



Support the implementation of Nagoya protocol through the valorization of potential ABS value chains by farmer organizations (Cooperatives, local community organisations) in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Support the implementation of Nagoya protocol through the valorization of potential ABS value chains by farmer organizations (Cooperatives, local community organisations) in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon

Countries

Cameroon

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Supplementary Protocol to the CBD, Biodiversity, Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing, Species, Crop Wild Relatives, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Livestock Wild Relatives, Biomes, Sea Grasses, Tropical Dry Forests, Mangroves, Wetlands, Tropical Rain Forests, Grasslands, Coral Reefs, Rivers, Lakes, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate

innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Capital providers, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Targeted Research, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Training, Seminar, Professional Development, Workshop, Knowledge Exchange, Conference, Field Visit

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

36 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

190,000.00

Submission Date

8/24/2021

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-3-9	GET	2,000,000.00	4,500,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		2,000,000.00	4,500,000.00

B. Indicative 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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework	Technical Assistance	<p>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.</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 Post 2020 strategy and action plan updated and adopted for the full implementation of ABS measures in Cameroon.</p> <p>Output 1.1.2. ABS law and its implementation instruments as well as standards appropriated by stakeholders and the incentive investment framework for farmer organizations and other private actors implemented.</p> <p>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</p>	GET	400,000.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework	Technical Assistance	<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Output 2.1.2. Sustainable regeneration and associated management practices well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain</p>	GET	218,182.00	500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework	Technical Assistance	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).	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Output 2.2.3. At least an increase of 20 to 25% of income of farmer</p>	GET	400,000.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Piloting ABS agreements that demonstrate best practices of PIC, MAT and ABS permit, including the effective fair and equitable sharing of benefits.	Investment	<p>Outcome 3.1 Effective ABS agreements demonstrated by:</p> <p>1. Four ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol</p> <p>2. ABS agreements established between national providers and multinational companies for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	GET	800,000.00	1,500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	1,818,182.00	4,000,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET			181,818.00		500,000.00	
Sub Total(\$)			181,818.00		500,000.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,000,000.00		4,500,000.00	

C. Indicative 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	MINEPDED	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	MINEPDED-National Budget in support of ABS implementation	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
Civil Society Organization	GIZ ? BioInnovation Project	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	North Regions Divisions	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	South ? West Regions Divisions	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				4,500,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The project is expected to benefit from cooperation with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, which is a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. The GIZ in partnership with ABS Capacity Development Initiative has just launched an "expressions of interest" for business and business organizations interested in partnering with the BioInnovation Africa project to develop or scale up supply chains that are based on African biodiversity and respect, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) BioTrade principles.

D. Indicative 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 GEF Resources(\$)					2,000,000.00	190,000.00	2,190,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

91,324

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

8,676

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	91,324	8,676	100,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					91,324.00	8,676.00	100,000.00

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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,250			
Male	1,000			
Total	2250	0	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

In addition, many women will benefit from the Seed funds through Grant mechanism, but the actual number cannot be confirmed at this stage. However, the project will keep track of the number of people reached through the Seed funds through Grant mechanism activities and it is expected that at least 30% will be women participants. 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 200,000 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 Cameroon has committed to achieving by 2030. The project will specifically contribute to achieving 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 in particular 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.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

An important study[1] conducted to understand markets and the implications of patent activity for Cameroon in 2013 revealed that patent activity for biodiversity species involving Cameroon were identified in a total of 42 countries (including the European Patent Office and the international Patent Cooperation Treaty). Considering that significant revenues flow back to the patent holders from producers, Africa was found to have the lowest number of patent applications and grants, and these figures are decreasing. This unveils the longstanding focus of concern regarding the problem of misappropriation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge or biopiracy from Cameroon and other countries. This also explain why genetic resources and traditional knowledge present important potential opportunities for economic development that can meet the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities and promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Research activities appear to be the catalyst to this process. An overview of the Scientific Landscape for Access and Benefit-Sharing in Cameroon conducted in 2016[2] revealed that research in Cameroon is dominated by Health topics. Plants were the major focus of research activity by kingdom and species research focused on plant science and medicinal chemistry. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the large economic potential for the valorisation of biodiversity-based products in Cameroon is not yet tapped and long-term business relations under the legally binding Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) hardly exist. Value chains for the production of high-value food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical products especially offer opportunities for direct investments into biodiversity conservation by providing countries with benefit-sharing mechanisms. It is therefore important that these opportunities contribute to local development and the conservation of Cameroon's biodiversity and the many ecosystems under threat.

In 2010, member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) elaborated and adopted a sub-regional ABS strategy. This strategy provides guidance to member countries to elaborate their national ABS framework. This has led however to the development by many COMIFAC countries of different administrative procedures for access to genetic resources that need to be harmonized for the collective protection of natural resources of the Region through more awareness raising and capacity building activities.

Cameroon is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity CBD (1995), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) (2006) and Nagoya Protocol (2017); it developed a National ABS Strategy in 2012, and put in place administrative procedures for ABS,

found in the CBD Clearing House Mechanism. 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 has just been promulgated by the Head of State and would require a careful and dynamic inter institution coordination to achieve an efficient implementation. Given the recent accession to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, it is necessary to update the national ABS strategy to comply with the new vision embodied by the Protocol. This implies development of an adjustment process based on a continuous monitoring and assessment of procedures and necessary changes (administrative), as needs arise. Moreover, an efficient and effective institutional arrangement that support the operationalization of the ABS law will be necessary.

Environmental context and related challenges: Cameroon is endowed with a rich biological diversity within diverse ecosystems that are largely representative of Africa's ecosystems resulting in the reference to Cameroon as Africa in miniature. This high degree of genetic species, and ecosystem diversity is of significant socioeconomic, scientific, and medicinal importance to its people. Diverse climate conditions and hundreds of years of agricultural practices have resulted in rich biodiversity and genetic crop resources in Cameroon. This high level of genetic diversity makes Cameroon an attractive country for bioprospecting, especially given the high number of known medicinal plants, many of which have associated traditional knowledge. This rich biodiversity is nevertheless being threatened by a number of factors including, biopiracy, poaching of wild plants and animals, overharvesting of forest products, monoculture, the effects of climate change, bush fires and commercial exploitation of the forests resulting in the elimination of 200,000 hectares (494,200 acres) per year. Overgrazing is degrading the semiarid northern rangelands. By 2008, Cameroon had lost 30% of its mangrove swamps. Pollution and poor waste management are significant environmental problems in Cameroon. According to Cameroon's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), urban land use change, urban development, and inadequate municipal and urban waste management issues are identified as major contributors to biodiversity losses. Other key drivers include demographic patterns, migration, and urbanization; as well as lack of awareness and social practices. The main sources of pollution are industrial chemicals and vehicle emissions.

Furthermore, Cameroon is facing the loss of traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources. The increasing importance of medicinal and aromatic plants in the pharmaceutical, beauty and cosmetics industries and its potential to contribute to development, highlights the importance of the associated traditional knowledge (aTK) to these genetic resources. Yet knowledge on the full value of TK and efforts to preserved and protect such knowledge remain weak. Accessing TK associated to genetic resource and the utilization of such knowledge remains unregulated and has thus been accessed and exploited over the past century without mutually agreed terms with the knowledge holders. The non-valorization of TK and exclusion of indigenous and local communities in sharing knowledge constitute a great disincentive in biodiversity conservation efforts. This is a good entry point to identify community driven actions to preserve and develop knowledge on high value biodiversity fauna in peri

urban areas surrounding Cameroonian cities in an effort to monetize local resources while creating an incentive to protect indigenous species.

Legal and Regulatory Context : The Constitution of Cameroon provides that the environment is a "common national heritage". State ownership over biological and genetic resources of national heritage is further established in several statutory provisions. Specifically, under Law No 96/12 of 5 August 1996 laying down the general framework for Environmental Management, the environment is established as a common heritage of the nation. Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 provides a legal framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forests, wildlife and fisheries. This instrument (Article 12 (1) in aligning with the Constitution, further confers ownership of genetic material to the State. In imposing on the state the responsibility of protection of forest, wildlife and fisheries heritage (Art 11), the law obligates state authorization to be obtained for all exploitation of genetic resources for scientific, commercial or cultural purposes. Art 12 (2) further obligates benefit sharing for all benefits arising from the utilization of the genetic resource. Article 26 (1) and (2) of the Decree recognizes the user rights of indigenous and local communities living in the forest communities. The exercise of this right is however limited to collections with no reference to their traditional knowledge. The Forestry law is currently under revision. Of relevance in the research sector, the mandate of the Ministry of Research and Scientific Innovation (MINRESI) as the national authority for granting research permits is established by a regulatory instrument signed in 2006 and 2019. These are: Order No. 00002 / MINRESI / B00 / C00 of 18 May 2006 and Order N° 000001/MINRESI/B00/C00/C10/B39 of 23rd January 2019. These Orders further provide the conditions for granting a research permit (Articles 1 (2) and 2 (2)), financial benefits and intellectual and industrial property rights resulting from such research (Article 5). It recognizes the need for coherence with other legislative instruments and compliance with international conventions on industrial property rights in the valorization of research and the negotiation of research agreements (Article 7). ABS systems in the agriculture and biotechnology sectors are also regulated by a number of instruments. With regard to seed activities, Law No. 2001/014 of 23 July 2001 sets the conditions for the importation, production and marketing of seeds.

In reviewing the extent to which the ABS provisions of these national and international instruments have been effectively translated into national legal tools, studies carried out in this line note that Cameroon is yet to have a specific legal instrument on ABS and associated traditional knowledge. Nevertheless, after a long process that started in 2012, Cameroon has adopted Decree No. 2014/ 262 of 22 July 2014 for its accession to the Nagoya Protocol and is a Party to this treaty since 28 February 2017. A national, multi-stakeholder ABS committee has recently been set up through Order N° 00094/D/MINEPDED/CAB of 24th August 2020 laying down organization and functioning of the National ABS Committee. The functioning of this committee has so far led to the issuance of 14 Prior Informed Consents (PICs) (13 for the research phase and 1 for the commercialization phase). In addition, the committee negotiated 05 Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) (04 for the research phase and 01 for the commercialization phase), 03 ABS permits for research purposes. This committee was instrumental in preparing and finalizing the drafting of an ABS bill and two implementing regulations

that have just been promulgated by the Head of State. The two implementing regulations are a draft decree to lay down implementation arrangements of the law on ABS and their derivatives, associated traditional knowledge, and fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their utilization and a draft decree on the organization and the functioning of ABS National Committee. The ABS law, , mandate the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) as the Competent National Authority in matters of access to genetic resource and addresses inter alia, access to genetic resources and /or associated traditional knowledge, modalities for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits, associated Traditional Knowledge and intellectual property rights, international cooperation and cross-border aspects, governance bodies and monitoring measures, financial and fiscal arrangements. This law takes into account a number of innovative concepts such as:

- Access to GRs and aTK as well as benefits sharing;
- Documentation of GRs and aTK;digital sequence information;
- Intellectual properties rights;
- The guarantee of the involvement of indigenous and local communities as well as the improvement of their living standards;
- Implementation of a specific ABS taxation;
- Regularization for earlier access.

While this text addresses the overlap of competence between Government ministries by providing an interministerial committee that will participate in decisions concerning access, it is still unclear how this body will ensure monitoring of compliance by users. This calls for the need to implement supporting programmes aimed at raising awareness on ABS within country and enhancement of negotiation skills. Support for this process could also come with the objective of increasing the practical workability by streamlining procedures, through development of templates for PIC and MAT, and automation of licensing. The idea to link all different institutions involved in ABS in a country, develop a national database on genetic resources and traditional knowledge and to create a 'one-stop-shop' for prospective users, would certainly contribute to decreased complexity and reduction of bureaucracy arising from the implementation of this law.

Institutional Context: As per the 2012 National ABS Strategy document, all government and non-government actors involved in dealing with ABS issues include: The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED); 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. A careful study of these institutions revealed that in addition to an appropriate legislative framework, an efficient and effective institutional arrangement that support the operationalization of ABS is necessary. This would address the underlying challenge of the unclear, overlapping, or simply non-existing institutional competencies necessary for the effective implementation of the ABS national framework. Other major stakeholders include Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non Governmental Organisations (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 Traditional practitioners, etc.

Socioeconomic context:

Over the last two decades, studies have highlighted the economic, social and cultural importance of biodiversity in general and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in particular in Central Africa. Based on data from Cameroon, around a third of NTFPs harvested are estimated as traded. Many of the high value traded NTFPs form the basis of local, regional and international trade by individuals, entrepreneurs and small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs). Many SMEs sell two or more NTFPs often alongside agricultural products, in quantities which provide a significant income. Among the highest valued and commercialised NTFPs in Cameroon are the leaves of two forest vines or vegetables known as okok or eru (*Gnetum africanum* and *Gnetum buchholzianum*) in the southern area of Cameroon and shea butter (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) in the northern Regions. Eight of the most highly commercialised NTFPs in Cameroon provide on average 40% of annual household income for those involved in their chains. In Cameroon, *Gnetum* spp. traders earn on average 1,469 US\$ annually, exporters 6,121 US\$, and retailers 1,458 US\$ (Ingram 2014). However, both species are threatened in Cameroon by overexploitation, habitat loss and poor or weak governance (Bikoue et al., 2006; Mala, 2008; Ingram, 2014). Moreover, the country's wealth in medicinal plants has been attracting 'bio-pirates', and poaching has increased in the border areas. Not only are these practices a threat to biodiversity, they also often result in unfair patenting of plant extracts by foreign pharmaceutical companies, yielding high economic benefits with no return to the country and local communities. For many years, the private sector has exploited these biological and genetic resources without sharing the profits with the local communities, which benefits have the potential to improve their livelihood. Furthermore, associated traditional knowledge (TK) which is used in the promotion of traditional medicine, food and cosmetics by the commercialization of products are not captured in ABS processes to add economic value to these products and to apply benefit sharing for the local communities. The ABS process is not applied due to the fact that there is little or no awareness and also the legal instruments are yet to be enforced.

In order to conserve Cameroon's diverse genetic resources, the potential of genetic resources lying in the country's forests must generate tangible local and national economic benefits. There is need to support Cameroon's efforts to harness the benefits of its still largely unexplored wealth of genetic

resources through the full establishment of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework. By implementing this framework, ABS policies will enable the transfer of benefits to Cameroon through higher investment and royalties, and to local and remote communities through the creation of business, employment, capacity building opportunities, and premium prices for genetic resources. But to become effective, the institutional framework for implementation of ABS needs to be reinforced with clear rules and regulations, which ensure that bioprospecting and product development create tangible and fair benefits to the country and concerned institutions and communities.

Rationale for selecting the South West and Far Northern Regions: 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 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.

On the basis of the above criteria, it is believed that lessons learnt from these two regions will be shared and used in other Regions of the country.

Rationale for species selection:

Four ABS-value chain targeted through this project were selected during the baseline study based on their potential value for use in the fragrance, flavor and pharmaceutical sectors. The following table summarized the rationale for species selection:

Species name	Target GR potential /aTK	Industry sector	Existing and potential private sector involved	Current baseline project activities without GEF grant
SOUTH WEST REGION				

<i>Irvingia wombolu</i>	Known as Bitter bush mango, The bark is used against diarrhea, hernia, yellow fever, poisoning, pains, wounds, and toothache. The leaf extract is used as a febrifuge while the kernels are used to treat diabetes. The seeds are used in cooking to thicken soups and stews. It is also made into a cake called dika bread or odika bread.	Cosmetic, Food industry	V MANE FILS/ALELOR (France)	
<i>Monodora myristica</i>	Also known as calabash nutmeg, the edible seeds yield a nutmeg flavoured oil which is used in West Africa for cooking. The bark is used in treatments of stomach-aches, febrile pains, eye diseases and haemorrhoids	Cosmetic; pharmaceutic	V MANE FILS/FANAS ENTERPRISE (Lyon, France)	
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i>	Known from research to be used against diabetics and digestive problems etc. In the cosmetic sector, it has been found to be an excellent moisturizing agent. It is also used in the agro-industry sector, where oil extracted from the seeds is both nutritive and medicinal according to the traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resource.	Pharmaceutic, Food industry cosmetic	BIO SAHEL	GIZ Pro FE support the extraction process of essential oil (equipment, quality)
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (Gonakier)	Widespread species in Mayo Kani, it is used for reforestation and is also present in the local and national value chain of the pharmacopoeia. Its therapeutic potential extends to several areas including respiratory diseases, infectious diseases, reproductive health, and digestive disorders. It is abundant both in the wild and in reforestation sites	Pharmaceutic		ICRAF and FAO have supported local communities for nurseries activities in order to enhance local development through exploitation of the resource

Barriers which hinders progress for the effective implementation of benefit sharing of genetic resources in Cameroon:

The effective implementation of ABS in Cameroon is currently being hampered by some barriers, notably the weakness of the legal framework, the limited technical and financial capacities of farmer organisations involved in ABS local value chains.

Barrier 1: Weak implementation of the access and benefit-sharing legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks in order to effectively operationalise the Nagoya Protocol: Six years after entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, ABS legal systems is yet to be updated in Cameroon to meet the obligations set out by the Nagoya Protocol. Cameroon obtained initial support in the context of UNEP-GEF Project: *Global Support for the Entry into Force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing* for the rapid entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in the lead-up to COP-MOP 1,[3] but the country has a long way to go in order to establish complete and functional ABS legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks, including for example implementing regulations to make legislation clear, practically enforceable, and comprehensive in its coverage by establishing institutional arrangements and administrative systems for ABS processes and developing procedures for granting or refusing to grant prior informed consent (PIC).

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Barrier 2: Limited technical capacities, awareness, and knowledge/information dissemination to maximize access and benefits sharing from genetic resources: The absence of information on economic potential of Nagoya Protocol; weak awareness of issues concerning access and benefit sharing like the potential and value of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as a source of innovation in the local economy are an impediment for the effective participation of the local communities and even the private sector. This also contributes to the loss and degradation of biodiversity through unsustainable land use and use of natural resources. It is important for local communities to have a good understanding of the Nagoya Protocol provisions that require ensuring free prior informed consent and equitable sharing of benefits as well as the options and opportunities to maximize local benefits through ABS. There is therefore a need for accelerating documentation of traditional knowledge (TK) associated with genetic resources, in order to ensure that an adequate PIC process will be conducted and MAT will be assured to ensure that the holders of the TK will be able to derive tangible and fair benefits from the ABS deals.

The weak visibility of potential economic benefits from the exploitation of genetic resources, and the lack of data on the value and type of genetic resources that can be utilized through Access and Benefit Sharing process to derive monetary and non-monetary benefits and that may be of interest to the private sector is a big handicap to the process in Cameroon. There is an urgent need to enable better implementation of the ABS Policy through institutional strengthening and individual capacity building for monitoring bio-prospecting projects and facilitate value addition to biological resources in the country. The project will need to engage grass root sensitization and build the capacity of private sector through business forums to share potential of biological/genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge on the national and international market.

Barrier 3: Weak financial capacity and experience of farmer organisations in applying ABS mechanisms to access , manage and promote GRs and associated Traditional Knowledge: While some ABS activities are ongoing in Cameroon, and there is potential interest from private sector, there is still much to do to genuinely integrate Indigenous and Local Communities(ILCs) in existing and emerging ABS value chains particularly in the far North and South West Regions because of their rich biodiversity. There is limited expertise in developing ABS agreements that are fully compliant with the Nagoya Protocol. Without realisation of actual benefits to the country and concerned communities which can be replicated and up-scaled, the progress of advancing the ABS agenda in the country will remain slow. If ABS value chains are not developed with the genuine participation of and respect for the rights of the involved communities, this will remain a weak value chain, and the ABS systems in place will not effectively contribute to local livelihoods and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,

Several initiatives of national and regional scope related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS have been implemented in the country such as the national ABS strategy and its Action plan. These initiatives have been mostly focused on the priority areas identified by the ABS National which include::

- Strengthening/ capacity building on ABS
- Development of legal and institutional framework
- Definition of administrative measures
- Reinforcement of mechanisms for stakeholder participation
- Promotion and valorization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

As part of this efforts, important initial steps have been taken with the support of various cooperating sources. Of particular importance we can mention the ABS policy development project funded by GEF / UNEP through GIZ in 2011, the Regional Project "Ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Use in COMIFAC Member Countries" GEF / UNEP funding in 2016; the BMZ through GIZ regional COMIFAC project on the "Implementation of Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in the COMIFAC countries" of 2017 and the GEF/UNDP project on "Bottom up approach to ABS: community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS

Echinops giganteus value chains in magha ? bamubu, Cameroon (Echinops giganteus and Mondia whitei) of 2016?

At the national level, no specific ABS projects are currently being executed. However, the project is expected to benefit from cooperation with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, which is a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. The GIZ in partnership with ABS Capacity Development Initiative has just launched an "expressions of interest" for business and business organizations interested in partnering with the BioInnovation Africa project to develop or scale up supply chains that are based on African biodiversity and respect, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) BioTrade principles.

The BioInnovation Africa project (2019 ? 2022) is 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.

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

The expected change resulting from the present project will be, a country better suited for access, control, and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as well as providing business opportunities through pilot agreements on ABS for farmer organisations in the country. The project aims at supporting the operationalization of the ABS national framework, in order to overcome barriers to weak enforcement of the access and benefit-sharing legislative,

regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks, limited awareness and knowledge of stakeholders on access and utilization of GR and Fair Benefit Sharing, limited experience with the negotiation and implementation of ABS agreements; to make the best possible use of genetic resources in Cameroon, generate and share benefits derived from their use, and equitably return of the revenue generated from these activities to the local communities and women. The Project Objective is to support progress of ABS Law implementation, outreach and capacity building of smallholders in the targeted areas (South West and Far North Region) and stimulate private sector investment for smallholders dealing with the biotrade of biodiversity species used in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic or food industries.

In recognition of the above, the Theory of Change for the proposed project duly considers the environmental challenges that are driving and causing biodiversity loss, including loss of genetic resources to the utter socioeconomic disadvantage of their direct users but also the national economy. At national level, this is particularly relevant given the trends in unregulated and or illegal commercial exploitation of forest resources but also biopiracy. In compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, the project's Theory of Change (see Annex D for the diagram) recognises the role of improving the implementation of the ABS Law in Cameroon, capacitate small-scale biotradors and stimulate investments in biodiversity species used in the pharmaceutical, cosmetic or food industries to overall improve sustainable use of biodiversity and expand socioeconomic opportunities of biodiversity resource users. In this regard, the long term solution to arresting and reversing trends in biodiversity loss and associated genetic resources (including unfair access and inequitable distribution) lies in the full implementation of the ABS Law coupled with capacity development and investments in ABS compliant Value Chains which generates tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable and sustainable manner.

The project objective will be achieved through the 3 project components described below:

Component 1: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework

This component will support implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework in compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. The ABS law that has been promulgated will serve to consolidate the institutionalization of ABS frameworks and mechanisms, so that institutions perform promptly and legally their activities because of better understanding of ABS principles. Thus, the vulgarization of the ABS law will lead to its appropriation by stakeholders, bring about investments in the field of genetic resource utilisation, strengthening of institutional response to the request of access and decision making and enhancement of that law.

Since institutions are the principal stakeholders targeted by this component, the project will institutionalize mechanisms to facilitate the understanding at the institutional level of the importance and value of genetic resources and the collaboration between policy-makers involve in the issuance of authorizations in link with ABS permit.

The representatives of administrations in the National ABS Committee involved in the issuance of authorizations linked with ABS permit need to be trained and institutional capacities enforced, to interpret ABS provisions of national ABS law, understand the ABS rules and procedures, including granting of permits, assessment of access applications, core principles of Prior Informed Consent(PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and their application, and rights and roles of local communities to fully participated in the process; this to ensure that all authorities and stakeholders dealing with ABS will have a common and coordinated national approach.

Component 2: Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for implementation of the National ABS Framework

This component seeks to identify and strengthen existing and emerging initiatives and opportunities for farmer organisations , private sector by improving their knowledge and awareness on the ABS business models and procedures. In order to address the limited knowledge of stakeholders on access, utilization and fair benefit sharing of GR and associated TK, this project component will strengthen capacity of key stakeholders (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), Governments representatives, universities, researchers, entrepreneurs) in relation to access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and to develop skills in the use of procedures and tools from the national ABS system.

To ensure full participation and compliance to the law by genetic resource users (PIC, MAT and ABS Permit), awareness raising activities will be conducted, with a focus on sustainable practices and the implication of women and youth in the different communities involved. Farmer organisations (Cooperatives, local community organisations) will be specifically targeted by the awareness raising campaign, in order to facilitate establishment and implementation of the ABS law, ABS rules and procedures including granting of permits, assessment of access applications, core principles of PIC and MAT and their application, their rights and roles as stakeholders and how traditional knowledge can be accessed and used. In that respect, local communities concerned will be assisted, with the development of ABS community protocols such that the confidence among communities increase in order to provide

greater clarity to other stakeholders about their customary uses of biodiversity and the protection and promotion of their traditional knowledge.

With regards to the public sector specifically, capacity building efforts will be focused on increasing their understanding of the Nagoya Protocol as well as their adequate application of national regulations. Capacity building on access negotiation and benefit distribution will target providers and users of 4 ongoing initiatives (with 3 out of the 4 under discussion with private sector): *Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Acacia nilotica*. In the case of users and providers, capacity building activities will be focused on generating/strengthening their understanding of procedures required for access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, be it for non-commercial research, bioprospecting, industry or marketing. In the case of providers, capacity building will be oriented towards prior informed consent and benefit negotiation (monetary and non-monetary). In case of users, focus will be on legal certainty for access contracts.

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

This component will provide support in piloting ABS agreements compliant with the Nagoya Protocol. The project will support Nagoya Protocol compliant agreements between the Ministry of Environment, protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and identified and potential companies aiming to develop lead compounds or products in the cosmetic, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, food industry domains. The role of the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development in this project will be to build national capacity on *Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Accacia nilotica* with private sector collaboration as well as to enable the implementation of the ABS regime between the government as the provider and a national or international company as the user to ensure the ABS regime works at all levels- national and international.

To this effect, the project will support development of a new ABS agreement between V MANE FILS/ALELOR (France) and the local communities for use of genetic resources of *Irvingia wombolu*, as well as the agreements between the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and V Mane Fils / FANAS Enterprise (Lyon, France), Bio Sahels for use of genetic resources of respectively *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*. The project will develop capacity of stakeholders on sustainable harvesting and use of resources/capacity building of stakeholders on preliminary processing of genetic resources, which will be ideally co-financed with the private sector contribution. Through these pilot cases, ABS regime mechanism fully operational will be demonstrated at the national level.

The project will also support Nagoya Protocol compliant agreements between the Ministry of Environment, protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and other qualified companies (not yet identified at this stage) aiming to develop lead compounds or products from the genetic resource of *Balanites aegyptiaca*. In this regards, the project will enable the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development to scout for potential international partners as well as provide legal expertise to facilitate ABS agreements. To this effect, the project will consolidate the aTK and make full use of them to focus on potential GR which already have a known history of use and efficacy to be isolated and identified at the bio-active compound level.

GEF funding will be used to facilitate consultations and negotiations with national and international counterparts; technical support for collections and laboratory analysis and processing, and for providing technical assistance in the legal field as well as for biochemical analysis. Cost for actual product development and marketing will be borne by co-financing. A strong focus of GEF support will be placed on building strong technical and legal capacity to put the country on a footing that enables the country to negotiate fair benefit-sharing for the country while ensuring that the government will gain a positive reputation as a reliable partner and as a resource provider.

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

Cameroon's vision for biodiversity is defined as follows: "By 2035, a sustainable relationship with biodiversity is established in its use and sharing of benefits to meet the development needs and well-being of the people, and ecosystem balance is preserved through sector and decentralized mainstreaming with the effective participation of all stakeholders including local communities." To achieve this vision, The project remains relevant to Sustainable Development Goals 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" and 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". The project also fits with the Aichi Targets and will contribute to the strategic goals of Cameroon National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The GEF action for this project will help to address key issues including biodiversity loss, land degradation, climate change and desertification. In addition, the GEF support will allow promotion of good sustainable land management practices, which will help in implementing biodiversity conservation practices

The project addresses the GEF-7 BD Focal Area objective 3 ? Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. The project is particularly aligned with the core activities of the GEF program in order to comply with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol, namely: Stocktaking and assessment. (i) gap analysis of ABS provisions in existing policies, laws and regulations, stakeholder identification, user rights and intellectual property rights, and assess institutional capacity including research organizations; (ii) development and implementation of a strategy and action plan for the implementation of ABS measures. (e.g. policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks governing ABS, National Focal Point, Competent National Authority, Institutional agreements, administrative procedures for Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), monitoring of use of genetic resources, compliance with legislation and cooperation on trans-boundary issues; Development (or revision) of national measures to implement and enforce the Protocol (e.g. the legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing); and (iii) building capacity among stakeholders (including indigenous and local communities, especially women) to negotiate between providers and users of genetic resources. The project also supports the participation in the ABS Clearing-House mechanism.

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

To address the need for institutional capacity building (amongst different project participants) in terms of access and benefit sharing, incremental financial support from GEF, is necessary such that, effective changes can be verified on the proposed baseline by supporting the conclusion of benefit-sharing agreements between Cameroon providers of raw biological materials and ingredients, and private users from other countries. These users are predominantly enterprises from the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical sectors as well as research institutions.

Without GEF investment, the Government of Cameroon and its national and local partners have limited ability to effectively address issues related to proper access to Genetic Resources (GR) and fair and equitable distribution of its derived benefits.

With GEF, the project resources will complement existing efforts, including those of the Regional GIZ project ?BioInnovation Africa - Equitable Benefit-sharing for the Conservation of Biodiversity? (2019 - 2022) by ensuring a cost-effective approach and a coherent intervention strategy to maximize the possibilities of achieving the identified outcomes. By building on the baseline with GEF support, the project will have a positive impact on the implementation of ABS principles (stemming from CBD and

Nagoya Protocol), and this experience could eventually benefit other African countries through the African Union (AU) or COMIFAC sphere, where neighbouring countries share similar difficulties and challenges. Experience and results from the GEF supported project will be widely shared in forums where ABS is discussed.

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

By supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the expected global environmental benefits include: (i) contributing to the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD and the Aichi Targets, thereby reducing the rate of loss of global biodiversity; (ii) enabling local communities and countries to reduce biodiversity loss by deriving greater economic benefits from genetic resources, thereby providing incentives for biodiversity conservation; (iii) strengthening the rights and stewardship of ILCs to their resources and TK, thereby contributing to the local conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This project will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of species in the target habitats.

Well-implemented ABS mechanisms create incentives to conserve and sustainably use Genetic Resources (GR), thereby enhancing the contribution of biodiversity to development and human well being. An effective and efficient access regime for GR and aTK will provide impetus for biodiversity conservation, research, and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources, helping to maintain and preserve biodiversity in a region where biodiversity is in critical need of support.

7) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovation: The project is innovative in the sense that it focus on the issuance of ABS agreements, as the implementation of the new ABS law will establishes legal certainty and transparency for both providers genetic resources and farmer organisations of the targeted areas (local private sector). Awareness raising activities should be considered innovative because they will be oriented in the enforcement of institutions to perform promptly and legally in ABS mechanism. Also, the project links biotrade and ABS principles, and incorporates the promotion of local private sector and gender in biodiversity issues to enhance national involvement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable exploitation of GR and aTK. Another innovative aspect of the project is that instead of considering the traditional approach to ABS based on the development of products by outside parties that can create problems in terms of intellectual property, the project will instead work to provide the owners of aTK with the capacity and tools to access markets directly.

Sustainability:

The project will be sustainable insofar as the principal beneficiaries are women and local private sector (farmer organisations) of the targeted areas. The increase number of ABS agreement issues will boost local economy by benefits sharing and making visible the value of local genetic resource as a key way to link access, use and benefit actions with sustainable objectives. Then, Technology transfers accrue from non-monetary benefits of ABS agreements will contribute to the sustainability of the investments.

For the sustainability of ABS policies, the project will support mainstreaming of ABS implementation into the development programs of public institutions involve in the issuance of authorizations in link with ABS permit and the development of new value chains will lead to financial and economic sustainability that would provide an essential incentive for the conservation of genetic resources, and its wider replication in the country.

Scale-up potential:

With reference to the results to be obtained on *the chosen value chains* the lessons learned from the development of an ABS framework for Cameroon will be instrumental in structuring and delivering similar ABS schemes for other regions in the country. Moreover, one of the key advantages of the project relates to its national scope, that can provide support and *knowhow* to similar implementing processes in COMIFAC countries facing similar challenges and with similar opportunities relating to the access systems to genetic resources and protection of traditional knowledge. At national level, GEF project will contribute to the de-centralization process in matters of ABS which, in a way, is considered as part of national Government policies.

[1] Biodiversity in the Patent System: Cameroon, GIZ (2013)

[2] Website ;

https://public.tableau.com/profile/poldham#!/vizhome/Cameroon_0/CameroonPlantaeNames

[3] <https://www.thegef.org/project/global-support-entry-force-nagoya-protocol-access-and-benefit-sharing>

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

Initial stakeholder analysis during the PIF stage was followed up with consultation. The stakeholder analysis was elaborated following consultations undertaken by national consultants addressing both institutional stakeholders in the context of their statutory involvement in the project, and more broadly

for non-governmental stakeholders. Focus group discussion meetings were organised to discuss the project design and reach general consensus on project outcomes, outputs, activities and institutional arrangements for the project. During these consultation that were held mainly from the 10th to the 15th August 2020, key value chains that could trigger ABS processes in the South West and Far North Regions were assessed. Online meetings were equally conducted with key business firm locally and abroad to know their current interest.

The main actors identified for these value chains production area include village harvesters known as ?producers?, local assemblers, household consumers. Indirect actors identified include transporters, traditional authorities, students, farmers, local councils, government officials, council members, village traditional council members, retailers, gatherers, hunters, students, school teachers, agricultural staff, union presidents, members of Common Initiative Groups (CIGs), and the various Forest User Groups.

Stakeholder identification and level of engagement in ABS Value Chains

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
National government				

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment, Protection, Nature and Sustainable Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver PIC and ABS Permit - Supervises MAT negotiation process - Follow-up and evaluate different stakeholders with respect to different contracts in consideration to ABS norms , - Supervise the distribution of benefits from exploitation of traditional know-how and also genetic resources - Disseminate information on the process nationally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 - Coordinate activities on the ABS process in Cameroon - Deliver permits for the collect of genetic resources, - Supervision of the distribution of benefits 	Since establishment of the Ministry in 2004	Very high
Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation (MINRESI)	<p>Besides collaborating with MINEPDED and other sectors, they have to specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead the coordination, valorization and control of scientific research activities, nationwide dissemination of research results. - Promote research and provide research permits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide research permits - Provide advisory counsel to the Ministry of Environment on research issues concerning genetic resources 	Limited	Limited

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)	Besides collaborating closely with MINEPDED and other sectors, it has to specifically : - Secure and follow-up on exploitation of forest resources relating particularly to NTFP	- Participate in the implementation of the Cameroon National ABS Strategy - Participate in the issuance of ICC (International Certificate of Conformity)	Since 2011	None
Local Decentralized Authorities				
The local Councils Covering targeted area of intervention	- Participate in the different negotiations - Contribute to administrative and logistic aid to the community and to producers - Collaborate closely with other local sectors in putting in place the value chain	- Participate in all the negotiations - Logistical support to producers - Collaborate with the local representative of MINEPDED	Permanent work	Moderate
International Institutions				

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the ABS process in Cameroon - Develop the capacities of local NGO and the community in putting in place the ABS process - Facilitate the conservation of natural resources - Develop value chains for the major local resources under the ABS process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	Since 2011	High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
ABS Capacity Development Initiative	<p>This is a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. It is co-funded by Germany, Norway, Denmark, the European Union and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. <i>BioInnovation Africa - Equitable Benefit-sharing for the Conservation of Biodiversity</i>, which to support four African countries in the implementation of their national ABS systems by supporting the conclusion of benefit-sharing agreements between African providers of raw biological materials and ingredients, and users from Europe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	Since 2012	High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
SUFACHAC	<p>The Project Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon (SUFACHAC) is a biodiversity Conservation and Development project of the Republic of Cameroon. The SUFACHAC project is implemented with the proposed BakossiBayangMboLebialem (BBML) TOU, South West Region..</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 biocultural protocols for <i>the selected value chains</i> 	Since 2017	High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the ABS Initiative - Mobilize all stakeholders and the resources - Share experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement all the dispositions and local, national and international responsibilities of ABS initiatives in Cameroon. - Mobilize stakeholders and resources - Share experiences 	Since 2012	High
OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secure traditional knowledge - Protect IP of genetic resources - Protect the properties of new discoveries and new usage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the patenting of value chains 	None	Very low
Private Sector	Exploiting GR and ATK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is interested in some value chains in the selected regions: South West and Far North Regions 	Since 2010	High
The laboratories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out research and development on the genetic resource - Create a data base for local genetic resource 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide research result to advice on the selected value chain 	Since 2015	Very High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
Local transporters (wheel barrows and vehicles) and international (aircrafts and boats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To carry out local handling, - To transport the products from the farms to the villages, by help of wheel-barrows - To transport the products to metropolitan cities via old vehicles ? opep ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local handling, - Transporting the products from farms to village by wheel-barrows - - Transporting to metropolitan towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For centuries now in handling - Since 2012 for the international trade 	High
Local community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop local value chain of some product based on aTK 			
The Community				
Traditional chieftaincy and Customary Notables, guardians of traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guard traditional knowledge as a service to the community - Conserve biologic resource - Negotiate the PIC - Negotiate the MAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobilize, sensitize and orient the community - Secure local traditional knowledge - Protect the biologic resource - Negotiate PIC - Negotiate the MAT 	Has fulfilled the role of guardian of TK for many centuries	Very high

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
Men, Women and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploit traditional knowledge transmitted by customary notables - Conserve, harvest and commercialize the biologic resource - Participate in the negotiation of prior informed consent - Participate in negotiations on the MAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domesticate the plant - Harvest and treatment of the plant's roots - Conservation and sale of the roots - Negotiation of MAT 	Since 2012	Very high
Local Civil Society				

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
ERuDeF	<p>ERuDeF - Environment and Rural Development Foundation ? is a Cameroonian non-profit organization founded in 1999 dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and protection of fragile environments through research, training, education and community engagement. It is supporting the Magha Community in relation to the Echinops giganteus value chain.</p> <p>-Protect and conserve rare species (Cross River Gorilla, Chimpanzee NigeriaCameroun, Drill);</p> <p>- Restore fragile environments (degraded landscapes, mountains, forests, mangroves, rivers)</p> <p>- Promote utilization of sustainable natural resources;</p> <p>- Facilitate community management of biological resources</p> <p>- Put in contact the different segments of the value chain</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 access and information sharing - Facilitate negotiations (PIC, MAT 	Since 2012	High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
CASuDev	CASuDev (Community Association for Sustainable Development) is locally powered conservation and poverty relief association. It is a community based nonprofit, nonpolitical and nongovernment organization working to strengthen local community participation in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, through measures that address the protection and wise use of natural resources, and the socioeconomic and cultural development of the affected communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 access and information sharing - Facilitate negotiations (PIC, MAT 	Since 2017	High

Name and Location	Mandate with respect to ABS	Activities to be carried out under the project and beyond	Period of involvement	Level of engagement
Local farmer organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regroup producers - Represent local producers - Develop capacities of local producers - Develop certain segments of the value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regroup and represent producers - Managing local producers and developing their capacities - Develop segments of the value chain 	Since 2012	High
		-		
		-		

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

Gender inequalities in Cameroonian society make it very difficult for women to participate equally in the limited benefits available to rural producers. The patriarchal system prevailing in Cameroon favors the man in the inheritance of the land or property to the detriment of the woman. Women are excluded from land appropriation and inheritance. The head of the family, however, grants them the rights to practice agriculture, especially food, on portions of the family estate. Men are more interested in silviculture, cocoa and coffee production than women. This is because women are rarely land owners in the area, and the right to plant trees is tied to the right to the land. The female landowners are mostly widows who continue work on the land of their late husbands. With the new orientation of modern law in Cameroon, all children, male and female, have the same rights to inheritance, but it is not yet a common practice.

An analysis of some selected NTFP value chains in the South West and Far North Region revealed that, men were actively involved in the production of these GR, while women were mainly involved in the trading process. As a matter of facts, some research results[1] revealed that there are no consistent differences in profit margins between genders, indicating that trading efficiency is similar, and that, given the right conditions, women entrepreneurs can be as successful as men.

[1](Perez et al. 2002)

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The country's wealth in medicinal plants has been attracting 'bio-pirates', and poaching has increased in the border areas. Not only are these practices a threat to biodiversity, they also often result in unfair patenting of plant extracts by foreign pharmaceutical companies, yielding high economic benefits with no return to the country and local communities.

In order to conserve Cameroon's diverse genetic resources, the potential of genetic resources in the country's forests must generate tangible local and national economic benefits. There is need to support

Cameroon's efforts to harness the benefits of its still largely unexplored wealth of genetic resources through the full establishment of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework.

By implementing this framework, ABS policies will enable the transfer of benefits to Cameroon through higher investment and royalties to local and remote communities through the creation of business, employment, capacity building opportunities, and premium prices for genetic resources. But to become effective, the institutional framework for implementation of ABS needs to be reinforced with clear rules and regulations, which ensure that bioprospecting and product development create tangible and fair benefits to the country and concerned institutions and communities.

GEF funds will play the incremental role of achieving additional global environmental benefits from engaging the private sector initiatives, and in this way, anticipates being able to leverage significantly greater private sector funds. The project will support community groups to prepare projects / business plans for co-investment with private sector partners and service providers. It will also fund project staff to make periodic visits to the field with private sector partners to design, implement and monitor co-financed project. In its support in engaging private sectors in sustainable farming practices, the GEF Project will promote a pro-poor approach to value chain development where a range of actors, activities and steps from production of a good/service to its consumption is analysed. Rural dwellers such as those found adjacent to Protected Areas are often the most vulnerable in this chain due to lack of market access, and particularly due to a lack of proper linkages to other actors along the chain. To facilitate engagement of private sectors, the project will create various types of platforms to bring relevant actors, institutions and stakeholders together, namely multi-stakeholders platforms which bring farmer groups together with buyers, certifiers, finance institutions and other service providers. The establishment of these multi-actor value chain platforms is a practical method to increase cooperation and information exchange about viable livelihood options. 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.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

During the development of the current PIF, possible risks are identified in the table below. The PPG phase will help to assess these risks and come back is a reasonable number of risks including with mitigation measures

Risks	Level	Mitigation approach
Socio political crises in the project area	Medium	Crises in the project area have started subsiding. It is believed that situation gets better with time
Limited local expertise to develop ABS value chains and low involvement of national research	High	A combination of international and national expertise is envisaged to update scientific and technical skills. However technology transfer intends to solve these shortages.
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		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.
Persistence of COVID 19	Medium to High	The strict respect of barriers measures taken by the government will ensure the safe achievement of the activities
Climate Change Risk and resilience	Medium	the implementation of the project activities will consider the adaptation measures and tools specific to each region

Risk related to COVID 19: The COVID-19 pandemic has led to widespread human and economic losses. The global death toll surpassed 1?545?140 deaths, in 9 December 2020, and continues to rise (WHO). Government-imposed lockdowns and other public health measures to protect citizens from the virus have led to an economic downturn of a gravity unseen since the 1930s depression. In Cameroon (443 deaths by 9 December 2020), the Government's health response since the start of the pandemic focused on strengthening the health system, in particular the acquisition of medical equipment dedicated to the fight against COVID 19. This pandemic provided also opportunities as it has brought to light the interest of the Cameroonian government in accelerating the development of traditional medicine. Indeed, the race to find preventive and curative treatments for the care of infected patients has led to the emergence of many possible solutions from researchers and traditional health practitioners.

Faced with structural and economic difficulties, the government in the process adopted a national solidarity fund of over 180 Billion FCFA to fight against the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was followed by a landmark action from the Minister in charge of Industry who on high instructions from the Prime Minister, Head of Government, conducted feasibility studies on the development of the local pharmaceutical industry in Cameroon, leading to the adoption of a strategy for the development of an integrated national pharmaceutical industry and consistent with the formulation of programs, projects and business models to attract and improve the productivity of investments in the sector. These measures which are mostly directed to the industrial sector and small and medium size enterprise do not take into consideration investment in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and restoration nor biodiversity-positive recovery measures.

Climate change risk and increase resilience: The value chains play important roles in the livelihoods of thousands of rural and urban people in Cameroon. It is well established that value chains fulfil multiple functions in supporting human well-being. The value chains provide the products for food, shelter, medicines, fibres, energy and cultural artefacts. They also provide many households with a means of income generation, either as supplementary income to other livelihood activities, or as the primary means of cash generation. Majority of rural households in Cameroon and a large proportion of urban households depend on the products to meet some part of their nutritional, health, house construction, or other needs thereby contributing in alleviating poverty. The value chains create high economic value and large-scale employment. They also serve as a vital livelihood safety net in times of hardship and contribute to improving nutrition either as part of the family diet or as a means to achieve household food security. While changing weather patterns affects population, distribution, phenophases, morphology, and deterioration of livelihood of indigenous people who depend on them, value chains play a safety net role also to assist communities in an adverse situation such as crop failure under the current change in the climate. Their use is among the coping strategies to the climate change and variability.

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

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 project also will be implemented in close consideration of the GEF ABS support both in Africa and globally so as to ensure that the project will continue to deliver the expected GEB and the portfolio objectives.

Additionally, the project will coordinate with other ongoing or planned GEF-financed projects, notably by facilitating communication, generation and disseminating lessons learned, building on strengths and avoiding duplication. The relevant projects are summarized in the table below.

GEF ID	Project Title	Existing Project Objectives	Status of project and possibility for collaboration with this project
5454	Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of its basic provisions by the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)	Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of its basic provisions by the member countries of the COMIFAC	In progress.
3821	CBSP Sustainable Community Based Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems in Cameroon	To strengthen biodiversity conservation and reduce degradation in mangrove ecosystems	In progress. Due to its focus on coastal forests direct collaboration will be relatively minimal. However, lessons learned in germplasm distribution and sustainable forest management can be useful
9470	LCB-NREE Cameroon child project: Improving Agro-Pastoral Systems in the Far North Region of Cameroon	To improve agro-ecosystem productivity and livelihoods in Cameroon's Far North Region by rehabilitating land and maintaining ecosystem services	In progress. Collaboration here will be active and complementary as similar goals are sought for similar intervention sites in the degraded Far North of Cameroon.

5210	<p>GEF / UNEP supported (1,716,895 \$), Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to Achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon</p> <p>SUFACHAC</p>	<p>To strengthen and expand the PA network of, and mainstream biodiversity conservation in, the BakossiBanyangMbo landscape, specifically: (i) improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas; (ii) Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management; (iii) increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>In progress. One of the intervention sites of this project are the degraded Montagne forests and watershed of the Bakossi Landscape. Close collaboration is envisaged here; even the possibility of co-funding.</p>
5796	<p>Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusassp, Irvingiaspp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>In progress. Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current GEF project. Lessons learned from managing plant species applicable to the envisaged experience with ,Irvingiaspp and other NTFP resource species likely to be used will be in the domain of ABS of this current project. One of the intervention sites of this project is the Bakossi Landscape. Close collaboration is envisaged here; even the possibility of co-funding</p>
	<p>Integrated and Transboundary Conservation in the TRIDOM landscape</p>	<p>The objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species with a key focus on the portion of TRIDOM landscape</p>	<p>In progress: Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current project that seeks to develop value chains of some species</p>

The project will be implemented following UNEP's national implementation modality, according to the Agreement between UNEP and the Government of Cameroon. The project will be implemented over a period of five years.

Implementing Agency: UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION is the Implementing Agency (IA) for this GEF project (Figure 13). 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 MINEPDED 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.

National Executing Agency: MINEPDED is charged with execution of the project at the national level. To this end a contract will be signed between MINEPDED and UNEP. The National Executing Agency will receive direct guidance from the PSC and regular operational backstopping from the Implementing Agency (UNEP). As a follow up to the contract with UNEP, MINEPDED will sign a contract with the other field executing partners who will work in their respective area of expertise and intervention site, in consultation with MINEPDED (who will also work in all sites) and the Project Management Unit. These 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.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will report to Executing Agency and PSC. It will be in charge of daily operations of the project and effectively coordinate project implementation following approved work plans. This unit will work in close collaboration with executing partners. The PMU is managed by a National Project Director appointed by MINEPDED who coordinates a project team recruited and set up by MINEPDED with non-objection from the Implementing Agency (UNEP). The PMU is also responsible of leveraging site experiences relevant to project outputs through flexible activities; learning lessons on which to capitalize, spotting funding opportunities and other co-financing options; development of periodic work plans and making reports available to MINEPDED and to the NPSC on time. It will ensure close coordination and harmonization with other on-going projects, especially ensuring information exchange and coordination within the context of the development activities. In order to ensure appropriate implementation and monitoring of the project; especially alignment with the GEF Focal Areas of the project.

The Project team will consist of at most four (04) staff working. These comprise; a Technical Coordinator, 01 Financial and Administrative Assistant, 01 Monitoring and Evaluation/Knowledge Management Officer and a Driver.

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

The Project Steering Committee (PSC): The project will set up a National Project Steering Committee - task force to assist in facilitating the project execution in the selected intervention sites in Cameroon. The NPSC will serve in an advisor capacity to guide execution of project activities. Proposed Project Steering Committee members will include high level government representatives

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

Current applicable policy instruments relevant in informing the ABS development process in Cameroon include:

(i) The 2012 National Environmental Management Plan revised (NEMP II). A specific objective of Program 2 on conservation of terrestrial biodiversity aims at integrating biodiversity in national policies and sectoral plans that have a negative impact on biodiversity. Focus is given to the conservation of genetic diversity and identified priority actions include the development and implementation of an ABS policy. However, while conservation of genetic diversity is of importance, the policy orientation in this important document no longer addresses the current major challenge for ABS which deal with facilitating the valorization of genetic resources and associated TK through regulated access and ensuring fair benefit sharing with provider country and local communities all through the value chain. The NEMP II is due revision and integrating this concern will provide a more appropriate policy response and coherence with currently developed ABS sectoral policies.

(ii) The Environment Sub Sector Strategy of 2013. In Program 2 on the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, the follow up on the conservation of biodiversity is defined as a key intervention action. Strategy identifies several key ABS legal and regulatory measures to be developed and these include the development of an ABS National legislation, an Institutional Mapping and Establishment of a data bank of National structures with potential to transform and valorise genetic resources, the development of relevant regulations/measure on ABS, and a manual on modalities of Certification and the protection of genetic resources.

(iii) The 2012 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan II (NBSAP II). This strategy proposes a new policy orientation to reverse and halt the trend in loss of biodiversity and its genetic components. Moreover, the visionary direction set for 2035 recognizes the key role of GR and the inclusion of local communities in this process? a sustainable relationship with biodiversity is established in its use and sharing of benefits to meet the development needs and well-being of the people, ?. with the effective participation of all stakeholders including local communities?. The inclusion of indigenous and local communities was a key factor in realising its 2020 mission. It establishes a strong orientation for an ABS system in all 4 strategic goals and specifically in targets:1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

(iv) The 2012 National Strategy on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit arising from its Utilisation. With main objective to enable the putting in place of a specific National ABS policy.

The project will contribute to United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2018-2020 in Cameroon under Effect 4.1 stating that ? By 2020, populations (especially vulnerable groups target areas are more resilient to environmental, social and economic shocks? This will be done through strengthen people's capacities and follow them in the adoption of sustainable production and conservation techniques adapted to the new climatic context. The Project Task Manager will engage with the ?Delivery As One? Programme Officer of Africa Office and UN Coordination in Yaounde, Cameroon to discuss the update on the UNDAF process and the approach to consider the project as contribution of UN Environment in UNDAF implementation. The modalities for the project regular reporting to the UNCT UNDAF monitoring team will agreed upon and the Project Coordination will be instructed on how to provide regular information on the project.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

The project includes knowledge management initiatives through networking with similar projects in the region, such as the Bioinnovation Africa project with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and GIZ, and also by sharing important lessons generated by the project itself with the participating institutions and associated projects. UNEP as implementing agency will play a key role by promoting interaction between the project and similar initiatives in the region. Likewise, interaction with countries that are members of the African Union (AU) and COMIFAC will occur at various levels, facilitated by the fact that a common set of guidelines on ABS (AU Guidelines and the regional ABS strategy of COMIFAC) exists among these countries, which will allow the project to share lessons learned with the AU and COMIFAC community. The project will also support Cameroon in making sure that all relevant ABS information is published on the ABS Clearing House, the central tool for global ABS information. The project also includes knowledge management and sharing during forums that will be organised with the private sector for matchmaking

9. 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
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

SRIF-Cameroon ABS MSP GEF 7

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Dr. Haman Unusa	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature and Environment	9/14/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

