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

Since this is a Medium-Size Project (MSP) of less than 4 years of duration, no Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) will be undertaken. However, if the project is rated as being at risk or if deemed needed by the Task Manager, he/she may decide to conduct an optional Mid-Term Review (MTR). The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Members of the Project Steering Committee could be interviewed as part of the MTR process and the Project Manager will develop a management response to the review recommendations along with an implementation plan. Results of the MTR will be presented to the Project Steering Committee. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review?s performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project?s operational completion If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

(i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and

(ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e., correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Through the support for policy, legislation and institutional structures for ABS in the country, the project will institute legal and administrative mechanisms that will enable indigenous groups and other communities who are custodians of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to directly benefit from conservation efforts. Such benefits would accrue on the longer-term through partnership arrangements between private sector and local communities for bioprospecting and commercialization of genetic resources. The project will develop an ABS framework for access and benefit sharing of the country?s genetic resources to generate economic benefit to the nation, its people, business firms and local and indigenous communities, in the form of business, employment, technology transfer and capacity development.

Given the economic significance of biological and genetic resources in the Fra North and the South-West Regions of Cameroon, it is expected that this project will create significant socio-economic and development benefits for the regions and the country at large. Local populations of the Manyu, Kupe Muanenguba Divisions of the South-West Region and Mayo Kani Division of the Far North Region, and

holders of associated traditional knowledge, as well as national users (private enterprises) of genetic resources are expected to benefit through newly created commercial and economic opportunities, employment opportunities, and through the fair and equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits. Positive social impacts are expected from the new livelihood opportunities generated by developed ABS value chains and the increased local capacities generated, including contributing to greater resilience, life expectancy and poverty eradication.

For perspective, NTFPs in general constitute a regular source of income (even though not the most important) for rural households due to their diversity. About 38% of vegetal NTFPs are used as food and the annual economic value for 16 of them is estimated at 32 billion XAF (64.7 million USD). Their value added is estimated at 6.4 billion XAF (13 million USD) representing 0.2% of the GDP of the country with at least 283,000 people involved[1]1.The project will focus on the population that is comprised of the producers (collectors) and traders of *Irvingia spp* in the Manyu, Kupe Muanenguba Divisions of the South-West Region and Mayo Kani Division of the Far North Region. NTFPs constitute the largest and major source of income for collectors in both regions. This finding indicates that NTFPs play a significant role in the livelihoods of the village communities in the project area contributing to as much as 39% of overall household income[2]2, followed by subsistence agriculture, other sources, cash crops and small trade. These benefits largely accrue to women, who dominate the value chain at all stages. Women are widely recognized as important holders and users of GRs and aTK. Women?s role and position in the ABS value chains will be enhanced as their capacity is built to effectively engaged as viable stakeholders in the GR and aTK sectors. Women?s groups already active in related sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and forestry will also be engaged. These actions will help contribute to gender equality and women?s empowerment.

Besides the financial and economic benefits, gains will accrue from building the capacity of the local communities to effectively engage in the value chains of identified project species, and in developing approaches to the use of GRs and aTK that respect sound ABS principles.

Financial benefits from value chains of project identified species

Financial benefits from the Irvingia wombulu value chain: A farmer can expect to gain about US$300 annually through kernel sales from a mature I. wombolu tree (Uzo 1980, cited in Okolo 1994). Despite the high value of the products, production is generally at the subsistence level (Agbor 1994). In a study in the South of Cameroon, for example, van Dijk (1997) found that only 20% of the bush mango harvest was sold, yet Malleson (1997) reports that forest spices, including Irvingia spp., are the main income generators for women in the Korup Forest of Cameroon. It seems that although farmers only sell a small percentage of their harvest, those sales alone account for a relatively large proportion of their annual income. A baseline study[3]3 on *Irvingia wombulu* in the South-West of Cameroon revealed that out of 75 tons of *I. wombulu* produced in the villages in South-West Regions in 2008, only 25 tons were sold. This trade yielded a market value of 45,240,000 FCFA (US$90,480).

Figure 10. Sample products derived from the processing and value addition of Irvingia (African Bush Mango).

Bush mango was named as the most important forest product harvested by producer households, contributing 31% on average to NTFP-related incomes and constituting 39% of total household income in the South-West Region. Both men and women, aided by their children, harvest bush mango. A typical harvester has been collecting for 15 years, is in the mid-thirties, married, educated to primary (in the South-West Region). Harvester profit margins in South-West were higher than in the East at 1198 FCFA/kg and 627.5 FCFA/kg respectively where the same fruits are harvested and sold. Retailers of bush mango had lower margins of 222 FCFA/kg than intermediaries at 1198 FCFA/kg. Transformation and adding value by producers is limited to drying, with only 12% of producers producing paste, a pressed ?cake? or oil. One small enterprise, MISPEG in the SW was able to make a margin of 3780 FCFA/kg, as a result of its processing bush mango into powder, and in the East, 225 FCFA was lost for each 1 kg of Irvingia spp. transformed into paste and sold. Of total production, on average 32% is consumed, 31% is sold, 27% given as gifts and 8% perishes.

Financial benefits from the Balanites aegyptiaca value chain: A study conducted in 2019[1] to evaluate the diversity of edible plant products in the Logone flood plain revealed that a total annual quantity of fruits collected was 382.9 t. These great quantities came from fruit collection from the 10 most popular fruit species (Figure 2). The most exploited fruits in order of importance of fruits collected were: Balanites aegyptiaca (87.45 t), Borassus aethiopum (81.2 t), Hyphaene thebaica (78.8 t) and Ziziphus mauritiana: (73. 75 t). On the other hand, Hexalobus monopetalus (1.2 t) and Detarium microcarpum (3.5 t) recorded the smaller quantities. Ximenia americana (23.3 t); Sclerocarya birrea (12.3 t) and Tamarindus indica (16.4 t) produced significant amounts. The total annual quantity of leaves collected from Balanites aegyptiaca and Adansonia digitata was 85.93 t. The collected Bombax costatum flowers were quantified at 1.66 t (Figure 2). The high increasing population, the low agricultural production and poverty favored overexploitation of the edible species.

Figure 11. Sample products derived from the processing and value addition of Balanites aegyptica (Desert Date).

The total annual quantity of Balanites aegyptiaca seed collected was 31.86 t. The hypocotyls exploited annually was 47.37 t (Figure 1). Only two species were exploited for at least two types of edible and commercial valuable: Balanites aegyptiaca for fruits, leaves and seeds and Borassus aethiopum for fruits and hypocotyls. The marketing of large quantities of collected products made it possible to report an increase in the economy of rural households or a substantial total income of 31 478 990 francs CFA. The fruits were sold for 8 550 715 F CFA, the seeds and hypocotyls yielded 14 497 775 F CFA, the contribution of the leaves was 809 500 F CFA and that of the flowers was 246 000 F CFA. "Yabande" brought a modest sum of 175 000 CFA francs. The economic value and contribution of these products to the people's economy was very important. For some households, the annual aggregate income from the sale of the harvest products was an important farm income. The combination of these revenues thus enabled farmers to cope with the food deficit.

Financial benefits from the Acacia nilotica value chain: Acacia nilotica Pods/fruit are sold in some villages of the far north Region at 3000 FCFA/kg. Its fruits are generally purchased by slaughterhouses and are used for tanning skins and feeding cattle. The leaves serve as fodder for cattle, while the Bark are used in traditional pharmacopoeia for the treatment of children. Its wood is used as firewood, charcoal and in the manufacture of handles for agricultural tools.

Figure 12. Sample products derived from the processing and value addition of Acacia nilotica.

The trees are used, thanks to their very sharp thorns, as quickset hedges to protect fields against wandering animals. The branches will play the same role, but as dead hedges. Bundles of wood: Between 04 and 05 wood cost 300F CFA to 1000 FCFA/bundle, depending on the size (rural market and/or urban market). A. nilotica is an agroforestry and urban forestry tree species, which also provide fruits, timber, fodder, gums and other services such shade, beauty, soil improvement. It is used for climate change mitigation, adaptation and phytomediation.

Financial benefits from the Monodora myristica value chain: A survey conducted to investigate the harvesting pattern, marketing channels and price of Monodora myristica in Wabane Sub-division, South-West Region of Cameroon in 2021[1] showed that out of 50.05 tons of Monodora myristica harvested, 45 tons were sold. The annual trade value of Monodora myristica for this harvest was observed to be 40,228,600 FCFA and 44,378,000 FCFA for harvesters and retailers, respectively.

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[1] Harvesting and Marketing Pattern of Monodora myristica and Afrostyrax kamerunensis in Wabane Sub-division in the South-West Region of Cameroon? Ndumbe et al.; JAERI, 23(2): 1-9, 2022; Article no.JAERI.84659

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[1] Froumsia Moksia, Souare Konsala, Todou Gilbert, Hamawa Yougouda, Nnanga Jeanne Flore, Tchobsala; 2019, Evaluation of Wild Edible Plant Species in the Logone Valley, Cameroon; Journal of Applied Environmental and Biological Sciences, 9(11)1-12, 2019

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[1] Awono et al, (2016). Vegetal non-timber forest products in Cameroon, contribution to the national economy International Forestry Review Vol.18(S1),

[2] Ewane et al, (2009), Baseline study on Irvingia spp. in the South West and East Regions of Cameroon, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/268807856

[3] Baseline study on Irvingia spp. in the South-West and East Regions of Cameroon (https://www.academia.edu/30361264/Baseline_study_on_Irvingia_spp_in_the_South_West_and_East_Regions_of_Cameroon)

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Cameroon ABS Safeguard Framework 30112022	CEO Endorsement ESS	
10850_SRIF Cameroon ABS MSP_11112021	Project PIF ESS	
SRIF-Cameroon ABS MSP GEF 7	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project title: Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research, and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon.						
	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Mid-term target*	*End of project target*	*Sources of verification*	*Assumptions*
Project objective: To support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrue tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable and	*Indicator 1:* Number of gender sensitive new ABS value chains developed and registered with government authorities and academia for *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica*	None	At least 1 value chain with due gender consideration is developed for each of the project selected species	At least 6 value chains with due gender considerations are developed for the project selected species in total	Government ABS records, new national and international research papers on ABS; national reports on implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	A climate of mutual trust exists between users and providers of genetic resources which is conducive to the establishment of effective value chains There exists sustained political will and economic interest on the part of providers and users of genetic resources

sustainable manner.	*Indicator 2:* Number of valid expressions of interest by 1) users and 2) providers (communities, associations, businesses) of genetic resources with due gender consideration, to develop ABS agreements in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon	Low to moderate level of interest and no expressions of interest on record	At least 3 (1 in the Far North Region and 2 in the South-West region) expressions of interest with due gender consideration, to develop specific ABS agreements have been deposited with national ABS authorities, by users and/or providers of genetic resources	At least 5 At least 3 (2 in the Far North Region and 3 in the South-West region) expressions of interest with due gender consideration, to develop specific ABS agreements have been deposited with national ABS authorities, by users and/or providers of genetic resources	Government records, and information submitted to the national ABS clearing house, national reports on the implementation of the NP.	Sufficient economic interest by users in relation to the country?s genetic resources and their associated potential for eventually developing ABS agreements and value chains; sufficient interest by providers of TK and GR to grow and/or collect or otherwise provide materials with GR and related TK

	Indicator 3: Mechanisms for sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits with due gender consideratio n generated through ABS agreements and mechanisms for: (1) biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; (2) local populations in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon	None	At least 3 mechanisms for sharing monetary and non-monetary benefits with due gender consideration generated through ABS agreements are developed and used for GR and aTK value chains in project locations	At least 5 formal benefit sharing structures (national/ local trust funds, community funds, mechanisms for the sharing of results of research, training and infrastructure/ equipment) with due gender consideration are reflected in the ABS national framework and have been set up	Government records, and information submitted to the national ABS clearing house, national reports on the implementat ion of the NP.	There is sufficient political will and the sustained interest and capacity of potential users and providers to conclude agreements that can produce monetary and/or non-monetary benefits.
	Indicator 4: Number of active compounds purified, and their structures elucidated from *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica*	None	20 active compounds	30 active compounds	Cameroon?s ABS database	Samples and refined specimens from project plant species contain active compounds.
Component 1: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework.						

Outcome 1.1 Institutions are capacitated to implement the Nagoya Protocol and stakeholders involved in the issuance of an authorization carry out promptly and legally their mandate in line with the access to ABS permit.	*Indicator 5:* Existence of a national policy framework for ABS that incorporates the Post-2020 Strategy and due gender considerations	Strategic ABS national policy framework approved by the government is outdated	The National ABS Strategy and Action Plan with due gender consideration developed and reflects recommendations of the Post-2020 NBSAP III	Updated National ABS Strategy and Action Plan approved and being implemented	The Updated National ABS Strategy and Action Plan document shared with relevant stakeholders	There is sufficient political will and institutional and regulatory capacity to develop an effective regulatory framework.
	Indicator 6: Number of staff with gender balanced of national and regional competent authorities trained in ABS to facilitate the implementation of the national ABS framework	Competence in implementing this framework is limited	At least 100 staff with gender balanced considered are trained (50% and the national and 50% at the regional levels), leading to: (i) Training modules being developed; and (ii) Communication and knowledge management plans being under implementation	At least 200 officials with gender balanced considered are trained at the national level on ABS implementation (with at least 40% representation of women). At least 150 officials are trained at the regional level on ABS implementation (with at least 40% representation of women).	Training reports and Capacity Development Scorecard reports	MINEPDED is willing to source international expertise to provide the best quality training not yet available in the country.
Output 1.1.1: Post 2020 strategy and action plan updated and adopted for the full implementation of ABS measures in Cameroon. **Output 1.1.2:** ABS law and its implementation instruments as well as standards appropriated by stakeholders and the incentive investment framework for farmer organisations and other private actors implemented. **Output 1.1.3**: The Competent National Authority (CAN) issues an increasing number of permits to applicants in compliance with the regulations and standards, and the ABS data and knowledge are published through the ABS Clearing-House						
Component 2: Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework						

Outcome 2.1: Increased awareness and capacity of national actors and farmer organisations to benefits from the exploitation of the ABS regime and related value chains	*Indicator 7:* Percentage of researchers, local authorities and industry, representatives of local populations with geneder balanced considered, aware of the regulatory and institutional framework pertaining to ABS and TK and its different dimensions	Limited awareness	At least 35% of relevant national stakeholders with geneder balanced considered are informed of the regulatory and institutional framework pertaining to ABS and TK and its different dimensions	At least 80% of relevant national stakeholders with geneder balanced considered are informed of the regulatory and institutional framework pertaining to ABS and TK and its different dimensions.	Results of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys	Stakeholders are inclined to fill out KAP surveys and provide accurate responses
	Indicator 8: Number of potential bioprospecting projects with due gender consideration identifies as a result of improved stakeholder awareness and capacity	Limited	At least 3 bioprospecting projects with gender balanced consideration have been identified	At least 7 bioprospecting projectswith gender consideration have been identified by project end	Government records / official bulletins; information submitted to the national ABS CHM; project reports; national reports on implementation of the NP.	Resources and capacities are deployed as predicted
Output 2.1.1 A detailed ABS awareness raising strategy on the national ABS framework including materials tailored for specific stakeholder groups (ILCs, civil society, researchers, private sector, government entities involved in ABS implementations) developed and rolled out in Cameroon. Output 2.1.2. Sustainable regeneration and associated management practices well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain						

Outcome 2.2- Farmer organisations are well informed and able to use legal instruments to negotiate a MAT reflecting their needs, concerns and rights relating to conservation, use and access to Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK).	*Indicator 9:* Number of ABS agreements with gender balanced considerations negotiated and implemented enabling equitable sharing of benefits between users and providers in the South-West and Far North Regions	No officially approved ABS agreements on record	Local communities enter into at least 3 ABS agreements with gender balanced considerations approved in accordance with the legal framework to provide access to genetic resources and commercialization of at least 3 products based on project-supported species	At least 5 ABS agreements with gender balanced considerations developed and operationalized for commercialization of at least 5 trial products incorporating PIC, MAT and fair and equitable benefit sharing provisions[1].	Copies of ABS legal agreement	The parties will faithfully work together to implement the provisions of the agreement and that there will be no external interference to the partnership.
	Indicator 10: Monetary and non-monetary benefits with gender balanced considerations received by the State and local communities (of Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup? Manengouba and Meme Divisions), accruing from the development of value chains of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica*	*Monetary:* *a) State:* $0; *b) Communities*: $0 *Non-monetary:* *a) State:* There are no monetary benefits. *b) Communities*: There are no non-monetary benefits.	*Monetary:* a) State: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation; b) communities: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation. *Non-monetary:* a) State: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation; b) communities: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation.	? Monetary: a) State: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation; b) communities: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation. ? Non-monetary: a) State: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation; b) communities: to be defined during the first six months of project implementation.	Payment records and relevant provisions of ABS agreements	State support to facilitate and protect local communities in negotiations with potential users of GRs and aTK is strong and effective.

	Indicator 11: Number of baseline ABS agreements (prior informed consent, mutually agreed terms) for project development and the biodiscovery process.	No agreed formal or informal agreements incorporating PIC, MATs, engagement protocols for ABS.	At least 6 ABS agreements with communities following agreed guidelines, legal & customary protocols consistent with relevant national laws and regulations with gender balanced considerations.	At least 10 ABS agreements with communities following agreed guidelines, legal & customary protocols consistent with relevant national laws and regulations with gender balanced considerations	Documents accepted by relevant MINEPDED authorities formalizing these agreements	That agreement can be struck between local communities, local government, provincial and national government agencies.
Output 2.2.1- An increased number of farmer organisations (ILCs, cooperatives) intensify the value chain trade on GRs and share benefits with an increased number of stakeholders and are able to use the information disseminated by the operational market information system (MIS) for decision-making on their GR Business. Output 2.2.2. An increased number of PICs, MATs signed by farmer organisations and ABS permits delivered on the supply services and value of aTK on GR with an increased number of investors and volume of financial investment following the framework of GRs? Investment Plan and ABS Law. Output 2.2.3. At least an increase of 20 to 25% of income of farmer organisations involved in the valorization of their GRs and aTK						
Component 3. Piloting ABS agreements that demonstrate best practices of PIC, MAT, and ABS permit, including the effective fair and equitable sharing of benefits.						

Outcome 3.1. Effective ABS agreements demonstrated by: 1. Four ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol 2. ABS agreements established between national providers and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	*Indicator 12:* Number of formulations based on standardized extracts from *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica* evaluated for applications in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, food and beverage, or industrial sectors	None	At least 8 formulations evaluated (2 per plant for project selected specie) for applications in the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, food and beverage, or industrial sectors	At least 4 formulations (1 per plant for project selected specie) are validated (deliver positive results) in at field level.	Field reports, scientific reports.	Research and Development is given the importance it deserves during project implementation
	Indicator 13: Level of capacities at the national level with gender balanced considerations to undertake scientific surveys on bio-chemicals, apply chemical techniques, generate disease bioassays, and manage collections.	Limited capacities at the national level and Nil at the local level for chemical analysis, bioassays, sample collection and handling	At least 20 staff in national institutions with gender balanced considerations have the capacity to apply state of the art analytical chemical techniques; disease bioassays; data handling and collection, culture and long-term storage of samples.	At least 40 staff in national institutions with gender balanced considerations are trained	Reports and manuals on approaches, methods, tools, applications, facilities and procedures	Continued interest and partnership between pilot communities, regional, local, and national government departments, the private sector, the University of the Buea, and the University of Maroua, as well as private sector research companies.

	Indicator 14: Number of women operating businesses built on ABS and aTK value chains of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica*	None	At least 4 women-run businesses built on value chains of project supported species are operational (2 in the South-West Region and 2 in the Far North Region)	At least 4 project-supported women-run businesses are operating in the Far North Region based on *Balanites aegyptiaca,* and *Accacia nilotica*; and at least 4 in the South-West Region based on *Irvingia wombolu* and *Monodora myristica*.	Activity report that analyzed the ABS compliant value chain for genetic resources.	Women are given equal opportunities for access to project benefits throughout the project implementation period
	Indicator 15: Gender-smart and ABS compliant value chain for identified genetic resources mapped *for uptake/scaling of best practices.*	None	At least 2 value chains (1 in the South-West Region and 1 in the Far North Region) identified and mapped for upscalling best practices of the project selected species (*Balanites aegyptiaca or Accacia nilotica* in the Far North; and *Irvingia wombolu* and *Monodora myristica* South-West Region)	Management plan developed and implemented for in-situ conservation integrated into pilot agreement (see Indicator 11) for each of the species with mapped value chains	Mapped value chains for the project selected species, and management plans being implemented	Agreements can be struck between local communities, local government, provincial and national government agencies.

Output 3.1.1: At least 4 ABS agreements established between communities, government, private sector and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica*

Output 3.1.2: A business model for local biodiversity women led value chain targeting key products in Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?Manengouba and Meme Division developed

Output 3.1.3: Seed funds through Grant mechanism for organised communities? groups and private sector to support development / valorization of potential ABS value chains in accordance with the adopted Policy and Guidelines on CMCI.

Output 3.1.4: Stock taking exercise of best practices and lessons learned from the valorization of value chains of GRs and their associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK) reviewed to inform ABS? Investment and support to local and national development plans.

Output 3.1.5: Annual national forums on Marketing of GR and aTK organised

Output 3.1.6: Research activities on the GRs using aTK in the aim of adding value to product carried out

Key Deliverables and Benchmarks

Expected Outputs	**Activities**	**Deliverables**	**Benchmarks**
Outcome 1.1 **Institutions are capacitated to implement the Nagoya Protocol and stakeholders involved in the issuance of an authorization carry out promptly and legally their mandate in line with the access to ABS permit.**			
Output 1.1.1. **Post 2020 strategy and action plan updated and adopted for the full implementation of ABS measures in Cameroon.**	***Activity 1:*** **Evaluate the implementation of the 2012 ABS strategy.**	**Assessment report**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 2: **Update the National ABS Strategy and Action Plan.**	**National ABS Strategy and Action Plan document**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 3: **Develop and implement guidelines for financing ABS Strategy and Action Plan.**	**Guidelines presented to stakeholders**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 4: **Strengthen the capacity of the national biodiversity coordination mechanism and update the National ABS Strategy and Action Plan.**	**Change in capacity as reported using the UNDP capacity Development Scirecard**	***By end of Q3, Y1***

	Activity 5: **A comprehensive and coherent national legal framework on ABS and the protection of TK has been approved and is established and operational.**	**Framework shared with key stakeholders**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 6: **A coherent national institutional framework with the necessary capacities and mandates has been approved and is established and operational.**	**Approval document and proceedings of national institutional framework**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
utput 1.1.2. **ABS law and its implementation instruments as well as standards appropriated by stakeholders and the incentive investment framework for farmer organisations and other private actors implemented**	***Activity 7:*** **Develop the inventory of genetic resources.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y1***
	Activity 8: **Identify and set up of checkpoints (identification of the sensitive aspects for control and the tools necessary for the accomplishment of the tasks, as well as their physical and geographical location; prepare and of the appropriate legal instrument for their institutionalization; equip the checkpoints with the necessary working materials).**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 9: **Organize the modalities of work of officers in charge of research, recording, prosecution and repression of ABS offences**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 1-: **Develop an incentive investment framework (and guidelines for their implementation) for farmer organizations and other private actors on ABS.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***

	Activity 11: **Organize workshops with of organizations involved in local processing and import products (Promotion of success stories, through sharing experiences to other private sector actors during capacity building workshops or any other exchange event between stakeholders).**	**Workshop report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 12: **Update the MAT model in the light of the law and the experiences of previous negotiations (assessment).**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 13: **Develop a guide for ABS negotiations (the conditions for negotiation, the negotiation process).**	**Validation report of the guide**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 14: **Develop a report form to be completed by parties of MAT (select the needed information to report the NCA for each party)**	**Report form validated**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 15: **Conduct consultative workshops, nationally and regionally to build the rules and regulations whilst also capturing regional perspectives and insights**	**Workshop reports**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 16: **Use the results of the consultative workshops to develop guiding documents, manuals, and other legal instruments to be consolidated into the ABS law.**	**Workshop reports; documents developed**	***By end of Q4, Y1***

Output 1.1.3 **The Competent National Authority (CAN) issues an increasing number of permits to applicants in compliance with the regulations and standards, and the ABS data and knowledge are published through the ABS Clearing-House**	***Activity 17:*** **Develop ABS procedure guide for users**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 8: **Develop a manual for negotiation process for ILC**	**Manual shared with key stakeholders**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 19: **Develop a manual for preparing and conducting the negotiation process for ABS staff**	**Manual shared with key stakeholders**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 20: **Develop the framework of elaboration of the community biocultural protocols**	**Biocultural protocols validated by key stakeholders**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 21: **Develop a declaration attestation for fundamental research.**	**Declaration circulated to relevant institutions**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 22: **Identify and implement suitable ways to integrate ABS issues into the related instruments of other administrations (origin certificate, phytosanitary certificate etc.)**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 23: **Put in place a pertinent mechanism to establish effective bridges between the current biological resource management and ABS.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 24: **Develop simplified, harmonized, and linked access procedures of CNAs and the checkpoints within ABS-CHM digital platform.** ***By end of Q2, Y2***	**Procedures updated on the ABS-CHM digital platform**	***By end of Q2, Y2***

	Activity 25: **Conduct specialized training on specific technical and legal aspects of ABS implementation, including on the use of the National Database and the national ABS Clearing House Mechanism**	**Training report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 26: **Conduct training of stakeholders, particularly users, ILC and local NGOs involved in some ABS value chains to share information and their experiences.**	**Training report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 2927 **Conduct of training workshops for NCA and key agencies; and evaluate the effectiveness of the training programs as well as provide recommendations for further improvement and expansion.**	**Training report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 28: **Develop joint evaluation protocols between the CNAs and MINEPDED**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y3***
	Activity 29: **Provide on-the-job training and follow-up, such as by supporting the handling of incoming applications for surveys and research programmes by the Competent National Authority (CNA) and the Competent Sector Authorities (CSAs)**	**Training report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Outcome 2.1. **Increased awareness and capacity of national actors and farmer organisations to benefits from the exploitation of the ABS regime and related value chains**			

Output 2.1.1. **A detailed ABS awareness raising strategy on the national ABS framework including materials tailored for specific stakeholder groups (ILCs, civil society, researchers, private sector, government entities involved in ABS implementations) developed and rolled out in Cameroon.**	***Activity 30:*** **Conduct a Target Group Analysis including KAP on Nagoya Protocol and ABS to establish a baseline on how many of the stakeholders targeted by the CEPA are aware and are complying with the national ABS law and regulations**	**KAP assessment report**	***By end of Q2, Y1***
	Activity 31: **Development of a CEPA Plan and validate with relevant stakeholders**	**Plan validated and circulated**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 32: **Implement the CEPA Plan**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y1***
	Activity 33: **Monitor and evaluate CEPA in the middle of and at the end of a project to improve its design and implementation.**	**Monitoring report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 34: **Develop a capacity building strategy, and implement training on the national ABS framework for staff relevant to ABS institutions, agencies, and stakeholders (ILCs, civil society, researchers, and the private sector)[1]**	**Validated strategy shared**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
	Activity 35: **Develop training modules and adopt them into training manuals for ABS at a national level[2].**	**Training report**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
Output 2.1.2. **Sustainable regeneration and associated management practices well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain**	***Activity 36:*** **Identify and map degraded habitats in project locations, as well as assess the rate of conversion of degraded and threatened habitats by human activities.**	**Peer reviewed publications**	***By end of Q4, Y1***

Activity 37: **Sensitize local communities and policymakers on drivers of habitat loss and implications for biodiversity and GR.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y4***
Activity 38: **Develop and implement participatory protected area management plans in project locations and support gender-responsive alternative livelihood options based on value addition on genetic resources with commercial value for communities adjacent to protected areas.**	**Management plans validated**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
Activity 39: **Promote protected areas as core drivers for nature-based tourism within the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon, especially on themes related to GRs and aTK.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Activity 40: **Identify and implement networks to conserve ecologically sensitive vegetation types (including project-focused species), habitats, species and genetic diversity.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q3, Y2***
Activity 41: **Undertake analysis of certification schemes and their benefits to determine the past effectiveness of key biotrade certification schemes in supporting biodiversity conservation, it is necessary to ascertain where they have been applied**	**Peer reviewed publications**	***By end of Q1, Y2***

	Activity 42: **Develop ABS?aligned models that optimizes biodiversity conservation benefits for Irvingia wombolu and Balanites aegyptiaca species**	**Models validated by key stakeholders**	***By end of Q3, Y2***
	Activity 43: **Collect through local, and gender-sensitive approaches information on the availability and status of plant and animal germplasm.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 44: **Develop a National Strategy for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, GR, including aTK, and incorporate into the NBSAP III iteration.**	**Strategy validated in a national workshop**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
Outcome 2.2 **Farmer organisations are well informed and able to use legal instruments to negotiate a MAT reflecting their needs, concerns and rights relating to conservation, use and access to Genetic Resources (GRs) and associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK).**			
Output 2.2.1 **An increased number of farmer organisations (ILCs, cooperatives) intensify the value chain trade on GRs and share benefits with an increased number of stakeholders and are able to use the information disseminated by the operational market information system (MIS) for decision-making on their GR Business.**	***Activity 45:*** **Set up a GRs/aTK MIS task force and develop MIS for GRs and aTK with a broad consultation of relevant stakeholders, and due attention to gender equality.**	**MIS validated**	***By end of Q2, Y1***
	Activity 46: **Present the MIS to relevant stakeholders and update draft MIS with feedback received.**	**Updated MIS and reports of meetings**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 47: **Implement MIS for GRs and aTK in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y3***

Output 2.2.2 **An increased number of PICs, MATs signed by farmer organisations and ABS permits delivered on the supply services and value of aTK on GR with an increased number of investors and volume of financial investment following the framework of GRs? Investment Plan and ABS Law.**	***Activity 48:*** **Local communities in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?-Manenguba and Meme Divisions are sensitized on the process of development and use of PIC and MATs, as well as their challenges and potential solutions.**	**Sensitization report, including number of participants disaggregated into gender**	***By end of Q4, Y2***
	Activity 49: **Support the process of signing of PICs, MATs by farmer organisations and permits to supply GRs and aTK to investors.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 50: **Document lessons learned from the development and implementation of PIC and MATs for *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Acacia nilotica* and share to relevant stakeholders.**	**Lessons learned shared with key stakeholders**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 51: **Feedback from the engagement with local communities is integrated into the lessons learned and disseminate to the wider communities of the South-West and Far North Regions, as well as integrated into the manuals and procedures of ABS being developed in Output 2.1.1.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Output 2.2.3 **At least an increase of 20 to 25% of income of farmer organisations involved in the valorization of their GRs and aTK**	***Activity 52:*** **Identify niches preferred by registered farmers? organizations and farmers? common initiative groups in the GR and aTK value chains for project selected species.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***

	Activity 53: **Provide organizational and technical support to improve effectiveness and efficiency in their participation in these value chains.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 56: **Provide marketing support to local GR producers for further 54 development and commercialisation.**	**Activity report including number of local GRs producers**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 55: **Assess performance of supported farmers organizations and common initiative groups and adjust support to reflect identified weaknesses in effective participation and productivity in the GR and aTk value chain.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Outcome 3.1: **Effective ABS agreements demonstrated by: (1) Four ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol; (2) ABS agreements established between national providers and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.**			
Output 3.1.1. **At least 4 ABS agreements established between communities, government, private sector and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge of *Irvingia wombolu, Monodora myristica, Balanites aegyptiaca, Accacia nilotica***	***Activity 56:*** **Support the development and signing of PIC and MATs between local partners and potential users of GR and aTK related to the discovery and development of active pharmaceutical ingredients[3] from project selected plant species**	**Signed PICs and MATs**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 57: **Enter agreements with research institutes participating in pharmaceutical discoveries on capacity building of young Cameroonian researchers on steps and processes towards active ingredients discovery.**	**Agreement documents**	***By end of Q4, Y3***

Activity 58: **Support the process of discovery of active pharmaceutical ingredients based on agreements reached with relevant stakeholders.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
Activity 59: **Undertake research and assessment, including field research on the status of Monodora myristica, Irvingia wombolu and Balanites aegyptiaca linked to biotrade and bioprospecting. Non?detrimental findings will serve to identify major risks to sustainable use (and potentially ecosystem resilience) and can assist in determining which risk factors need to be addressed through certification schemes**	**Peer reviewed publications**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
Activity 60: **Obtain the requisite permits and authorizations for the establishment, construction and management of facilities for the processing of products from Monodora myristica, Irvingia wombolu and Balanites aegyptiaca**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q3, Y2***
Activity 61: **Construct, install bulk services and equip a small field workshop ? with the associated bulk services, storage space and amenities ? for the Monodora myristica, Irvingia wombolu and Balanites aegyptiaca collection, sorting, processing and transformation.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q3, Y2***

Activity 62: **Contract, train and equip local community members to administer, manage and maintain the Monodora myristica, Irvingia wombolu and Balanites aegyptiaca value adding activities.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q3, Y2***
Activity 63: **Contract, train and equip (e.g., safety equipment, laboratory equipment) staff (preferably from the immediate local area) to administer, manage and maintain the testing, processing and packaging plant**	**Traing report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Activity 64: **Support the negotiation and conclusion of supply contract agreements with manufacturers and retail industries**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Activity 65: **Develop best management practices for agro?processing support and quality control for product application each species**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
Activity 66: **Support the design of checkpoints at all stages of the value?chain that include research, development, innovation and pre?commercialization.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***
Activity 67: **Investigate and develop non?monetary TK benefit sharing mechanisms which may support rights?holding communities through contributions?in?kind and related mechanisms by the private sector, as well as a benefit?sharing trust fund.**	**Peer reviewed publications**	***By end of Q3, Y2***

	Activity 68: **Develop and propose a suitable and simple governance and institutionalization framework for implementing and monitoring the TK benefit sharing mechanism**	**Workshop report validating framework**	***By end of Q3, Y2***
	Activity 69: **Record the current negotiation processes of negotiating TK agreements and ABS contracts as a case study with a view to the creation of a ?blueprint? for other products and TK agreements in Cameroon.**	**Blueprint shared with stakeholders**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Output 3.1.2. **A business model for local biodiversity women led value chain targeting key products in Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup?Manengouba and Meme Division developed**	***Activity 70:*** **Consult with relevant stakeholders in the Manyu, Mayo Kani, Kup? Manengouba and Meme Divisions and identify preferred elements of business models ideal for value chains of different project selected species.**	**Report detailing business models identified**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 71: **Develop validate and business models through two stakeholder workshops ? one in the South-West Region and the other in the Far North Region.**	**Validation report**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 72: **Implement the business models, assess the performance of the models and adjust through collaborative processes as needed.**	**Field survey report**	***By end of Q1, Y2***
Output 3.1.3. **Seed funds through Grant mechanism for organised communities? groups and private sector to support development / valorization of potential**	***Activity 73:*** **Undertake consultations to update and validate criteria for accessing seed funds, as well as develop relevant guidelines.**	**Report on meetings held and participation**	***By end of Q2, Y1***

ABS value chains in accordance with the adopted Policy and Guidelines on CMCI.	***Activity 74:*** **Set up monitoring procedures for assessing the utilization, effective and compliance with grants.**	**Procedures uploaded on the ABS-CHM digital platform**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 75: **Administer seed funding, assess the effectiveness, and draw lessons learned.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 76: **Report on the seed funding administration and share lessons learned.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Output 3.1.4- Stock taking exercise of best practices and lessons learned from the valorization of value chains of GRs and their associated Traditional Knowledge (aTK) reviewed to inform ABS? Investment and support to local and national development plans.	***Activity 77:*** **Development of a simplified, harmonized and linked access procedures of 4 CNAs and the checkpoints within a digital platform.**	**CNAs and the checkpoints uploaded to the digital platform**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 78: **Development of a centralized database on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge**	**Report describing the database**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 79: **Database for associated traditional knowledge related to GR by local communities and indigenous peoples**	**Database linked to the ABS-CHM digital platform**	***By end of Q1, Y2***
	Activity 80: **Carry out research on ABS best practices and develop relevant knowledge products to permit the dissemination of lessons learned from project implementation.**	**Peer reviewed publication**	***By end of Q4, Y1***
	Activity 81: **Support will be provided for the National Museum in Yaound?, as well as museums in the regional headquarters of project sites to host a section on Cameroon?s Genetic Resources and ABS.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q2, Y2***

	Activity 82: **Support to learning events such as regional, and national conferences, round table discussions, etc.by presenting lessons learned from the implementation of this project.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
Output 3.1.5 ? Annual national forums on Marketing of GR and aTK organised	***Activity 83:*** **Review of literature, including existing roadmaps**	**Literature review**	***By end of Q3, Y1***
	Activity 84: **Consultation & validation workshops at the regional and national levels**	**Workshop reports**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 85: **Preparation and publication of the roadmap for marketing of GRs and aTK for project selected species**	**Roadmap published**	***By end of Q1, Y2***
	Activity 86: **Organize National Scientific Conference**	**Conference report**	***By end of Q1, Y3***
	Activity 87: **Support the collection of specimens from project identified species from project sites.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q1, Y3***
Output 3.1.6 Research activities on the GRs using aTK in the aim of adding value to product carried out	***Activity 88:*** **Identify and characterize compounds that are highly active in pharmaceutical, cosmetic bioassays and for food/beverage applications.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 89: **Support private sector involvement in the fractionation, purification, and structure elucidation of the active compounds identified.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***

	Activity 90: **Support the On-site assessment of on-going or prospective utilization of project selected species GR in respect with MAT and ABS agreement and establishing PICs and MATs to guide the biodiscovery processes.**	**Assessment report validated**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 91: **Guide processes of technology transfer in relevant bioprospecting and biodiscovery processes.**	**Report on number and types of technologies transferred**	***By end of Q4, Y3***
	Activity 92: **Provide marketing support to national entities for further product development and commercialization of derived products from bioprospecting and biodiscovery processes.**	**Activity report**	***By end of Q4, Y3***

[1] Specifically, this strategy will include: (i) Capacity building of stakeholders to ABS law (Produce guide for GR and aTK users; organize capacity building sessions for researchers (supported by an adapted practical manual); and training sessions for the private sector (with an adapted practical manual). (ii) Capacity building of institutions involved in the application of ABS process (Communicating guide documents for researchers and private sector; Tools based training to identify the best way to suit the ABS process). (iii) Capacity building of actors targeted in value chains.

[2] These modules shall include (i) Nagoya protocol and its implementation of in Cameroon, ABS law and procedures, Benefit sharing, Development of ABS value chain, Conservation and sustainable management of GR; and (ii) In addition to these fundamental themes, specific themes will be associated with each key actor, depending on whether they are indigenous and local communities, the private sector, sectoral administrations, etc.

[3] Active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are biologically active ingredients in a drug candidate that produce desired effects. All drugs are made up of the API or APIs and excipients. Excipients are inactive substances that deliver the drug into the human system. High Potency Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (HP APIs) are molecules that are effective at much smaller dosage levels than standard APIs. They are classified based on toxicity, pharmacological potency, and occupational exposure limits (OELs), and used in complex drug development involving more than ten steps (see Box 1).

[1] The agreements should also include in situ and/or ex situ conservation measures for the concerned biological resources.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

GEF Sec Comments	References in the CEO Endorsement
Section on Private Sector Engagement: *During the PPG an in-depth discussion will be conducted with the private sector and* ***a comprehensive engagement plan*** *will be provided*.	The engagement plan can be found in section 4 of the CEO Endorsment
During the PPG, ***detailed analysis of the private sector engagement in the project will be conducted and specific and targeted interventions with identified private sector*** *will be conducted*;	The **detailed analysis of private sector engagement** and **specific interventions with identified private sector** can be found in section 4 of the CEO Request. In addition, we identified activities for direct private sector implementation in Output 2.2.2 related to achieving an increased number of PICs, MATs signed by farmer organizations and ABS permits delivered on the supply services and value of aTK on GR with an increased number of investors (see the related project Output in the project document). In Output 3.1.1: It is expected that at least 4 ABS agreements established between communities, government, private sector and multinational companies for access to genetic resources (see the related project Output in the project document).
The Baseline for measuring farmer income based on the selected value chains, shall be determined on preliminary basis during the PPG phase and will be followed by a refined figures and methodology following consultation with key stakeholders during the first year of the project;	It can be found in Output 2.2.3, an increase of 20 to 25% of income of farmer organisations involved in the valorization of their GRs and aTK. As a preamble, to the description of activities, we have summarized the financial benefits for each of the value chains as reported in the thematic studies (see Section 10: Benefits of teh CEO Endorsement).
The project will hire a dedicated gender specialist to implement gender action plan to be developed during the PPG.	Gender Specialist is part of the project personnel. The gender action plan can be found in Table 4 of the CEO Endorsement.
During the PPG phase, additional gender-sensitive actions and indicators *will be identified*.	This is reflected in Table 4 of the CEO Endorsement

During the development of the current PIF, possible risks are identified in the table below. The PPG phase will help to assess these risk and come back with reasonable number of risks including with mitigation measures;	This can be found in section 5 of the CEO Endorsement document. Yes, the risks are many. But some have been removed from this version of the CEO endorsement document.
The proposed project will coordinate with UNEP-GEF ABS Regional projects as well as the GIZ financed ABS project described in the Baseline. Adequate complementarity and synergy with these projects will be identified and negotiated during the PPG phase.	The complementarity and synergy with the UNEP-GEF ABS Regional projects as well as the GIZ financed ABS can be found in the following section of the CEO Endorsement: *2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects* It is further elaborated here: - **The GEF-UNDP project on *Echinops giganteus* and *Mondia whitei*** has built a foundation for collaboration in the development of community protocols, agreements and other ABS related processes that will be further refined by the current project. - With regards to **The BioInnovation Africa project**: This project to support small holders has a number of similarities with the regional bio innovation project. Areas of possible synergies will include but not limited to: ***Shared Information***: Each project will certainly generate information that will be useful to the other, this will be cost saving and facilitate the implementation of both projects; ***Capacity building of stakeholders***: both projects need to build capacity of key stakeholders like the government and indigenous local communities. Possible synergies here will be in line with identifying common interest and organizing this capacity building activities around an elaborate capacity building strategy and action plan that will be adopted. ***Improved Sales and Marketing of GR***: Both projects are targeting value chains that could be of interest to the same users. Areas of synergies here will involve presenting the genetic resources whose value chain is being supported in one project to the users of another project in case of interest. This will save cost of looking for other users who might be interested in a specific characteristic of the GR. ***Research and Development***: Both projects will develop synergies in support areas of research and development of GR in Cameroon. For example, one project may support a research centre with the required equipment that will be used in characterizing GR in the other project.

Page 28 of PIF *The Project Local executing partners on the ground will be selected during the PPG*. These organization and networks will be those providing co-financing for this project.	This can be found in Section 2: Stakeholder Engagement Plan , Table 2

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent Todate*	*Amount Committed*
National Consultants	13,000	13,000	0
InternationalConsultants	16000	16000	0
Travel on Official buisness	2,662	2,632	0
Meetings and Stakeholders consultations	14,000	14,000	0
Total	**45,662**	**45,662**	0

Key products from the PPG include:

- CEO Endorsement document including relevant annexes
- Project document in UNEP format
- Meetings with stakeholders and partners: Minutes are attached as Annex
- Thematic Studies Reports: Attached as annexes

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

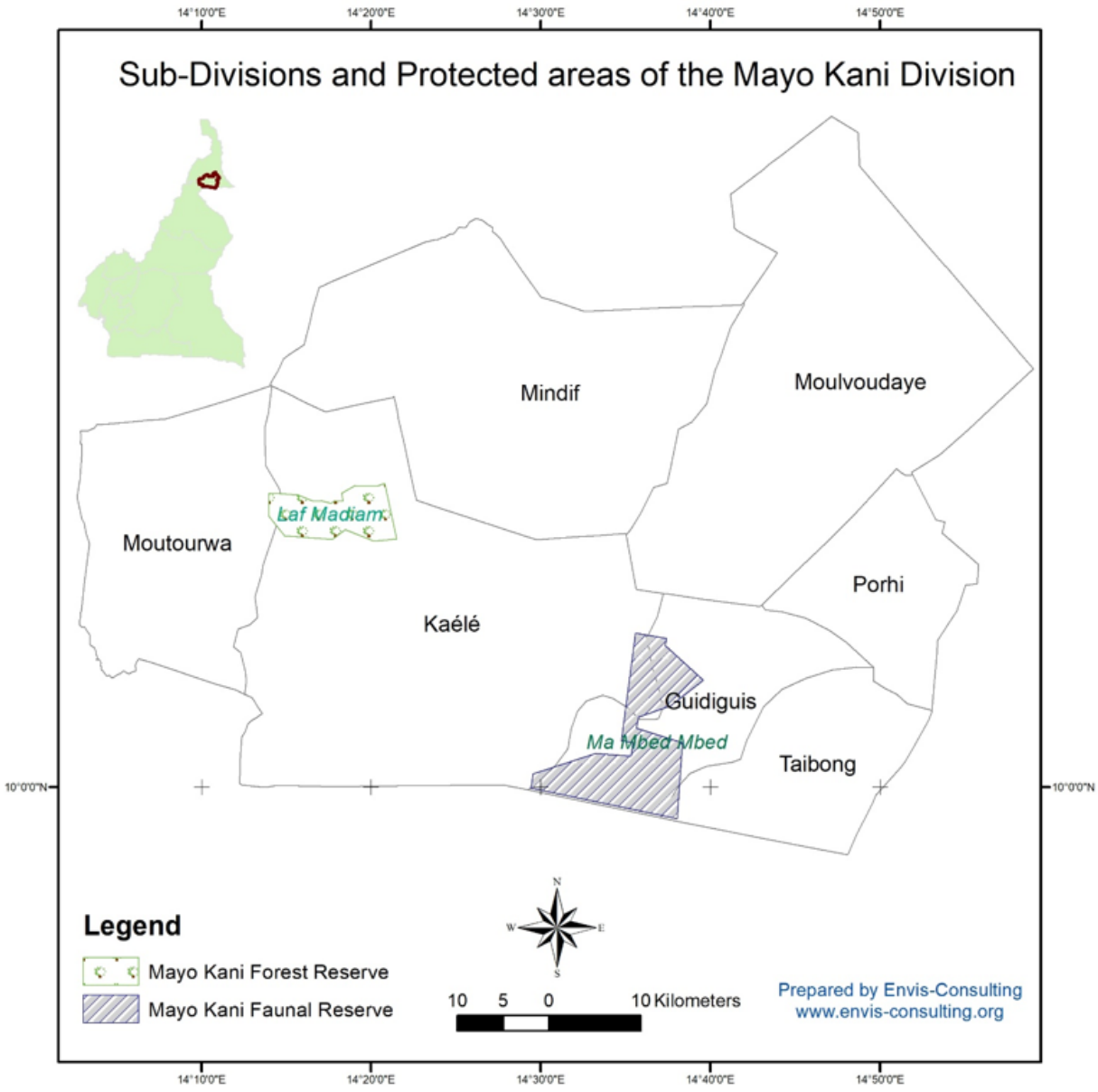

FIGURE 1. THE FAR NORTH REGION PROJECT LOCATION - SUB-DIVISIONS AND PROTECTED AREAS.

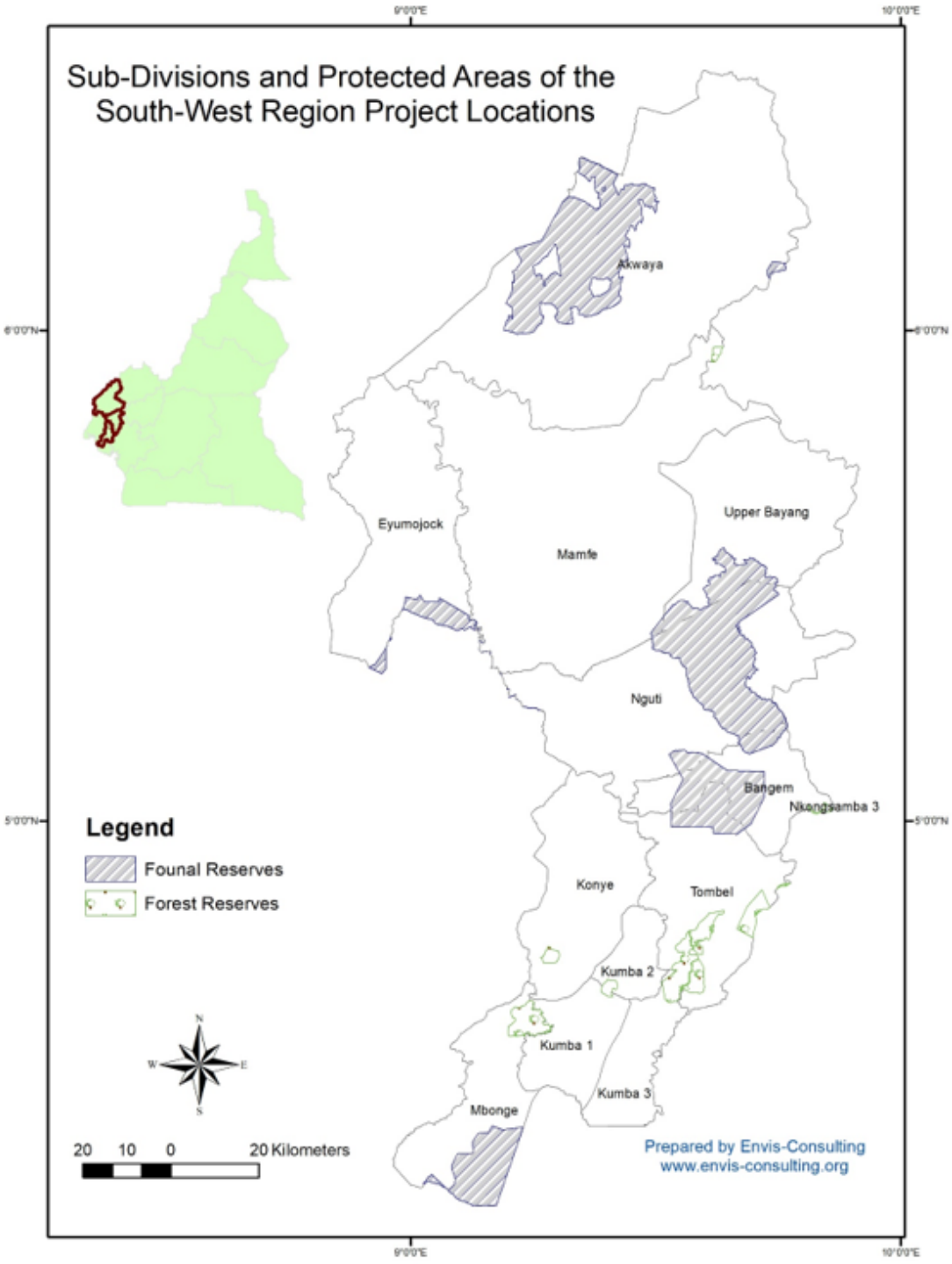

FIGURE 2. THE SOUTH-WEST REGION PROJECT LOCATION - SUB-DIVISIONS AND PROTECTED AREAS.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

APPENDIX 1 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET LINE (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)										
itle:		**Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon.**								
umber:		10850								
xecuting partner:		MINEPDED								
mplementation period: 2023-2025		Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)					*Insert actual year			
		Add additional components/activities as required					Add additional years as required			
							Expenditure by calendar year			
udget Line		1	2	3	PMC	Total	2023	2024	2025	Total
PERSONNEL COMPONENT										
1100	Project personnel									
1101	Project National Director (PND) / / Stakeholder Engagement Officer	11329	11,329	11,329	12,260	46,247	15,416	15,416	15,416	46,247
1102	Project ABS Technical Expert	15,300	23,062	28,100		66,462	22,154	22,154	22,154	66,462
1103	Gender-Responsive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning/KM Specialist	10,000	14,709	14,000		38,709	12,903	12,903	12,903	38,709
1104	Finance and Accounts Expert				27,692	27,692	9,231	9,231	9,230	27,692
1105	Project Site Managers				16,615	16,615	5,538	5,539	5,538	16,615
1106	Administrative Assistant				16,615	16,615	5,538	5,547	5,530	16,615
1107	Driver				11,076	11,076	3,692	3,692	3,692	11,076
1199	**Sub-total**	**36,629**	**49,100**	**53,429**	**84,258**	**223,416**	**74,472**	**74,482**	**74,463**	**223,416**
1200	Consultants									
1201	International Consultants: Organization of CNA to improve efficiency and performance in the administration of ABS processes & improve performance of checkpoints (includes (i) developing ABS procedure guide for users (ii) manual for preparing and conducting the negotiation process for ABS (iii) manual for negotiation process for ILC (iv) framework of elaboration of the community biocultural protocols declaration attestation for fundamental research; etc.)	52,000	38,291	-		90,291	34,291	46,000	10,000	90,291

APPENDIX 1 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET LINE (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)										
itle:		**Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon.**								
umber:		10850								
xecuting partner:		MINEPDED								
mplementation period: 2023-2025		Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description)					*Insert actual year			
		Add additional components/activities as required					Add additional years as required			
							Expenditure by calendar year			
udget Line		1	2	3	PMC	Total	2023	2024	2025	Total
PERSONNEL COMPONENT										
1100	Project personnel									
1101	Project National Director (PND) / / Stakeholder Engagement Officer	11329	11,329	11,329	12,260	46,247	15,416	15,416	15,416	46,247
1102	Project ABS Technical Expert	15,300	23,062	28,100		66,462	22,154	22,154	22,154	66,462
1103	Gender-Responsive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning/KM Specialist	10,000	14,709	14,000		38,709	12,903	12,903	12,903	38,709
1104	Finance and Accounts Expert				27,692	27,692	9,231	9,231	9,230	27,692
1105	Project Site Managers				16,615	16,615	5,538	5,539	5,538	16,615
1106	Administrative Assistant				16,615	16,615	5,538	5,547	5,530	16,615
1107	Driver				11,076	11,076	3,692	3,692	3,692	11,076
1199	**Sub-total**	**36,629**	**49,100**	**53,429**	**84,258**	**223,416**	**74,472**	**74,482**	**74,463**	**223,416**
1200	Consultants									
1201	International Consultants: Organization of CNA to improve efficiency and performance in the administration of ABS processes & improve performance of checkpoints (includes (i) developing ABS procedure guide for users (ii) manual for preparing and conducting the negotiation process for ABS (iii) manual for negotiation process for ILC (iv) framework of elaboration of the community biocultural protocols declaration attestation for fundamental research; etc.)	52,000	38,291	-		90,291	34,291	46,000	10,000	90,291

1202	National Consultants: Develop ABS stratetgy and Action based on NBSAP III; and develop guidelines for financing ABS strategy and	43,439	-	-		43,439	30,439	13,000		43,439
1299	**Sub-total**	**95,439**	**38,291**	**-**	**-**	**133,730**	**64,730**	**59,000**	**10,000**	**133,730**
1600	Travel on official business					-				
1601	Staff Travel & Transport	-	-	-	54,000	54,000	19,000	21,000	14,000	54,000
1699	**Sub-total**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**54,000**	**54,000**	**19,000**	**21,000**	**14,000**	**54,000**
Component total		**132,068**	**87,391**	**53,429**	**138,258**	**411,146**	**158,202**	**154,482**	**98,463**	**411,146**
SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT										
2100	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies)									
2101	Sub-contracts to Field Execution partners (ERuDEF, Yahki, GICAN, Nesk Sante): Piloting ABS agreements & demonstrating		29,656	112,827		142,483	17,656	64,827	60,000	142,483
2102	Sub contracts to Laboratories (IMPM, University Teaching Hospital of Yaoundé, Buea University, Maroua University)) and Research Institute (IRAD): Research activities to Identify and characterize G R compounds that are highly active in pharmaceutical, cosmetic		-	40,000		40,000	30,000	10,000	-	40,000
2103	Grants to organized communities' groups (particularly smallholders) and support development / valorization of potential			144,875		144,875	14,875	80,000	50,000	144,875
2104	Sub-contracts to private firms: improvement of GR and aTK value chains / development and improvement of MIS		78,000			78,000	30,000	30,000	18,000	78,000

2105	Sub-contracts to private firms :(i) develop and implement CEPA Plan; (ii) Develop a capacity building strategy, and implement training on the national ABS framework for staff relevant to ABS		100,000			100,000	30,000	60,000	10,000	100,000
2199	**Sub-total**	**-**	**207,656**	**297,702**	**-**	**505,358**	**122,531**	**244,827**	**138,000**	**505,358**
Component total		**-**	**207,656**	**297,702**	**-**	**505,358**	**122,531**	**244,827**	**138,000**	**505,358**
TRAINING COMPONENT										
3200	Group training									
3201	Training	37,864	30,000	30,000		97,864	35,000	32,500	30,364	97,864
3202	Project Steering committees	12,000	12,000	12,000		36,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	36,000
3203	Regular Meetings of National ABS Committee (Examining ABS files, examining request for access to GR			50,000		50,000	14,000	20,000	16,000	50,000
3204	Meetings/Conferences	10,000	25,000	56,344		91,344	25,000	36,344	30,000	91,344
3205	Knowledge Platform Establishment and others KM Activities	20,000	88,791	10,000		118,791	27,000	34,000	57,791	118,791
3299	**Sub-total**	**79,864**	**155,791**	**158,344**	**-**	**393,999**	**113,000**	**134,844**	**146,155**	**393,999**
Component total		**79,864**	**155,791**	**158,344**	**-**	**393,999**	**113,000**	**134,844**	**146,155**	**393,999**
EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT										
4100	Expendable equipment									
4101	Office supplies and consumables	12,500	20,344	9,000		41,844	30,000	8,000	3,844	41,844
4102	Laboratory equipments, reagents, Test Tubes, etc			110,000		110,000	80,000	30,000	-	110,000
4199	**Sub-total**	**12,500**	**20,344**	**119,000**	-	**151,844**	**110,000**	**38,000**	**3,844**	**151,844**
4200	Non-expendable equipment									
4201	Non Laboratory purchase		25,000			25,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
4202	One Vehicle fo field operation		-	45,000		45,000	45,000	-	-	45,000
4203	2 Moto Bikes for Field Project Execution in remote areas with no roads access to vehicle			6,000		6,000	6,000	-		6,000
4299	**Sub-total**	**-**	**25,000**	**51,000**	**-**	**76,000**	**66,000**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**76,000**
4300	Premises									
4301	Office Premises (for local field operations in project districts)	45,000				45,000	35,000	10,000		45,000
4302	GR processing facilities		32,000	57,452		89,452	40,000	49,452		89,452
4399	**Sub-total**	**45,000**	**32,000**	**57,452**	**-**	**134,452**	**75,000**	**59,452**	**-**	**134,452**
Component total		**57,500**	**77,344**	**227,452**	**-**	**362,296**	**75,000**	**59,452**	**-**	**362,296**
MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT										
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment									
5101	Equipment Maintenance	25,000				25,000	2,000	15,000	8,000	25,000
5201	Publications, Translations, Dissemination and reporting costs (*cost includeds gender sensitive publications)	10,568	20,000	20,073		50,641	8,421	17,096	25,124	50,641
5202	Annual Audit report				13,560	13,560	4,520	4,520	4,520	13,560
5301	Comunications (tel, fax, e-mail, Internet cost etc)	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	10,000
5302	Others (lubricants, Fuel, etc)	30,000	-	-		30,000	5,000	15,000.00	10,000.00	30,000
5303	External Mid Term Evaluation	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	25,000		25,000		25,000
5304	External Terminal Evaluation	10,000	10,000	5,000	15,000	40,000		-	40,000	40,000
5305	Other M&E activities as per budgeted M&E Plan	50,000	50,000	33,000	-	133,000	44,500	44,500	44,000	133,000
5399	**Sub-total**	**130,568**	**90,000**	**63,073**	**43,560**	**327,201**	**68,441**	**125,116**	**133,644**	**327,201**
Component total		**130,568**	**90,000**	**63,073**	**43,560**	**327,201**	**68,441**	**125,116**	**133,644**	**327,201**
GRAND TOTAL		**400,000**	**618,182**	**800,000**	**181,818**	**2,000,000**	**537,174**	**718,721**	**516,262**	**2,000,000**

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required

clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).