

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Strengthening governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Dja landscape

Region Cameroon	GEF Project ID 11242
Country(ies) Cameroon	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies) UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID
Project Executing Entity(s) Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development Rainforest Alliance	Project Executing Type Government CSO
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 6/28/2024
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 72
GEF Project Grant: (a) 10,709,177.00	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b) 963,823.00
PPG Amount: (c) 300,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d) 26,998.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 11999998	Total Co-financing 101,796,356.00

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

### Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the

broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

**The project ‘Strengthening governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Dja landscape’ to be implemented by MINEPDED, is part of the Congo IP, along with six other country-based projects and one Regional Coordination Project. The IP is aimed at improving the conservation and effective governance of critical landscapes in the Congo Basin Tropical Rainforest Biome. The Congo IP is in turn part of a broader GEF8 initiative titled “The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program”, aimed at conserving intact rainforests across the globe. The focus of this project, the Dja landscape covers about 4 million hectares of the Congo Basin forests landscape in Cameroon comprising the following core PAs: the Dja Biosphere Reserve (526,004 ha), a UNESCO World Heritage Site; the Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary (26 000 ha); Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve (156 672 ha) and surrounding multiple use zones with logging concessions and agro industries, communal and community forests, farms and human settlements. The landscape is home to many fauna and flora species, several of which are globally threatened such as Western lowland gorilla, chimpanzee and forest elephants.**

This project will address the multitude of conservation and sustainable development challenges of the landscape. Deforestation, biodiversity loss, fragmentation of forest habitat, land Conversion and degradation, Climate Change, driven by conflicting land use practices, unsustainable forest and fauna management exemplified by illegal logging and poaching, unsustainable agricultural practices including slash-and-burn agriculture, industrial agricultural concessions and the negative effects of climate change which impact the livelihoods of forest dependent communities particularly women and indigenous people are persistent problems.

The objective of this project is to strengthen governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Dja landscape. The project will reverse biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation and degradation, land conversion and degradation through provision of ecosystem services in various land uses within the landscape. It will strengthen the enabling policy and regulatory environment and tools for integrated and sustainable landscape management. It will provide support to a range of interventions to increase the terrestrial and freshwater area under effective protection and OECMs based areas, reduce deforestation and promote sustainable and ecologically connected PAs within the TRIDOM landscapes. It will deliver a richer and more diverse range of benefits, from nature conservation to natural resource extraction and carbon sequestration while securing rights, access and IPLCs livelihoods with a particular focus on women and girls who are also expected to play critical role in overall natural resource management in Dja landscape and the governance systems. It will support conservation friendly and socially responsible NTFP and cocoa value chains, and forest management enterprises, and by doing this, the project intends to ensure transformational change in community based green enterprises for income generation and sustainable livelihoods, and long term of protection of the rich biodiversity of Dja landscape. Knowledge management is essential for integration and transformation in the context of this project. This project will facilitate data sharing, raise awareness, strengthen PPP models with replication of the ebony project model (a collaboration between the Congo Basin Institute and Taylor Guitars initiated to develop a community-based, science-based approach to rainforest restoration while improving livelihoods), share experiences and reinforce transboundary collaboration through lessons learned and knowledge products in various thematic areas, using adapted communication mediums in SFM, FLRs, NTFP value chains, and actively engaging with other country-based projects, the Regional Coordination project and other Regional (e.g., cross-landscape national monitoring and knowledge management initiatives, COMIFAC’s knowledge initiatives and outputs, OFAC’s State of the Forest reports, Congo IP projects) and global platforms that promote exchange and learning among stakeholders. Additionally, its knowledge products will support conservation and development efforts to preserve the Dja landscape’s vital ecosystem by improving guidelines and policies coherence for integrated, participatory natural resource management. This will provide long term transformational impact on ecosystem connectivity. The project will benefit the globally significant biodiversity that depends on them and deliver the following global environment benefits: 708,676 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved

management; 10 000 ha of agricultural lands under restoration, 1,000,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; and 45,328,170 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigated. The project activities are expected to impact the lives of at least 25000 (including Baka indigenous minority) of the estimated 100,000 people living in Dja landscape including Baka indigenous minority. About 10% of the beneficiary population in the project area will be women and the indigenous Baka forest people. The project will have a duration of 6 years.

## Child Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

This project aims to strengthen governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation while improving livelihoods in the Dja landscape

### Project Components

#### Component 1) Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,447,508.00	24,739,241.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management is improved through functional and gender-responsive inter-institutional Landscape Management Bodies (LMB) and enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools

Output:

Output 1.1 Operationalized inter-institutional LMB at municipal and landscape level involving multi-sector and multi-scale stakeholders' groups comprising women, Indigenous People and Local Communities

Output 1.2 Strengthened decision-making of women and Indigenous People through their participation in inter institutional MLMC and LMB at municipal and landscape level

Output 1.3 Enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools for sustainable land and forest management to reinforce environmental considerations and gender mainstreaming in regional and local land management instruments

#### Component 2) Protected area management and connectivity

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,595,733.00	28,451,399.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: PAs management effectiveness and connectivity is strengthened through with gender-responsive commitment of local stakeholders for wildlife conservation, sustainable forest management and forest restoration.

Output:

Output 2.1 Strengthened local stakeholders including women, Indigenous People and Local Communities' capacities and collaboration with partners for the conservation and monitoring of PAs and buffer zones with respects to human rights protocols

Output 2.2 Strengthened forest restoration and the adoption of SFM in community forestry to maintain forest cover while the indigenous peoples and local community rights are secured

Output 2.3 Other effective conservation measures (OECMs) developed based on increased capacity for Natural Capital Valuation and Accounting

### Component 3) Green enterprises, market systems development and IPLCs livelihoods

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,608,859.00	28,881,312.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: Sustainable production practices are adopted and, Indigenous People and Local Communities, women, youths and other vulnerable groups' livelihoods are improved to reduce agricultural-led deforestation in wildlife corridors

Output:

Output 3.1 Improved capacities of NTFP harvesters and farmers comprising women and IPs to reduce deforestation from the expansion of small-scale agriculture, promote biodiversity conservation on- and off-farm

Output 3.2 Strengthened business management skills to establish and operate small enterprises based on environmentally responsible natural resource use activities for both men and women

Output 3.3 Strengthened private sector engagement for improved conservation-friendly gender responsive enterprises and market systems

Output 3.4 Developed gender responsive sustainable finance solutions to increase investment in the Dja landscape and achieve long term biodiversity protection, forest conservation and sustainable production practices

#### Component 4) Knowledge management, research, monitoring, evaluation and learning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,106,566.00	13,824,246.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Improved knowledge and learnings including on, gender, Indigenous People and Local Communities mainstreaming and equity;

Output:

Output 4.1 Applied research studies to support locally-led and landscape level nature-based solution for climate change mitigation, livelihoods benefits and of biodiversity conservation executed

Output 4.2 Key knowledge products and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming and equity in sustainable landscape management capitalized

#### M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
440,550.00	1,000,000.00

Outcome:

Monitoring and Evaluation

Output:

## Monitoring and Evaluation

### Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1) Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management	2,447,508.00	24,739,241.00
Component 2) Protected area management and connectivity	2,595,733.00	28,451,399.00
Component 3) Green enterprises, market systems development and IPLCs livelihoods	3,608,859.00	28,881,312.00
Component 4) Knowledge management, research, monitoring, evaluation and learning	1,106,566.00	13,824,246.00
M&E	440,550.00	1,000,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>10,199,216.00</b>	<b>96,896,198.00</b>
Project Management Cost	509,961.00	4,900,158.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>10,709,177.00</b>	<b>101,796,356.00</b>

Please provide Justification

### CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

#### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

#### Global environmental significance

**The project area - the Dja landscape - situated within the Cameroon segment of the TRIDOM landscape: a globally important Biodiversity Hotspot, is among those landscapes in the Congo basin that today can still be considered to have large spans of relatively intact forest. It is home to globally important mega fauna and plant species and is also increasingly important for Cameroon's economic development owing to its location at the crossroads, with neighbouring Republic of Congo and transboundary**

trade opportunities. The agricultural, mining and forestry potential of the Dja landscape legitimately invite investments which will increase pressure on its rich biodiversity.

### **Project Area**

The Dja landscape covers almost 4 million hectares of Cameroon's Congo Basin forest made up the Dja Biosphere Reserve (526,004 ha), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and IUCN conservation priority for endangered species; the Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary (26,000 ha); the Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve (156,672 ha) and logging concessions, agro-industries, subsistence farming areas and human settlements (see Annex E: Maps of project area of intervention). The areas of highest biodiversity importance across the landscape[1] include, (i) the north-east (Mindourou) with well-established Forest Management Units (FMU) under stable management regimes that are all certified for sustainability and legality[2], and (ii) the south east block of Ngoyla-Mintom consisting of Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve and a number of FMUs that have been attributed very recently and which are not yet been subject to much disturbance.

### **Biodiversity:**

The vegetation of the Dja landscape belongs to the Cameroon-Congolian domain, an evergreen forest made up of large trees sometimes reaching 50 to 60 m in height, dominated by Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*). Other remarkable species include *Terminalia superba*, *Sterculia oblonga*, *Tripochitum scleroxylon*, *Ceiba pentandra*, *Lovoa trichilioides*, *Baillonella toxisperma*, *Azelia bipindensis*, *Piptandeniastrum africanum*, *Nauclea diderrichii* and *Canarium sweinfurthii*. More than 50 large mammal species, 300 bird species, 121 fish species, 215 butterfly species, 16 species of amphibians, and 18 species of reptile have been recorded in Dja landscape. Some charismatic species include the critically endangered chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*), Western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*). Other important species include: white-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), slender-snouted crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*), the endangered grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), red-capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), and giant ground pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*).

### **Land use types**

About 70% of the Dja landscape is designated permanent forest estate consists of 55% of FMU and 15% of wildlife reserves. The remaining 30% of the landscape is made up of non-permanent forest estate under different management regimes including council forests, community forests, small and medium sized-farms, human settlements, agro-industrial companies and mining exploration companies. The different land use types are presented in Annex E.

The key threats and problems that need to be addressed in the Dja landscape are discussed below:

(i) **Deforestation and Forest degradation:** According to Global Forest Watch, average annual forest loss across the landscape was 1.143% ha/year for the period 2001-2011 and

increased drastically to 9.267 ha/yr (0,23%)[3] from 2011 to 2022 mostly in non-permanent forest estate. Forest loss and fragmentation is pronounced in the western part of the landscape in the Councils of Mvangan, Oveng, Meyomessi, Meyomessala and Bengbis and to a lesser extent Djoum and Messamena driven mostly by agricultural expansion through small scale farming and agro-industrial plantations in non-permanent forest estate.

(ii) **Unsustainable bush meat hunting and poaching:** This is a severe threat to wildlife species across the Dja landscape due to the high demand for bush meat from towns such as Djoum, Mintom, Sangmélima, Ebolowa and distant capital city Yaoundé. This demand is sustained by the lack of equivalent income generating and tangible livelihoods ‘activities that provide the equivalent needed and would transform the economic model by IPLCs. Commercial hunting remains a worrying activity despite a recent increase in the number of eco-guards. Elephant poaching has been of particular concern and increasing, particularly in the Djoum region, which has been the centre of cross-border trafficking. Pangolin trafficking, supported by the Asian market and using the same networks as ivory, has previously been identified as being so intense that it could rapidly drive the species to extinction (LAGA, 2016).

(iii) **Industrial and artisanal mining:** Artisanal gold mining has been for a long time an important livelihood activity in Dja landscape, where it is often associated with other threats such as the trade in wildlife. As for Industrial mining, there are two important mining concessions, one with cobalt east of the Dja Biosphere Reserve, and one with iron ore at the southern fringe of the landscape bordering the Republic of Congo. The development of extractive industries is also often coupled with migration resulting in increasing pressures on wildlife, the expansion of significant infrastructure, including roads, railroads, dams, and other energy-related infrastructure which is currently occurring in multiple of the project’s landscapes (e.g., deep sea port at Kribi in CMRC, railroads to increase access in TRIDOM). These further contribute to habitat fragmentation and increase access that facilitates the exploitation of forest resources.

(iv) **Climate Change:** IPLCs are those most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change in the Dja landscape. This is translated through crop loss, deterioration of productive potential of agricultural activities with numerous pests, and the constant search for new and more fertile lands including lands in permanent forest estate leading to more forest losses, increase carbon emission and poverty.

The key threats to biodiversity and forest of the Dja landscape are summarized in the project’s problem tree presented in Appendix 15.

#### **Underlying drivers, future trends and transformative actions**

The economy of the project area is based on timber, NTFPs, mining, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. Other drivers of environmental degradation that would further exacerbate the threats and increase challenges are: (i) Fast demographic growth, unplanned urbanization, and accelerated migration; (ii) Poverty; (iii) limited incentives for achievement of conservation outcomes in economic development planning, along with

the added effects of climate change. This will impact significantly on ecosystems and biodiversity.

To address these threats and challenges, the project will build on the current baseline and take into consideration the lessons learned from previous projects as discussed in the section below:

### **Baseline scenario, associated baseline projects and key stakeholders**

#### **Government:**

The baseline situation for this project is characterized by a Policy and Institutional framework, built on a 2035 economic emergence vision adopted in 2009 which aims to make Cameroon 'an emerging country, democratic and united in its diversity by 2035'. Through this proactive Vision, the Government proposes: (i) to achieve close to double-digit economic growth; (ii) to reach the 25% threshold as the share of manufacturing production in GDP; (iii) to reduce significantly poverty by reducing its incidence to less than 10% in 2035; (iv) to consolidate the democratic process and strengthen national unity while respecting the country's diversity. Enabling policies and regulatory frameworks already find solid foundations on which to build resilience of the national economy, while remaining linked regionally bodies such as the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and globally to instruments such as the sustainable development goals, the Paris Agreement, the COMIFAC convergence plan, the CBD and other conventions.

#### **Indigenous People:**

The government of Cameroon through the ministry of social affairs (MINAS) has put in place policy and other regulatory frameworks to promote social integration of indigenous peoples in the areas of education, health, training and professional integration, citizenship, access to justice, culture, access to land ownership and natural resources[4]. In October 2017, MINAS[5] also set up an inter-ministerial working group known as –CISPAV[6] consisting of six government ministries along with the National Human Rights Commission and national indigenous peoples' civil society organizations to monitor projects concerning indigenous peoples and to coordinate efforts to protect their rights.

#### **Gender:**

The context of women's property rights to natural resources access and control in Cameroon is cultural and has been entrenched in traditional practices for decades. Such restrictions tend to be strongest in rural areas and amongst less educated populations. Incidentally, rural, less educated members of the population, especially women, are the more dominant grassroots actors in land use management including landscape restoration as part of SLM; and or the collection and commercialization of NTFPs. The GoC has recognized the importance of improving gender equity as an integral component of trying to achieve its overall development objectives. The National Gender Policy of Cameroon (NGPC) was adopted in 2014 in the midst of efforts to strengthen the efficiency of the national institutional mechanism for the promotion of the equality of sexes, which had emerged as a development imperative and governance requirement[7].

### **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**

**CSOs and networks are actively working in the Dja landscape, focusing on various thematic areas and this project will build on their experience and lessons learned and will equally involve them in the implementation. Indigenous people organizations, such as the African Indigenous Women’s Organization (AIWO), RACOPY, OKANI, ASBAK, BACUDA, ASBABUK, and REPALEAC, are structured in consultative platforms and civil networks to advocate for recognition of IP rights and greater participation in natural resource management. OKANI is an important IP CSO with extensive experience in advocacy, community project management, income generation, mapping, and participatory video. Technical and organizational capacity building of IP associations and cooperatives will enhance their ability to develop and manage small profitable business enterprises and partnerships with the private sector.**

**Other national NGOs such as ACDEF, APIFED, APROSPEN, AAFEBEN, etc work with IPs and local communities in organizational and technical capacity building and advocacy in the environment sector. In the Djoum-Mintom area, indigenous people, especially women associations, are involved in NTFP trade, although with limited success due to organisational and marketing problems. Partnerships for Forests (P4F) has supported two project partners—APIFED, an NGO promoting women’s and indigenous people’s rights, and Ecotrading, an enterprise specialising in sustainable NTFP sourcing and trade.**

**APIFED is implementing two projects focused on NTFP value chains, including professional training of two community NTFP cooperatives in Djoum and a 100% women-led cooperative in Mintom.**

**A national NGO TF-RD: Tropical Forest and Rural Development is implementing a project around the Dja Biosphere Reserve on valorization of agro-forestry products, while AAFEBEN is focusing on women’s entrepreneurship and participation of ethnic minority groups. SAPED has implemented several interventions in Mintom, including the revision of simple management plans in five community forests and the use of the Forest Integrity Assessment tool in forest management plans.**

**Sharing knowledge and best practices, building Networks and Partnerships and implementing cash Transfers for Restoration activities: The case of the “Esonge” Association in the “Dioula” Village:**

**In the heart of eastern Cameroon, nestled among lush forests and vibrant ecosystems, lies a small village: a “Dioula” village that has become a beacon of hope and resilience. This village, is home to a diverse group of indigenous peoples, and local communities. With support from the “Esonge” association, it has embarked on a plan to improve the livelihoods of 137 households (1,500 villagers) by helping them regain stewardship of the rainforest, reforest the clear-cut areas, transition to climate-smart cocoa, and strengthen their access to health care. Inspired by the positive outcomes, neighbouring communities are willing to replicate the model. The “Esonge”**

Association including the Dioula village leaders are willing to offer mentorship and support, helping these communities tailor the program to their specific contexts. This collaborative approach will not only scale up the restoration efforts but also strengthened the bonds between communities. The whole baseline for this project can be strengthen by sharing Knowledge and best practices, among neighbouring villages, within and outside the proposed area of intervention for this project. The implementation of Cash Transfers for Restoration, sourced from this project and other international NGOs, can play a catalytic role in providing financial assistance to families willing to engage in restoration projects.

## Private sector:

**There are many private sector stakeholders' mainly extractive companies operating in the logging, agro industry, hydroelectricity, mining and infrastructural sectors. As already stated above, there are 44 FMUs owned by the logging companies and covering 2,440,646ha of forest. The Mékin hydro electricity plant established in 2015 is found in Méyomésala. There are few mining companies such as the Mbalam- Nabéba company with authorized permits operating in the landscape. SUDCAM located in the southern part of Dja has large rubber plantations employing more than 1500 workforce.**

**Relevant International Investments and lessons learnt:**

**Many international conservation and development organizations operate in the Dja landscape. Their investments seek to promote SFM and SLM within production forests, wildlife management in PAs, multi resource monitoring, NTFP, cocoa and palm oil value chains for sustainable economic development and livelihoods of the communities, landscape governance, long term funding mechanisms, multi thematic capacity building programs, FLRs, and transboundary collaboration. Below resume is a summary of multi-lateral and bilateral funded investments addressing conservation and development challenges in the landscape:**

**ACDEF Cameroon ACDEF Cameroon has a long presence in the Dja landscape and has designed and implemented initiatives that are complementary to this project and will help it to achieve the intended outcomes. Through its ongoing work on establishing Community Conservation and Management Areas (CCMAs), ACDEF Cameroon is piloting innovative techniques and approaches using recent advances in technology and building strategic partnerships to strengthen the capacity of local actors in wildlife and biodiversity conservation and monitoring in northern Dja. This work with its North American partner Wild Earth Allies and funding from restricted and unrestricted sources is expanding to other HCVs and OECMs in the eastern side of the reserve to enhance the ecological integrity of the 315,518 ha interzone linking the Dja Wildlife Reserve, a Key Biodiversity Area, and Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve initially. An important component of ACDEF Cameroon nascent work on HCVs and OECMs is Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) as the basis for informed management decisions. Through its collaborative work with all the stakeholders, especially the IPLCs, ACDEF Cameroon has started physical accounting and has produced the list of all the available resources.**

The next steps will involve monetary valuation and integration of economic accounting, focusing initially on the initial 13 CCMA as focal point for learning. Underpinning ACDEF Cameroon work with the local stakeholders, especially the IPLCs, is a strong emphasis on the bottom-up participatory land use planning and management model that allows IPLCs to appraise the spatiotemporal distribution of available lands and resources for improved local governance. This approach also serves as the basis for ascertaining access rights and management including the development of incentive-based mechanisms to support community livelihoods for biodiversity conservation and management through the establishment and management of Natural Resource-based businesses and private sector investments of the kind currently going on in northern Dja.

The Biodiverse Landscape Fund (BLF) (2024-2030) is a £100m UK Government programme focussed on poverty reduction, protecting biodiversity protection, conservation, and tackling climate change mitigation across six critical landscapes. In the Congo Basin, the BLF is implemented by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) with an indicative budget of £15 million invested within the Western Congo Basin landscape in Cameroon, Gabon and the Republic of Congo. Three main priority issues are tackled by the BLF: (1) Growth in uncertified timber markets (2) Illegal wildlife trafficking and trade and (3) Palm oil expansion. The project will partner with ZSL to ensure program synergies and coordination of interventions in different overlapping thematic domains such as sustainable forest management, NTFP value chains, land use planning, setting up and facilitation of multi stakeholders' consultative platforms such as the Dja forum. The BLF project offers opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing across the trans boundary landscape. The lessons learnt from the Dja landscape project will be shared with partners and stakeholders using the different TRIDOM trans boundary landscape coordination platforms.

The GoC's Program for Integrated Land-use Management of the Dja Mining Belt and the Adjacent Border area, the MINEPAT-PADI-DJA project with committed funds for the period 2017-2030, aims to improve the living conditions of the local populations as well as enhance cross-border exchanges through integrated land use management in the 11 council areas around the Dja Faunal Reserve, the Ngoyla-Mintom Forest Block and the Nki National Park[8]. This project will collaborate with the MINEPAT-PADI-DJA project particularly up scaling and replicating lessons learnt in community livelihood projects and land use management from the 11 council areas.

The GIZ supported Protection of Forests and the Environment program (GIZ ProPFE), executed by MINFOF and MINEPDED, with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) was established in 2015. Its current phase is scheduled to continue through 2027. The project supports sustainable and ecological management of forest resources. The project works with stakeholders in the private sector, municipalities and civil society organizations to promote SFM and forest governance. ProPFE finances partner projects on the basis of project proposals aligned with national sectoral priorities. Other than funding, ProPFE provides technical and material assistance to partners. Previous phases of the program

have also helped to provide important knowledge and capacity on the development of NTFP value chains. These will be mainstreaming in development of activities under component 3.

The National Participatory Development Program (PNDP), the World Bank-backed government agency which focused on local development and decentralization process. With regards to supporting local development, the PNDP Program will serve as a key baseline to develop sustainable value chains, aiming to improve socio-economic conditions, increase the productivity of basic natural resources, and raise the incomes of the population in targeted municipalities.

**CBI Funded Ebony project:** The project was established to create a legal and socially responsible value chain for ebony and to experiment community-based scalable rainforest restoration efforts. The project is a model private sector – local community green business partnership in FLR using ebony species and community livelihoods. The CBI managed Ebony project implemented by CBI planted 15,000 ebony trees by 2021, and the project team has set new targets: to plant a further 30,000 ebony trees and 25,000 fruit trees by the end of 2026. By 2023, the Ebony project had planted 17,066 fruit trees and 35,793 ebony trees, bringing the total to 52,859[9]. The originality of this approach is the payment of 30 FCFA for each tree maintained and alive over the year. The Ebony Project is currently active in nine communities: Mintoum II, Aba’Akoum, Sembe, Ngola, Ekombité, Bifolone, Adjan, Malen IV, and Bemba II, with three communities (Somalomo, Zoebéfam I, and Kompia) having graduated[10].

The Government of Cameroon and UNIDO have initiated a program to build oil mills in Cameroon including in the south region to improve extraction rates, and four mills have been built so far. The results show that farmers are willing to be certified and will adhere to the RSPO certification criteria.

Partnerships for Forests (P4F) has supported two project partners -APIFED, an NGO promoting women’s and indigenous people’s rights and Ecotrading, an enterprise specialising in sustainable NTFP sourcing and trade -to strengthen the markets for selected NTFP products.

FAO project in close collaboration with MINFOF, MINEPDED and the Association of Forest Communes of Cameroon (ACFCAM). The project's global objective is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in communal forests (CF) in order to improve biodiversity conservation, reduce emissions and increase carbon stocks. This project is expected to capitalize through lessons learnt and best practices, and the innovation of this project which include mapping HCVs within community forests for protection and assessment of carbon stocks within other portions of the community forest.

Other Relevant International investments and linkages to the project is provided in the sub section: “Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project” (Table 2).

## **The project’s proposition**

**In the baseline scenario without GEF support:**

- **Without GEF interventions, coordination between sectoral Ministries, agencies and 11 decentralized local authorities (Councils) and two regional councils would remain limited, scattered and unaligned in addressing land degradation, fragmentation, vulnerability to climate change, increase GHG emission rate and reduced community livelihoods. With the growth of human populations, the situation will deteriorate resulting in habitat fragmentation and degradation, biodiversity loss in protected and non-protected areas including corridors.**
- **Little considerations given to integration, representation and participation of women, youths, IP and other marginalized groups in decision making bodies and natural resource management activities. There will be no gender responsive ‘green employment and activities’ opportunities leading to further marginalization of women and other vulnerable groups;**
- **The lack of investments and technical capacity for upscaling restoration and sustainable production practices, will continue to prevent the shift towards sustainable land management practices.**

**With the project scenario:**

**The project aims to strengthen the implementation of integrated landscape management through empowering women, indigenous peoples, local communities, and other vulnerable groups. It will strengthen multi-stakeholders' landscape governance platforms to address land degradation, biodiversity loss and livelihoods. Indigenous peoples and local communities will be empowered through increased representation and participation in decision-making bodies and forest governance structures. The project will consider gender, age, and ethnic barriers concerning access to and control over land and natural resources, and promoting equitable and formal recognition of these rights through formal land use planning processes and relevant mechanisms. With the GEF 8 resources, forests will be valued, ecological connectivity will be effective in the interzone, and the project will increase terrestrial and freshwater areas under effective protection through sustainable forest management practices in production forests, gender responsive integrated land use planning, forest landscape restoration, combating wildlife crimes, protection of HCVs in production forests, protection of wildlife corridors. The project will also implement measures aiming at developing sustainable value chains, promoting gender responsive sustainable livelihoods initiatives that supports economic empowerment and entrepreneurship of women, builds organizational and technical capacity of women and IP&LC leaders in associations and NTFP forest enterprises, delivering a richer and more diverse range of benefits, from nature conservation to natural resource extraction and carbon sequestration, while securing rights, access, and livelihoods for IPLCs, with a particular focus on women and girls.**

Based on the above, it is anticipated that, this project will contribute to the following transformative system's approach as outlined in the GEF 8 strategy:

- Expanded protection of the CFB primary forests by means of protected areas and OECMs.
- Increased understanding and valuing of natural capital.
- Expanded forest-friendly production.
- Improved policy coherence and institutional and legal frameworks that support primary forest conservation;
- Increased contributions to global environmental conservation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

The above "With the project scenario" will be achieved through the following set of results under 4 structured components:

- Outcome 1. Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management is improved through functional and gender sensitive inter-institutional LMB and enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools;
- Outcome 2: Protected areas management effectiveness and connectivity is strengthened with gender responsive commitment of local stakeholders for wildlife conservation, sustainable forest management and forest restoration;
- Outcome 3 Sustainable production practices are adopted and, IPLCs, women, youths and other vulnerable groups' livelihoods are improved to reduce agricultural-led deforestation in wildlife corridors;
- Outcome 4: Improved knowledge and learnings including on gender, IP LC mainstreaming and equity.

Barriers to the achievement of the with-project scenario ("the solution')

**BARRIER 1) Weak governance and limited institutional coordination to address deforestation, illegal wildlife trade and promotion of integrated land use planning and management**

- Cameroon's 2011 Framework Law for Land Use Planning (LUP) established a framework for inclusive, multi-disciplinary, and cross-sectoral planning. The GoC has launched a LUP process at national and regional levels under the coordination of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT). The Regional Land Use Plan of the East and South has been released, and initiatives for the elaboration of Local Land Use Planning and Sustainable Development Plan for the Territory (PLADDT) have been undertaken within the framework of the Programme d'aménagement et de développement intégré de la boucle manière du Dja et de la zone frontalière adjacente (DSAC/PADI-Dja). However, the lack of a governance framework and inter-sectoral coordination at landscape, weak stakeholder capacity, including councils and their IPLC groups makes it challenging to reconcile planning at higher levels with the aspirations of local communities, and hinders the integration of IP, women, and other vulnerable groups in the planning process.

**BARRIER 2) Ineffective PAs and OECD based areas management including CBNRM, undervaluation of ecosystem services from natural capital and its integration in the decentralized local land use planning and development plan.**

- **Management of OECD based areas, HVCs, PAs and their peripheries, is inadequate. The current PA management model with Technical Operational Units is ineffective and does not fully integrate other land use types, ecosystems services and stakeholders;**
- **IPLCs, women and other vulnerable groups are not considered within existing management frameworks. The framework and motivation for developing delegated or co-management model is not yet fully established.**

**BARRIER 3) Insufficient green enterprises and incentives for IPLCs to conserve biodiversity and adoption of sustainable land use management practices.**

- **Many women and IP rely on small-scale subsistence and commercial activities for their livelihoods. These groups often lack access to other economic opportunities and are marginalized from more formal employment due to the lack of education and/or the necessary skills. They are also marginalized groups due to their weak tenure and access rights;**
- **More work has to be done to promote public-private partnerships (PPP) such as the Ebony agroforestry-based model which can deliver mutual benefits and long-term biodiversity gains.**
- **Cameroon has developed a climate policy framework, including the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NCCAP2015-2019) and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which was updated in 2021. The Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) and the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) are central to the NDC institutional mechanism. But, there is still no comprehensive regulatory framework to support the development of carbon projects at local level. The project will help the country regulate and provide guidelines for the implementation of carbon projects on its territory so as not to jeopardize the achievement of its own unconditional climate goals set out in its NDCs, and how it will contribute to improving regulatory frameworks for climate action.**

**BARRIER 4) Insufficient knowledge exchange and learning, and gender mainstreaming.**

**The decision to prioritize this project addressing identified thematic areas is substantiated through the following evidence and benefits:**

**The proposed intervention area is part of the TRIDOM landscape. Despite being relatively well conserved, deforestation rate is rapidly changing due to conflicting land use practices, unsustainable forest and fauna management, unsustainable agricultural practices, and negative climate change impacts. This highlights the importance of investing in protecting the last remaining intact forest ecosystems, such as the Dja**

landscape. The GEF project aims to strengthen landscape governance, invest in FLR activities to combat deforestation, and promote sustainable forest management practices. It also aims to generate socio-economic benefits from the landscape's fertile soils for subsistent agriculture and NTFPs, contributing to household economies and improving local communities' livelihoods. The revenues will also help in the economic development of the area, with investments in social infrastructures in health and education sectors.

### **Project Benefits**

This project will deliver global environmental benefits which include ensuring sustainability and growth of globally significant biodiversity targeting emblematic species such as forest elephants, and western lowland gorillas, giant pangolins, etc. in the inter zone. The conservation of these endemic species is not only important to Cameroon, but also worldwide, since they are endangered and emblematic. GEF 8 interventions will therefore mitigate the global biodiversity losses from deforestation through planned forest restoration activities, protection of HCVs and wildlife corridors in the vast inter zone. Other global environmental benefits of the project will include sustaining ecosystem and landscape integrity, soil conservation, habitat consolidation, and maintenance of forest and vegetation cover.

Using the EX-ACT analysis tool, the carbon mitigation potential is -45,328,170 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e and without the project is 54 034 545 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (See Appendix EX-ACT Results GEF8 Dja landscape project). Over the 20-year accounting period of the project, estimated annual carbon-balance ranges between -359 747,38 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (1st year) and -2 518 231, 69 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (20th year) while the cumulative carbon-balance per year ranges between -359 747,38tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (1st year) and - 42 809 938,73 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (20th year) for a total surface of 718 676 ha.

In view of the above, the project will actively contribute to Expected Global Environment Benefits of GEF-8 strategy through the following Core Indicators as follows:

- CI 1. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)
- CI 4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)
- CI 3. Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)
- CI 6. Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e)

### **Project stakeholders and expected beneficiaries**

The project stakeholders include sectoral ministries such as MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPAT and national institutions with ONACC for example which are expected to play different roles in project execution. For example, MINEPDED is the GEF Executing Agency and will be in charge of overall coordination and reporting on project implementation. MINFOF is in charge of PA management, development of management plans of PA and production forests, combating wildlife crimes and other illegal exploitation activities, transboundary collaboration, promoting SFM with logging companies. MINADER's interventions are more in the agricultural sector with value chains. MINEPAT has the institutional mandate to supervise land use planning activities at landscape and national levels.

The local technical services of sectoral ministries will collaborate with in all project activities, to ensure ownership of results and capacity building. The results and other knowledge products generated by the project will be used by the ministries to inform future policy reforms and help Cameroon to meet its international commitment targets such as NDC, CBD and PA management effectiveness.

The councils will collaborate with the project in creating the local policy environment for the establishment of landscape management board (LMB) and municipal landscape management commission based on FPIC principle. The councils will equally and execute field activities leading to the implementation of forest landscape model and the implementation of Priority Management Zone (PMZ) cutting across several councils in the context of decentralisation. The councils will benefit from the project through the various capacity building programs, participation in multi stakeholders' dialogues, landscape governance, and revenues generated from council forests, NTFP value chains and FLR activities.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women and other vulnerable groups will participate in project execution through activities such as NTFP transformation and commercialization to generate value addition and tangible socio-economic and financial benefits, LUP, monitoring, forest governance and advocacy. They are the primary beneficiaries of the project from activities such as NTFP value chains and livelihoods, empowerment, recognition and participation in different landscape management bodies, LUP and improved management of community forests etc.

The technical partners (Rainforest Alliance, WWF, ZSL, AWF, ACDEF, CBI, etc.) will play key roles in project execution considering their expertise in the different thematic areas. The partners will provide technical assistance in LUP, FLR, value chains, HCVs, SLM training, monitoring, KM and other field activities. They will participate in up scaling and replication of success models to other project sites. The partners will also assist in capacity building of IPs and women in green enterprises and livelihood activities. They will facilitate mainstreaming of project results in regional and global conservation agendas.

The private sector will participate in project execution notably in activities on the adoption and promotion of sustainable production practices related to commodity free deforestation and to some extent to the activities related to FLR, monitoring, LUP, various capacity building (SLM, landscape governance etc.), identification and protection of HCVs, and other SFM activities. They will benefit from improved management of their concessions, market access and reduced conflicts with surrounding local communities and other stakeholders.

### **Project Cost-Effectiveness**

The project is cost-effective because it will work in partnership with a number of relevant stakeholders and through an arrangement that fosters good communication, transparency and capacity building. The project will be executed with technical assistance from Rainforest Alliance and other technical partners. MINEPDED will sign

**a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these actors, especially those with significant footprints across the landscape such Rainforest Alliance, CBI/UCLA, ACDEF Cameroon. A Project management Unit will also be established within MINEPDED which is already managing several other GEF funded projects.**

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[1] H S Grantham & al 2020

[2] [https://www.observatoire-comifac.net/analytical\\_platform](https://www.observatoire-comifac.net/analytical_platform) accessed January 2024

[3] <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/CMR/> assessed by Forest and Wetlands Constants team January 2024. There is disclaimer on the website that forest cover data from before 2015 should be compared one-on-one with after 2015 because of change of methodology, the GFW data on forest cover change from after 2015 are more precise then before.

[4] **Plan national de développement des peuples autochtones 2021.**

[5] **The Ministry of Social Affairs is responsible for the development and implementation of government policy on prevention, assistance and Socially Vulnerable Persons protection.**

[6] **Comité de Suivi des Programmes et Projets Impliquant les Populations Autochtones Vulnérables**

[7] **Annuaire Statistique du Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille**

[https://unitednations-my.sharepoint.com/personal/eric\\_mugo\\_un\\_org/Documents/Work/11242%20-%20Cameroon%20PPG/Resubmission/A\\_CEO\\_Endorsement\\_GEF%208%20Cameroon\\_Project%20ID%2011%20242\\_%20Dja%20landscape%20REVISED.docx](https://unitednations-my.sharepoint.com/personal/eric_mugo_un_org/Documents/Work/11242%20-%20Cameroon%20PPG/Resubmission/A_CEO_Endorsement_GEF%208%20Cameroon_Project%20ID%2011%20242_%20Dja%20landscape%20REVISED.docx) - ftnref8

[9] UNESCO, 2020.

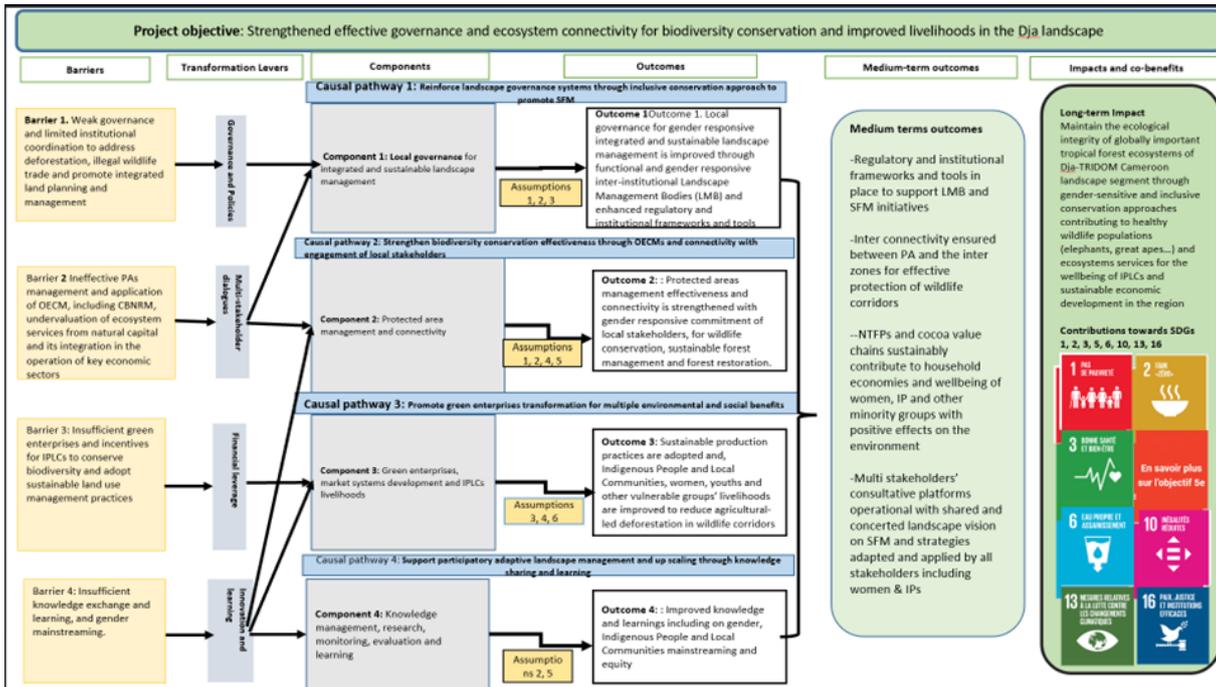
[10] A community is considered “graduated” from the Ebony Project when it is no longer actively planting

## **B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The project design has not deviated much from that of the Child Project Concept, other than a few editorial (or wordsmithing) changes to the formulation of outcomes and outputs. These have been adapted to make them gender-responsive and/or gender inclusive. The overview of changes is presented in Appendix 14.

## **Project Theory of Change (TOC)**



The ‘Core Problem’ addressed by the project is habitat fragmentation, land conversion and degradation resulting in biodiversity loss and decrease of ecosystem services and related IPLCs’ livelihoods.

This problem is rooted in direct **Threats** to the forests including: (i) Forest conversion to agriculture from large and medium-scale plantations, and from small-scale subsistence farming; (ii) Unsustainable forest exploitation and illegal logging; (iii) Unsustainable mining activities along with infrastructure development (iv) Unsustainable bush meat hunting and poaching; (v) and Negative climate change impacts affecting livelihoods strategies especially for women and IP, increasing potential wildlife migrations from PAs in search of preferred habitats and food, putting endangered species at great risk of conflict with human settlement and risk of disease transmission.

The above problems are subject to the **Drivers**, identified and were analyzed in previous sections and are acting “behind the scenes” in the TOC. Because the project cannot directly address the **Drivers** behind the problem, an ideal ‘**Long-Term Solution**’ for a ‘possible sustainable future’ for forests in in the Dja landscape was identified and described, and thereafter the **Barriers** to this solution were analyzed (See Appendix 16: Theory of Change diagram).

To address these drivers, the Project will apply all four system transformation levers of the GEF-8: Governance and policies, multi-stakeholder dialogues, Innovation and learning, and Financial leverage.

**Causal pathways between barriers, project proposed solutions integrating transformation levers, and assumptions:**

**The project’s overall theory of change, which is the translation in Cameroon and the Dja landscape, of the ToC approved in the PFD of Congo IP, is built on premise that if:**

- (i) the landscape governance systems with multi stakeholders’ consultative platforms are reinforced, gender responsive local landscape management institutions such as LMBs and MLCM are established with representation and empowerment of women, IP and other vulnerable groups, stakeholders’ capacities enhanced in dialogue, and other organizational, technical and management aspects, then land use planning and management will be conducted using concerted approaches integrating the interests of the different stakeholders’ groups and promoting SFM with reduced resource use conflicts;
- (ii) the governance and management systems for SFM in the inter zone are more gender inclusive, critical conservation sites such as HCVs protected, stakeholders supported in FLR activities and the capacity to manage key threats to endangered species strengthened, then biodiversity loss from these key threats will be reduced or avoided, ecological connectivity established and ecosystem services progressively restored;
- (iii) sustainable forest-based value chains are established and effective, then more women, IPs and the local communities will be engaged in SFM, and benefit from more sustainable livelihoods and increased resilience;
- (iv) the project results are well monitored and reported, landscape coordination is effective and lessons learned are shared among gender transformative stakeholders, this will foster gender responsive multi stakeholders’ collaboration, up scaling and replication of success models across landscapes, and the national and Congo Basin levels, and knowledge based policy formulations, institutional and management instruments.

The intervention logic which is based on the causal chain established during project development, is summarized below. In particular:

- 1) In Component 1, the outputs and outcomes of Component 1 apply **the levers of Governance and policies, multi-stakeholder dialogues** and will address the barrier of weak governance and limited institutional coordination to address deforestation, illegal wildlife trade and promotion of integrated land use planning and management, and are thus important in setting the enabling conditions to improve the likelihood of success of components 2, 3 and 4. **This landscape governance systems intervention pathway sets a route to arrive at an agreed enabling environment for Biodiversity and flow of ecosystem services** and land, Forests, under which governance and policies, multi-stakeholder dialogues promote an integrated and inclusive approach to planning and management of multiple use landscape (outcome 1). Component 1 will (i) reinforce management and governance through functional multi stakeholders’ group platforms, LMBs, MLMC and Local Land Use Management and Sustainable Development Plan (PLADDT) in the different land use types (PA, community and communal forests and logging concessions) (output 1.1), (ii) strengthen decision-making of women and Indigenous People through their participation in inter institutional MLMC and LMB at municipal and landscape levels (output 1.2), and (iii) enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools for sustainable land and forest management to reinforce environmental considerations and gender mainstreaming in regional and local land management instruments (output 1.3). The overall landscape governance system

will improve with greater transparency in land allocations and effective participation of marginalized groups in decision making bodies.

- 2) In Component 2 & 3: The outputs and outcomes will operate in an integrated manner, **delivering together Innovation and learning, and financial leverage**.
  - a. **Component 2** will apply the lever of multi-stakeholder dialogues and address the barrier of ineffective PAs management and application of OECM, including CBNRM, valuation of ecosystem services from natural capital and its integration in the operation of key economic sectors, and will also hinges on innovation and learning. Component 2 Biodiversity conservation effectiveness intervention pathway includes (i) investment in building local stakeholders' capacities notably women, IP and other vulnerable operating in the inter zone notably in FLR techniques, participation in HCVs identification and protection, adoption of inclusive conservation approach with direct and active participation of IP and women in LMBs, land use planning services, multi stakeholders' dialogue and conflict resolution (Output 2.1), (ii) upscaling forest restoration and community forestry practices including participation of women, IP and other vulnerable groups (output 2.2), and (iii) exploring opportunities for OECMs based areas recognition and increasing capacity for Natural Capital Valuation and Accounting and climate change (output 2.3).
  - b. **Component 3** will address the barrier of insufficient gender led green enterprises and incentives for indigenous peoples and local communities and women to conserve biodiversity and adoption of sustainable land use management practices. **It hinges on both innovation and learning, and financing leverage. Component 3 Green enterprises pathway** include (i) improving sustainable production practices to reduce agricultural-led deforestation in wildlife corridors (Outcome 3), supporting indigenous peoples and local communities, women and other vulnerable groups in value chains and increased production and marketing of NTFPs, legal timber from community forest, thereby increasing household incomes and their wellbeing (Output 3.1), providing capacity building to men and women to establish and operate green enterprises (Output 3.2), enabling greater engagement of the private sector by upscaling and replicating agroforestry models such as Ebony based agroforestry project and developing sustainable forest-based value chains that engage the private sector and deliver benefits to INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIESs (Output 3.3), and sustainable finance solutions to increase investment in the Dja landscape and achieve long term biodiversity protection, forest conservation and sustainable production practices (Output 3.4).
- 3) Component 4 **hinges on innovation and learning**, and will address the barrier of insufficient knowledge exchange and learning, and gender mainstreaming. **Component 4 Knowledge sharing and learning intervention Pathway**, will Improve learning of local gender responsive knowledge and learnings including on gender mainstreaming and equity (Outcome 4); development and dissemination of relevant studies (Output 4.1), capitalization and gender mainstreaming and equity in sustainable landscape management (Output 4.2), and strengthening of regional resource hub to support linkages between sustainable production and markets and to broker dialogue with enterprise (Output 4.3).

The gender-responsive and participatory approaches are cross-cutting in all components.

The desired change in the Dja landscape will be possible to the extent that the following assumptions are met:

- (i) Political will of the mayors is committed and effective [for Component 1]
- (ii) National levels governance and political will are supportive of project implementation (for Component 1)
- (iii) National sectoral policies favor conservation and sustainable development objectives (for Component 1)
- (iv) Key stakeholders, including women, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other CSOs participate and benefit from project activities (for Component 2): Their involvement in decision making, planning, and implementation processes will help build a sense of ownership and responsibility, which is crucial for the sustainability of conservation and restoration efforts.
- (v) The technical tools, technologies and practices for restoration and sustainable production practices are supported, adopted and scaled up by local and national institutions (for Component 2)
- (vi) There are markets available for the nature-based products and services from indigenous peoples and local communities green enterprises and value chain (for Component 3)
- (vii) The institutions and stakeholders adopt mechanisms for knowledge sharing (for Component 4).

If the seven assumptions materialize, it will be possible to strengthen forest protection, ecological connectivity within the inter zone and improved governance of different land use types, empower IPLCs, women and other vulnerable groups through increase representation and participation in decision making bodies and forest governance structures, ensure equitable share of conservation benefits, recognition of access rights of forest dependent communities, addressed pervasive gender inequality through participatory LUP, provide support to green enterprises and value chains, and promoting the scaling deep, out and up of best practices through knowledge management, in the Dja landscape.

**The project objective** is to strengthen governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Dja landscape. It will be operationalized through four components:

**Component 1:** Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management

**Component 2:** Protected area management and connectivity

**Component 3:** Green enterprises, market systems development and IPLCs livelihoods

**Component 4:** Knowledge management, research, monitoring, evaluation and learning

## Project Outcomes, Outputs and Activity Descriptions

### Component 1)

#### **C1) LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT**

**Outcome 1: Local governance for gender responsive integrated and sustainable landscape management is improved through functional and gender responsive inter-institutional Landscape Management Bodies (LMB) and enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools**

#### **Output 1.1 Operationalized inter-institutional LMB at municipal and landscape level involving multi-sector and multi-scale stakeholders' groups comprising women, Indigenous People and Local Communities**

This output led by Rainforest Alliance for its implementation, will work closely with ACDEF Cameroon, WWF, AWF, MINEPAT-PADI-DJA project, and other partners to reinforce local management institutions and collaborative frameworks established to promote concerted actions in integrated land use planning and decision making in the different land use types based from common pool resource cutting across 11 municipalities. Considering the important role played by women and IP in decentralized management bodies, their participation in the setting up and operations of these decentralized management bodies is crucial. Women and IP representation in decision making bodies will address the problem of inequality plaguing most of the local management institutions. The women and IP will influence and defend the interests of each respective group in the management bodies. Their participation will enhance dialogue between them and influential stakeholders such as municipal authorities and the private sector.

The GEF 8 Project will specifically complement WWF work on developing Local Land Use Management and Sustainable Development Plans (PLADDT) in the councils of Mintom and Ngoyla in the Dja Landscape, and ACDEF ongoing innovative efforts on participatory land use planning and management in northern Dja.

#### **Output 1.2 Strengthened decision-making of women and Indigenous People through their participation in inter institutional MLMC and LMB at municipal and landscape levels**

Under this output, the GEF 8 Project will strengthen decision-making of women and IP, through investment in training of participation of women and IP groups in multi stakeholders' consultations, conflicts management, advocacy, negotiations, and grievance mechanism and organizational aspects.

#### **Output 1.3 Enhanced regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools for sustainable land and forest management to reinforce environmental considerations and gender mainstreaming in regional and local land management instruments**

The missing link between the work currently spearheaded by MINEPAT on the development of land use at national and regional levels is the disconnect between national and regional planning, and local level planning building on indigenous knowledge. This gap will be filled building on ACDEF Cameroon ongoing bottom-up

participatory land use planning approach that gathers, analyses and shares knowledge with IPCs on the spatiotemporal distribution of lands and resources. Additional investments are needed to consolidate and expand this work stream, and linking the local level IPCs led land use planning to the regional and national frameworks.

With possible support from the Cameroon Special Fund for Equipment and the Intercommunal Intervention (FEICOM) and the Ministry of Decentralization, Rainforest Alliance through the COBALAM project will invest in sustainable landscape management and their governance structure, and with MINEPAT, develop/reinforce an institutional and regulatory framework for the Priority Management Zone (PMZ)<sup>[1]</sup>. This output, will add value through (i) collaboration with the councils for the review of existing land management tools at municipal level to identify options for the conservation and sustainable management of the Dja landscape and develop monitoring tools to support their implementation, (ii) design of local regulatory and policy environment for the establishment of landscape management board (LMB) and municipal landscape management commission based on the Free, informed and prior consent of the municipal council, and others traditional authorities, (iii) trainings and capacity building programs incorporating gender mainstreaming in SFM, ILUMP and legal and management instruments, (iv) an based on the national law n°2011/008 which lays down guidelines for territorial planning and sustainable development in Cameroon, the project will target a status of PMZ for sustainable development for the Dja Landscape.

## Component 2

### **C2) PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT AND CONNECTIVITY**

This component seeks to build synergies, catalyze and complement ongoing efforts by partner organizations (CBI, WWF, ACDEF Cameroon, ZSL, AWF, etc.) working on protection of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity, OECMs, FLR and other related activities in the inter zone. This project will add value by reinforcing decentralized local management institutions that will ensure participation of all major stakeholders in decision making processes for the conservation and monitoring of PAs and buffer zones with respects to human rights protocols, upscaling forest restoration interventions and adoption of SFM in community forestry to maintain forest cover while the indigenous peoples and local community rights are secured, and mainstreaming OECM in overall landscape management strategy, with the aim to enhance ecological connectivity and ecosystems functionality.

**Outcome 2: Protected areas management effectiveness and connectivity is strengthened with gender responsive commitment of local stakeholders for wildlife conservation, sustainable forest management and forest restoration.**

**Output 2.1 Strengthen local stakeholders including women, Indigenous People and Local Communities' capacities and collaboration with partners for the conservation and monitoring of PAs and buffer zones with respects to human rights protocols**

Under this output, the project will support capacity-building of local stakeholders, including women and IPLCs to enable their effective involvement in the conservation and monitoring of protected areas and buffer zones, while respecting human rights. The project will invest in training of women and IP groups in conflicts management, advocacy, negotiations, and grievance mechanism as well as in participation in multi stakeholders' consultations. This will enable integration of their perspectives thus contributing to resource management that is inclusive and respectful of diverse cultures and land rights. This approach will not only improve governance at landscape level, but will also ensure that the benefits of conservation are equitably shared. In addition, collaboration with partners will be essential to ensure transparency and the free, prior and informed consent of the communities concerned.

GEF 8 investment will build on the ongoing efforts from ACDEF-Cameroon, AWF and TF-RD, supporting works in connectivity area and inclusive participation of women and IP, to expand geographic scope: Extend capacity building and anti-poaching efforts to additional communities and protected areas, use advanced monitoring tools (TRACTSITES) and technologies to improve data collection and analysis within identified corridors to improve the management of species and habitats in the landscape, and use data from mapping out corridors to develop guidelines for corridor management in the landscape and support MINFOF and partners for its application, and collaborate with government agencies, research institutions, and other NGOs to raise awareness about corridor management and the potentials their importance for the survival of species in the DJA reserve. **Output 2.2 Strengthened Forest restoration and the adoption of SFM in community forestry to maintain forest cover while the indigenous peoples and local community rights are secured**

The Output will deliver the restoration of degraded forests on 10,000 hectares through SFM and agroforestry utilizing native species. This will build on CBI work on the ecology of restoration, including a better understanding of the interactions between seed dispersing animals and tree regeneration, and the Ebony Project experience in designing incentives for farmers to keep trees on-farms. In addition to continuing its work from GEF 7 to improve female and youth participation in project activities there are a few novel ways the CBI and Ebony Project in particular will be integrated into GEF 8: (i) Further diversify tree species. The CBI team has already started the process of diversifying beyond ebony by incorporating other hardwood tree including commercial species. Diversification of species is important to increase the conservation and community value of the efforts, but is limited by community interest in non-ebony and non-NTFP species, and by challenges in learning to propagate or regenerate new native species; (ii) Continue the work in existing communities and to expand to new neighboring communities as old ones complete the planned planting. The Ebony Project successfully enhanced and diversified native tree cover at the forest frontier where forest loss is highest. This expansion to interested neighboring communities would help maintain and restore connectivity necessary for effective corridors; (iii) Trial some assisted natural restoration (ANR) techniques. CBI has significant data on key seed dispersers and phenology that could inform ANR approaches in target locations in the Dja landscape. Techniques will be reviewed and chosen for trials in parallel to the agroforestry work.

ACDEF Cameroon has conducted an extensive participatory land use planning with 13 villages in the Northern Section of the reserve as part of the process to establish Community Conservation and Management Areas (CCMAs), which is strong foundation for training forest communities to take informed decisions on forest restoration and natural resource use. The experiences of RA community forestry project in Djoum will be capitalized in executing of activities under this output, specifically in providing technical support to access sustainable forest management certification and setting up of a legal and certified timber shop for better market access and reduce illegal logging.

Finally, this Output will also support networks and partnerships among villages within and outside the proposed landscape. Through the "Esonge" Association, the village leaders will reach out to nearby communities, inviting them to participate in workshops and training sessions. These gatherings will become platforms for exchanging ideas, discussing challenges, and exploring solutions. By building a network of

like-minded communities, the “Esonge” will create a support system that fostered collaboration and mutual aid. Through this output, the project will implement Cash Transfers for Restoration, to further support these efforts. The cash transfers will be used to purchase seeds, tools, and other necessary materials, empowering families to take an active role in the restoration process. The success of the program will be closely monitored through regular community meetings and feedback sessions.

### **Output 2.3 Other effective conservation measures (OECMs) developed based on increased capacity for Natural Capital Valuation and Accounting**

OCEMs and NCA have not been fully considered in the Dja landscape despite uncontrolled and illegal exploitation activities of production forests within the inter zone. The root causes of deforestation and biodiversity loss in the area is largely attributed to uncontrolled logging and other illegal activities. **NCA would provide practical framework that can be used for monitoring biodiversity, climate status and trends, and would contribute significantly in the maintenance of ecological connectivity between PA and the Inter-zone.**

Under this output, the project **will add value in carbon offsets, ecosystem connectivity and sustainable forest management, through implementation of some of the innovative elements of this project: NCA, OECMs and HCVs.** The results from NCA assessment, OECMs, HCVs will be integrated in overall landscape management strategy. With the GEF 8 resource, the project will train stakeholders in designed inventory methodology for mapping of HVCs and wildlife corridors. To achieve this, the project will build on the ongoing works from ACDEF, CBI and WWF, and deliver activities under this output.

### **Component 3**

#### **C3) Green enterprises, market systems development and IPLCs livelihoods.**

With support from UNEP finance initiative, this component will capitalize on green enterprises development being initiated by WWF (Jengi Tours and Ebo Tours on Ecotourism), Rainforest Alliance on Cocoa Certification – TELCAR Cocoa), U-Nature Sud-Est and and ZSL-BLF project that would support private-IPLCs partnership in Green Enterprises, the ongoing work of CBI via the Taylor Guitars’ Ebony project through community planting of ebony and fruit trees which not only reduces deforestation but also contributes to household economies and wellbeing, the ongoing initiatives with NTFP value chains from AFEEBEN, Tropical Forest and Rural Development, ACDEF that are working with local associations on NTFP value chains for black pepper; okok; rondelle; quatre-côté; djansang and Moabi, to build IP&LCs-private sector partnerships in this domain. The GEF 8 project will add value through collaboration with these partners to upscale and replicate NTFP value chain models to other suitable sites in the landscape.

**Outcome 3.1: Sustainable production practices are adopted and, Indigenous People and Local Communities, women, youths and other vulnerable groups’ livelihoods are improved to reduce agricultural-led deforestation in wildlife corridors**

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### **Output 3.1 Improved capacities of NTFP harvesters and farmers comprising women and IPs to reduce deforestation from the expansion of small-scale agriculture, promote biodiversity conservation on- and off-farm**

This Output will capitalize on the experiences and expertise on ongoing projects executed by ZSL, CBI, and AWF including local NGOs such as AAFEBEN and ACDEF on NTFP value chains (djangsan, eru, moabi etc.) with women and IPs as primary beneficiaries, to support NTFP and cocoa value chains of small holders' groups and CBOs.

With the GEF 8 resources, the project will scale up AWF and GEF 6 COBALAM results in the 11 municipalities of the Dja landscape to reduce agricultural expansion by promoting sustainable intensification through reviving cultivation on existing plantations and abandoned farms, implementing sustainable production practices to increase productivity and linking farmers' cooperatives with enterprises engaged in deforestation-free production. GEF 8 resources will be use to invest in green enterprises development, essentially NTFP transformation and the establishment of legal woodshops from community forests in each council as way of incentives to ensure more direct benefits go to the forest dependent communities who rely on the forest for survival and income generation. It will equally be used to promote public-private partnerships (PPP) such as the Ebony Project's agroforestry based model which can deliver mutual benefits and long term biodiversity gains. Finally, GEF 8 resources will be use to provide beneficiary groups with training in agro-forestry and environmentally friendly techniques to reduce slash-and-burn agricultural practices that lead to forest fragmentation, deforestation and biodiversity loss. Local farmers will be trained in zero deforestation and agro-forestry techniques using multipurpose trees that enrich soils and stabilize ecosystems functions.

### **Output 3.2 Strengthened business management skills to establish and operate small enterprises based on environmentally responsible natural resource use activities for both men and women**

Building on (i) on the experience in Mintom under the GEF 6 COBALAM project with Rainforest Alliance and SAPED, (ii) ACDEF Cameroon work with IP&LCs on establishing incentive-based mechanisms for managing natural resource-based enterprises (iii) TF-RD work on training provided to over 200 women in soap making using NTFP oils from local raw materials such moabi butter, njangsang oil, mbalaka oil, alambakia butter, bush mango better, cocoa oil, palm oil, etc.; (iv) The Taylor Guitar partnership model with the communities in Ebony restoration which has immediate and long term benefits, (v) the experiences of MINADER and technical partners such as RA in the cocoa value chain sector. Under this Output, the GEF 8 Project will add value by providing support for the design and execution of business plan of women groups involved in NTFP valorization and cocoa cooperatives, by providing training to up to 300 women in soap making, production of massage balm and hair cream using NTFPs as raw material, increasing equipment for processing of NTFPs and other farm products for the women and IP; structuring, equipping, and scaling -up the women and IP soap making enterprises. The project will implement selective seed funding to most promising community-based micro-enterprises with no cost recovery and, where appropriate, will facilitate access to microcredit from established service providers at affordable term. It will also provide support to training cocoa cooperative farmers on the new EU regulation on cocoa without deforestation and the EU market<sup>[2]</sup>. It will also contribute to develop the casava, pepper and groundnut value chain and equip farmers including IP throughout the chain, an equip these cooperatives with facilities to improve processing, storage and distribution of NTFPs and agricultural products. As necessary, the

project will work to build the awareness of these actors in issues related to recognizing and respecting the rights of IPLCs.

### **Output 3.3 Strengthened private sector engagement for improved conservation-friendly gender responsive enterprises and market systems**

Under this output, the project will capitalize on the following experiences: (ii) the MINADER and Rainforest Alliance work in the cocoa value sector, to organize and facilitate direct meetings between producer groups (NTFPs and cocoa) with private sector actors, (iii) the CBI funded Ebony project: a model private sector – local community green business partnership in FLR through planting of ebony species and other economic valued species in degraded forest areas, and (iv) ACDEF Cameroon nascent work with small-scale farmers in northern Dja to reduce shifting agriculture and encroachments into pristine forests through piloting conservation agricultural techniques using cassava and plantain as priority commodities for the market and local consumption, to reduce agricultural expansion by promoting sustainable intensification through reviving cultivation on existing plantations and abandoned farms, implementing sustainable production practices to increase productivity and linking farmers’ cooperatives with enterprises engaged in deforestation-free production. It will upscale and replicate the successful Ebony project model, and ACDEF Cameroon ongoing work with small-scale farmers. Building on progress in the cocoa and NTFP value chains developed under output 3.1, the project’s approach to market development will be to support the capacity development of communities to analyze markets and facilitate their contact with buyers through their organizational structures that they establish for commercial activities.

### **Output 3.4 Developed gender responsive sustainable finance solutions to increase investment in the Dja landscape and achieve long term biodiversity protection, forest conservation and sustainable production practices**

There are a total 132 legally authorized community forests on about 450 000 ha in the Dja landscape with important carbon stocks and potential for climate mitigation. The manual of procedure for community forests focusses on low intensity ‘selective’ timber harvesting with little emphasis on other income opportunities. A solution to increase economic benefit for some forest communities is to access incentive systems such as through carbon-linked finance, or the now rapidly evolving biodiversity credits. However, accessing these incentives systems requires a national regulatory framework and data – and collecting data has a cost. For forest communities, deciding whether it is worth accessing carbon-linked finance that supports the sustainable management and restoration of their forests, will in part depend upon the cost of data collection. To find a cost-efficient and participatory solution to measure forest carbon and biodiversity, the High Conservation Value (HCV) Network, the Rainforest Alliance, SAPED and WWF began piloting and field testing an existing forest monitoring tool - the Forest Integrity Assessment tool - a participatory tool for non-experts to measure the status of both biodiversity and carbon condition of natural forest while minimizing the cost of collecting and analyzing data (<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/posts/unlocking-incentives-for-nature-based-solutions-with-forest-communities-adapting-a-participatory-tool-to-measure-forest-biodiversity-and-carbon-stock>).

**With support from the International Timber organization and the Rufford Foundation, ACDEF Cameroon** completed the spatial assessment of deforestation and degradation at the western periphery of Dja. This assignment entailed evaluating the current scale of anthropogenic damages to selected forest blocks and the trends in deforestation and forest degradation. The scheduled next steps is to mobilize resources to replicate this approach, especially the use of recent advance in information technology to encourage the participation of IPLCs in the assessment of forest carbon stocks and sequestration potential under different

ownership and management regimes (State vs IPLCs) across the entire landscape for long term management planning, assessment and monitoring. ACDEF Cameroon piloted.

With GEF 8 resources, the project will support the development of a regulatory framework to promote the financing of carbon projects that benefit local communities. It will also support the deployment of carbon and biodiversity measurement as part of data collection during the update of community forests management plans to generate data for carbon/biodiversity and to support the design of carbon/biodiversity credit projects.

#### **Component 4:**

### **C4) Knowledge management, research, monitoring, evaluation and learning**

#### **Outcome 4.1: Improved knowledge and learnings including on gender, Indigenous People and Local Communities mainstreaming and equity**

##### **Output 4.1 Applied research studies to support locally led and landscape level nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation executed and results disseminated**

The project will support applied research in relevant topics to inform development and execution of nature-based solutions for climate change and biodiversity conservation. The results of these studies will be used to improve inclusive and adapted management of the forest ecosystems and resources in way to sustainably contribute to the livelihood of the forest communities and maintenance of the ecological integrity of the forest ecosystems. The project will collaborate with technical partners, research institutions and sectoral ministries in the execution of various studies. The results from applied research will also be used in strengthening institutional and natural resource management instruments as well as for policy formulations.

##### **Output 4.2 Key knowledge products and lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming and equity in sustainable landscape management capitalized**

Currently, the information dissemination network in the project area is not only poor but insufficient especially on issues such as gender mainstreaming. The project will intensify media outreach activities to mobilize and sensitize stakeholders, organize talk shows in collaboration with local radio networks and build capacities of CSOs and other stakeholders in KM. The PMU will develop a project communication and knowledge management strategy to promote visibility and support the achievement of the project's objective. This strategy will be based on a thorough assessment of target audiences, key messaging, and appropriate communication techniques, and as relevant, will be reassessed and adjusted based on the project context. The communication strategy will integrate gender and minority groups in its design and execution.

The project will actively contribute to platforms that promote exchange and learning among different levels of stakeholders, including at the local, national, regional and international levels (e.g. cross-landscape national monitoring and knowledge management initiatives, COMIFAC's knowledge initiatives and outputs, OFAC's State of the Forest reports, Congo IP projects etc.

#### **Sustainability, Uptake and Replicability**

## Sustainability

### *i) Financial and Economic Sustainability*

The project in collaboration with other technical partners including for example EU funded EFI and GIZ projects and ZSL, will support communal and community forest initiatives in the Dja landscape. The technical assistance focusses on organizational capacity building, sustainable production practices, forest governance and building partnerships with the private sector for more profitable win-win partnerships. Community forest enterprises can generate significant incomes for sustainable livelihoods and development in forest communities on condition of more effective and transparent management combined with good entrepreneurial skills. The ebony project is an opportunity to develop win-win partnerships between IP&LC and the private sector. This model will be replicated by the project in other forest communities across the landscape. If the communities are very committed, they will derive long term economic benefits from intensive NTFP value chains (*Irvingia spp.*, *moabi* etc), cocoa based agroforestry and ebony plantations and sales.

Under national forestry laws, 50% of commercial logging revenues are allocated to municipal councils with 40% in where the operations are taking place and 10% to surrounding villages. The logging revenues are invested in different social projects in the health, education and infrastructural sectors. The project will work with other partners intervening in this domain to reinforce organizational and leadership capacities (local forest governance) of forest councils and in community forestry to enable transparency and equitable redistribution of forest royalties.

Finally, the project will carry out feasibility study on developing trust funds and carbon projects. The major findings of the study will be shared with key stakeholders through learning workshops in view of developing such projects for long term funding of conservation projects in Dja landscape. Carbon post-project funding mechanisms which require long term commitments by partners and donors investing in the Dja landscape to develop. This will also require creation of enabling institutional environment to support benefit sharing and engagement of all beneficiary stakeholders especially IP&LCs, women and other minority groups.

### *Exit strategy*

- Municipalities are at the centre of the decentralisation process in Cameroon, with about 15% of the national budget supposed to be allocated to these devolved institutions. The strategy developed by the project to ensure the ownership and commitment among government and other stakeholders is to foster the institutionalisation of Multi stakeholders landscape governance bodies in the existing structure of the municipalities in the form of municipal landscape management commission and the use of the intercommunal convention to support the inter-municipality collaboration for sustainable landscape management. By doing this, the project will also build the capacity of these local institutions, whose mandate remains indefinite, to ensure that they possess the relevant knowledge and skills for biodiversity conservation and sustainable landscape management. Municipal Commission and intermunicipal processes have the possibility of being included in the annual budget of the municipality to ensure co-finance from the municipality during the project duration and take over in the long run.
- Under component 4, the project will build a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning system to ensure the project is well tracked, data/information well managed and archived to ensure knowledge sharing.
- One main output of the project under component 3 is the development of a sustainable finance solutions to increase investment in the Dja landscape and achieve long term biodiversity protection, forest conservation and sustainable production practices. The option taken by the project is to set up institutional and regulatory framework for climate action to advance national policies, programs, and

investments that support locally-led and nature-based climate action by international organizations, national governments, consumers, and other stakeholders. This will open the door and increase the confidence of actors to engage in carbon and biodiversity credits projects in Cameroon and further support the Dja and other similar landscapes.

## *ii) Institutional Sustainability*

The project will invest resources in building capacities of councils, communities and the private sector in SFM practices. The project will also invest in promotion of private sector partnerships with local communities (public-private sector models) in sustainable exploitation and marketing of NTFPs such as ebony of high economic value for income generation and livelihoods of the communities. Reinforce local governance structures and setting up multi stakeholders' consultative platforms at council and community levels to ensure IPs and women are represented and fully participate in decision making bodies on land use planning processes, benefit sharing and natural resource management. The project will ensure that local institutions whose mandate remains indefinite, also possess the relevant knowledge and skills to not only support project activities beyond the lifespan of the project, but to scale up the project and out to new sites, well after the project comes to an end.

### ***Potential scaling up and Replication***

The project will replicate and upscale lessons learnt, best practices and success models through training, knowledge and experience sharing through multi stakeholders' consultative platforms. Good examples of such initiatives include the ebony project, FLR activities, NTFP value chains and landscape governance bodies.

Locally, existing multi stakeholders' consultative platforms such as the Dja forum bringing together stakeholders operating in the Dja landscape will be reinforced to enhance communications, collaboration and experience sharing in SFM and other topical conservation issues.

Lessons learnt and other knowledge products will be communicated to both internal and external audiences, TRIDOM, national child projects and Congo IP regional project. Other communications platforms include the Central Africa Forest observatory (OFAC) and Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) forum.

### ***South-South and Triangular Cooperation***

The Dja landscape project forms part of GEF8 Congo IP project. The coordination of the GEF 8 Congo Forest IP through its regional project will strongly contribute to South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in several ways.

The Dja landscape project although a national CHILD project will generate significant knowledge and contributions to priority themes of Congo IP particularly towards protection of relatively intact forest biomes through combined network of PA and ensuring connectivity with the large spans of the inter zone linking these core protected areas. The project will contribute to OECMs within inter zones, reinforce landscape governance structures and management entities with representation and participation of women, youths and IPLCs, promote gender inclusive management approach, empower women, IPLCs and youths and increase revenue generation options for household economies and livelihoods through green enterprises and foster trans boundary collaboration in TRIDOM landscape. The project will upscale and replicate lessons learnt and knowledge products from this innovative conservation approaches and practices across different national agro

ecological zones, regional levels with TRIDOM and other trans boundary initiatives but also globally through the regional Congo IP program. The project results and experiences will further enrich south-south dialogues in knowledge sharing in the different thematic areas. This will be mostly facilitated by the platforms established through the Congo IP Regional Coordination Child Project.

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[1] The concept of Priority Management Zones (PMZ) in Cameroon is based on Law No. 2011/008 dated May 6, 2011. This law aims to: (i) Promote sustainable development by integrating environmental, social, and economic considerations; (ii) Enhance territorial planning to ensure balanced development across different regions; (iii) Protect natural resources and biodiversity by designating areas for conservation and sustainable use; (iv) improving living conditions by promoting equitable access to infrastructure and services.

These zones are crucial for managing land use, protecting the environment, and ensuring that development projects align with national sustainability goals

[2] The Regulation is part of a broader plan of actions to tackle deforestation and forest degradation, and is expected to bring down greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. It states that: Cocoa must be produced legally and be deforestation-free. Geolocation data of the area of production must be collected. Cocoa that was produced illegally, on land deforested after 31 December 2020 or that is not traceable, does not comply with the rules and cannot be placed on the EU market.

## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

**UNEP is the Implementing Agency (IA)** for this GEF project and will provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected results in an efficient and effective manner. UNEP will collaborate with MINEPDED and other key project technical partners to mobilize additional resources for project implementation. 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 PSC. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION will perform the liaison function with GEF Secretariat. UNEP Evaluation office will oversee various project evaluations (PIR, MTR and terminal) and report findings to GEF secretariat.

**MINEPDED is the Executing Agency.** The National Director (ND) will serve as the institutional anchor of the project. The ND will ensure government's contributions to the project and will be fully accountable for project deliverables in accordance with the results framework. UNEP and MINEPDED will sign a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), in which the role of Rainforest Alliance in the Dja landscape project execution will be specified. MINEPDED will manage the funds based on cash advance, work plan, procurement plan submitted to UNEP.

**The Rainforest Alliance** will provide technical assistance to MINEPDED as specified in the PCA with UNEP. RA will take responsibility for the field level activities, in accordance with the objectives, planned activities and allocated budget. MINEPDED will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rainforest Alliance and other consortium partners to allocate necessary resources for the execution of planned

activities. The MOU with Rainforest Alliance will constitute an integral part of the PCA and therefore be submitted for pre-approval from UN Environment Task Manager before its signature.

The Project management structures will be comprised of the following:

**A Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be established to oversee the achievement of results for this project. The PSC will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, in order to:

- Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;
- Provide monitoring for project implementation;
- Review and adopt the annual work plans and budgets prepared by the Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UNEP;
- Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by PMU and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary;
- Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented in the project area; and
- Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be taken into account during project implementation.

The members of the PSC will include:

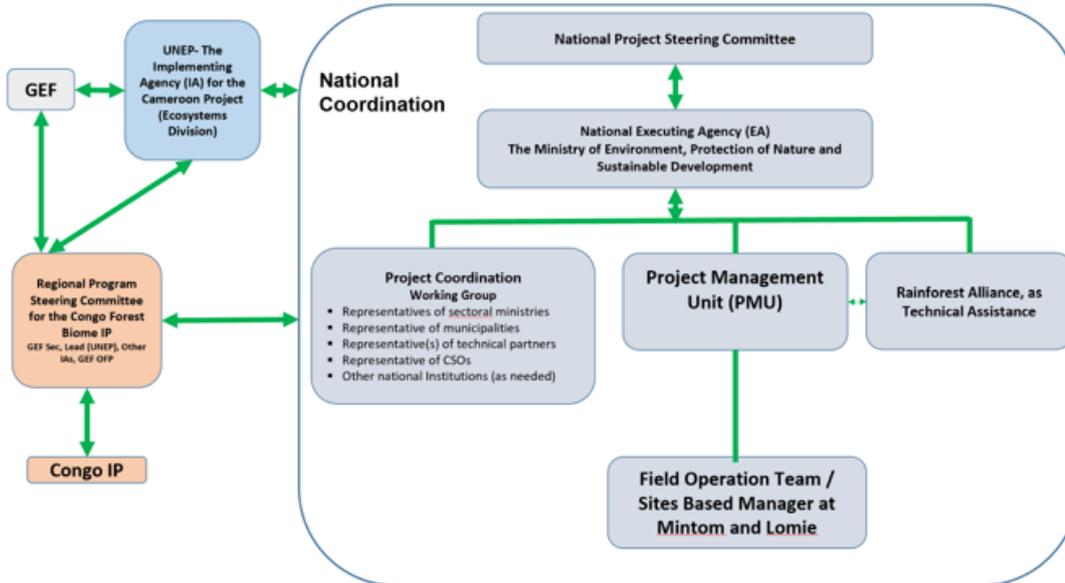
- **Chair:** the designated Senior Staff from the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development;
- **Co-Chair:** UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Task manager or mandated UNEP Official
- **Members:** GEF Operational Focal Point, and staff from relevant departments from technical sectoral ministries

The Secretariat to the PSC will be provided by the Project Management Unit. As may be required on specific issues, an Advisory group can be formed to offer any other guidance or expertise as required by the specific agenda of the PSC.

**A Project Management Unit (PMU):** The daily management of the project remains with the project team under the direct supervision of the designated Project Director. The PMU will serve as the critical link between the Agency, the project partners assuming the lead of thematic areas, and the different partners engaged in project activities, will ensure project planned activities are adequately executed and that lessons learned are shared among sites and within national committees and to provide visibility of the project at the national and international levels. The PMU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all national and international partners. The PMU will elaborate and submit to the IA technical and financial progress reports. The Project Management Unit consists of and support technical staff (see appendix 5e for staff positions).

The implementation arrangements of the project and their relationship to the Regional Congo IP are presented in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Implementation Arrangements



### External Structure

Project activities at the site level will be supervised and coordinated by two site managers/Field Operation Teams who will report to the ND. This will further reinforce institutional ownership and better integration with technical partners in project execution and reporting. The Field Operations Team will support the implementation of the project on the ground. They will have a major role in guiding the use of resources for project activities on the ground; supporting the application of project principles in the achievement of project goals (such as ensuring the representativeness of women and indigenous populations in project activities and benefits); supporting information production tailored to respond to local needs and norms; etc. It will also assist the project in the identification of service providers and partners needed for the project implementation.

### Oversight Mechanism

The PMU will assess, monitor, and control through reports, on-sites follow-up visits while feeding the indicators and disseminating the results to stakeholders and UNEP.

The PMU will work in quality insurance with setting up robust financial disbursement and management systems, recruitment of qualified F&A personnel, application of due diligence in selection of project consortium, capacity building in F&A of small beneficiary groups, organizational capacity building of women and IP associations, application of UNEP and GEF F&A procedures and reinforcement of tangible benefit sharing mechanisms and co-management systems are effective.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

There are ongoing multiple donors GEF and non-GEF funded conservation initiatives in Dja landscape which this project will build on. The project will maintain regular communications and build programmatic synergies with these projects, share lessons learnt and build on strengths to avoid duplication and waste of resources. These projects include the following presented in table 2 below:

**Table 2. Overview of relevant initiatives/projects and linkages to the project**

<b>GEF ID</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Project Objectives</b>	<b>Programmatic synergies with Dja landscape project</b>
9604	Removing barriers to biodiversity conservation, land restoration and sustainable forest management through community-based landscape Management – COBALAM	The specific objective is to enable improved biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable landscape and forest management through participatory, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and local enterprise development.	Land use planning and community forestry activities in Mintom capacity building and community livelihoods
10287	Integrated management of Cameroon’s forest landscapes in the Congo Basin	The project objective is to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon’s globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and livelihoods for forest dependent people	Integrated land use planning (ILUMP) and management, improving management effectiveness, HCVs, species conservation, SFM, NTFP and hardwood value chains. Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism, KM, M&E
WWF Network	WWF Netherlands, France and Sweden	WWF network is financing several projects in TRIDOM landscape with similar objectives to combat IWT, unsustainable hunting and bush meat trade, and improve livelihoods of IPLCs	Combating wildlife crimes especially elephant security and IP&LCs benefits, protection of elephant corridors, training and capacity building, PA management
WWF Cameroon	Forest protection. & restoration project	To develop and promote value chains of green commodities (Cocoa, NTFPS, Community forest) to increase income generation and improve livelihoods of IPLCs.	Green commodities value chains, livelihoods, multi stakeholders’ platforms (MSP) at municipality levels (Djoum, Mintom, Ngoyla, Yokadouma municipalities).

GEF ID	Project Title	Project Objectives	Programmatic synergies with Dja landscape project
EU	Nature Africa and Nature Sud Est Cameroun	<p>Nature Africa: Reduce biodiversity loss while improving the quality of life, in an ecologically sustainable way, of local communities living in priority landscapes for conservation and development. The program covers most critical biological and transboundary landscapes in the Central Africa sub region.</p> <p>Nature sud est: Ensuring sustainable development in two forests</p> <p>of global importance in the South and South-East of Cameroon by guaranteeing inclusive growth and responsible use of natural resources</p>	Nature Africa: Transboundary PA management, combating wildlife crimes, community livelihoods, gender, IP&LCs empowerment, monitoring etc. Nature Sud Est: Biodiversity conservation, green economy and governance and territorial administration
GIZ	TRIDOM biodiversity and sustainable development project.	Enhance concerted participation of actors from the public and private sectors and civil society in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of Tri-national Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM)	Transboundary governance system, IPLCs and livelihoods, multi thematic capacity building, biodiversity conservation, SFM, NTFP, cocoa and palm oil value chains, community forestry etc.
ZSL	BLF TRIDOM landscape conservation project	<p>BLF focuses on poverty reduction, protecting biodiversity, conservation, and tackling climate change mitigation across six critical landscapes that include TRIDOM landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People: To develop economic opportunities through investment in nature in support of climate adaptation and Resilience and poverty reduction.</li> <li>• Nature: To slow, halt or reverse biodiversity loss in six Globally-significant regions for biodiversity.</li> <li>• Climate: To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and safeguard natural carbon sinks</li> </ul>
RA	Forest Allies/Nutter	Through the integrated community forest management approach, the vision is thriving	- Securing rights to land and resources, technical capacities, incentives, and access to

GEF ID	Project Title	Project Objectives	Programmatic synergies with Dja landscape project
		communities and forests, where the interdependency of local communities' livelihoods and their natural environment is recognized and valued, and the enabling conditions for local communities to be the stewards of forests are encouraged and enforced in the Mintom site of COBALAM	<p>finance and markets, fostering strong social governance and inclusion, providing equitable benefits to households, incorporating young people in activities, and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>- Supporting the technical and financial feasibility of the implementation of the establishment of legal wood shop at Mintom</p>
AWF	Dja biosphere reserve project	Management of Dja biosphere reserve, combating wildlife crimes and IWT and promoting community livelihoods using inclusive conservation approach	PA management, SFM, monitoring, livelihoods, IWT and wildlife management etc.
Congo Basin Institute (CBI)	CBI Dja project	CBI projects address issues of food security, climate change, conservation, and One Health with a cross-cutting focus on capacity building.	FLR with ebony species, livelihoods, capacity building, private sector partnerships with local communities, empowerment of IP, women and minority groups
IFAD	IFAD-FODEC MINADER project	Promote climate smart resilient agricultural and agro-forestry techniques through value chains (cocoa, coffee)	Cocoa value chains, livelihoods, green enterprises, SFM etc.
European Forest Institute (EFI)	Nature Sud East project	Promote participatory land use planning targeting multiple use zones especially community owned forests around Dja biosphere reserve.	Territorial Governance (LUP), human rights, (inter)communal planning, PES / forest carbon

## Table On Core Indicators

### Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

#### Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
708676	708676	0	0

#### Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

0	0	0	0
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Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
708676	708676	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Dja Biosphere Reserve	1240	Habitat/Species Management Area	526,004.00	526,004.00			41.00		
Mengame Gorilla Sanctuary	308636	Habitat/Species Management Area	26,000.00	26,000.00			34.00		
Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve	55562219	Habitat/Species Management Area	156,672.00	156,672.00			52.00		

### Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000	10000	0	0

### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	10,000.00		

### Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

### Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1000000	1000000	0	0

### Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00		

### Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

### Type/Name of Third Party Certification

### Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

### Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

### Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

### Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

### Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>	33000000	45328170	0	0
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>	0	0	0	0

### Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>	33,000,000	45,328,170		
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>				
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>	2025	2026		
<b>Duration of accounting</b>	20	20		

### Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>				
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>				
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>				
<b>Duration of accounting</b>				

### Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
<b>Target Energy Saved (MJ)</b>				

### Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	5,000	12,500		
<b>Male</b>	5,000	12,500		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

From calculations using EX-ACT tool, the estimated carbon offset of project is -45,328,170 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e and without the project is 54 034 545 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e. Over the 20-year accounting period of the project, estimated annual carbon-balance ranges between -359 747,38 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (1st year) and -2 518 231, 69 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (20th year) while the cumulative carbon-balance per year ranges between --359 747,38tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (1st year) and – 42 809 938,73 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e (20th year) for a total surface of 718 676 ha ha.

This estimate was based on the following assumptions:

The total area of landscapes under improved management practices (hectare) is 708,676 ha equivalent to the core protected areas Dja biosphere reserve, Mengame gorilla sanctuary and Ngoyla wildlife reserve. This area without the project is low degraded. The project will thus make it possible to move from low degradation to very low degradation. Surface area of land and ecosystems under restoration (with agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration) is 10,000 ha, including 6,000 ha of annual cropland and 4,000 ha of annual fallow.

From the estimated population of 25,000 inhabitants in the project area, about 50% will benefit from the project (12 500) and 10% IP (1,250). Disaggregated by sex represents 50% women and 50%men of beneficiary population.

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	Although climate change is unavoidable, its impact on the project is for now low. (Linked to Assumption 6) Risk mitigation measure embedded in project design: Adoption of adaptive management applies. Projects to consider climate change in design, approval and implementation phases
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Conflicting land uses are sources of conflicts among stakeholders despite existence of legal framework guiding such processes. (Linked to Assumptions 3 and 4) Mitigation measures: Reinforcement of institutional and legal frameworks guiding LUP, capacitation of stakeholders, reinforcement of multi stakeholders' consultative platforms, integration of women, IP and other vulnerable groups in LUP and decision-making bodies such as LMBs
Political and Governance	Moderate	Weak inter sectoral coordination and strong political commitment creates difficult institutional environment, lawless and disrespect of regulations, inadequate multi stakeholders' consultations and collaboration, weak transboundary collaboration, resource conflicts, illegal practices and poor governance (Linked to Assumption 1 and 2) Risk mitigation measures The project will reinforce inter sectoral collaboration, strengthen local management bodies with integration of women and IP in decision making bodies, reinforce multi stakeholders' consultation platforms (component 1), build capacities of local councils and other stakeholders in natural resource management, promote green enterprises and NTFP value chains as co-management incentives (component 3). Create effective and transparent communication channels to ensure real time monitoring and reporting on the project including results and lessons learnt (component 4).

## INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	Existing policies in forest management and promotion of good practices are not fully applied. The same applies with institutional framework regulating SFM and good governance. Enhancement of knowledge capacities of stakeholders is needed. There is need for more staffing and equipment of sectoral personnel to effectively execute policies and build strong enabling environment to support SFM and sustainable development (Linked to Assumptions 1, 2 and 4) Mitigating measures Ensure effective inter sectoral collaboration (MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINEPAT etc.) to apply sectoral policies in land use planning, SFM, devolution of power in forest management with participation of local councils, IP and women, engagement of the private sector in good forest practices, creation of enabling institutional environment in favor of co-management systems, transparency in benefit sharing mechanisms, gender responsive conservation approach etc. Support capacity building of government administration and other stakeholders in good practices, strengthen multi stakeholders' consultations to reduce resource use conflicts and enhance information and knowledge sharing, promote transboundary collaboration using signed agreement
Technological	Low	Although not of high priority compared to other needs of the local communities, investment in low keyed and adapted technology such as Lucas mills for timber exploitation and efficient NTFP transformation machines is important to reduce labor, optimize production and profits (Linked to Assumption 3) Mitigating measures Capacity building programs in low impact logging techniques, agro-forestry, NTFP transformation techniques, less destructive agricultural techniques, energy efficient methods in cocoa processing etc. Facilitate private sector partnerships in NTFP and cocoa value chains
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Despite its economic potentials, forestry, agriculture, mining, NTFPs and ecotourism, there exist no successful business models for SFM and sustainable development. With the exception of the private sector business model on ebony in FLR and livelihoods, there are no credible business models to promote SFM and sustainable economic development initiatives (Linked to Assumptions 3 and 5) Mitigating measures Feasibility studies carried out to explore suitable and adapted business models to promote SFM and sustainable development similar to the Ebony project business model. Replicate and upscale ebony project business model. Promotion of green enterprises through NTFP and cocoa value chains. Capacity building of women, IP and other stakeholders in setting up and management of green enterprises. Facilitating dialogue between local councils and potential investors in small forest enterprises (forestry sector). Market studies in value chains etc.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Substantial	A majority of project stakeholders including sectoral ministries do not have the right capacities in several thematic areas and project management disciplines. This problem significantly impacts sustainable natural resource management practices and economic development (Linked to Assumption 4)
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		Mitigating measures Training of stakeholders in different thematic areas (eg. FLR, monitoring, LUP etc.), organizational capacity building of CSOs, NGOs and other local associations, reinforcing multi stakeholders' consultative platforms to enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration, support to inter sectoral collaboration in project execution and management, strengthening landscape governance, promoting transboundary collaboration etc.
Fiduciary	High	Inadequate financial and technical capacities of executing partners can compromise timely and cost-effective project implementation. Risk of delays in project execution and delivery of expected results including procurement difficulties (Linked to Assumption 5) Mitigation measures: Setting up robust financial disbursement and management systems. Recruitment of qualified F&A personnel, application of due diligence in selection of project consortium, capacity building in F&A of small beneficiary groups, organizational capacity building of women and IP associations. Application of UNEP and GEF F&A procedures. Reinforce benefit sharing mechanisms and co-management systems
Stakeholder	Moderate	The project stakeholders notably women, IPLCs, NGOs/CBOs and other vulnerable groups are unable to effectively participate in the project activities. The risk of marginalization of these groups is associated to a hostile institutional enabling environment recognizing their rights and access to forest resources and participation in decision making processes. (Linked to Assumption 4) Mitigation measures IP, women and other vulnerable groups are given priority in activities of all 4 project components. There is dedicated investment in building their capacities in various thematic areas such as NTFP value chains, organizational operations, representation in all local decision making bodies etc. The project will develop and train stakeholders in application of human rights protocols. This target group will be represented in all multi stakeholders' consultative platforms. The project will seek to comply with and apply relevant international guidelines and best practices regarding inclusive management and the use of globally recognized FPIC principles in consultations with IPLCs, women and other vulnerable groups. REPALEAC and REFADD were consulted during PPG to identify priority activities of their interests within the different project components.
Other	Low	Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, other disease outbreaks, natural disasters can effect project execution. Such events cannot be avoided even though impact on the project is expected to be low. Risk mitigation measure embedded in IP design: Adaptive management applies.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk rating of the project is moderated because of above enlisted factors such as inadequate capacities of stakeholders in project implementation and management, financial sustainability, weak inter sectoral collaboration, and application of government policies in favor of good forest

	governance and practices etc. The identified risks may not be completely evaded by the project but controlled if stakeholders adhered to proposed mitigating actions.
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### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

#### *Alignment with national priorities*

Cameroon adopted the concept of technical unit (TOU) as tool to strengthen the conservation and sub-national land use planning across mixed-use landscapes. This project will reinforce TOU in Dja as part of improving landscape governance systems. The project’s priorities include activities on Effective-based Conservation Measures (OECM), HCVs and FLR with aim of combating deforestation, biodiversity loss and habitat connectivity. Maintaining a healthy ecosystem will contribute to quality and sustainable livelihoods of IP&LCs, women and other minority groups. The proposed actions by the project will contribute to CBD national targets, NDC, REDD+ strategy, NBSAP targets, AR100 and Bonn Challenge and SFM in conformity with forestry and wildlife laws. The Dja landscape forms part of TRIDOM transboundary landscape, which is of highest conservation priority by COMIFAC. Therefore earmarked activities align and will contribute to targets of COMIFAC’s Convergence Plan.

The project will contribute national policies on land tenure, access and resource rights, and transparent co-management strategies involving IP&LCs and women. The Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon recognizes the rights of indigenous people, the country is a signatory of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Nagoya protocol for access and benefits sharing. IPLCs’ traditional rights are recognized and their participation during planning process for PAs and logging concessions are mandatory in the forest laws.

#### *Alignment of GEF8 programming strategies, CBD and SDGs*

The GEF8 strategy on biodiversity conservation and PA management emphasizes on the interdependence of meeting the PA objectives, other natural resource management strategies with sustainable use and OECMs. The strategy focuses on local economic development using multi-stakeholder approaches, cross-ministry collaboration, and sectoral policy coherence. The Dja project will promote SFM and combat illegal practices by working with extractive industries to comply with best practices. The GEF8 PA strategy supports contributions and engagement of women and IPs in integrated management approaches, customary practices in sustainable use of biodiversity and implementation of the Global Action Plan on Sustainable Customary Use.

The GEF-8 strategy responds to CBD objectives and the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols, the Kunming-Montreal CBD post 2020 global framework and other biodiversity-related multilateral instruments. The major project themes (eg. livelihoods, FLR and carbon sequestration etc.) contribute to 12 out of the 21 targets of Kunming-Montreal CBD global framework.

In relation to gender, Target 23 of CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is to **ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action**. This target means ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

The project design and for most of the planned activities fully aligns with most of the 23 CBD targets. For example, targets 1,2, 3 and 11. The project aligns with SDG 5 to ‘Achieve Gender Equality and empowerment for all women and girls’ but will also make useful contributions to other SDGs among which are 1, 3 and 13.

Project’s alignment with GEF8 programming strategies and country/regional priorities and contributions to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is presented in below table.

GEF8 programming strategies	Country/regional alignment strategies	Project contributions to Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
<p><b>CONSERVING &amp; SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY</b></p> <p>CI 1. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)-150million ha</p> <p>CI 4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)-195million ha</p>	<p>Components 1 and 2 of the project will contribute to CI.1 and CI 4 for GEF 8 targets. Component 1 deals with reinforcing local governance to improve integrated and sustainable landscape management. The activities of this component will improve functionality and gender responsive inter-institutional Landscape Management Bodies (LMB) and enhance regulatory and institutional frameworks and tools.</p> <p>Component 2 deals with PA management and connectivity Planned activities will reinforce conservation and monitoring of PAs, enhance forest ecosystems connectivity and sustainable management effectiveness. The expected results will contribute to national PA strategy, 2030 development vision, national AR100 targets and regional priorities of COMIFAC and ECCAS</p>	<p><i>1. Reducing threats to biodiversity</i></p> <p><b>TARGET 1:</b> Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss</p> <p><b>TARGET 2:</b> Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems</p> <p><b>TARGET 4:</b> Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts</p> <p><b>TARGET 5:</b> Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species</p> <p><i>2. Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p><b>TARGET 9:</b> Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People</p> <p><b>TARGET 10:</b> Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability</p>

		<p>in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry</p> <p><b>TARGET 13:</b> Increase the Sharing of Benefits From Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge</p> <p><b>TARGET 21:</b> Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action</p>
<p><b>SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND</b></p> <p>CI 3. Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha) - 10million ha</p>	<p>The activities of component 2 comprise participatory FLR in production forests (logging concessions, council and community forests) to avoid conversion into industrial agriculture concessions and maintaining forest cover to safeguard community rights. Component 2 will also deal with promoting Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) based on increased capacity for Natural Capital Valuation and Accounting. Component 3 is about green enterprises, NTFP and cocoa socially responsible value chains in collaboration with women and IPs works with IPLCs, and the private sector partnership on FLR and livelihoods with the Ebony project. The results in Component 2 will contribute to national poverty alleviation targets as outlined in SND30, NBSAP objectives, national LUP policies and COMIFAC’s Convergence Plan.</p>	<p><b>TARGET 8:</b> Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience</p> <p>Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions</p> <p><b>TARGET 11:</b> Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature’s Contributions to People</p> <p>Restore, maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk</p> <p><b>TARGET 21:</b> Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action</p> <p><b>TARGET 22:</b> Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice</p>

		<p>and Information Related to Biodiversity for all</p> <p><b>TARGET 23:</b> Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action</p>
<p><b>REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS</b></p> <p>CI 6. Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>emissions)-1850</p>	<p>The project will invest through components 2 and 3 in FLR efforts to combat deforestation but also promoting best practices in extractive zones, thereby limiting conversion of relatively intact forests into agricultural production areas. Other actions include strengthening value chains that sustain the livelihoods of forest dependent people.</p> <p>Components 2 and 3 also aim to reduce pressures on forests and avoid deforestation by developing sustainable value chains linked to SFM. Under these components, models for engaging the private sector will be supported and assessed for their ability to be scaled out. Component 2 also aims to reduce threats to PA, including those associated with forest degradation and deforestation.</p> <p>Finally, component 4 will contribute to regional cooperation within TRIDOM trans boundary, knowledge sharing management and dissemination to enhance conservation efforts at the broader scale. The cumulative long-term impacts on these activities will reduce deforestation and gas emissions. The activities and anticipated results align with SFM strategy, REDD+ strategy and contribute NDC, AR100 targets and NBSAP objectives. The results will also contribute to COMIFAC’s strategic axes of interventions as outlined in Convergence Plan notably sustainable forest management and valorisation of forest resources, sustainable development and community livelihoods, combating deforestation and reduction in carbon gas emissions etc.</p>	<p>TARGET 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience</p> <p><b>TARGET 21:</b> Ensure That Knowledge is available and accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action</p>

### ***Project's contributions to the design and implementation of CCAs and UNSDCF***

This United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is the main instrument through which the Government of Cameroon and the United Nations system cooperate to implement national priorities and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The new strategic plan covers the period 2022–2026.

The Government of Cameroon has adopted a “Vision 2035” to transform the country into an emerging, democratic and united country in diversity. The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) implemented this vision between 2010 and 2019, leading to a substantial rise in the growth path from 3% to 4.5%<sup>[13]</sup>.

The 2020–2030 National Development Strategy, which the Government of Cameroon recently adopted, will support implementing the second phase of Vision 2035. The NDS30 is hinged on four pillars, namely:

- (i) The structural transformation of the economy
- (ii) The development of human capital and well-being
- (iii) The promotion of employment and integration
- (iv) The governance, decentralization, and strategic management of the State

The Cooperation Framework aims at making Cameroon a land of opportunity, citizen engagement and well-being for its population. To this end, it has set out four strategic priorities (SP), namely:

- a) Inclusive and sustainable growth
- b) Quality, inclusive and equitable human and social development
- c) Institutional support and citizen participation
- d) Environmental sustainability and effective climate and disaster risk management which are aligned with the NDS30 pillars

Taking advantage of the presence of UNEP Task Manager in Cameroon, and through the UN country Dialogue, the Dja project will contribute to all four strategic objectives through proposed activities which include NTFP value chains to improve livelihoods of women and IP&LCs, building local landscape management decisions to improve forest governance systems, FLR to with planned restoration work within estimated 10,000ha of degraded forests, promoting sustainable practices in 1million ha of production forests comprising community and council forests and forest concessions, training IP&LCs, women and other vulnerable groups in different thematic areas such as setting up profitable small NTFP business enterprises, multi stakeholders’ dialogues in forest governance, conflicts resolution mechanisms, and implementation of human rights protocols etc. The project will seek to reconcile between sustainable development by promoting sustainable practices in the production forests to generate revenues for the local councils and communities in the Dja landscape and also protect the rich biodiversity of the area by combating wildlife crimes, HCVs in production forests, setting up OECMs, protection of wildlife corridors to maintain habitat connectivity between protected areas and the vast inter zone of Dja landscape.

For the case Common Country Analysis (CCA) of Cameroon, the analysis examines the progress, gaps and opportunities vis-à-vis the country’s commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda, the African Union 2063 Agenda, UN norms and standards, and the principles of the UN Charter.

This analysis was updated in 2021 and has again been updated in 2022. The Cameroon CCA has four multi-sectoral and interlinked recommendations:

1. Transform the economy to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth;
2. Promote comprehensive investments in quality and inclusive human development to counter long-term impacts of the ongoing crises;
3. Prioritize conflict resolution and peace building, and strengthen democratic governance processes and protection of human rights;
4. Continue the good progress on climate change action and invest in sustainable management of natural resources

As project operating in the dense humid forest of southeast Cameroon, the Dja landscape project will make significant contributions to the fourth recommendation on Climate change. The Dja landscape forest ecosystems represent important carbon sinks which if well preserved will generate huge incomes for sustainable economic development in the area and improve the livelihoods of the forest dependent communities. Anthropogenic deforestation and degradation threaten the vast and rich Dja forest ecosystem and the livelihoods of forest populations. This is in addition to exacerbating the country's ongoing loss of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity as well as its dwindling capacity of its freshwater resources. Climate change presents a significant threat to the Cameroonian's economy, environment and society. Though still minimal, the country's greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase over the next few years and this calls for the need to step up actions for mitigation and adaptation. From calculations using EX-ACT tool, the estimated carbon offset of project is -45,328,170 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e and without the project is 54 034 545 tCO<sub>2</sub>-e. Cameroon therefore must continue its work to combat climate change through initiatives such as the Dja project, and transition to sustainable natural resource management.

Achieving the SDGs requires a concerted effort by all national stakeholders, in order to ensure the country's adherence to its national and international commitments. One of the priorities to achieve agenda 2030 national targets and SDGs contributions, is to ensure the most vulnerable groups (women, indigenous peoples and local communities, youths etc.) must be identified, prioritized and holistically supported to build inclusive societies that leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first. The project's intervention strategy is to ensure gender responsive approach in the execution of planned activities whereby women, indigenous people and local communities, youths and other vulnerable groups are prioritized in project implementation and potential benefits.

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[1] UNSDCF for Cameroon: 2020-2026

## **D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

**We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).**

Yes

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

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

**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

**2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

**Stakeholder Engagement**

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project:**

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

**Private Sector**

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B "Child project description"?

Yes

## Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	7,139,450.00	642,550.00	7,782,000.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	2,379,817.00	214,183.00	2,594,000.00

UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	446,216.00	40,159.00	486,375.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	446,216.00	40,159.00	486,375.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	148,739.00	13,386.00	162,125.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	148,739.00	13,386.00	162,125.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>10,709,177.00</b>	<b>963,823.00</b>	<b>11,673,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 300000

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 26998

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	200,000.00	18,000.00	218,000.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	66,666.00	6,000.00	72,666.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	12,501.00	1,124.00	13,625.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	12,501.00	1,124.00	13,625.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	4,166.00	375.00	4,541.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	4,166.00	375.00	4,541.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>					<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>26,998.00</b>	<b>326,998.00</b>

Please provide Justification

## Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	8,000,000.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	500,000.00
UNEP	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	500,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>9,000,000.00</b>

## Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CFB Congo IP	GET	10,709,177.00	101796356
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>10,709,177.00</b>	<b>101,796,356.00</b>

## Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	25000000
Civil Society Organization	Rainforest Alliance	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Civil Society Organization	Rainforest Alliance	Grant	Investment mobilized	2000000
Civil Society Organization	ACDEF Cameroon	Grant	Investment mobilized	1195000
Civil Society Organization	ACDEF Cameroon	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2435000
Civil Society Organization	APROSPEN	Grant	Investment mobilized	500000

Civil Organization	Society	APROSPEN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4500000
Civil Organization	Society	AWF Cameroon	Grant	Investment mobilized	4000000
Civil Organization	Society	AWF Cameroon	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Civil Organization	Society	OKANI	Grant	Investment mobilized	2500000
Civil Organization	Society	OKANI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5500000
Civil Organization	Society	AIWO-CAN	Grant	Investment mobilized	1000000
Civil Organization	Society	AIWO-CAN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4000000
Civil Organization	Society	AJESH - Ajemalebu Self Help	Grant	Investment mobilized	2500000
Civil Organization	Society	AJESH - Ajemalebu Self Help	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5700000
Civil Organization	Society	APIFED	Grant	Investment mobilized	1000000
Civil Organization	Society	APIFED	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Civil Organization	Society	SAPED	Grant	Investment mobilized	200000
Civil Organization	Society	SAPED	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1000000
Others		PADI-Dja	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3916667
Others		PADI-Dja	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	4416667
Civil Organization	Society	TFRD	Grant	Investment mobilized	500000
Civil Organization	Society	TFRD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1100000

Civil Society Organization	REPALEAC	Grant	Investment mobilized	1700000
Civil Society Organization	REPALEAC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3300000
Recipient Country Government	ONACC	Grant	Investment mobilized	3000000
Recipient Country Government	ONACC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Civil Society Organization	ZSL	Grant	Investment mobilized	4833022
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>101,796,356.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The co-financing figures have been updated. In brief, the project now shows a total co-financing of USD 101,796,356, from which USD 68,451,667 is in kind / recurrent expenditures and USD 33,344,688 is in grants / investment mobilized.

To identify "Investment Mobilized", potential partners were invited to indicate (i) the portion of their approved budget that will go to support the goals of the proposed project and (ii) the proportion from the identified amounts that will be used towards recurrent and operational expenditures, such as salaries, office space, utilities, etc. The sub-set of Co-Financing that meets the definition of "Investment Mobilized" was then identified by the Implementing Agency by removing the amounts for recurrent and operational expenditures.

Please note that ZSL co-financing which is £3,684,547 was converted into USD using the currency converter on URL address "Currency Converter | Foreign Exchange Rates | OANDA" in the month of September 2024.

In addition, please note that PADI-Dja co-financing which is XAF 6,000,000 was converted into USD 8,333,333 as per the conversion in the co-financing letter.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/28/2024	Victoria Luque		victoria.luque@un.org
Project Coordinator	6/28/2024	Andre Toham		andre.toham@un.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Dr. Haman Unusa	Chief, Studies and Prospection Unit	Ministry of Environment Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development	3/30/2023

### ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

Logframe attached as appendix 3

### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Consultants	181,000.00	176,000.00	5,000.00
Travel on Official business	50,000.00	50,000.00	
Training	63,000.00	63,000.00	
Supplies	6,000.00	6,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>295,000.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>

### ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Landscape boundary	2.63917	14.12042	

Location Description:

Activity Description:



Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Annex F\_Safeguard Risk Identification Form

## ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)							Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity  (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4					
Works						0				
Goods	Desktop equipment and accessories				0	0		24,000	24,000	MINEPDED
	6 laptops for technical expert for data collection and monitoring					0		9,000	9,000	MINEPDED
	...					0			0	
Vehicles	Vehicle (2)	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	90,000			90,000	MINEPDED
	Vehicle fuel & maintenance	20,250	20,250	20,250	20,250	81,000			81,000	MINEPDED
	Vehicle insurance	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250	9,000			9,000	MINEPDED
Grants/ Sub-grants	...					0			0	
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	...					0			0	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Subgrants to RA on overall technical assistance to the Project and deliver on outputs 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3 on Local governance for integrated and sustainable landscape management, activities (1.1.1; 1.1.2;1.1.3; 1.2.1; 1.2.2; 1.2.3; 1.3.1;1.3.2;1.3.3); output 2.1 (activity 2.2.1); output 2.2 (activity 2.2.5); outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 to support	1,108,225	209,763	1,152,934	417,312	2,888,234			2,888,234	Rainforest Alliance

<p>ustainable production practices to reduce agricultural-led deforestation (Activities 3.1.3; 3.1.4; 3.2.1; 3.2.2;3.2.3;3.2.4; 3.3.1; 3.3.2) and output 3.4 and 4.1 adapting tools and regulation for biodiversity/carbon financing in community forests (Activities 4.1.4; 4.1.5)</p>									
<p>Sub-contract to ACDEF for delivering on the followings: 1. Training and Capacity Building:  Train MLMC/LMP on Integrated Landscape Management, covering topics like multistakeholder partnership management, conflict prevention and mediation, advocacy, resource mobilization, and collaborative assessment and monitoring. Develop a long-term funding mechanism for MLMC/LMB with the involvement of municipalities and stakeholders to enhance local governance in landscape management. 2. Awareness and Participation:  Raise awareness to mobilize women, men, and representatives of producers' groups, indigenous peoples, and local communities to develop gender-sensitive institutional structures and operational procedures for MLMC/LMB. 3. Institutional and Regulatory Framework:  Develop and</p>	379,893	523,034	471,391	57,250	1,431,568			1,431,568	ACDEF-Cameroon

<p>reinforce the institutional and regulatory framework for implementing Priority Management Zones (PMZ) in partnership with MINEPAT.</p> <p>4. Field Testing and Tool Operationalization:</p> <p>Organize field testing and operationalize tools from the GEF regional coordination project and other initiatives to map migratory corridors for large wildlife.</p> <p>5. Conservation Actions and Assessments:</p> <p>Identify and recommend conservation actions for High Conservation Values (HCVs) and critical sites for consideration as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and alignment with SDGs.</p> <p>Conduct Natural Capital Assessments (NCA) of identified HCVs and critical sites, including their contributions to climate change mitigation.</p> <p>Develop best practices and guidelines for upscaling OECMs.</p> <p>6. Sustainable Agriculture and Income Diversification:</p> <p>Train farmers in sustainable production, post-harvesting, and processing techniques for cassava and other key crops to diversify income and incentivize forest and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Equip producers, including women and indigenous peoples, with facilities to improve processing,</p>									
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<p>storage, and distribution of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and agricultural products.</p> <p>7. Market and Business Development:</p> <p>Facilitate engagements between agricultural producers and private sector companies for deforestation-free, biodiversity conservation, regenerative agriculture, and income acceleration. Develop business links for community forest products to access legal markets.</p> <p>8. Carbon and Biodiversity Measurements:</p> <p>Deploy carbon and biodiversity measurements during the update of community forest management plans.</p>									
<p>Sub-contract with ZSL/AWF to deliver on output 2.1 activities 2.1.1, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 on wildlife monitoring tools, technics and management of wildlife corridors, and sub grant to AWF to deliver on output 3.1 (activities 3.1.4)</p>	583,834	372,074		955,908			955,908	ZSL/AWF	
<p>Sub-contract with CBI/UCLA to deliver on output 2.2 activities 2.2.3, 2.2.4, and output 3.1 (Activities 3.1.2) to upscale the Ebony's project experience and support CSO on restoration activities</p>	850,000	150,000		1,000,000			1,000,000	CBI/UCLA	

<p>Subgrant to APIFED to deliver on output 1.2.1. on awareness raising to mobilize women and men representatives in local governance structure and outputs 3.1 (activity 3.1.1) and 3.2 (activity 3.2.5) to support the uptake of sustainable agriculture practices and NTFP in the municipality of Djoum</p>	50,000	0	250,000		300,000			300,000	APIFED
<p>Subgrant to TF-RD to deliver on output 1.2. (activity 1.2.1) on awareness raising to mobilize women and men representatives in local governance structure and on output 3.1 (activity 3.1.1) and 3.2 (activity 3.2.5) to support the uptake of sustainable agriculture practices and NTFP in the municipality of Messamena</p>	50,000		300,000		350,000			350,000	TF-RD
<p>Subgrant to ONACC to test and adapt, in partnerships with the national climate Change Observatory (ONACC), tools for monitoring forest cover, biodiversity, carbon stocks and agricultural productivity (Output 4.1, activity 4.1.3)</p>			0	149,500	149,500			149,500	ONACC
<p>4.1.1 Subgrant to test and adapt the FIA and develop in partnership with the HCVN and partners, a technical platform for carbon measurement in community forest to improve accessibility for communities to collect, compile and analyze biodiversity and carbon data and to support community-based carbon/biodiversity credits projects. Activity 4.1.2 Organize practical training with each target communities and participating CSOs on using the</p>				96,642	96,642			96,642	HCVN

	FIA tools and platform to inform improved forest management decisions								
	Sub-contract to REPALAC/AIWO/OK ANI to foster the rights of Ips within the landscape and deliver on Output 1.2 (activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.5), and Sub Grant grant of Repaleac/Okani to deliver on Output 1.2 (activity 1.2.4)	400,000			0	400,000		400,000	REPALAC/AIWO/OKANI
	Subgrants for capacity building of small local NGOs like SAPED, RACOPY, ASBAK, ASBABUK, BACUDA)	0	36,642	400,000	0	436,642		436,642	MINEPDED
	Subgrant to the Association "Esonge" to support activity 2.2.6: Scaling up best practices, building Networks and Partnerships and implementing cash Transfers for Restoration activities among villages inside and outside the proposed landscape		70,000			70,000		70,000	Esonge Association
Consultants	Consultant to support Activity 3.4.1. Support the ongoing regulatory framework for climate action to support locally-led and nature-based climate actions and promote the financing of carbon/biodiversity credits projects that benefit local communities		0	40,000		40,000		40,000	MINEPDED

	Consultant to support Activity 3.4.2 Revise the manual of procedure of community forests in partnership with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and other main actors to incorporate integrated community forest management processes, and open opportunities for carbon and biodiversity credits projects		0	40,000		40,000			40,000	MINEPDED
	Consultant to support Activity 3.4.4 Design at least one carbon/biodiversity credits project for the Dja Landscape including a feasibility study			30,000		30,000			30,000	MINEPDED
	Consultant to support Activity 4.1.5 Synthesize key project learnings on operationalizing gender mainstreaming and equity in community-based landscape management			0	20,000	20,000			20,000	MINEPDED
	Project Technical Coordinator / Advisor (National or International)	108,750	108,750	108,750	108,750	435,000		69,000	504,000	MINEPDED
	Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert		0	0		0	86,400		86,400	MINEPDED
	Gender, Safeguards and Indigenous peoples' specialist	19,355	19,355	19,355	19,355	77,420			77,420	MINEPDED
	Communication Officer	19,355	19,355	19,355	19,355	77,420			77,420	MINEPDED
	Finance & administration Coordinator							193,500	193,500	MINEPDED
	Accountant and logistic Assistant							35,784	35,784	MINEPDED
	2 Drivers					0		44,304	44,304	MINEPDED
<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	1.3.2. Strengthen capacity of stakeholders on legal and institutional frameworks in integrated land use planning and management	45,000				45,000			45,000	MINEPDED
	4.1.4 Collaborate with other initiatives to test and adapt other similar tools that can support carbon/biodiversity/landscape data				35,000	35,000			35,000	MINEPDED

<p>collection to support results and impacts monitoring.</p> <p>4.2.1 Media engagement to drive visibility and relay of project results, including building of relationships with journalists and community radios through training, press conferences, partnerships etc.</p> <p>Consultations with stakeholders to obtain their Free, Prior and Inform Consent (FPIC) (11 municipalities)</p> <p>1.3.3 Develop/reinforce the institutional and regulatory framework for the implementation of Priority Management Zone (PMZ) in partnership with MINEPAT</p> <p>2.1.5 Organize meetings to reinforce collaboration between landscape technical partners and other stakeholders to participate in biodiversity conservation (PA, interzone) and monitoring efforts</p> <p>3.3.3. Support the participation of selected women-led SMEs in trade fairs and other promotional events</p> <p>3.4.1 Support the ongoing regulatory framework for climate action to support locally-led and nature-based climate actions and promote the financing of carbon/biodiversity credits projects that benefit local communities</p> <p>3.4.4 Design at least one carbon/biodiversity credits project for the Dja Landscape</p>										
				15,000		15,000			15,000	MINEPDED
	110,000					110,000			110,000	MINEPDED
	50,000		0		0	50,000			50,000	MINEPDED
	0	50,000			0	50,000			50,000	MINEPDED
	0	0	50,000		0	50,000			50,000	MINEPDED
	0	0	50,000			50,000			50,000	MINEPDED
				30,000		30,000			30,000	MINEPDED

	including a feasibility study									
	4.2.2 Exchange knowledge within and beyond the landscapes through formal reporting, stakeholders' workshops, case studies and participation in national and international events.			30,000	30,000	60,000			60,000	MINEPDED
	Project inception workshop	3,470				3,470	25,000		28,470	MINEPDED
	Annual stakeholder workshops on the project's results and learnings (4 workshops)						60,000		60,000	MINEPDED
	Baseline measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools)						15,075		15,075	MINEPDED
	Mid-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools), including Activity 4.1.4 Assess the effectiveness of the project's main interventions to generate biodiversity and carbon benefits, and livelihoods benefits for local communities, including women and indigenous people (4 studies)	0	0	0	0	0	13,075		13,075	MINEPDED
	End-point measurement of project outcome indicators, GEF Core indicators (Tracking tools), including End-term Stakeholders workshop						6,000		6,000	
	Project steering committee meeting		0	0		0	90,000		90,000	MINEPDED
<b>Travel</b>	International travel for participation in 15 (inter)national, regional including Congo Forest Biome IP, multi-stakeholder events and conferences on	0	0	0	40,000	40,000			40,000	MINEPDED

	natural resource management									
	National travel for PMU for Project Coordination	38,460	60,000	40,000		138,460	60,000		198,460	MINEPDED
	Field Operation Team / Local supervisors travel to oversee and coordinate activities implemented by field executing partners.	20,000	20,000	10,000	0	50,000			50,000	MINEPDED
Office Supplies	Office Costs and Telephone	0	0	0	0	0		52,754	52,754	MINEPDED
	Office furniture and equipment					0		39,215	39,215	MINEPDED
	...					0			0	
Other Operating Costs	4.2.1 Contract with local medias to produce and broadcast program to drive visibility and relay of project results				53,402	53,402			53,402	MINEPDED
	Publication costs for lessons learned related to the project				0	0	25,000		25,000	MINEPDED
	Bank Charges etc.)				0	0			0	
	Audits costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	42,404	42,404	MINEPDED
	External Mid Term Review/Evaluation					0	20,000		20,000	MINEPDED
	External Terminal Evaluation					0	40,000		40,000	MINEPDED
<b>Grand Total</b>		2,447,508	2,595,733	3,608,859	1,106,566	9,758,666	440,550	509,961	10,709,177	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

4a GEF budget format attached.

## ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

