



## **Integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **Name of Parent Program**

**The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)**

#### **GEF ID**

**10287**

#### **Project Type**

**FSP**

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

**GET**

#### **CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

#### **Project Title**

**Integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin**

#### **Countries**

**Cameroon**

#### **Agency(ies)**

**WWF-US**

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

**MINEPDED**

#### **Executing Partner Type**

**Government**

#### **GEF Focal Area**

**Multi Focal Area**

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Forest, Congo, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Participation, Partnership, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Training

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 0

**Submission Date**

7/12/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

1/1/2028

**Duration**

72In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

864,743.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
IP SFM Congo	Promoting effective coordination for sustainable forest management	GET	9,608,257.00	74,329,704.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>9,608,257.00</b>	<b>74,329,704.00</b>

## B. Project description summary

### Project Objective

The project's 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 and livelihood opportunities for forest dependent people.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1.1. Participatory, informed, and integrated land use planning establishes a framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management across approximately 1,200,000 ha within the Cameroon segment of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape</p> <p><b>Outcome Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of councils with integrated land use plans (PLADDT) developed with support from the project (2)</li> <li>•Quality of PLADDT development and adaptive management process</li> </ul> <p>- Contributing to Core Indicator 4 &amp; 11?</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 Mapping and accounting of ecosystem natural capital completed for the Ngoyla (816,087 ha) and Mintom (381,431 ha) council areas</p> <p>Output 1.1.2. Integrated land use plans developed and endorsed for the Ngoyla and Mintom council areas based on a multi-stakeholder process which builds the capacity of IPLCs, CSOs, private sector and governance entities to incorporate ecosystem natural capital accounting and recognize the tenure and access rights of IPLCs</p>	GET	1,231,635.00	12,192,388.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their endangered species	Investment	Outcome 2.1. Management effectiveness of Campo Ma'an and Lob?k? national parks is improved through inclusive governance and management systems	Output 2.1.1. Studies, management tools, and regional coordination to strengthen adaptive management systems of CMNP and LNP	GET	2,301,630.00	18,622,900.00
		<p><b>Outcome Indicators:</b></p> <p>? Percent increase in METT</p> <p>? Contributing to Core Indicator 1 &amp; 6</p>	Output 2.1.2. Trainings, workshops/meetings, equipment, small supplies, and technical assistance to strengthen and/or establish inclusive governance and management systems for CMNP and LNP			
		Outcome 2.2. The effectiveness of forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of Campo Ma'an and Lob?k? national parks is strengthened through increased engagement and capacity, and the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders	Output 2.2.1. Meetings, communication, equipment, small supplies, field costs and technical assistance to strengthen engagement and coordination between local stakeholders, including IPLCs, on forest and wildlife management and monitoring			
			Output 2.3.1. Zoonotic disease surveillance systems targeting			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains	Investment	<p>Outcome 3.1. Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector reduce the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and deliver benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLCs) in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes</p> <p>Outcome Indicators:</p> <p>? Number of IPLCs with increased monetary income and/or non-monetary benefits from development of NTFP value chains (1,200)</p> <p>- Contributing to Core Indicator 11</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1. Landscape-specific strategies for NTFP value chain development that are gender sensitive and responsive, and take into consideration the enabling conditions for ensuring establishment and sustainability of community-based NTFP initiatives, including through the engagement of the private sector</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 Training, equipment, small supplies, technical assistance, and exchange visits for target IPLCs and local organizations to strengthen and/or establish the sustainable production of NTFPs (based on the strategies developed as Output 3.1.1)</p> <p>Output 3.1.3 MoUs or other forms of agreements between IPLCs, private sector operators, decentralized local services and other key stakeholders to strengthen NTFPs</p>	GET	3,411,640.00	21,051,776.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development	Investment	<p>Outcome 4.1. Sustainable tourism value chain that engages IPLCs and the private sector is strengthened, reducing the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and delivering benefits to IPLCs in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape</p> <p>? Number of tourism products developed (or strengthened) through this project (4)</p> <p>? Number of IPLCs with increased monetary income and/or non-monetary benefits from development of project supported sustainable tourism value chain (130)</p> <p>- Contributing to Indicator 11</p>	<p>4.1.1 Viewing of habituated gorilla groups and other sustainable tourism products involving IPLCs and the private sector developed in and around CMNP</p> <p>4.1.2 Meetings, trainings, travel and technical assistance for CMNP ecotourism stakeholders to collaboratively manage CMNP ecotourism and establish CMNP as a pilot project for ecotourism development</p> <p>4.1.3 Equitable benefit distribution mechanisms that include IPLCS developed and operational for ecotourism products in CMNP and Ebodj?</p>	GET	1,263,435.00	11,042,389.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), knowledge management (KM) and regional coordination	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 5.1: Project results monitored, and lessons learned inform adaptive management and outreach in support of SFM at national and regional levels</p> <p>Outcome Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Percentage of M&amp;E plan implemented (100%)</li> <li>•Number of communications, awareness raising, and KM materials produced and proportion (%) that target women (and other vulnerable groups) (11/73%)</li> <li>•Number of bilateral or regional events to coordinate and exchange knowledge on project strategies for transboundary landscapes in which Cameroon is represented as a result of this project (10)</li> </ul>	<p>Output 5.1.1: Effective project coordination and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>Output 5.1.2: Project achievements and results documented, and knowledge management products prepared for replication and scaling up</p> <p>Output 5.1.3: Regional coordination and active participation of key stakeholders in Congo IP</p>	GET	942,172.00	7,604,214.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>	<b>9,150,512.00</b>	<b>70,513,667.00</b>

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

	GET		457,745.00		3,816,037.00	
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>			<b>457,745.00</b>		<b>3,816,037.00</b>	
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>9,608,257.00</b>		<b>74,329,704.00</b>	

**Please provide justification**

**PMC Cost is less than 10% of the GEF project budget, and is less than 5% of the total project (including co-financing)**

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	18,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT-PADIDJA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, National Community Driven Development Program (MINEPAT-PNDP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,492,388.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Tourism and Leisure of Cameroon (MINTOUL)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forestry and Fauna (MINFOF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	17,967,762.00
Other	World Wide Fund for Nature-Cameroon	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,001,616.00
GEF Agency	World Wildlife Fund Inc. -US	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,152,990.00
Civil Society Organization	African Wildlife Federation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,297,016.00
Recipient Country Government	Molounou Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,900,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Mintom Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,100,000.00

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ngoyla Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Campo Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,450,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Salapoumbe Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,750,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Somalomo Council	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	800,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Tropical Forest and Rural Development (TR-RD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600,000.00
Other	Funds for the Environment and Development of Cameroon (FEDEC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	654,545.00
Other	Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS)	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,496,387.00
Civil Society Organization	Rain Forest Alliance	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Cameroon Ecology/ Cameroun Ecologie (Cam Eco)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Private Sector	Taylor Guitars	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00
Other	Organisation for Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	400,000.00

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	67,000.00
Civil Society Organization	African Indigenous Women Organisation Central African Network (AIWO-CAN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>74,329,704.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) has a grant of 2,496,387 USD, or 416,113 USD per year (based on the trust fund's estimated annual revenue) for the effective management of the Lobeke National Park and its peripheral zone. Activities to be funded by the FTNS for Lobeke National Park are complementary to those of component 2 . These activities will be included in the budgeted annual activities of the Lobeke National Park covered by the FTNS financing.

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	6,405,505	576,495
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	3,202,752	288,248
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>9,608,257.00</b>	<b>864,743.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **false**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

300,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

27,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	200,000	18,000
WWF-US	GET	Cameroon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	100,000	9,000
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

Justification 1. Regional Impact Program: The Cameroon child project is part of the CBSL regional Impact Program with long-term and strategic arrangements of individual yet interlinked projects that aim at achieving large-scale impacts on the global environment. This interlinkages add a substantial amount of coordination with the other countries of the IP as well as the regional projects in formulating the project and program. Such coordination includes the coordination with the other GEF Agencies, the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), national governments, regional and local governments, the private sector, civil society, organization of the transboundary landscapes, and other initiatives. 2. Geographic scope: The project targets Cameroon's southern transfrontier forest belt, which stretches from the Rio Campo seascape on the coast, across the Cameroon segments of the Tri-National Dja- Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) and Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscapes towards the east which covers an area of 6,526,476 ha. The scale of the three targeted landscapes and the corresponding project locations adds logistical challenges and additional consultancy costs. 3. Country situation: Cameroon suffers from weak governance and corruption issues which makes it necessary to be deeply involved in project preparation which involves more consultants, more meetings and missions to the field, with particular focus on risk assessment and governance issues. 4. Landscape Approach: The landscape approach does not limit the project only to the forest sector but considers agriculture, biodiversity and poverty alleviation while strengthening measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. That means that many more agencies and stakeholder will have to be

involved to ensure the sustainable use of the land. E.g. the governance structure does not involve only one or two ministries but 10 ministries. The same is true for the amount of other stakeholders that have to be involved in the project preparation (and implementation). 5.

Indigenous People and local communities: The forests of the Congo Basin are home to numerous indigenous people and local communities. Developing a successful and sustainable integrated approach to forest management has to involve and build on the knowledge and needs of these groups. The forest should be managed through participatory processes that empower indigenous peoples and the local populations in decision making. The project will also involve community-based forest management in reducing deforestation and forest degradation. These stakeholder consultations are especially important and require more than average resources for travel, meetings, and translation costs, given several ethnic groups dispersed over large areas and different local languages (Baka, Bantu, Bagyeli, Bakola, Bedzang).

## Core Indicators

**Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	952,573.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
0.00	952,573.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
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Name of the Protected Area	WPA 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)
Akula National Park Campo Ma'an Maan	125689 1242	Select National Park		261,598.00					
Akula National Park Lobok NP	125689 1245	Select National Park		218,398.00			66.00		
Akula National Park Ngoyla FR	125689 55562 2119	Select Others		156,722.00					
Akula National Park Nki NP	125689 30674	Select National Park		315,855.00					

**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)
0.00	3076113.00	0.00	0.00

**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)
	3,076,093.00		

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)**

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)
20.00			

**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title	Submitted
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**Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	0	26200000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	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)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)		26,200,000		
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2021		
Duration of accounting		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)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

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)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		8,866		
Male		9,605		
Total	0	18471	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

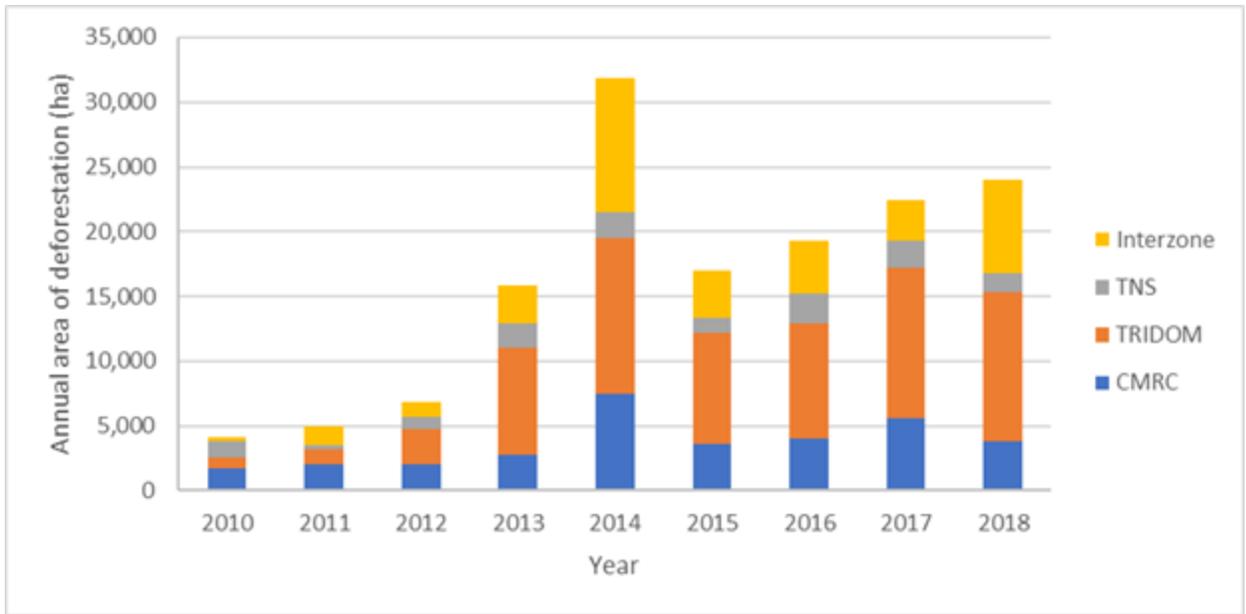
### 1a. Project Description

?1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

The geographic scope of this project centers on Cameroon's southern trans-frontier forest belt. This belt, which stretches from the Gulf of Guinea in the east to the CAR in the west is dominated by tropical humid dense forest and encompasses the Cameroon segments of three transboundary forest landscapes: (i) the Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape (769,446 ha), (ii) the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape (4,949,174 ha) and (iii) the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape (1,490,552 ha). It also includes a 695,916 ha interzone between the CMRC and TRIDOM landscapes. In alignment with the Congo IP, the three landscapes within the southern trans-frontier forest belt have been selected as the targets for this project based in part on their transboundary nature, high carbon storage values, the presence of globally endangered species, the presence of forest dependent peoples, and the existence of significant and related baseline investments.

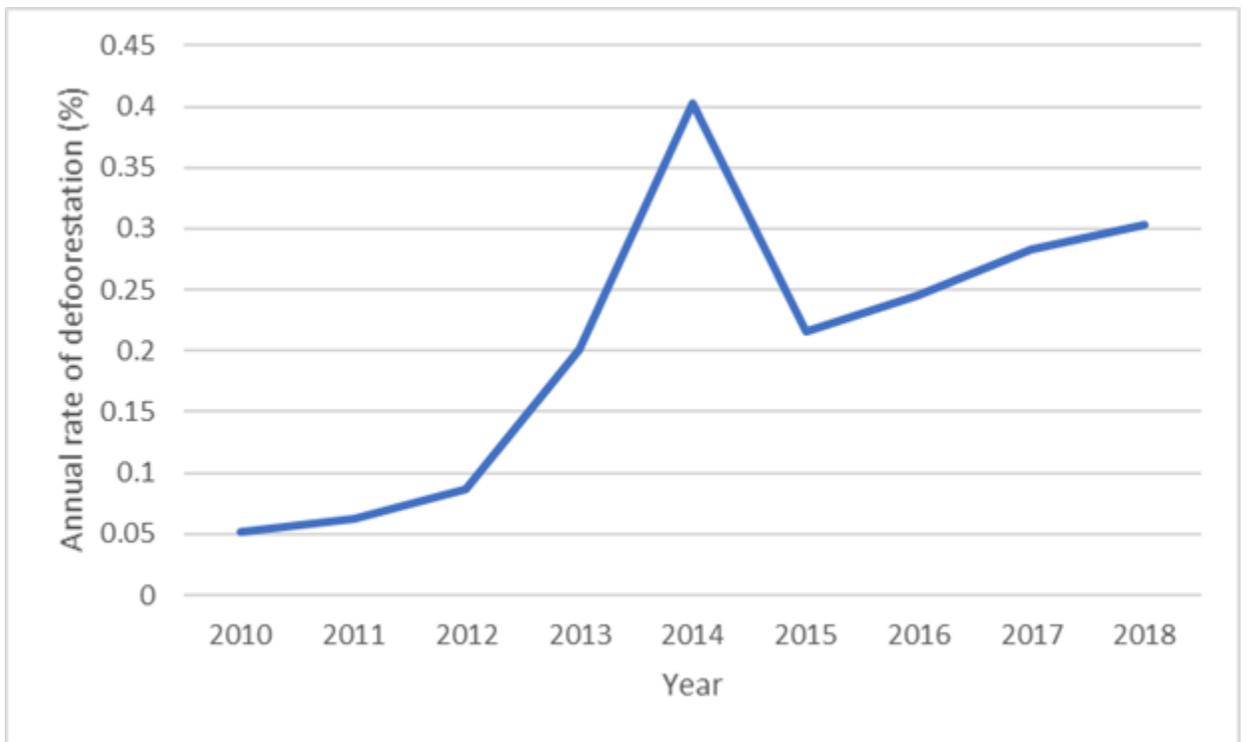
Approximately 97% of the project's geographic scope is covered by tropical and sub-tropical moist broadleaf forest. The deforestation rate in the project area has historically been low, with an average annual deforestation rate of 0.21% between 2010 to 2018. Across this period, this rate amounted to a total loss of approximately 146,508 ha. Across this same period of time Global Forest Watch (2020) estimates that Cameroon lost in total 907,000 ha of tree cover, equivalent to a 2.9% decrease in tree cover and 354 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The project will target its interventions in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes: (i) the Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape (769,446 ha), (ii) the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape (4,949,174 ha), and (iii) the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape (1,490,552 ha). The rate of deforestation and contribution of each of these areas to the total area deforested from 2010-2018 varies (Figure 1), with the highest average annual rate of deforestation in the interzone (0.52%), followed by the Cameroon segments of the CMRC (0.50%), TRIDOM (0.18%) and TNS (0.10%) landscapes. Across the entire project area the rate of deforestation is rising (Figure 2). This trend is in line with the predictions from national forest cover studies that predict the rates of deforestation in all 5 Agro-ecological zones (AEZ) of Cameroon, including the two encompassing this project, will continue to rise as the demand for land and other natural resources (i.e., for agricultural expansion, development of commodities) increases to meet the needs of a growing population and to sustain economic growth. The loss and degradation of forests directly contributes to biodiversity loss, impacting the species for which these forests are key habitat. At the same time, certain species, including highly commercialized species of wildlife, timber, and non-timber forest products (NTFPs), are also threatened by other direct threats, including unsustainable exploitation. Changes in land cover also contribute to increasing instances of human-wildlife conflict (HWC). Stakeholders highlighted the importance of HWC, notably involving apes and elephants, in areas where IPLCs are undertaking agricultural activities in the vicinity of areas where wildlife persist.

**Figure 1.** Annual area of deforestation for GEF Project Area by landscape segment (2010-2018)



Data source: Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA

Figure 2. Annual rate of deforestation for the project area (2010-2018)[1]<sup>1</sup>



Data source: Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA

The most serious threats that have been identified that contribute to these environmental problems in the project sites are summarized below.

Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. The unsustainable exploitation of resources, which includes overexploitation and the use of unsustainable practices, constitute a major threat to biodiversity in Cameroon.

Unsustainable bushmeat hunting and poaching within and outside of protected areas is a severe threat to wildlife species across Central Africa, including in all three of the project's landscapes. Eating and selling bushmeat has been vital to the livelihood of IPLCs, providing a flexible source of income, a direct source of animal protein, and a safety net in times of hardship. At the same time, the high level of demand from growing nearby communities, urban markets, extractive industry settlements, and even across borders means bushmeat is now being collected in large amounts that cannot be sustained. This threat is prominent in all three project landscapes, and has transboundary aspects. For example, the demand on Campo Ma'an National Park includes demand from across the Equatorial Guinea (EG) border. Despite legislation regulating the hunting and sale of certain species, the enforcement of these regulations remains very weak and the use of prohibited hunting techniques (e.g., steel traps, irregular use of firearms) continues. Likewise, fishing activities for both consumption and trade are also often carried out using practices that are not sustainable and have negative impact on fish stocks.

Unsustainable exploitation of plant NTFPs is also a problem. Over 570 plants are used as NTFPs, and sold in local, national and, in the case of certain species, international markets. The sector is also an important source of income for hundreds of thousands of people in Cameroon, and directly contributes to food security for IPLCs (Awono et al, 2013). Certain highly demanded, commercialized NTFPs (e.g., certain medicinal and aromatic species) have been affected by unsustainable harvesting practices, for example in the case of eru (*Gnetum africanum* and *Gnetum buchholzianum*). Over exploitation and the lack of regulations and associated enforcement have also contributed to the unsustainability of practices, and in many cases opportunities to add value through post-harvesting processes are not being maximized. To a degree the primary NTFP products vary by landscape. Bush mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*) is a prominent NTFP in all three landscapes, harvested both for its fruit, its nut kernel - which has an international market - and its wood. The species is now also cultivated as part of agroforestry systems. In the Cameroon segment of CMRC, other prominent plant NTFPs include johimbe (*Pausinystalia johimbe* and *P. macroceras*) and ebae (*Pentacletra macrophylla*). In TRIDOM, other plant NTFPs that help to generate income are the African oil nut tree (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*), the oilseeds of which have an international market, and the oil bean tree (*Pentaclethera macrophylla*). In the TNS, other plant NTFPs collected by both Baka and Bantou include njangsang (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*), okok (*Gnetum* spp.), tondo (*Aframomum* spp.), and wild yams (*Dioscorea* spp.). Wild honey is also harvested. These products are used for both household consumption and for commercialization.

Exploitation of wood fuel, used either directly as firewood or transformed into charcoal, is the main source of energy for cooking in most of the Congo Basin and contributes to food security and nutritional needs of IPLCs. Due to the lack of alternative energy sources and growing charcoal demand from urban centers, the demand for wood fuel is anticipated to increase. This largely informal sector is also of socioeconomic importance, providing employment to the people, including IPLCs, who produce, transport, and trade it. The informality of the sector contributes to its impacts on biodiversity, as there is insufficient regulation and promotion of sustainable wood management.

Even in the case of formal logging, for which there are frameworks for the development of sustainable management practices, unsustainable practices are often employed. This logging is often very selective, targeting high value species (e.g., sapelli, doussi?, sipo, iroko, padouk, ayous, azob?, assamela), putting these species under intense pressure.

**Illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.** One of the major threats to biodiversity in all three of the project landscapes is the increasing demand for high value wildlife products, such as elephant ivory and grey parrots, both nationally and internationally. As a result of high demand, wildlife resources are being rapidly depleted for financial gains. Many of the networks involved in this trade are well organized, often with local hunters employed and connected to larger trade networks. Outside hunters can also play a part, for example in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape where there is pressure from neighboring EG. The impacts of this trade are evidenced by results of large mammal surveys in the TRIDOM landscape, which show a dramatic decline in numbers of forest elephants between 2011/12 and 2015 (Table 1). In Lobéké National Park (LNP) the population has also decreased significantly, from an estimated 2091 [1765-2484] in 2002 to 1029 [670-1582] in 2015. However, poaching pressures also cause elephants to migrate, and surveys in those same years found increases in populations in other areas adjacent to LNP (Nzoo Dongmo et al., 2016). It is important to note that these networks often work across national boundaries, and hunters coming from Cameroon also impact wildlife in transboundary segments of landscapes like TRIDOM and TNS.

**Table 1.** Overview of changes in forest elephant populations in areas of the TRIDOM landscape

Area	2011/12 population estimate	2015 population estimate	% decline
Nki National Park (3,094 km <sup>2</sup> )	3,167 [2,757-3,638] (2012)	565[355-898]	82%
Boumba Bek National Park (2,499 km <sup>2</sup> )	2,062 [1,545-2,752] (2012)	143 [84-242]	93%
Ngoyla Mintom Forest complex (6,539 km <sup>2</sup> ), which includes Ngoyla Wildlife Reserve.	1,116 [899 ? 1,387] (2011)	395[243-642]	65%

Source : Nzoo Dongmo et al., 2016

**Unsustainable agricultural expansion and agroindustry.** An in-depth analysis of deforestation drivers and the spatial extent of corresponding drivers, which informed the country's Forest Investment Plan (FIP), found that in Cameroon's 5 AEZ smallholder agriculture (<1 hectare) accounts for more than 50% of total deforestation in each AEZ. A study looking at the financial contribution of environmental products to rural households in the forested region of Cameroon also found that agriculture was dominant, representing an average of 70%, 46% and 38% of annual household income respectively for villages in the South, Southwest and East regions (Awono, 2018). The sector is expected to continue to expand and impact forest ecosystems in all three landscapes given the importance of the sector for livelihoods, increasing demands for food, and the common application by smallholders of shifting cultivation methods.

The expansion of agro-industry that is not well-planned and managed can also result in biodiverse lands being lost through conversion into monoculture (e.g., rubber, palm oil) plantations, as has been seen in the CMRC landscape. While this expansion has not yet been seen in TRIDOM and TNS, there is a future potential. In addition, the development of completely new cocoa plantations (sometimes incentivized by subsidies) could lead to an increased impact of smallholder agriculture. For the moment cocoa plantations in TRIDOM and TNS are owned by local communities or foreigners (not native from the area), but all of them are small scale plantations (up to 10 ha).

**Industrial and artisanal mining.** All three of the project's target landscapes encompass multiple mining exploration permits; however, the degree to which these are active differs. For example, the Cameroon segment of TRIDOM includes at least 8 major iron ore deposits and prospecting and planning for mining and associated infrastructure has occurred; however, there are no active permits on the ground.

Extractive industries directly contribute to habitat degradation and environmental pollution. The development of extractive industries is also often coupled with 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 seaport 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. Finally, populations often develop around extractive industries, increasing pressures on wildlife, timber for construction, and wood for energy.

Artisanal mining is an important livelihood activity in some areas of the project landscapes, including in TRIDOM and TNS. Like other types of mining, artisanal mining can directly contribute to pollution. Artisanal gold mining has been for a long time an important livelihood activity in TRIDOM; illegal artisanal mining is also present in TNS, just to the south of LNP. However, in part because of the fact that this activity often takes place in remote areas, it can also be associated with other threats such as the trade in wildlife parts.

Disease. The exploitation of forest resources, as well as the development of logging, artisanal mining, tourism and other economic activities in forested areas, can result in increasing migration of people and contact between wildlife and people. This migration increases the probability of interspecies transmission of diseases, e.g., ebola. For example, with the development of great ape tourism, protected area staff, daily trackers, and tourists can be brought in close contact with these species that are genetically very similar and therefore facilitate the transfer of diseases from humans to apes and from apes to humans, posing a threat to both humans and wildlife. The capacity of protected area authorities, local authorities and communities to responsibly monitor and mitigate this threat around high conservation value forests is limited.

Climate change. Biodiversity is threatened by climate change where this exacerbates the effects of stresses, such as habitat fragmentation, loss and conversion, and over-exploitation. Increases in temperature, high winds and tides, changes in quantity and variability of rainfall, and flooding are among the likely consequences of climate change that have been identified for the project areas as part of Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The potential impacts of these changes have been assessed to include loss of ecosystems, loss of soil quality and fertility, changes in water supply, increases in the prevalence of some diseases, introduction of non-native species, more frequent natural disasters, diminution in fish aquatic resources, and pollution. Climate change also has the potential to force significant changes to agricultural calendars, destroy infrastructure, and exacerbate food insecurity and resource conflicts. It is also worth noting that continued deforestation can play a direct role in both global warming and cooling and can also affect water regulations, potentially compounding impacts.

All of these threats are driven by underlying root causes, the most important of which are described below.

Demographic growth, urbanization, and migration. As detailed above, the population of Cameroon currently stands at over 27 million, with a growth rate of approximately 2.58%, which contributes to growing needs to meet basic demand. Cameroon also has one of the highest rates of urbanization in sub-Saharan Africa, with over 55% of the population now living in urban areas. This rate is 12 percentage points higher than in the year 2000, and the United Nations forecasts that by 2050, 70% of Cameroon's population will live in urban areas. This significant shift will change patterns of demand for natural resources and social services, in order that cities in Cameroon can reach their potential. At the same time, Cameroon has also seen significant displacement of peoples due to security issues in the north. Once displaced, these populations are extremely vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity, require economic opportunities, and can change demands on biodiversity.

Poverty and economic growth. Cameroon has significant ambitions when it comes to development and improving the well-being of its citizens. Many of its strategies for growth and poverty alleviation are dependent on the expansion of agricultural and extractive industries as well as their associated

infrastructure, and will increase demands for land and other natural resources. In parallel, this development will increase access to remote areas, and contribute to the degradation and fragmentation of habitats. The three project landscapes have already seen the development of certain extractive industries, including logging, agro-industry (i.e., primarily rubber and palm oil in Campo), and mining, as well as key infrastructure projects (e.g., upgraded Sangmelima-Ouessou road, Kribi deep seaport). Additional development projects are well underway (e.g., the Sundance Resources Mbalam Nabebe iron ore project in TRIDOM). The lack of appropriate technologies and infrastructure to increase production activities efficiently and weak coordination on land and resource policies compound the challenge of trying to pursue economic growth sustainably and increase the potential for conflicts over land and resources.

Demand for wildlife species and species parts. Hunting, much of what is illegal, to feed national and international trade networks threatens numerous species. Among the most notable are the demand for ivory as well as the African grey parrots.

Key barriers to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation in the southern forest belt of Cameroon that will be addressed by the project include:

- Barrier 1. Lack of knowledge on the importance of Cameroon's forests in terms of the goods and services they provide to local, regional, and global communities to inform decision-making.
- Barrier 2. Lack of inclusive and integrated land use planning (LUP) and management coupled with conflicting and isolated sectoral developments and tenure insecurity.
- Barrier 3. Weak capacity and incentives for IPLCs and the private sector to engage in SFM or conserve biodiversity, as well as to develop sustainable alternatives to unsustainable resource use that can be brought to scale.
- Barrier 4. Management of high conservation value forests is compromised by poor governance and weak management, and a lack of capacity for responsible enforcement of environmental laws and regulations compounded by prevalent corruption.
- Barrier 5. Weak coordination and communication on best practices and parameters for sustainable use across landscapes and at the national and regional scales.

Each of these barriers is presented in more detail in Section 1.3 of the ProDoc.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline Programs.

**Baseline investments** related to the project intervention are described in the following text according to thematic areas corresponding to the project scope.

#### *IPLCs*

Across all of the project's landscapes and the different components of this project, the engagement and empowerment of IPLCs is central to achieving the project's objective. IPLCs are key right-holders in Cameroon and are heavily impacted by the environmental problems facing forest ecosystems in Cameroon. Numerous platforms and organizations have been established to represent IPLCs interests, and these organizations regularly participate in dialogues on forests, wildlife, and their well-being. This includes participating in the revision process for key national policies. Much of the recent dialogue on how to address IPLCs rights in forest areas has happened in the context of REDD+. This work has included the development of national guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). In October 2017, MINAS also set up an inter-ministerial working group (i.e., *Comité de Suivi des Programmes et Projets Impliquant les Populations Autochtones Vulnérables* - CISPAV) 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 on efforts to protect their rights.

Despite being the main rural stakeholders in the forested region of Cameroon and increasing recognition of the need to develop systems that recognize their rights within the forest sector, IPLCs are often under-represented in governance systems concerned with land and resource planning and management from national to local levels. Tools are being developed to integrate IPLCs and assure their rights are recognized more formally in governance systems, including in the national LUP framework (see below) and through formal agreements between IPLCs and other actors (e.g., MINFOF in protected areas or private sector actors in concessions); however, the capacity to develop, implement and monitor these tools, as well as improve them through lessons learned, remains insufficient. Addressing this need is critical to strengthening the engagement of IPLCs in LUP, SFM and biodiversity conservation in more formal and meaningful ways. Building their capacity to engage in sustainable forest-based value chains is also urgent to ensure they are in a position to meet their livelihood aspirations and accrue equitable benefits.

#### *Transboundary landscapes*

As described above in Section 1.4 of the ProDoc, Cameroon has affirmed its commitment to ensuring the sustainable management of the forests of the Congo Basin for over 20 years as part of an active regional and international dialogue that has translated into the establishment of numerous transboundary agreements and associated protocols. This project will work to build on the baseline and lessons learned to date at regional, national, landscape and site levels, while also contributing to and collaborating with ongoing efforts supporting sustainable forest management in the project's targeted transboundary landscapes.

More specifically, in the CMRC landscape, and in coordination with the EG national child project, this project will promote the establishment of a formal bilateral agreement and work to ensure coordinated interventions to address threats (e.g., enforcement of laws and policies governing adjacent protected areas and biodiversity) and take advantage of mutually-beneficial opportunities (e.g., tourism development) in the cross border region. In the TRIDOM landscape, the project will continue to promote the upholding of the 2005 collaboration agreement signed between the governments of Cameroon, RoC, and Gabon and subsequent agreements (e.g., 2014 anti-poaching agreement). The project will also work to ensure that efforts on natural capital accounting and LUP will be, as relevant, used to inform transboundary planning with RoC and Gabon and directly contribute to complimentary initiatives at national or regional levels (e.g., FIP, CAFI). In the TNS, the project will build on the framework established through the 2000 cooperation agreement signed between the three State parties creating the TNS and laying out four initial protocols for cooperation on combatting poaching, the free movement of TNS personnel, the organization and functioning of a tri-national anti-poaching brigade, and the movement of tourists across borders. This project will coordinate with transboundary LUP efforts being led by the RCP, and ensure these efforts are aligned with and contribute to national policies, programs, and priorities.

#### *Integrated land use planning*

The GoC in 2014, under the coordination of MINEPAT, initiated a national process for integrated LUP. The process is based on iterative cascading levels of planning. At the highest level it consists of a National Land-use master plan, which is based on a diagnostic of the current situation and provides perspectives for the development of a national land-use plan. It also provides the legal framework for regional land use plans and local council land use plans. As a first step in the process, the GoC has initiated the development of the National Land-use master plan simultaneously with regional land use plans for two pilot regions, i.e., the South and East regions. At present there is a need to roll out this process to the most local level (i.e. the council) where rural stakeholders are able to participate and assure their rights and interests are taken into consideration and feed back into land planning and management at the higher levels. MINEPAT has developed guidelines for this process, which is under the mandate of Municipal Councils and envisions roles for all key stakeholders in the planning and associated decision-making processes to be jointly-coordinated by a Steering Committee, a Multidisciplinary Technical Committee, and a technical support system. This project will enable the rolling out of this process in the pilot councils of Ngoyla and Mintom.

As part of the rolling out of the LUP process, multiple projects have worked to build capacity and tools for LUP. Notably, the EU REDD Facility, with a multi-stakeholder coalition of partners, has been working to bring more transparency to land-use planning and land-allocation processes in Cameroon. The Facility and its partners have developed a tool called the Common Mapping Platform that enables stakeholders to access social, environmental, and geographical data for making informed land-use planning decisions. This project will capitalize on this initiative as part of its strategy on LUP. The GoC's Program for Integrated Land-use Management of the Dja Mining Belt and the Adjacent Border area (MINEPAT-PADI-DJA), with a proposed budget of 16,345,455 USD for 2017-2030, also 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.

Multiple ongoing donor-funded initiatives also contribute to the baseline for this component. First, the National Program for Participatory Development (PNDP), which has been running since 2004 in collaboration with the World Bank and other development partners, is currently in its third phase (2018-2022). The program aims to reduce poverty and promote sustainable rural development by strengthening local governance and empowering communities in rural areas, including marginalized groups. It specifically seeks to mainstream participatory approaches into the decentralization agenda and has resulted in increased involvement of the rural population in the identification and implementation of solutions for local development. This phase of the PNDP is being supported by the World Bank (through the International Development Association ? IDA) and the EU. Its objective is to strengthen local public financial management and participatory development processes within municipalities in order to guarantee the provision of sustainable and quality infrastructure and socio-economic services. Given that the project will work on LUP at the local level, the capacity building and development planning supported by the PNDP are key baselines for the project. With support from the EU, the Center for Development and the Environment (CED), and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the 2017-2021 LandCam project is also working to assist stakeholders, including civil society platforms, to engage effectively and collaboratively in the process to improving land governance in the forest area of Cameroon. Many of the lessons learned from this ongoing project have already been considered in the design of this project.

Finally, integrated land use planning is a key component of programs under development within the Cameroon's climate finance framework, including the REDD + program in the southern forested plateau proposed within the FIP. The REDD+ program is in the process of being re-dynamized within Cameroon (as evidenced by January 7, 2021 Synthesis Note put forth by MINEPDED). The project will build on the lessons learned and tools developed to date as part of this process (e.g., FPIC guidelines as described above), and proactively work to identify synergies between this project and other finance programs (e.g., CAFI, KfW) in the context of LUP (e.g., the potential to engage key stakeholders through multi-sectoral platforms that have been or will be established) and more broadly to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation across the project area.

#### *Governance and management of high conservation value forests*

In large part thanks to the Biodiversity Conservation and Management Program in Cameroon (PCGBC), the country has established a network of protected areas. Numerous regional, national, and local initiatives, many of which were promoted through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) to support the implementation of the Yaoundé Declaration and the regional Convergence Plans, have worked to build the management effectiveness of protected areas within this network and their peripheries, including notably CMNP and LNP. As the primary responsible for the management of protected areas in Cameroon, this work has been carried out in close collaboration with MINFOF. At the regional level, these donor-funded programs include the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and the Conservation and Rational Use of Central African Forest Ecosystems program (ECOFAC). UNESCO's Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) and the African Development Bank's (ABD) Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo) have also been major regional programs that have supported improved governance and management of natural resources in and around key protected areas of the transboundary landscapes.

At present, there are multiple initiatives that continue to support improved governance and management of protected areas and their peripheries and which serve as the baseline for the project's third component. In TNS, these include the Sangha Tri-National Foundation (FTNS). Established with the support of the World Bank/WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use, GTZ, the Wildlife Conservation Society, the French Development Agency (AFD) and CARPE, its capital has primarily been provided by KfW, AFD, and Regenwält Stiftung through the 'Krombacher Regenwält Kampagne'. Its funds are invested in international markets and are used to produce a revenue stream to cover targeted activities for conservation and sustainable development within each segment of the TNS landscape. In addition, WWF has an established program in the Cameroon segment of TNS which includes support for protected area management as well as community engagement and development in its periphery.

In the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape, ongoing baseline initiatives that will contribute to this project include the Foundation for the Environment and Development in Cameroon (FEDEC), which currently provides approximately USD 120,000/annually to support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in CMNP, including through land-use planning, anti-poaching, monitoring and research, and ecotourism development. These funds are managed through AWF. In addition, through its 'Basket Fund' support for protected areas, the KfW is supporting two simultaneous four-year (2018-2021) projects with CMNP's main technical partners AWF and WWF for a total of approximately 1.65 million USD. This funding includes core financing for the management of CMNP as well as support for actions to participatorily strengthen management of resources in its periphery. Both AWF and WWF also have ongoing and established programs to support biodiversity conservation in and around CMNP that directly work with MINFOF, local IPLCs, and other stakeholders on a range of issues.

Despite the ongoing support to the protected areas targeted by this project through baseline initiatives, there remains a need to strengthen the governance systems of these protected areas and their peripheries to make them more participatory, and to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to mitigate intense threats to their endangered species. This project will provide a means to significantly improve the participatory nature of governance systems, support the implementation of best practices for law enforcement, and provide targeted support to address other direct threats, including zoonotic diseases.

#### *Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM)*

Advancing the national forest agenda of Cameroon is the primary responsibility of MINFOF, and multiple national programs have been established to support this effort, including the 2020 Subsector Strategy for Forests and Wildlife. Numerous donor-supported programs are also working directly to advance SFM through the establishment of NTFP value chains and form the baseline for this component. 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), began in 2015; its current phase is scheduled to continue through 2022. The project supports sustainable and ecological management of forest resources in line with the principle of 'protection by utilization'. To this end, the project and its partners advise the two ministries and representatives of municipalities, the private sector, initiatives, and associations. The project selects its partners on the basis of project proposals submitted through ideas competitions and provides them with technical advice, capacity building services and material support. It is active within four regions of Cameroon, including the Center and East regions. Previous phases of the program have also helped to provide important knowledge and capacity on the development of NTFP value chains. The PNDP program, mentioned above, also serves as a key baseline to develop sustainable value chains as it aims to improve socio-economic conditions, increase the productivity of basic natural resources, and raise the incomes of the population in targeted municipalities, including municipalities in the three landscapes targeted by the Cameroon child project. Simultaneously its investments in capacity building of municipalities and local actors such as elected officials and technical service providers so that they can fully assume an effective role as actors of local development will directly support the implementation of this project.

In addition, multiple programs that also contribute to the baseline on strengthening governance and management systems of protected areas and their peripheries (see above) also work to engage and address the needs of IPLCs by providing limited support for the development of NTFP value chains. In particular, FTNS supports actions to participatorily strengthen management of resources in the periphery of LNP. AWF also has a program to develop NTFP value chains with private sector engagement in the Ny? council of CMNP with support from KfW. In parallel WWF's programs in all three of the project's landscapes work on aspects of SFM governance and management, including by working with stakeholder to establish mutually beneficial agreements on the management of forest resources. WWF is currently finalizing an agreement for a 5-year 'Green Commodities Landscape Programme' (250,000 Euros) to be implemented in partnership with the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH), the Rain Forest Alliance, The European Forest Institute (EFI) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) in the Mintom and Mbangassina areas of TRIDOM that aims to promote sustainable cocoa and NTFP production. Simultaneously a 5-year project on 'Mobilizing More for Climate' (1,000,000 Euros) is working on similar issues for the Ngoyla and Yokadouma councils. Despite these considerable efforts, the capacity of many IPLCs to participate in NTFP value chains in an equitable way remains insufficient and the need for additional technical support and means to develop these chains sustainably was highlighted as a priority by all stakeholders.

#### *Development of a sustainable and socially-responsible value chain for West African ebony*

The project will build on the significant baseline established since 2011, when Taylor Guitars and Madinter purchased the Crelicam ebony mill based in Yaounde to support in-country value-added processing and the export of legal and socially responsible parts for musical instruments. In 2016, the initiative further evolved when Taylor Guitars partnered with CBI to develop the Ebony Project. The project set an initial target to plant 15,000 ebony trees (which it has surpassed) and has a long-term goal to create sustainable populations of West African ebony, and plant locally-valuable fruit trees. That will improve food security and provide a source of meaningful income for local communities, and the project serves as a testbed for community based scalable rainforest restoration efforts involving other hardwood species across Central Africa. In 2017 a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) was established between Taylor Guitars and MINEPDED at the UN Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany. Since then, the project has been continuously supported through Taylor Guitars, a co-financier of this project. At this point, the project aims to expand its impacts and further test its approach and its applicability to other species.

#### *Sustainable tourism development*

The development of the tourism sector, under the coordination of the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure (MINTOUL), is a key component of the GoC's strategy for economic growth. Previous investments, including through the World Bank's Competitiveness Value Chains Project (CVCP), have been made in and around CMNP to develop community-based tourism initiatives as a sustainable means of livelihood for local communities and to improve the engagement of local populations in conservation measures. These efforts have resulted in the development of tourism products and facilities, some of which continue to persist. Recently, a Campo Ma'an National Park Ecotourism Development and Management Plan for 2018-2027 was developed through a platform for collaboration between MINFOF and MINTOUL, under coordination of AWF and thanks to support from AWF, FEDEC and the KfW 'Basket Fund'. At the same time, a public-private partnership for ecotourism in and around CMNP is under development between MINTOUL, MINFOF and Jengi Tours (a co-financier of this project). The coordinated framework that is being established to develop a more sustainable value chains for ecotourism provides a critical basis for this project. As early as 1999, ecotourism has also been under development in Ebodj. This work started as part of the WWF Campo Ma'an conservation project and was further supported by the Dutch Cooperation Agency (SNV). As part of this development, local houses have been converted to eco-lodges and tourist products have been developed. Additional support has been provided to support these initiatives by CUSO International and its volunteers as well as WWF.

Key ongoing initiatives that form the baseline for this component of the project include the support to CMNP detailed above under the section on the governance and management of high value conservation forests from FEDEC, KfW, AWF and WWF. In addition, WWF's ongoing gorilla habituation program

on Dipikar Island is currently supported through the Bengo Project (2017-2021) and the WWF network. At present, despite the investments to date, the resources available are insufficient to capitalize on higher-end tourism products, make operational the PPP under development, and assure the capacity and mechanisms are in place to ensure equitable sharing of benefits.

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

This GEF project will contribute to strengthening the integrated management of Cameroon's globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic and livelihood opportunities for forest dependent people. Over a six-year period, the project will address key barriers and tackle the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss through the concurrent execution of multiple complementary strategies: (i) progressing informed and inclusive LUP; (ii) improving the effectiveness of management and governance systems for high value conservation forests, and undertaking targeted actions to protect their endangered species; (iii) developing sustainable forest-based value chains that engage the private sector and deliver benefits to IPLCs; and (iv) and promoting the scaling deep, out and up of best practices through knowledge management. The project's strategies will be applied in a targeted approach across the Cameroon segments of the project's three transboundary forest landscapes as presented in the table below.

COMPONENT	CMRC LS	TRIDOM LS	TNS LS
<b>Component 1:</b> Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b> (Mintom and Ngoyla council areas)	<b>O</b>
<b>Component 2:</b> Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their endangered species	<b>P</b> (Campo Ma'an NP and peripheral area)	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b> (Lobéké NP and peripheral area)
<b>Component 3:</b> Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains	<b>P</b> (Campo Council)	<b>P</b> (Somalomo, Lomie, Mintom and Ngoyla council areas)	<b>P</b> (Mouloundou and Salapoumbe council areas)
<b>Component 4:</b> Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development	<b>P</b> (Campo Ma'an NP and peripheral area)	<b>O</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>Component 5:</b> Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), knowledge management (KM), and regional coordination)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>

The landscapes considered under each strategy and the more specific areas of intervention within each landscape have been identified based on site-specific considerations and is further described in Appendix 5 of the ProDoc. Among the criteria considered were the potential to achieve meaningful results in the six-year project period, baselines and available co-financing, as well as the ability to manage all safeguard considerations. In order to drive for impact and ensure cost-effectiveness, target areas that have the potential to achieve results under multiple strategies have been prioritized.

The project will work under Component 1 on LUP in two councils of the TRIDOM landscape (i.e., Ngoyla and Mintom) where the enabling conditions to undertake such a process, which requires significant time, resources, and will from stakeholders to be successful, were strongest. These two councils are within the two sub-national regions that have already been targeted as part of the LUP

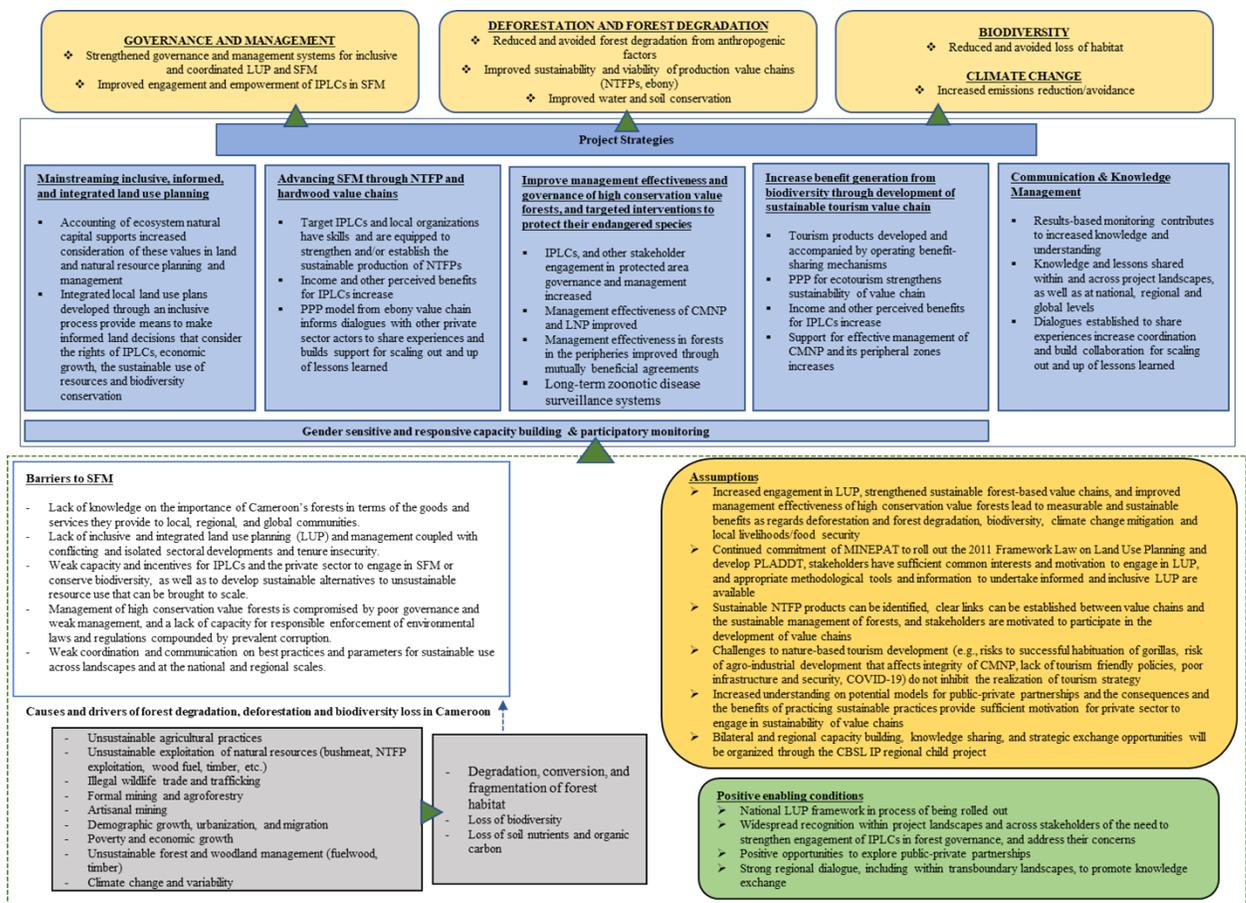
process being rolled out at different scales in Cameroon. They were also identified as priorities given an increasing potential for land use conflicts in the area and the potential for LUP at this time to play a key role in how LUP decisions are made moving forward. The key enabling conditions for such a process are not as apparent in the CMRC landscape; however, there will likely be a real opportunity in the future to take the lessons learned from the pilot process in Ngoyla and Mintom to scale in TNS. The project will work to assure lessons learned are shared to facilitate such a process, which is beyond the timeline of this project to rollout to completion. Under Component 2, the project will work on the conservation of high value forests and their endangered species in the TNS and CMRC landscapes where baselines and co-financing offer important means to achieve results and addressing key threats is within the scope of the project. Component 2 will not be implemented in the TRIDOM landscape as criteria related to co-financing and partnerships, which are considered critical to successfully achieve meaningful improvements under this component during the six-year project period, cannot be met. Given the high priority of establishing and strengthening of forest-based value chains, as iterated during the stakeholder consultation process by IPLCs and other actors, this strategy will be implemented under components 3 and 4 in the Cameroon segments of all three of the project's targeted landscapes. More specifically, the project will work to strengthen and develop NTFP value chains in all three landscapes, and will capitalize on opportunities to explore the potential of public-private partnerships around value chains for ebony and ecotourism in TRIDOM and CMCR, respectively.

All the strategies will include important aspects of regional collaboration and knowledge management to promote scaling out and up of results. By applying an integrated approach to address challenges to SFM and biodiversity conservation in Congo Basin landscapes where forests provide a range of goods and services, the project will directly contribute to the Congo IP objective to incorporate environmental management principles in forest management through landscape approaches at different levels. The Cameroon child project is also well aligned with the Congo IP's Program Framework Document. A detailed presentation of the alignment between each of the components of the Cameroon child project, including outcomes and associated indicators, and the Congo IP is presented in Appendix 13.

To further support maintaining ecological integrity at the biome level and ensure strong regional cross-border coordination, the Cameroon child project has been designed to align with the approach and activities planned under the RCP, especially as regards LUP, maintenance of key habitat, zoonotic disease surveillance, and increasing the engagement of the private sector and IPLCs in key forest value chains. The Cameroon child project's fifth Component will directly contribute to the RCP's objective to catalyze transformational change in SFM in transboundary landscapes by sharing and scaling best practices and innovations.

Finally, the empowerment of IPLCs in SFM, which is a key aspect of the RCP's third component, is considered essential to strengthen forest governance in Cameroon and was stressed by stakeholders as a theme that should form a central aspect of all the project's strategies. As such, the project's components and its strategic approach under each component reflect key needs and priorities as expressed by IPLCs during the project's consultation process. Awareness arising and capacity building for IPLCs to engage has also been integrated under each of the project's strategies.

The figure below presents an overview of the project's approach.



The **project's 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 and livelihood opportunities for forest dependent people. The project is divided into five components each with its own specific outcomes which will be applied in an integrated approach in each of the project's three target landscapes:

### **Project Component 1: Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management**

*Outcome 1.1. Participatory, informed, and integrated land use planning establishes a framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management across approximately 1,200,000 ha within the Cameroon segment of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape*

Component 1 and its associated Outcome 1.1 will apply a bottom-up approach for participatory, informed, and integrated LUP and management across the 1.2 million hectares of the Ngoyla and Mintom councils of the TRIDOM landscape, where the enabling conditions for progressing this strategy were confirmed during project development. This approach is fully aligned with the operationalization of Cameroon's 2011 Framework Law on Land Use Planning, which lays out principles and strategic priorities for land use and sustainable development planning, as well as specifying the officially-recognized tools for integrated and intersectoral LUP at the national, regional (sub-national) and council levels. In consultations during the project development phase, stakeholders at the local level, including local authorities, leaders and IPLCs, also expressed the need for a more systematic consideration of their rights in land use decisions and expressed interest in this process with special focus on awareness and capacity building to be able to participate in the rollout of the LUP Framework. The Ngoyla and Mintom councils were also prioritized by stakeholders to pilot how local LUP can help to secure IPLCs rights and be integrated with sub-national and national planning because

of the presence of competing land uses (e.g., mining, forestry, conservation) and the potential for increased land conflicts, and the need to secure IPLCs rights. The selection of Ngoyla and Mintom as the target areas for this component also provides an opportunity for this project to build on the baseline MINEPAT has established with the development of the national land-use master plan and regional land use plans for the South and East regions. The planning process will be undertaken in coordination with ongoing programs that are supporting integrated land management and rural development, as well as climate initiatives that may develop. The approach employed by the project will build on baseline initiatives, such as the LandCam project, to promote effective engagement of stakeholders, including civil society platforms. The primary tool that will be elaborated through this outcome are local land use and sustainable development plans (Plan Locaux d'Aménagement et de Développement Durable du Territoire - PLADDT). These tools are the most localized of the series of LUP tools that constitute the LUP framework laid out in the 2011 Framework Law.

Starting in year 1 (under the coordination of MINEPDED and with leadership from local stakeholders), the project will develop the capacity, methodological tools, and verifiable information necessary to integrate ecosystem preservation and natural capital accounting into the LUP processes for the Ngoyla and Mintom councils. A participatory process that builds on the experiences of previous initiatives to assess natural capital will be used to develop open access, spatially explicit maps of key ecosystem services and biodiversity areas, and identify the core assets that will be taken into consideration (e.g., carbon, water) in the accounting exercise. An appropriate methodology for the accounting exercise (e.g., the Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounts Quick Start Package) will be identified based on the core assets selected, the context and the specific priorities and purposes of the exercise. These overall parameters for the exercise will be collectively defined with stakeholders, including IPLCs. As a result, meaningful, objective, and verifiable information on the area's natural capital will be available for use by the administration, the public and private sector actors to plan, monitor and adapt land management. In the context of this project the information will be applied to ensure there is a clear understanding of ecosystem services and the value of core natural capital assets, and the benefits and costs of processes that may lead to degradation in Ngoyla and Mintom. It will also be used to inform decisions made during the development of the PLADDT when it comes to conserving critical levels of natural capital and integrating compensation or restoration of any degradation which affects biodiversity or the functioning of ecosystems. The information gathered will be integrated with other types of information, including on social and cultural capital, to support more holistic accounting in LUP and decision-making processes. These efforts will serve as a means to pilot test an approach and will provide valuable inputs into how the methodology could be scaled out to other councils or up to the sub-national, national, and transboundary levels.

Furthermore, under the coordination of MINEPAT, the project will support an inclusive and intersectoral land use planning process that will result in the development of PLADDT for the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom. The project will apply newly-developed methodological guidelines set forth by MINEPAT, as part of a national framework for intersectoral LUP, in 2019 for a step-wise participatory approach to LUP that recognizes the principle of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) for IPLCs, and encourages engagement by IPLCs and other local actors. Municipal Councils play an overarching role as they are the bodies mandated with leading preparation of PLADDT by law. The Councils, along with their Mayors, also have significant responsibility as regards facilitating agreements among stakeholders at various levels on zoning of communal space. The process itself is anticipated to be coordinated by a Steering Committee, a Multidisciplinary Technical Committee, and a technical support system. IPLCs will be represented in the Steering Committee, which is envisioned to be composed of: the mayor; the communal executive; representatives of the villages concerned (including women, youth and vulnerable groups); a sufficiently representative body of professionals; indigenous populations and vulnerable groups; other local elected officials - deputy, senator (recommended); and promoters of projects that have an impact on the area. The Multidisciplinary Technical Committee integrates sectors/departments with an interest in land use in the area in question.

At the most local level the primary decision-making bodies are Village Land Management Committees (Comité d'Aménagement des Terroirs Villageois - CATV). The CATV may be built on existing local structures, and are expected to represent and act on behalf of different social groups during data

collection and analysis. In addition, it is understood that all proposals for future land use and management will be presented to the CATV and at the council/municipal level for review before final validation. Traditional leaders (who play an important role in the allocation of customary land under common ownership), IPLCs (key stakeholders as regards the use of rural space), other individual actors, civil society organizations, and the private sector, are also envisioned to play more specific roles at various stages of the LUP process. The role of different bodies and actors will be defined through simple ToR during consultations and preparations for the LUP process.

The methodology has seven phases: (i) organization and preparation of the PLADDT process and official launch; (ii) preliminary diagnosis, collection and analysis of existing data in preparation for consultations; (iii) consultations, including at the level of villages, institutional strengthening, data collection, diagnosis and planning; (iv) restitution of the village diagnosis and at the commune level, elaboration and approval or revision of the provisional PLADDT; (v) restitution of the draft PLADDT to the communities and documentation of village-level observations; (vi) finalization of the PLADDT, official approval and public release; and (vii) implementation and monitoring and evaluation (to inform adaptive management and revisions). As stated in the guidelines for the development of PLADDT, the process is intended as a judicious interpretation and refinement of national policies and strategies at the local level. The process allows for local municipalities and their communities to share their ambitions and priorities with the government and have them considered in iterative regional and national LUP processes. As part of the PLADDT development all parties must agree on optimal land management solutions through a fully participatory process with the communes and local communities. It also requires following the FPIC principle when any decisions impact IPLCs lands. The overall aim is to assure that land use supports sustainable rural development and that the distribution of land at the local level responds in a coherent manner to different productive, cultural and protective uses and functions. As explicated by the GoC it is intended as a first step towards securing land for all stakeholders and actors in the rural space and aims to ensure social balance and avoid conflicts between the different groups of actors living in the commune, including all vulnerable and marginalized social strata. It also includes provisions on how local stakeholders should be engaged in the implementation of the PLADDT, in particular when any decisions affecting rural lands are made.

This project will support stakeholders in Ngoyla and Mintom to realize the LUP process through the finalization of the PLADDT with a special focus on the inclusion of IPLCs in the process. To promote an inclusive LUP process, the project will build the capacity of local stakeholders, including women, youth and IPLCs, to participate. It will also take advantage of the window of opportunity presented by the development of PLADDT that will be fully integrated in broader sub-national and national LUP frameworks to assist IPLCs in securing their customary land and rights by encouraging a process that recognizes the protection of community rights, respects IPLCs governance systems, and is tenure-sensitive.

The realization of the PLADDT will respond to the ambitions of Cameroon as regards decentralization and sustainable development by supporting the transfer of competences and resources for LUP to the council level. Once the PLADDT are completed, the project will facilitate the integration of the results of council-level LUP in ongoing sectoral (*Sch?ma Sectoriel*) and regional (*Sch?mas R?gionaux d'Am?nement et de D?veloppement Durable du Territoire*) LUP and decision-making processes for the South and East regions of Cameroon. If successful, the project will provide a transformational example of how a multi-sectoral framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management and regulations on the use of resources can be established and coordinated through an integrated framework at the local, sub-national and national levels.

## **Project Component 2: Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their endangered species**

*Outcome 2.1. Management effectiveness of Campo Ma'an and Lob?k? national parks is improved through inclusive governance and management systems*

*Outcome 2.2. The effectiveness of forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks is strengthened through increased engagement and capacity, and the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders*

*Outcome 2.3. The long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems in Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks and their peripheries are strengthened to minimize the risks of disease transmission between humans and wildlife and vice versa*

Component 2 will promote better governance of protected areas and their peripheries, thereby promoting more effective management that aligns with the desired objectives of these areas and support targeted interventions to protect their endangered species. It assumes that stakeholders have the willingness and motivation to develop participatory governance and management models for protected areas and their peripheries and will build on baselines that cover some of protected area management.

The component will directly address barriers associated with the lack of participatory management models for sustainable forest and wildlife management, including (i) the low level of capacity (including inadequate budget allocations) and accountability in government agencies to establish inclusive governance and management models for protected areas and (ii) the weak engagement of IPLCs and the private sector in biodiversity conservation, including notably in the periphery of the project's targeted protected areas. The need for PA management to better take into consideration IPLCs concerns was highlighted as a priority during the consultation process.

Interventions will be focused on the two high value conservation areas of CMNP in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape and LNP in the TNS landscape. These protected areas have high levels of biodiversity capital upon which IPLCs depend for their self-efficacy and other factors of resilience, and which are under increasing and evolving threats (i.e., uncontrolled and unsustainable harvesting practices, poaching and harvesting of live animals, the proliferation of arms, weak application of the law, corruption, unsustainable industrial and illegal timber exploitation, mining, unsustainable sport hunting, encroachment, poor planning, and large-scale infrastructure development).

Under Outcome 2.1, the project will systematically work with protected area conservation services and communities to foster the understanding, tools and interdisciplinary skills necessary to strengthen inclusive and adaptive management and governance systems for CMNP and LNP. It will also directly invest in increasing the capacity of conservation services and IPLCs to establish and implement said systems, including through the regular animation of key consultative platforms. Furthermore, the capacity of protected area management and other key stakeholders (i.e., law enforcement organizations, magistrates, judges) to undertake responsible park management and address threats to endangered species will be improved, and grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) established. Through Outcome 2.2, the project will also build participatory models of sustainable forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of these protected areas by means of the establishment, implementation, and monitoring of transparent management agreements that recognize the rights of IPLCs between key stakeholders. Finally, under Outcome 2.3, the project will work to strengthen zoonotic disease surveillance systems in both of the targeted sites to improve health and hygiene conditions in target stakeholder groups (e.g., trackers, ecoguards) and prevent the large-scale spread of severe disease outbreaks and their transmission between humans and animals.

### **Project Component 3: Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains**

*Outcome 3.1. Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector reduce the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and deliver benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLCs) in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes*

*Outcome 3.2. Public-private partnership (i.e., Ebony Project) to create a sustainable and socially-responsible value chain for tropical hardwood species is expanded and delivering tangible benefits, including restoration and income generation, in the TRIDOM landscape*

Component 3 will address the impacts of unsustainable resource use by local communities and private sector actors by promoting their increased engagement in local-level models for SFM that engage IPLCs and the private sector. The project will simultaneously support the development of two different local-level models (or approaches) for SFM: (i) across the three target landscapes, the project will work to develop or strengthen NTFP value chains where IPLCs and community producers make up an important portion of the sector and are key actors in ensuring forest resources are equitably and sustainably managed and (ii) the project will support the expansion of a public-private partnership (PPP) to create a sustainable and socially-responsible value chain for tropical hardwood species in the TRIDOM landscape. The first outcome is designed to take advantage of baselines in target councils of all three landscapes to improve socio-economic conditions, increase the productivity of basic natural resources, promote the more sustainable production of commodities, and develop NTFP value chains. It will allow for the scaling out and up of efforts supported by KfW and implemented by the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) in and around CMNP, the Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund (FTNS) in and around LNP, as well as ongoing and planned activities on NTFP development by WWF, the Rainforest Alliance, and other partners in certain areas of TRIDOM. Its second outcome will capitalize on the opportunity rendered by the significant baseline established by the Ebony Project since 2011 to expand this initiative.

Through Outcome 3.1, the project will develop (or strengthen) inclusive NTFP value chains linked to SFM in the three project landscapes. As a result of this outcome stakeholder in at least 30 IPLCs communities will derive economic benefits from NTFP value chains and be directly invested in supporting SFM models. Establishing and strengthening NTFP value chains was the highest priority identified by IPLCs across all landscapes during the consultation process.

At the start of the project, specialized partners with expertise in developing equitable and sustainable NTFP value chains in Cameroon or the broader Congo Basin will be selected to work with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS), representatives of IPLCs, and the PMU to coordinate and provide technical assistance for the realization of this outcome. These partners will use a variety of means to assess the current context as regards NTFP value chains to develop an understanding of important issues and define key opportunities. Simultaneously, they will work with IPLCs and other stakeholders to identify 1-2 target value chains for development, e.g., Njansang (*Ricinodendron heudelotii*) and wild mango (*Irvingia gabonensis*), in each landscape based on how they respond to environmental, socio-institutional, and economic indicators and criteria that are important to developing equitable and sustainable NTFP value chains that contribute to local livelihoods and the welfare of the community.

Furthermore, inclusive and gender sensitive consultations with local organizations and IPLCs groups, including youth, will be undertaken and strategies for the development of selected value chains will be elaborated. The strategies will build on traditional knowledge, the wealth of scientific studies available on NTFPs in Cameroon and lessons learned from past and present initiatives, and will identify barriers to the sustainable development of the selected NTFP value chains and explicit points of leverage where the project should intervene to upgrade them, for example by improving the position of IPLCs, increasing the income generated by IPLCs and/or establishing direct links with SFM. Opportunities for community access to finance and how the private sector can be more directly engaged to improve the establishment and sustainability of NTFP value chains will also be explored. This could be through micro-finance to increase access to capital to develop value chains, the supply side of production (e.g., establishing formal agreements to regulate collection and transport, the provision of inputs for cultivation, enhancing processing and quality), or as off-takers of products (linking to the value chains of larger enterprises).

Targeted training and technical assistance plans to build the capacity (organizational, technical, business management) of local organizations and IPLCs to develop NTFP enterprises will be developed through a participatory process. In parallel, the project will develop small grants or other financial mechanisms to ensure community organizations working directly with local producers have access to sustainable financial mechanisms that allow them to provide ongoing support to community-based initiatives to develop NTFP enterprises. Recognizing that NTFP production depends on sustainably managed resources, the project will also work to establish a clear connection between IPLCs producer groups, economics, and the sustainable management of forest resources. Specifically, the project will help to increase the sustainability of NTFP value chains by creating direct links with private sector actors and resource managers committed to supporting the engagement and empowerment of IPLCs. To help producer groups establish business alliances, the project will support local stakeholders' participation in national and international NTFPs marketing or promotional events and facilitate direct meetings between IPLCs producer groups with private sector actors and other potential partners along the value chain to negotiate and establish mutually beneficial partnerships. Among the private sector actors to be engaged in this process are financial institutions, input providers, off-takers, distributors, service providers, etc. The project will also work with resource managers (including private sector actors and decentralized technical services) and IPLCs to establish (or strengthen) MoUs or other forms of agreement that recognize the rights of IPLCs as regards the collection/harvesting/production of NTFPs and establish means to ensure that these practices are sustainable through appropriate regulations. Among the private sector actors that will be engaged on issues of access and sustainable use are community forest enterprises, logging companies, agrobusinesses and safari operators active in the project's target areas of intervention.

Finally, the project will develop and operationalize a participatory system to regularly monitor outcomes and impacts of efforts to develop NTFP enterprises in target communities and inform adaptive strategies for the project. The system will include indicators to track levels of engagement of different stakeholder groups, including IPLCs disaggregated by gender and age, and benefits (e.g., income, food security, empowerment, tenure security). It will also examine the impacts of developing NTFP value chains to attitude and behavior change towards SFM and biodiversity conservation and include components to ensure that extraction pressures from NTFP value chains remain within the forest carrying capacity, and that the opening up of access to markets and increased production do not raise exploitation of forest resources to unsustainable and unregulated levels.

Under Outcome 3.2, the public-private partnership between Taylor Guitars and MINEPDED to apply an agroforestry approach to create a sustainable and socially-responsible value chain for tropical hardwood species, in particular West African ebony (*Diospyros crassiflora* Hiern) and improve livelihoods and food security, will be expanded within the TRIDOM landscape. This outcome builds on the history of the Ebony Project and is fully aligned with the findings of the project's 2019 feasibility study. The outcome will be coordinated by a consortium of partners, including the Congo Basin Institute (CBI), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

By expanding the Ebony Project to new communities, this outcome will increase the engagement of IPLCs in SFM techniques and increase the medium-term value of reforested land for IPLCs through science-based agroforestry. In the long-term it will also contribute to local food security and the successful development of value chains for local fruit and sustainable ebony. Applied ecological research and the establishment of a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system will ensure this expansion is thoughtful and that verifiable information regarding its impacts on target communities, the timber industry and the environment is available and fully understood. Finally, assessing the possibility of expanding the project's model with other private sector actors and engaging with them on the project's approach will lay the groundwork for potential further scaling up using the public-private partnership model to develop value chains to achieve larger scale forest regeneration in the transboundary landscapes of the impact program.

#### **Project Component 4: Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development**

*Outcome 4.1. Sustainable tourism value chain that engages IPLCs and the private sector is strengthened, reducing the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and delivering benefits to IPLCs in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape*

Component 4 will take advantage of the unique set of attractions and baseline (i.e., FEDEC, KfW, AWF, WWF, Jengi Tours) that can be found in and around CMNP to develop a sustainable tourism value chain in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape. The development of this value chain provides an important opportunity to increase the incentives for IPLCs and civil society organizations to engage in forest and wildlife management and develop sustainable alternatives to unsustainable resource use by growing financial, economic, social, and environmental benefits. It will also directly address the low capacity of stakeholders to develop sustainable tourism, including through increased engagement of the private sector. The component is in full alignment with the management objectives of the park and more specifically the Campo Ma'an National Park Ecotourism Development and Management Plan for 2018-2027 to guide the successful development of responsible and sustainable tourism. It was also expressed as a priority by national stakeholders, park management and local communities. Recognizing the potential impacts of the global health situation around COVID-19 to tourism, and the importance of establishing the enabling conditions for tourism, the project's inception workshop will be used as an opportunity to review this strategy make any necessary modifications.

At present, CMNP does not generate sufficient revenue through user fees to share any economic benefits with IPLCs[1]; opportunities for other economic benefits such as employment from the protected area are also limited. The inclusive and coordinated development of a successful sustainable tourism value chain would increase the number of visitors to the area, improving benefits for local stakeholders through means such as employment to manage tourism products, employment in tourism facilities, income from supplying goods and the development of community-based tourism activities (e.g., cultural tourism, agritourism, natural tourism, arts and crafts) around attractions in the periphery of the park. Recognizing that the link between economic incentives and behavior change is often very complicated, especially in areas where livelihoods are often directly linked to natural resource use, the project will work with local communities to examine potential means of making these links more direct (e.g., through community agreements) as part of the product development process. The project is also committed to establishing participatory means of monitoring monetary and other benefits accrued by the communities through the development of this value chain and how economic or other incentives impact community behaviors, notably unsustainable practices associated with natural resources.

As part of this component, sustainable tourism products will be developed (or strengthened) within CMNP and with IPLCs in the Campo Council. These areas have been identified within the CMNP Ecotourism Development and Management Plan which relies on a 'package' of multiple tourism products to appeal to a diverse market of national and international tourists. It highlights this area as the main focus for tourism activities in the short to intermediate term in part because they encompass what are considered key potential tourism products: gorilla tracking and marine turtle viewing. The project will work directly with IPLCs, private sector partners (e.g., Jengi Tours), the Gorilla Habituation Program at CMNP and the local organization EBOTOUR in Ebodj' to ensure these products engage and empower IPLCs, reach the market and are managed in an equitable and sustainable manner, including through revenue benefit distribution mechanisms. The development of gorilla tracking will be carefully coordinated with efforts to maintain continuous health control and support long term zoonotic disease surveillance under Component 2.

Simultaneously, the capacity of stakeholders to promote a culture of tourism and collaboratively develop and manage ecotourism in and around CMNP will be strengthened, including by making operational a newly established PPP for ecotourism between MINFOF, MINTOUL and Jengi Tours. Establishing such a partnership with a professional tour operator is critical to optimize the potential for successful management of tourism operations and revenue generation. The project will also promote

vertical integration with national tourism initiatives, by establishing CMNP as a pilot case for ecotourism development and supporting improved cross-border coordination with the EG component of the transboundary landscape. Finally, the project will establish operational equitable benefit distribution mechanisms for ecotourism products in CMNP and Ebodj?. If this strategy is successful, ecotourism will be established in and around CMNP, delivering increased income to IPLCs and providing a tangible incentive to participate in sustainable forest and wildlife management. It will also serve as a deterrent to future decisions (land management in the vicinity of CMNP) that may negatively impact the conservation of CMNP.

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[1] From 2015 -2017 CMNP had 788 visitors, of which only 48% visited the Park for tourism purposes.

### **Project Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), knowledge management (KM), and regional coordination**

*Outcome 5.1. Project results monitored, and lessons learned inform adaptive management and outreach in support of SFM at national and regional levels*

Component 5 and its associated Outcome 5.1 will support strengthening regional coordination as well as ensuring the project is able to assess its impacts through monitoring and evaluation, and that lessons learned can be documented and shared through diverse knowledge management platforms to support the replication and scaling up of best practices and successful strategies within and across transboundary landscapes and at national and regional levels. Under this component, the project's Steering Committee (SC) and Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established and key strategic management documents (e.g., Monitoring & Evaluation Plan, Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Social and Environmental Management Plan) will be developed, implemented, monitored and updated, as relevant. The projects Communication and Knowledge Management Strategy will also be developed in collaboration with stakeholders, and series of multi-faceted communication materials and actions will be developed or undertaken. To further promote collaboration, eliminate knowledge gaps and secure the development of effective strategies, 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.

Among the areas anticipated to figure prominently in regional coordination efforts under Component 5 are the continued development or upholding of transboundary agreements and associated protocols. As part of its regional coordination efforts, the project will also promote the alignment of methodologies and tools (e.g., natural capital accounting), and the sharing of data and best practices (e.g., surveillance of zoonotic diseases, biomonitoring, law enforcement). Furthermore, the strategies developed and implemented under this component will be aligned with the framework for knowledge management established through the RCP to strengthen transboundary collaboration and coordination on efforts to maintain forest resources, protect biodiversity, enhance forest management, and restore forest ecosystems.

There have been some changes to the project framework since the PIF, which are summarized in the table below.

Topic	Main changes from PIF
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Core indicator targets

Targets from PIF:

Core Indicator 1 (terrestrial protected areas): 1,737,921 ha

Core Indicator 4 (area under improved practices): 4,788,555 ha

Core Indicator 6 (GHG mitigated): 11.5 t/ha/yr or 1.5 billion t CO<sub>2</sub>eq over 20-year period

Core Indicator 11 (beneficiaries): 8,500 male and 8,000 female

Revised targets in CEO ER:

Core Indicator 1 (terrestrial protected areas): 952,573 ha

Core Indicator 3 (area under restoration): 20 ha

Core Indicator 4 (area under improved practices): 3,076,113 ha

Core Indicator 6 (GHG mitigated): 3.3 t/ha/yr or 26.2 million t CO<sub>2</sub>eq over 20-year period

Core Indicator 11 (beneficiaries): 18,471 (8,866 women, 9,605 men)

The area targets have been adjusted to reflect the updated numbers based on the baseline assessments conducted. The total area of protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable development has been reduced to reflect more precisely the set of protected areas in which the project will intervene, including through the project's land use planning component which will encompass Nki National Park and the Ngoyla Faunal Reserve and through multiple project components CMNP and LNP. Additional protected areas within the TRIDOM landscape were removed as it was not within the scope of the project to intervene across all the protected areas in the project's three landscapes and to avoid overlap with other GEF projects. The area under improved practices has been reduced as the project will not intervene across the entirety of the project landscapes. The new figure is more realistic and reflects the councils within each landscape that have been identified as target areas of intervention. A small number of hectares under restoration has been added to indicate that the SFM component of the project will include community-based reforestation.

At the PIF stage, an assumption that the entire project area would contribute to GHG emissions mitigates, the core target on GHG emissions has been recalculated to better reflect the project's target areas of interventions and the impacts anticipated.

The beneficiary target has also been refined. It is composed of portions of populations from the councils of Campo, Somalomo, Lomie, Ngoyla, Mintom, Salapoumbe and Moloundou. Pending the availability of 4th RGPH (Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat), figures were projected using available 2010 population figures. It was assumed that all stakeholders in the Ngoyla and Mintom councils will benefit from land use planning. It was also assumed that a smaller proportion (10%) of the rural populations of these councils as well as the councils of Campo, Salapoumbe and Moloundou will benefit from value chain development. Finally, a limited number of beneficiaries in the councils of Lomie and Salalomo are anticipated to benefit from the development of the ebony value chain.

<p>Component wording and order</p>	<p>To better align with the structure of the regional child project and other national child projects of the Congo IP, the order of components 2 (originally focused on SFM) and 3 (originally focused on high conservation value forests) was reversed. Also, components have been slightly re-worded to better reflect the focus of project strategies.</p> <p>Previous component wording:</p> <p>Component 1. Mainstreaming integrated landscape planning and management  Component 2. Advancing Sustainable Forest Management  Component 3. Promoting sustainable wildlife management  Component 4. Improving benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development  Component 5. Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Regional Coordination</p> <p>New component wording:</p> <p>Component 1. Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management</p> <p>Component 2. Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their endangered species</p> <p>Component 3. Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains</p> <p>Component 4. Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development</p> <p>Component 5. Monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E), knowledge management (KM), and regional coordination.</p>
<p>Revised outcomes and outputs</p>	<p>Wording for all outcomes and outputs has been made clearer and more concrete, based on consultations with stakeholders.</p>

Component 1 on integrated land use planning

Previous outcomes 1.1 and 1.2 were incorporated into a new Outcome 1.1 with two identified outputs (see below). The overall focus of the component on participatory, informed, and integrated land use planning in the Ngoyla and Mintom councils remains unchanged, but has been refined to better reflect the processes and tools for land use planning established by MINEPAT. Assuring recognition of natural capital and undertaking a multi-stakeholder process that recognizes the tenure and access rights of IPLCs remain central to the new outcome, and capacity building was integrated into the two new outputs. Finally, the notion of agreements between the government, private sector operators and IPLCs to secure access to resources was moved to under Component 2, Outcome 2.2, where it will be directly linked to the development of strengthening the governance and management in the peripheries of CMNP and LNP.

Previous outcome/output wording:

Outcome 1.1. Improved inter-sectoral planning and application of tools (e.g., natural capital assessment, land use change and driver analyses) for integrated land-use planning.

Output 1.1.1. A natural capital mapping/ valuation and land use change and driver analysis carried out for the Mintom and Ngoyla council areas (1,000,000 ha)

Output 1.1.2. Integrated landscape plans developed for the Mintom and Ngoyla council areas, through a multi-stakeholder process, as part of the operationalization of the 2011 Framework Law on LUP.

Outcome 1.2. Enhanced capacity of local communities, indigenous population, CSOs and local governance entities to effectively engage in sustainable landscape management and NR-based value chains.

Output 1.2.1. Agreements (e.g., MoUs, certificates) signed between government, private sector operators and IPLCs<sup>[1]</sup> to secure IPLC tenure and access rights to identified spaces and resources.

Output 1.2.2. IPLCs, CSOs, private sector actors and local governance entities trained on basic roles, rights, tools and approaches related to integrated landscape planning.

New outcome/output wording:

Outcome 1.1. Participatory, informed, and integrated LUP establishes a framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management across approximately 1,200,000 ha of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape

Output 1.1.1. Mapping and accounting of ecosystem natural capital completed for the Ngoyla (816,087 ha) and Mintom (381,431) council areas.

Output 1.1.2. Integrated land use plans developed for the Ngoyla and Mintom council areas based on a multi-stakeholder process which builds the capacity of IPLCs, CSOs, private sector and governance entities to incorporate ecosystem natural capital accounting and recognize the tenure and access rights of IPLCs.

Component 2 on high value conservation forests and their species

The order of components 2 and 3 were switched to better align with RCP. The outcomes under this component were reworded to specify more precisely the protected areas on which the project will focus and more precisely reflect the anticipated outcomes of the project. For example, based on consultations with stakeholders the decision was made to focus on the periphery of protected areas as opposed to establishing new wildlife corridors, which to do responsibly was deemed beyond the scope of this project. In addition, given the current importance of this issue, an outcome related to long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems was added. Outputs under this component were refined based on baseline assessments, and consultations with stakeholders.

Previous outcome/output wording:

Outcome 3.1. Improved management effectiveness and sustainable use of wildlife resources through the adoption of PPP and community-based management models for wildlife management in and around protected areas

Output 3.1.1. At least two PPP agreements for PA Management in Campo Ma'an, Lobeke and Nki NP negotiated and defined

Output 3.1.2. Community-private sector-public sector co-management agreements established and operationalized to strengthen sustainable wildlife management in community hunting zones, with clear incentive and benefit-sharing systems to support local communities and IPs involvement in wildlife management

Output 3.1.3. Monitoring system established to support adaptive management of PAs and wildlife corridors

Outcome 3.2. Increased capacity and enabling conditions for IPLCs participation in wildlife crime management in targeted sites

Output 3.2.1. Law enforcement agents and IPLC groups provided training and small field equipment to undertake wildlife crime abatement operations with respect for human rights

Output 3.2.2. Grievance, Redress Mechanism (FGRM) set up in TRIDOM, TNS and Campo

Output 3.2.3. Wildlife corridors identified, mapped and the free and informed prior consent process documented with IPLCs on the management implications of identified corridors documented

Output 3.2.4. An inclusive (with IPLCs) surveillance system with clear guidelines and benefit sharing mechanisms for participatory management set up to secure the integrity of targeted wildlife corridors

New outcome/output wording:

Outcome 2.1. Management effectiveness of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks is improved through inclusive governance and management systems

Output 2.1.1. Studies, management tools, and regional coordination to strengthen adaptive management systems of CMNP and LNP

Output 2.1.2. Trainings, workshops/meetings, equipment, small supplies, and technical assistance to strengthen and/or establish inclusive governance and management systems for CMNP and LNP

Outcome 2.2. The effectiveness of forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks is strengthened through increased engagement and capacity, and the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders

Output 2.2.1 Meetings, communication, equipment, small supplies, field costs and technical assistance to strengthen engagement and coordination between local stakeholders, including IPLCs, on forest and wildlife management and monitoring

Outcome 2.3. The long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems in Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks and their peripheries are strengthened to minimize the risks of disease transmission between humans and wildlife and vice versa

Output 2.3.1 Zoonotic disease surveillance systems targeting diseases for great apes operational for CMNP and LNP

Component 3 on advancing sustainable forest management

The order of components 2 and 3 were switched to better align with RCP. Based on consultations with stakeholders and the baseline assessments conducted, the new Component 3 was refined to focus in particular on models for SFM that center on NTFPs and hardwood value chains. Reducing and refining the scope of this component was important to assure the project can realistically deliver results and that its strategies reflect solid theories of change.

In the PIF, this component was divided between two outcomes, one focused on a broad range of models for SFM and a second on increasing the capacity of IPLCs to engage in SFM. Two of the outputs under the original Outcome 2.1 have now been raised to the level of outcomes focused on specific types of SFM models: NTFP value chains and hardwood value chains. The notion of capacity building for IPLCs to engage in these models has been directly integrated into the two new outcomes.

The notion of developing national forest certification standards for government procurement rules and procedures was removed (originally Output 2.1.1) as it was deemed beyond the scope of this project to implement and monitor. The original output related to developing a feasibility assessment and business plan for FSC group certification of community forest initiatives (originally Output 2.1.3) was also removed as it has been well documented that the theory of change to establish more sustainable community forestry will require systematically addressing numerous barriers, such as complex legal procedures, recognition of rights, distribution of revenues, etc. Based on the results of the stakeholder consultation process, it was deemed a higher priority for this project to focus on the overall establishment of NTFP value chains. Under the new Outcome 3.1, the option to link these value chains to community forestry remains. Finally, a decision was made to concentrate the project's investment in models of community-private sector-public sector partnerships around the Ebony Project and to make this a separate. This project represents an important opportunity to dive deep into establishing successful PPPs that engage IPLCs and will serve as a means to examine how such models can be expanded to other hardwood species and how their lessons can be integrated into other sectors.

Previous outcome/output wording:

Outcome 2.1. Increased adoption and implementation of effective models for SFM resulting in benefits for both ecosystems and communities.

Output 2.1.1. National forest certification standards for government procurement rules and procedures developed and adoption process by relevant authorities facilitated.

Output 2.1.2. Assessment of opportunities and development of a plan for Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) enterprises (with priority on TRIDOM and TNS).

Output 2.1.3. Feasibility assessment and business plan for FSC group certification of community forest initiatives.

Output 2.1.4. Scalable models of community-private sector-public sector partnerships established and delivering tangible benefits, including restoration and income generation from community forests (e.g. linked to Ebony project with Taylor Guitars, cooperation with the Cocoa sector, or REDD+ related, or outputs 2.1.2. and 2.1.3).

? Outcome 2.2. Enhanced capacity of local communities and indigenous population to effectively engage in SFM.

? Output 2.2.1. Training and awareness raising program for local communities (IPs in particular) developed and rolled out regarding their role in SFM, including their access, use and benefit sharing rights.

? Output 2.2.2. Target IPLC groups (including women and youth groups) trained and provided with technical assistance to develop and negotiate mutually beneficial partnerships for sustainable forest-based livelihoods enhancing initiatives (e.g. timber, NTFP, fuelwood) including engagement in output 2.1.4.

New outcome/output wording:

Outcome 3.1. Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that

Component 4 on ecotourism development	The content of this component was not modified significantly from the PIF stage. There has been a refinement to the wording of outcomes and outputs, but the focus remains largely unchanged.
Component 5 on M&E, KM and regional coordination	The content of Component 5 remains focused on knowledge management, including aspects of M&E and regional coordination and is largely unchanged. It has been updated in alignment with the RCP and other child projects within the impact program.
Outcome indicators	Outcome indicators were also elaborated more in detail and reworded, where relevant.
Co-financing amounts	The total co-financing amount changed slightly from 76,624,125 at PIF stage to 74,329,704.

[1] IPLC ? Indigenous people and local communities, taken here in the broadest sense, but with focus on indigenous people, women and youth

**4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;** The Cameroon child project is aligned with the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program developed under the GEF 7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program (GEF 7 Programming Directions), and will contribute to the objectives of the SFM IP and biodiversity as described in the table below. The project will be implemented across large segments of transboundary landscapes that form part of the larger Congo Basin tropical humid forest ecosystem and fully recognizes and aims to protect the numerous benefits to biodiversity and climate change provided by this ecosystem, including vital ecosystem services and livelihoods to forest-dependent communities. By applying an integrated approach to address challenges to SFM and biodiversity conservation in these landscapes, where forests provide a range of goods and services, the project will directly contribute to the impact program's objective to incorporate environmental management principles in forest management through landscape approaches at different levels. To further support maintaining ecological integrity at the biome level and ensure strong regional cross-border coordination, the Cameroon child project's theory of change has been designed to align with the approach of the regional coordination project of the impact program. In addition, the regional and Cameroon projects have numerous complimentary strategies to progress forest management and protection, including in areas of LUP, maintenance of key habitat, zoonotic disease surveillance, and increasing the engagement of the private sector and IPLCs in key forest value chains. The Cameroon child project's fifth component will directly contribute to the regional objective to catalyze transformational change in SFM in transboundary landscapes by sharing and scaling best practices and innovations.

<b>GEF-7 priority</b>	<b>Project contribution</b>
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<b>GEF-7 priority</b>	<b>Project contribution</b>
BD-1-1. Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	Component 1 of the Cameroon child project will contribute to this GEF priority by undertaking informed, integrated, and inclusive land use planning that integrates systems thinking and natural capital accounting for the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom. Stakeholders will be mapped, their understanding in the land use planning process (which will follow the latest guidance from MINEPAT for the development of PLADDT) strengthened, and their participation facilitated to ensure the process is inclusive. Component 5 will also contribute through knowledge management and dissemination of lesson learned to enhance in other councils, regions, and at the national level in Cameroon. In addition, the experiences will be shared across the Congo Basin region in conjunction with Congo IP RCP.
SFM IP: Promoting effective coordination for sustainable forest management	The project will be implemented across large segments of transboundary landscapes that form part of the larger Congo Basin tropical humid forest ecosystem. It fully recognizes and aims to protect the numerous benefits to biodiversity and climate change provided by this ecosystem, including vital ecosystem services and livelihoods to forest-dependent communities. Key areas for collaboration with the Congo IP regional program have been integrated into the project design to promote the scaling up and out of its strategies and lessons learned.

In addition, the project will have a positive impact on the following GEF-7 priorities:

<b>GEF-7 priority</b>	<b>Project contribution</b>
BD-1-3. Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting.	Component 1 of the project will contribute to natural capital assessment and accounting by undertaking such exercises for a set of priority accounts in the Ngoyla and Mintom councils of TRIDOM. The results of these participatory exercises, which will be preceded by mapping of key stakeholders and decision-makers, will be incorporated into the planning and decision-making through a land use planning process for the same councils. These efforts are intended to facilitate dialogues between the public and private sector, and inform lessons learned that can be applied at regional and/or national levels, including on how such assessments can be mainstreamed and institutionalized.
BD-1-5. Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through inclusive conservation	All five components of the project will be targeted towards engaging and empowering IPLCs in the SFM and biodiversity conservation. Component 1 aims to ensure their participating and recognition of their rights in land use planning, and ensuring their considerations are integrated in natural capital assessments and accounting. Component 2 works to increase the involvement of IPLCs in the governance mechanisms for CMNP and LNP. In addition, it will strengthen governance and management systems in the peripheries to these protected areas, including through mutually beneficial agreements with forest resource managers and the private sector. Component 3 works with IPLCs to develop socially-responsible value chains for NTFP and ebony that result in their increased well-being, while also supporting sustainable natural resource management. Under Component 4, IPLCs are key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries of the development of a sustainable value chain for ecotourism. Finally, under Component 5, IPLCs will be main targets of the project's communications and knowledge management strategy to support the project's objective, and will be participants in exchange and learning opportunities.

GEF-7 priority	Project contribution
<p>BD-2-7. Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate</p>	<p>Component 2 of the project aims to increase the management effectiveness of CMNP and LNP, both globally significant protected areas that contribute to Aichi Target 11 for Cameroon, while simultaneously undertaking targeted actions to address direct drivers of wildlife loss. This component includes significant capacity building for CMNP and LNP, as well as other relevant organizations, to undertake responsible enforcement of environmental laws and will support cross border coordination on this issue. It also includes an output focused on strengthening the capacity of zoonotic disease surveillance. The management and financial planning for CMNP proposed will be fully aligned with existing financial mechanisms (i.e., FTNS, FEDEC). A key aspect of improving the governance of these areas will involve building the capacity of conservation services and IPLCs to collaborate on management issues in and around the protected areas, including through formal agreements such as the ASBABUK-MINFOF agreement for LNP. Component 4 will also work with the conservation services of CMNP, IPLCs, and the private sector to develop a sustainable value chain that delivers both positive benefits to IPLCs and supports biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p>CCM-2-7. Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts for sustainable forest management impact program</p>	<p>The ecosystem services mapping and accounting, and subsequent land use planning process, under Component 1 will contribute to halting the release of GHG emissions through avoided forest degradation and deforestation by increasing the area under improved management, including by increasing transparency on decision-making, promoting multi-sectoral planning that recognizes the values of forests and the rights of IPLCs, and reducing land use conflicts. Components 3 and 4 also aim to reduce pressures on forests and avoid deforestation by developing sustainable value chains that are linked to the sustainable management of forests. 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 protected areas, including those associated with forest degradation and deforestation. Finally, Component 5 will contribute through regional cooperation as well as knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts at the broader scale.</p>
<p>LD-1-2. Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)</p>	<p>Component 1 of the project will contribute through inclusion of natural capital accounting in LUP. The project will also invest through components 3 and 4 as part of efforts to develop or strengthen value chains that sustain the livelihoods of forest-dependent people and linking these value chains to SFM. Component 5 will contribute through knowledge management and dissemination to enhance these efforts at the broader scale.</p>

GEF-7 priority	Project contribution
LD-1-4. Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	Through integrated land use planning that is well integrated in national and regional LUP processes, the project will contribute to reducing competing pressures on natural resources in the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom. Lessons learned will be shared as part of Component 5.

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

IPLCs play an key role in forest and wildlife management and are one of the most important stewards of the Congo Basin. They manage the local resources but have been under-represented in governance systems and have view rights to the land. The project?s five compponents center around the inclusion and empowerment of IPLCs in sustainable forest management.

This project is additional as it represents a targeted means to promote SFM through a series of integrated approaches at the landscape scale. The project builds upon a strong national commitment to intersectoral LUP at different administrative levels, and the efforts made by MINEPAT and other ministries, as well as associated public sector programs to advance this objective. The project will foster the application of new and innovative tools to integrate natural capital considerations and the recognition of IPLCs rights into this process at the council level. Furthermore, the project will build on the baseline scenario on the management of protected areas and their peripheries, as well as efforts to address threats, and help drive transformational change by strengthening governance systems so that they are more inclusive and formally recognize resource-rights holders, as well as by investing in building capacity to address key gaps in management effectiveness. Furthermore, the project will also build on numerous efforts to develop forest-based value chains by providing more strategic support to assure these value chains are inclusive and sustainable, and testing models of PPPs, increasing IPLCs access to sustainable alternatives to unsustainable practices and livelihoods and increasing the engagement of the private sector.

**The incremental cost reasoning and the expected contributions** from the baseline, the GEF financing and co-financing for each component is further detailed in the table below.

Project component	Baseline scenario	With-project scenario
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Component 1:  
Mainstreaming  
integrated land  
use planning  
(LUP) and  
management

In 2014, the GoC initiated the process for the development of an integrated and cascading LUP framework, with a national land-use master plan (which provide perspectives for the development of a national land-use plan), regional land use plans, and local level council land use plans. Subsequently, the Government simultaneously launched the development of the national land-use master plan, and the regional land use plans in two pilot regions, i.e. the South and East regions. These plans are currently in the process of being finalized and validated. Simultaneously, the GoC has established a national program, i.e., MINEPAT-PADI-DJA to support local development and planning in areas of TRIDOM, and, in December 2019, Law 2019/024 was passed establishing a legal framework for the transfer of mandates from the State to the regions and councils, as part of the broader decentralization process, and establishing clarity on the relative mandates of different levels. In the baseline scenario, there will not be the capacity or financial resources to take a systematic LUP process down to the council level and ensure integrated, informed, and inclusive local LUP, or the means to ensure that the rights, needs and concerns of IPLCs are being systematically integrated into the cascading LUP framework being developed in Cameroon. Likewise, the capacity and financial means to promote the incorporation of ecosystem values and accounting into the LUP framework will also not exist in the baseline scenario.

GEF incremental funding will advance the integrated LUP approach to the local level in two councils of TRIDOM. These will be the first councils in Cameroon to develop PLADDT. The process will be implemented in accordance with guidelines established by MINEPAT, which aim to be multi-sectoral and inclusive of local stakeholders, and will be used to inform adaptive planning in the South and East regions. By supporting the participation of IPLCs in this process, the project will ensure these communities are able to meaningfully engage in the LUP framework of Cameroon, empower them in land use decisions, and strengthen the recognition of their rights.

Furthermore, the project will ensure that the planning process is well informed on aspects of ecosystem services mapping and accounting. This will provide an important opportunity to guarantee ecosystem values are taken into consideration in LUP for Ngoyla and Mintom, but also provide a transformative learning experience that can be used to inform how ecosystem services accounting can be integrated in LUP and management in other councils, at the regional, and even at the national level.

Component 2:  
Improving  
management  
effectiveness  
and  
governance of  
high  
conservation  
value forests,  
and targeted  
interventions to  
protect their  
endangered  
species

Multiple initiatives are currently supporting protected area management in CMNP and LNP, including through the FTNS and FEDEC trust funds and direct support from partners such as WWF and AWF. These initiatives also support activities in the peripheries of these parks. In addition, there have been multiple agreements set up to recognize the rights of IPLCs in protected areas and in different types of forest management units in their peripheries. Despite this support and existing frameworks for cooperation, the levels of management effectiveness in CMNP and LNP remain insufficient, and there is a need to strengthen management and governance systems.

Efforts to develop a more effective management model in LNP, i.e., a co-management model similar to those developed in the other segments of the landscape, remain in early stages. In CMNP the capacity to develop and implement mandated management tools is also inadequate. At both CMNP and LNP, there remains insufficient capacity to develop more inclusive governance systems, which include meaningful collaboration with IPLCs. In addition, despite a well-established transboundary agreement and associated protocols for the TNS, strengthening transboundary coordination remains key to addressing threats to biodiversity. Capacity to implement responsible law enforcement, by park authorities and other organizations also remains inadequate. While a GRM has been established in TNS, it has yet to become operational to the point that access to all IPLCs rights-holders is ensured and no such mechanism exists for CMNP.

At the same time, the capacity to develop, operationalize and monitor agreements concerning the management of resources in protected areas and within forest management units in peripheral zones (e.g., within community hunting zones that overlap with wildlife corridors) remains inadequate to ensure their effectiveness and equitable benefit-sharing. A GRM has been established in TNS, but has yet to become operational to the point that access to all IPLCs rights-holders is ensured and no such mechanism exists for CMNP.

In both LNP and CMNP, systems to

GEF incremental funding will be used to strengthen the management and governance systems of LNP and CMNP, and in consequence, strengthen the protection of these key biodiversity areas. It will provide critical means to evaluate strategically the standards, conditions, and accountability in key areas of management and support the establishment of tailored management and governance systems, including through the establishment of a co-management model for LNP and updated management and business planning for CMNP. It will also invest in ensuring the capacity of conservation services and IPLCs and their organizations to participate in mandated governance bodies, helping to reduce conflicts and establish more collaborative relationships between conservation services and IPLCs, as well as other stakeholders. It will also support increased cross-border coordination in the CMRC and TNS landscapes on issues pertaining to protected area management and biodiversity conservation.

The project will also serve a transformative role in the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders (including private sector actors) in the peripheries of these two parks, and in the operationalization of the GRM in TNS and the establishment of a GRM for CMNP. To promote ownership of actions and management responses that supports SFM and biodiversity conservation, the project will further address key gaps in results-based monitoring by developing participatory wildlife surveys, social impact and threats monitoring systems in peripheral zones.

Finally, the project will strengthen long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems to ensure the early detection of any potential diseases for both CMNP and, in coordination with the RCP, LNP.

<p>Component 3: Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains</p>	<p>Several initiatives have and/or are promoting the development of NTFP value chains in the forested areas of Cameroon. These initiatives have resulted in significant research on NTFP value chains, substantial experience, and an increase in the levels of capacity and organization of local producer groups. However, within the target landscapes these efforts do not currently cover all areas, nor are they consistently supported with the required technical capacity. In addition, they continue to face challenges to secure access to NTFPs and the means (e.g., financing, means of storage or transformation, agreements with off-takers) to develop, strengthen, and render profitable and sustainable these value chains among IPLCs. Likewise, the level of engagement of the private sector remains limited.</p> <p>The Ebony Project has been established and supported via the PPP between MINEPAT and Taylor Guitars to protect a valuable timber species, reforest degraded land, and improve rural livelihoods. It has successfully established partnerships in 4 IPLCs localities and undertook a feasibility study in 2019 on its expansion. In the baseline scenario, support for the refinement of the approach, the expansion of the model to benefit more IPLCs, and the scaling of the private-public model to develop sustainable hardwood value chains would remain limited.</p>	<p>Incremental funding from the GEF will be used to build on the knowledge and capacity base that has been established to develop and strengthen strategically important NTFP value chains upon which IPLCs in the project's target landscapes rely for their well-being. As part of these efforts engagement with the private sector will be increased, agreements to secure access rights will be developed or strengthened, and questions of sustainability will be addressed. As a result, the number of IPLCs, including women and youth, that have access to a sustainable alternative to unsustainable practices will increase.</p> <p>With support from the GEF, the Ebony Project model will expand its engagement to new IPLCs communities. It will also further test and refine its approach, including through improved systems for expansion (e.g., logistics, sourcing), integrating gender considerations, developing participatory systems to assess social impacts, and continuing scientifically rigorous studies to evaluate the applicability of the approach from ecological perspective. This expansion is vital to assess the applicability of the model and presents a significant opportunity to examine how the private sector can engage in a socially-responsible way to develop small-scale hardwood value chains. It will also help to determine how the model could potentially be expanded to other value chains (e.g., cacao, coffee). The lessons learned will be used to inform recommendations on scaling out, including as regards the engagement of other private sector actors.</p>
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<p>Component 4: Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development</p>	<p>Ongoing baseline initiatives are supporting the development of tourism products in and around CMNP, including with support from FEDEC, KfW and CUSO. These efforts build on previous initiatives that have worked to establish tourism products and infrastructure, and develop local capacity to manage tourism products and establish benefit-sharing mechanisms (e.g., in Ebodj?). However, critical gaps remain to successfully establish a sustainable tourism value chain. Many previous efforts have not been successful due in large part to the lack of a strategic approach to tourism development, the weak engagement of the private sector, and inadequate accompanying support to IPLCs in managing tourism. To address some of these issues, an ecotourism development strategy has been elaborated for CMNP with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. In addition, a PPP for ecotourism has been negotiated between MINTOUL, MINFOF, and Jengi Tours.</p> <p>A significant baseline for the development of a key tourism product, i.e., gorilla tracking, has also been established through the WWF's Gorilla Habituation Program. This program is being implemented through the application of best practices for maintaining the health and safety of the gorillas, trackers, and the broader surrounding communities.</p>	<p>With GEF support, platforms to establish an ecotourism value chain will be animated and the key tourism product envisioned for CMNP, i.e., gorilla tracking, will be established and open to visitors. The project will work with stakeholders to adapt tourism development strategies based on the impacts of COVID-19 and the continued application of best practices. Simultaneously the capacity of the conservation services of CMNP to manage tourism in a collaborative fashion with other stakeholders will be established. Furthermore, through the PPP, the private sector will be directly engaged to establish and manage key tourism infrastructure professionally, a critical transformative means of developing the value chain in the near term.</p> <p>The project will also work with IPLCs to develop and strengthen tourism products in the periphery of CMNP, including associated benefit-sharing mechanisms, which will establish the range of tourism products deemed necessary to establish a successful visitor experience and the requisite number of visitor days.</p> <p>As a result of this component, the number of IPLCs directly benefiting from tourism will be increased, providing an important alternative to unsustainable practices ? especially for IPLCs who are forest-dependent. The experiences will also be used to inform national efforts to establish eco-tourism as part of the national tourism development strategy.</p>
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<p>Component 5: Monitoring and evaluation (M&amp;E), knowledge management (KM), and regional coordination</p>	<p>Significant initiatives and platforms exist to encourage regional cooperation and share knowledge at the level of the Congo Basin (see regional bodies in Stakeholder Engagement Plan); however, in the baseline there will remain a need for more strategic knowledge exchange and improved transboundary coordination and collaboration to progress SFM and biodiversity conservation in priority transboundary landscapes and at a scale that can deliver transformational results.</p>	<p>GEF incremental funding will support the effective coordination of the project activities with ongoing initiatives in Cameroon, across transboundary landscapes, and across the Congo Basin region. It will also directly strengthen regional cooperation in key aspects of SFM and biodiversity conservation. As part of the project's M&amp;E approach, the project will generate knowledge in key areas of SFM and biodiversity conservation. It will also directly contribute to building awareness and exchanging knowledge on SFM and biodiversity conservation at the landscape, national, regional, and global levels through the implementation of its communications and knowledge strategy, and in coordination with the Congo IP RCP.</p>
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**6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);**

The Cameroon child project will contribute to conserving the second-largest contiguous block of dense tropical rainforest in the world as well as its biological processes, which plays a major role in the Earth's climate dynamics. It will also contribute to the conservation of its biodiversity, and intact assemblages of its endangered large forest mammals, such as forest elephant, western lowland gorilla, and chimpanzee. Furthermore, the project will contribute to maintaining the ecological functioning of this natural system, and the goods and services, such as the provision of wood, freshwater, foods, and medicines, which are of importance to people, notably forest-dwelling populations, and national economies. Strengthening management and governance systems within and outside of protected areas is key to assuring these benefits.

In terms of wildlife, the project will tackle direct threats to wildlife by building the understanding and engagement of key stakeholders, the establishment of transparent agreements between key stakeholders on use rights, strengthening capacity for best practices in law enforcement, and/or establishing systems of zoonotic disease surveillance.

In addition, management that benefits biodiversity will be strengthened in the areas of Ngoyla and Mintom through increased knowledge and the mainstreaming of natural capital considerations in land use planning and decision making, thus reducing competing pressures on natural resources. The project assumes that land use plans will be developed and implemented taking into consideration national objectives/targets as concerns conservation of biodiversity and lead to measurable and sustainable improvements in practices.

Furthermore, in the CMRC and TNS landscapes, it is assumed that the development of sustainable value chains that are linked to the sustainable management of forests will reduce pressures on forests and avoid deforestation. It is also assumed that the engagement of stakeholders in value chains which are linked to forest management units outside of protected areas will increase socio-economic benefits for rightsholders and incentivize and result in improved practices. Finally, the project will strengthen governance and management systems in areas outside of protected areas, including through mutually beneficial agreements with forest resource managers and the private sector.

As such, the project will generate multiple environmental benefits and socio-economic co-benefits and will contribute to GEF-7 Core Indicators as described in the table below. Many of these targets have been refined during the project development process to better reflect the anticipated results and impacts of the project. The project will also contribute to numerous Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Aichi Targets, as detailed with its Results Framework.

<b>GEF-7 Core Indicator</b>	<b>Cameroon child project's contribution</b>
<b>GEF Core Indicator 1. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use</b>	The project is anticipated to contribute 952,573 ha to this indicator as detailed under Indicator 1.2.
Indicator 1.2. Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness as measured by METT score	Through the natural capital accounting and land use planning process, Component 1 is anticipated to address certain threats to protected areas that overlap the Ngoyla and Mintom councils and result in increased management effectiveness. Component 2 aims to improve the management effectiveness of CMNP and LNP directly by strengthening their governance systems and addressing key capacity needs. CMNP: 261,598 ha, METT score will be updated at the start of the Project to provide relevant baseline data. LNP: 218,398 ha, METT: 66 Nki National Park: 315,855 ha, METT score will be updated at the start of the Project to provide relevant baseline data Ngoyla Faunal Reserve: 156,722 ha, METT score will be updated at the start of the Project to provide relevant baseline data
<b>GEF Core Indicator 4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)</b>	The project is anticipated to contribute 3,076,113 ha to this indicator as detailed under indicator 4.1 and 4.3.
Indicator 4.1. Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity	The area under improved practices is anticipated to total 3,076,093. The figure reflects the councils within each of the project's three target landscapes that have been identified as areas of intervention under Components 1, 2, 3, and 4. Target councils (excluding protected areas) in Cameroon segment of CMRC landscape: 507,848 ha Target councils (excluding protected areas) in Cameroon segment of TRIDOM landscape: 1,296,091 ha Target councils (excluding protected areas) in Cameroon segment of TNS: 1,272,15 ha
Indicator 4.3. Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	The project under Outcome 3.2 is expected to contribute 20 ha to this indicator as part of efforts to develop a sustainable ebony value chain through the application of an agroforestry approach.

<b>GEF Core Indicator 6.1 Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (see EX-ACT calculations)</b>	Total emissions reduction expected to be generated are approximately 3.3 t/ha/yr 26.2 million t CO <sub>2</sub> eq over 20-year period
<b>GEF Core Indicator 11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</b>	The project is anticipated to benefit 18,471 (8,866 women, 9,605 men) individuals. The beneficiary target is composed of portions of populations from the councils of Campo, Somalomo, Lomie, Ngoyla, Mintom, Salapoumbe and Moloundou. Pending the availability of 4th General Census of Population and Housing ( <i>Recensement G�n�ral de la Population et de l'Habitat - RGPH</i> ), figures were projected using available 2010 population figures. It was assumed that all stakeholders in the Ngoyla and Mintom councils will benefit from land use planning. It was also assumed that a smaller proportion (10%) of the rural populations of these councils as well as the councils of Campo, Salapoumbe and Moloundou will benefit from value chain development.

## 7) Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for Scaling Up

### *Innovation*

The project will apply an integrated approach to tackle the barriers to establishing SFM in Cameroon, notably through the engagement and empowerment of IPLCs. A major innovation of the project will be the LUP process at the council level. The project will build on the LUP processes at the national and regional levels, and ensure that the cascading framework for LUP is taken down to the council levels. This will provide an important opportunity for IPLCs to directly participate in decision-making bodies in the LUP process, and serve as an important means to progress the recognition of their villages and rights, especially in areas for which decentralized services have been granted legal authority. The project will also work to integrate ecosystem services mapping and accounting into the LUP process in Cameroon for the first time.

Additionally, the project will support multiple, innovative public-private sector models to develop sustainable value chains that increase the livelihoods and resiliency of IPLCs. These models of partnership, both for ebony and ecotourism, offer unique opportunities to serve as learning experiences in how different stakeholder groups can collaborate in a mutually-beneficially manner. Assessments of these models will provide important lessons on the engagement of the private sector in developing sustainable value chains and the types of public-private models that may be most applicable to other value chains.

The operationalization and participatory monitoring of agreements that recognize the rights of IPLCs, the strengthening of the GRM for LNP, and targeted support to increase the involvement of IPLCs in the management of protected areas and their peripheries will also provide a key opportunity to examine how governance and management systems can be strengthened through the engagement and empowerment of IPLCs, including women and youth.

### *Sustainability*

The project builds on long standing foundations and structures for SFM and biodiversity conservation in the Cameroon segments of three recognized transboundary landscapes and will largely work with these structures to participatorily develop and apply innovative means to engage and empower IPLCs in SFM. For example, the LUP process is fully integrated into the national framework for LUP. It is anticipated that the state will continue to apply this framework and that this project will serve as a first step towards planning at the local level. The strengthening of governance systems for protected areas and their peripheries also builds on policies and institutional structures (e.g., mandated governance bodies) which are in place for the management of the project's targeted protected areas and other forest

management units. The project is also designed to contribute to the commitments by the GoC as regards forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change, furthermore, to improve the enabling conditions to achieve these commitments. This high level political backing and the will of participating ministries to support the project's objectives will be important factors in sustaining the longevity of the project's outputs and scaling out lessons learned.

It is anticipated that stakeholders will be motivated to engage on the development of value chains, as this was identified as a priority at all levels in the consultation process. The project will work with stakeholders to design and develop market driven approaches that IPLCs will adopt and that will last beyond the lifespan of the project, including the development or strengthening of NTFP value chains, the expansion of socially-responsible hardwood value chains, and the establishment of a sustainable tourism value chain. The question of sustainability for these value chains (including ecological, economic, and social sustainability) will be directly examined in the refinement of approaches under components 2 and 4. For example, in the selection of NTFPs products, particular attention will be paid to ensuring the longevity of product sourcing and relevant control measures, and market considerations. The project will also strengthen the sustainability of community enterprises by investing in building the capacity of rights-holders and their associations to establish more sustainable business models. Notably, the project will engage IPLCs and their associations to identify and implement relevant and socially sustainable NTFP collection, processing, and transformation technologies, building on traditional knowledge and the substantial existing evidence of successful on-the-ground approaches and methodologies. At the same time, the project will work to raise the awareness and increase the engagement of the private sector to develop partnerships with IPLCs, support the application of sustainable practices, and stimulate the scaling up and out of best practices in all value chains.

Investing in the capacity of IPLCs and their associated organizations to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships with private sector actors and facilitating the establishment of agreements between said parties will provide another mechanism to encourage sustainability. Finally, the project will actively participate in and support knowledge management through national, regional, and global platforms. Many of these platforms are well established with a lifespan far beyond the duration of the project and will be used for scaling out and up.

#### *Potential for scaling up*

The Congo Basin and the countries of Central Africa will continue to need to find solutions to forest degradation, biodiversity loss, adaptation to climate change, poverty, food security and increasing pressures on land and natural resources. As such, it is crucial to find solutions that can be replicated and taken to scale to support more lasting and sustainable management of forested areas and development. Through the implementation of its integrated approach, the project and its stakeholders will gain insights into the types of tools and interventions that work at local and landscape scales and could be suitable for further scaling up (taking into consideration local needs and conditions).

The project will work to establish key enabling conditions for widespread replication by strengthening governance and management frameworks, including through the development of integrated land use plans that respect the rights of stakeholders and recognize the values of natural capital under Component 1, strengthening the governance and management capacity of protected areas and their peripheries under Component 2, and establishing sustainable value chains under components 3 and 4. The fact that the project will be implemented in three different landscape segments and will bring together actors from many different stakeholder groups under each of its strategies will provide a critical learning opportunity and favor the mainstreaming, replication and scaling up of experiences on SFM practices. Additionally, under the project's various components, participatory M&E systems and/or strategic documents to inform lessons learned and recommendations and conditions for scaling up and out have been proposed.

Finally, through the implementation of the project's communication and knowledge management strategy, the lessons learned from the project will be shared within and across landscapes, as well as at national and regional levels with a view to replication within Cameroon and in the broader transboundary Congo Basin region. This work will be undertaken in close coordination with the

regional Congo IP child project and will take advantage of the platforms proposed in that project for knowledge management at the regional scale. As a result, the project will contribute to enabling better regional and global coordination on SFM.

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

A map of the project intervention area and its targeted landscapes is presented below. Individual maps of the three targeted Cameroon landscape segments can be found in Annex E.

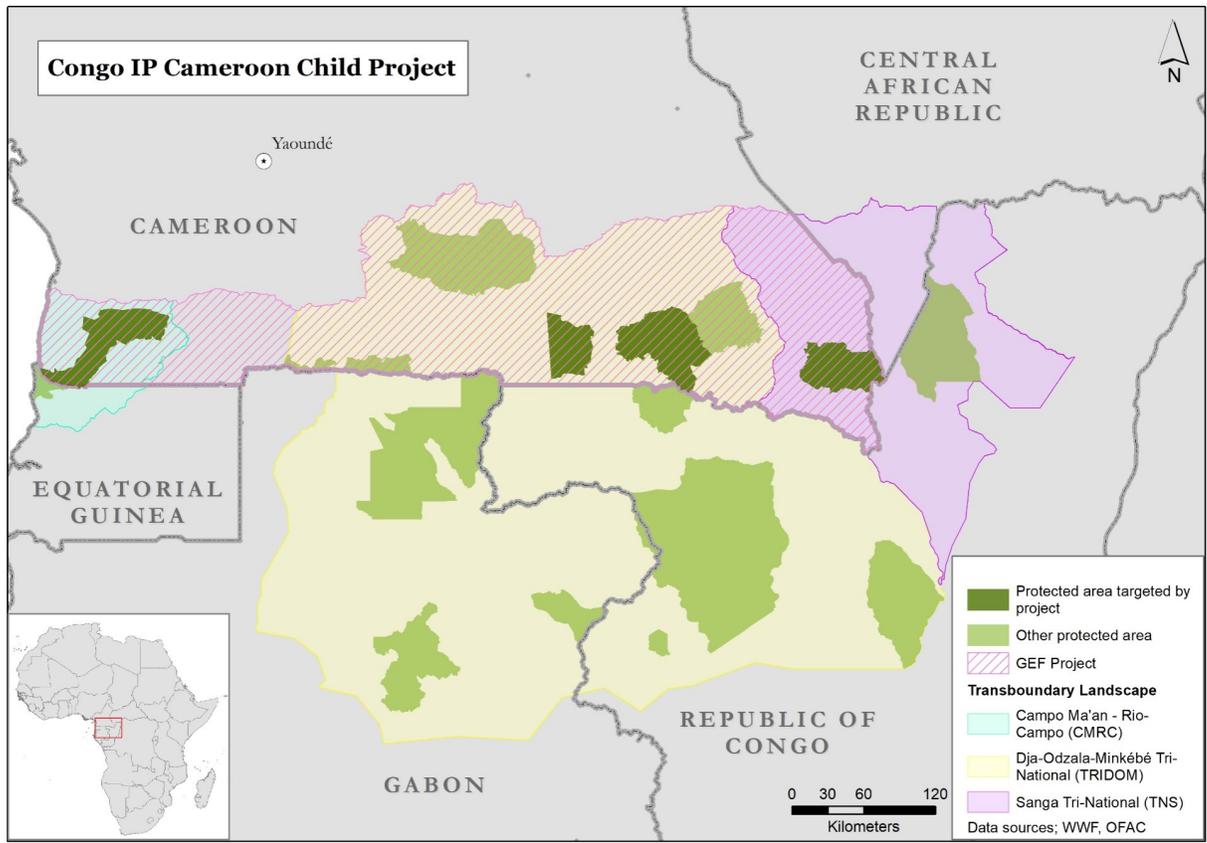
The following provides the central geocoordinates for each area:

GEF Project Area: 13°17'26.4922"E 2°36'30.6554"N

Cameroon segment of CMRC landscape: 10°19'47.6333"E 2°30'30.5588"N

Cameroon segment of TRIDOM landscape: 13°44'26.9269"E 2°39'30.7037"N

Cameroon segment of TNS landscape: 15°41'28.8103"E 2°40'42.723"N



### 1c. Child Project?

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

The Cameroon child project will directly contribute to the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program and its aims to produce significant global environmental benefits and national socio-economic benefits. It is fully aligned with the impact program's framework and objective to catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest-dependent people, and through partnership with the private sector. A detailed analysis of the alignment of the Cameroon child project and the Congo IP Program Framework Document is presented in Appendix 13 of the ProDoc. Across all of its strategies, the Cameroon child project will contribute to the objectives of the impact program to empower IPLCs, and has been designed in consultation with IPLCs to address key barriers to their active participation. It will also work to catalyze more effective collaboration with the private sector in the sector of SFM, including through the development of sustainable value chains and by testing models of PPP. The complimentary outcomes of the impact program and the Cameroon child project on integrated LUP that takes into consideration natural capital accounting will provide additional opportunities for coordination and collaboration, as well as provide important learning opportunities around methodologies and means to mainstream natural capital accounting in land use decisions, establish inclusive and intersectoral processes, and formally increase the recognition of IPLCs rights. The interventions of the Cameroon project will also directly contribute to conserving habitat and addressing threats to populations of endangered species. The Cameroon project will work simultaneously to protect key habitat on the ground in Cameroon and participate in the efforts of the

collective impact program to support a coordinated approach across the Congo Basin to build capacity to address wildlife crime and zoonotic diseases. Finally, the Cameroon child project will work directly with the RCP and with the other national child projects to coordinate on the ground actions in shared transboundary landscapes as well as to promote the scaling out and up of results through regional collaboration and knowledge exchange.

## **2. Stakeholders**

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

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

This project is a multi-sector child project under the Congo IP, which will be implemented in the Cameroon segment of three transboundary landscapes. Achieving the objective of this project necessitates close collaboration with a wide a range of stakeholders involved with the integrated management of Cameroon's forests at the local, national, and regional levels. These include government ministries and other public administrations; civil society, including IPLCs; technical organizations and partners, the private sector; academic and research institutions; and other interested parties.

The strategy for stakeholder engagement during project implementation is detailed in the project's preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The plan is intended to be updated at the start of project implementation to take into consideration any changes in the overall context of the project, and will be implemented in an adaptive manner in accordance with official guidance as regards social distancing and based on communication and engagement needs. The PMU will be responsible for ensuring the implementation of the plan, and that the timetable for engagement means is aligned with the project work plan and M&E process. It will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement through the Semi-annual Project Progress Reports (PPR). In year one, a Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy will be developed to, among other things, support stakeholder engagement. As part of this strategy, communication methods and materials will be developed taking into consideration target audiences and languages. Costs associated with stakeholder engagement have been allocated in the project budget as shown in Appendix 9.

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

The table below summarizes the engagement approach for the main groups of stakeholders who will play a key role in project implementation.

Stakeholder group	Primary methods for consultation and engagement	Means	Responsibles
1. National and local state actors	National and local government stakeholders were consulted through the project development process to ensure its alignment with national and local policies and priorities. They will be reconvened at project inception to review the project design. At the national level key actors in this groups will be members of the PSC and Technical Working Group. At the regional and local level, they will also be key partners in project implementation and beneficiaries of project actions. At all levels they will be key targets of project communications and KM projects to promote replication and scaling up of lessons learned. Key activities for consultation and engagement have been included in all 5 of the project's components.	Inception workshop Annual PSC meetings PPRs and PIRs Workplans and budgets Project Reviews Strategic documents Technical reports Communication and knowledge management products Knowledge management platform Congo IP online Community of Practice Consultations, trainings, and workshops Email, phone, and face-to-face meetings	PND, PMU, executing partners
2. Civil society ? IPLCs and their organizations	As detailed in Stakeholder Engagement Plan in Appendix 6, IPLCs were consulted directly and through representative organizations during project design, and will be key stakeholders under each of its 5 components. Representatives of this key group will be members of the PSC and Technical Working Group. Additional consultations will be undertaken at the start of the project and throughout its implementation to refine project strategies in collaboration with these key rights-holders. As such, consultations with communities and participatory approaches have been explicitly incorporated into all relevant activities of the work plan. Participatory monitoring systems have also been included in the project design to promote collective assessments of project impacts and build ownership of its actions.	Inception workshop Annual PSC meetings PPRs and PIRs Workplans and budgets Project Reviews Strategic documents Technical reports Communication and knowledge management products Face-to-face consultations Focus groups Trainings and workshops Small grants mechanisms Exchange visits Facilitation of agreements	PMU, executing partners

Stakeholder group	Primary methods for consultation and engagement	Means	Responsibles
3. Regional and international organizations, development partners	Regional and international organizations have been consulted during the project design phase and will continue to be kept informed of the project activities. In addition, knowledge management products under all of the project strategies will be shared as relevant at the regional and international level. Direct engagement at the regional level will be closely coordinated with the Congo IP RCP.	Transboundary consultative platforms Bilateral and regional events to exchange knowledge Knowledge management platform Congo IP online Community of Practice Communication and knowledge management products Technical reports/project pamphlets Email, phone, and face-to-face meetings (as relevant)	PMU, executing partners, Congo IP RCP
4. Private sector	Private sector stakeholders that have been consulted during the project design phase include project co-financers Taylor Guitars and Jengi Tours (who will be represented in PSC), as well as other private sector operators working in the project landscapes. Private sector actors will be key stakeholders in the development of sustainable value chains under Components 2 and 4. They are also important actors in land use planning and developing mutually-beneficial agreements in the periphery of protected areas that recognize the rights of IPLCs.	Inception workshop Annual PSC meetings PPRs and PIRs Workplans and budgets Project Reviews Strategic documents Technical reports/project pamphlets Communication and knowledge management products Consultations Email, phone, and face-to-face meetings	PMU, executing partners
5. National /international research institutions	Members of this group were consulted during project design and will be engaged as relevant to source relevant expertise, ensure that the project is building on best available knowledge, and applying best practices. They will be contacted during key strategic process to inform technical aspects of the project.	Punctual email, phone, and face-to-face meetings Participation in project design and consultation processes Technical reports/project pamphlets Communication and knowledge management products Knowledge management platform Congo IP online Community of Practice	PMU, executing partners

*Target group - IPLCs*

This project aims to engage and empower IPLCs rights-holders, including women and youth. As such, the project will work with IPLCs and their representatives to ensure that their views and participation are facilitated and promote dialogues that are ongoing and open, and gender and inter-generationally inclusive whenever possible. To facilitate these target stakeholder groups to mobilize, the project will

build relationships and work with representative organizations and traditional leaders. Based on local preferences, effective channels for communicating will be applied. In collaboration with representative organizations and traditional leaders, the project will pro-actively work to identify target IPLCs and women's associations to include in project actions. Expertise in gender and social development has been integrated into the PMU to this effect.

The project's Gender and Social Development Specialist will work with IPLCs, MINAS and other partners to ensure gender and social development considerations are integrated across project strategies, including by requiring gender/indigenous people specific analyses and/or gender/indigenous people specialists in ToR issued by the project to further refine strategic approaches. In addition, the project's communications and knowledge management strategy will design communications, awareness raising, and knowledge management campaigns considering different demographics, and apply methods/materials specifically designed to target different IPLCs groups (i.e., women, men, youth, cross-cultural). This strategy will be used simultaneously to ensure that the needs, perspectives, and concerns of these groups as regards diverse aspects of SFM and biodiversity conservation are better understood and brought forth to the greater public. To further promote meaningful participation, the project will work with IPLCs to identify barriers to their engagement in project actions and try to address these directly, including by ensuring their knowledge is considered in strategic planning, they have equal access and opportunities, training or skills development strategies are inclusive and gender-sensitive, and benefit-sharing mechanisms are equitable. Finally, as was done during the consultation process for project preparation, separate meetings and sessions with these target groups will be employed as deemed effective to ensure they remain informed and are able to participate meaningfully in the project.

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

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier; Yes**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain) Yes**

Civil society will play a key role in the project. The role and responsibilities of the CSOs includes:

- ? Participation in LUP processes to promote inclusion;
- ? Implementation of value chain activities;
- ? Capacity building, both as potential beneficiaries of technical trainings and as providers of training to IPLCs and their organizations;
- ? Public awareness, community engagement and social inclusion;
- ? Social mobilization;

- ? Participants in strategic thinking and multi-stakeholder consultation processes (land use planning, value chains development, communication and knowledge management), drawing on their in-depth knowledge of IPLCs;
- ? Encourage inclusive consultation processes that are gender sensitive/responsive and the implementation of appropriate interventions that meet local needs; and
- ? Ensure continuity of work on the project, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity.

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

#### **Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment.**

Like many countries in Africa, Cameroon sustains a dual structure of statutory and customary laws that promote or constrain gender equality to different degrees. Despite a strong legislative framework that promotes gender equity, customary laws are upheld and reinforced by social norms and traditional values. This is especially true in rural areas where statutory regulations are not always followed. This project emphasizes gender inclusive engagement in all aspects of project development and implementation, including by ensuring gender sensitive consultation, planning and implementation of project interventions at all levels. To support these efforts a Gender Analysis and Action Plan has been developed and is included in Appendix 8 of the ProDoc.

The gender analysis for this project demonstrates the critical role women play in the management of forest resources and biodiversity, and how they can be heavily impacted by the degradation of ecosystems. As such, understanding women's roles as well as the gender dynamics that shape sustainable forest management, food security and livelihoods is a necessity for ensuring sound outcomes.

Cameroon has proposed or adopted numerous agreements, laws, policies, and procedures that promote gender equality at the international, national, and local level. Unfortunately, the existing legal framework in Cameroon does not guarantee that respecting the equal rights of women and men is the norm, and more vulnerable women, including IPLCs, remain at a high risk of marginalization. The underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies, disparities in their access to services, disproportionate workloads, and prevailing male privilege in rural communities all contribute to continuing discriminatory practices. In the context of this project, policies and customary practices that restrict or abrogate women's rights (including as regards access and ownership of land) need be considered in activities such as land use planning and benefit sharing or there will be an incomplete understanding and potentially a reinforcement of inequality. This analysis also shows that NTFPs transformation and trade are key economic activities for women as well as important contributors to

food security and livelihoods. However, women do not necessarily control the assets (which are vested in men, customary and state authorities) or have access to the productive and financial resources to develop these value chains. Sound NTFPs management, linked to secure access and ownership, is central to forest management. The analysis also shows that climate change impacts and policies may affect men and women differently. Finally, the analysis found that there are considerable opportunities to engage with women's groups and networks (at local, national and international levels) to promote gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in the forest sector.

The gender analysis as described in detail in Annex 8 of the ProDoc was used to develop specific recommendations that informed the design of the project. These recommendations include the following:

- ? Include support for targeted capacity to address gender consideration in the PMU.
- ? Ensure that stakeholder consultations are gender-responsive through the life of the project and track participation.
- ? Integrate awareness-raising on gender, age, and ethnic related concerns (including their rights) through project supported activities, events, and communications.
- ? Take into consideration gender, age and ethnic related barriers to representation and participation of women, youth and IPLCs, and ensure they can meaningfully take part in processes to develop project strategies and in any decision-making bodies.
- ? Take into consideration gender, age and ethnic related barriers concerning access to and control over land and natural resources and promote the equitable and formal recognition of these rights through formal land use planning processes and other types of relevant mechanisms (such as formal agreements on use rights in protected areas or other forest management units).
- ? Ensure capacity assessments and subsequent capacity building initiatives are inclusive and gender sensitive and measure sex-disaggregated benefits.
- ? Support improved communication and collaboration between protected area conservation services and local communities and ensure that capacity building for conservation services includes trainings on gender sensitive community outreach and human rights.
- ? Support the design of community-based, sustainable livelihoods opportunities that reflect and build on men's and women's knowledge systems and are relevant to women and indigenous peoples.
- ? As part of strategies to develop sustainable value chains, develop specific interventions to support economic empowerment and entrepreneurship of women, including indigenous women.

? Ensure women and IPLCs have a say in how benefits are shared and promote equitable benefit-sharing.

? Ensure monitoring of benefits and impacts is designed to take into consideration gender, age, and different ethnic groups.

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

Yes

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

**Improving women's participation and decision making Yes**

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes**

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

Yes

**4. Private sector engagement**

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

Strengthening the engagement of the private sector in SFM is a central aspect of the project design. These stakeholders have an important role to play in multiple aspects of the project's main strategies, and are key to integrating market considerations when trying to mainstream SFM. Their involvement in LUP processes is critical to assure cross-sectoral considerations, and they will be a target audience to build understanding on natural capital and promote its application in decision-making. They are also key actors when it comes to management of forests in the periphery of protected areas, and will be engaged through awareness arising on key aspects of SFM and the development, implementation, and monitoring of transparent agreements with IPLCs to recognize resource and access rights.

The private sector will also play a key role in the development of forest-based value chains. They will be invited as actors to participate in strategic thinking on how to identify and strengthen NTFP value chains and create the necessary incentives for sustainable practices, i.e., through opportunities to develop sustainable business models that have the potential to deliver mutual gains to the private sector and IPLCs and their enterprises. Dialogues will be established with the private sector through direct communication and consultation, as well as through meetings and workshops, as part of the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan. To further support the establishment of mechanisms that will lead to real and lasting results, the project will also invest in the capacity of IPLCs and their organizations to enter into successful partnerships with private sector actors and facilitate the development of agreements between said parties, including in the context of securing financial resources (microfinance).

Furthermore, the project will work to support and test models of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) as a means to further engage this sector in SFM. In particular, the project will work with project co-financier Taylor Guitars to expand the PPP established to develop a sustainable value chain for ebony that delivers social, economic, and environmental benefits and explore how this model may be replicated. The project will also build on the PPP established for ecotourism in and around CMNP to explore how this value chain may be developed in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

As part of the PGG process, a risk analysis was conducted based on consultations with stakeholders and site visits. The following table presents an overview of risks that were identified as having the potential to impact the ability of the project to achieve its objective. Each risk has been rated as high, moderate, or low based on (1) its probability of occurrence and (2) its potential impact on the success of the project. The risk level describes the residual risks considering that mitigation measures that have been integrated into the project design are adequately implemented. The identified risks and associated mitigation measures will be continuously monitored by the PMU and updated throughout the project and will be reported on in the PPRs and PIRs. Given the importance of current risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, a separate analysis of risks and opportunities related to this global health crisis has also been included.

Description of risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
The stability of the political, and economic and security situation in Cameroon deteriorates, redirecting attention and resources of the GoC and other stakeholders, and creating challenges for project implementation.	Low	High	The overall political and security situation in Cameroon has been unstable at times, but this has largely been outside of the project's geographic scope. This project has limited means to affect these risks and disruptions; however, project implementation will be adapted if at any time the responsible organization of project activities becomes impossible or if the security of the project partners or beneficiaries cannot be guaranteed. The situation will be continuously monitored, and the project will be managed adaptively to take the political and security situation and any impacts they have in terms of project operations, funding, stakeholder involvement and partnerships into consideration. The inception workshop as well as quarterly and annual review and planning meetings will be key instruments to adapt to this risk as necessary.
Project's complexity and large number of stakeholders make it difficult to implement effectively.	Moderate	Moderate	The project's integrated approach will require engagement with a large number of stakeholders across three landscapes and at regional, national, and international levels. In the first year the project will work to establish a strong management unit and build relationships with key stakeholder and their representatives to facilitate coordination of project implementation.

Description of risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
Poor governance and corruption affect the potential for the project to be implemented effectively.	Low	Moderate	Project activities will be implemented at multiple levels and through numerous partners, making it impossible to avoid all risks associated with corruption, weak governance, and the lack of adequate accountability mechanisms. The project will implement its own internal control mechanisms to address any direct risks that are identified. Simultaneously, the project strategies aim to strengthen open and transparent dialogues, and increase the recognition of rights, helping to fight issues of poor governance and corruption.
Sectoral and development priorities take precedence over sustainable forest management objectives of the project.	Moderate	High	The project has been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and designed to align with national priorities. Through its component on land use planning it aims to increase the level of cooperation and coordination across sectors. Through this same component and via mutually-beneficial agreements the project will also work to address weak tenure systems and improve the recognition of customary resource use rights.
Lack of commitment to bilateral or regional collaboration and coordination affect the regional dimensions of project strategies.	Moderate	Low	The project has been designed in full recognition that transboundary collaboration can pose significant challenges. The project will work to take advantage of any opportunities for transborder collaboration and coordination, but aims to remain realistic in terms of outcomes. For example, undertaking transboundary, intersectoral planning in the project's three target landscapes was deemed beyond the scope of the project. Instead, the project will work within the national framework for LUP to progress intersectoral planning that recognizes the rights of IPLCs in a target area, and will then feed this work into both the national framework and transboundary planning in collaboration with the RCP as relevant.
Threats to biodiversity due to sectoral activities and/or demographic trends increase rendering it impossible for the project to achieve its overall targets.	Moderate	High	The threats facing the biodiversity of Cameroon are high. This project will work to address multiple of these threats by promoting integrated land use planning, establishing alternatives to unsustainable practices, and strengthening governance systems in and around target protected areas. It assumes that other threats are being addressed through other initiatives.

Description of risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
Law enforcement misconduct	Moderate	Moderate	<p>This project will not directly finance eco-guards; however, it will provide trainings to protected area staff and other law enforcement agents on human rights and responsible law enforcement. It will also conduct in year 1 full assessments of standards, conditions and accountability in protected area management in LNP and CMNP to inform measures to strengthen management effectiveness. The financing for these areas will be contingent on the implementation of Codes of Conduct and disciplinary consequences in the case of any abuses. The project has been designed taking into consideration the recommendations from a report by an independent panel commissioned by WWF to review human rights allegations levelled at government park rangers in areas where WWF works (including Cameroon) and propose measures to strengthen human rights protections.</p>
<p>Target groups, including IPLCs, women and youth are not adequately represented, able to participate or equitably considered in planning and decision-making processes.</p>	Low	High	<p>As further detailed in the section on stakeholder engagement, and the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan, IPLCs, including women and youth, are key stakeholders and the primary beneficiaries of this project. As such, consultations with IPLCs and participatory approaches have been explicitly incorporated into all relevant activities of the work plan. A Gender Action Plan has also been developed which lays out means to promote a gender sensitive/responsive approach and monitor progress in this area. Both, IPCLs and gender representatives will be also members of the Steering Committee of the project.</p>

Description of risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
<p>Sustainable NTFP products cannot be identified or the project's strategies have negative impacts on the livelihoods of IPLCs.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Under Component 3 concrete value chain development activities will be implemented that are expected to be sustainable and provide tangible benefits for IPLCs, including women and youth. This strategy was consistently identified as a priority by these groups and other stakeholders during the project design consultation process. NTFPs are already an important contributor to the livelihoods of many forest-dependent communities, and preliminary screening of existing NTFP value chains resulted in the identification of numerous products. The process to elaborate detailed strategies to strengthen or develop a select number of value chains will consider the sustainability of these chains and their potential to deliver positive benefits to IPLCs, and include these considerations as criteria in the final selection of NTFP products. Participatory monitoring systems will also be established to allow stakeholders to track the environmental and social impacts of the project strategies, and will be applied to track impacts and adjust as necessary.</p>
<p>Weak private sector engagement limits the potential to develop sustainable value chains.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>While the level of engagement of the private sector in enabling and promoting SFM remains low overall, private sector partners and co-financiers have been identified under outcomes concerning the development of sustainable value chains for ebony and ecotourism. Furthermore, the private sector is considered a key stakeholder group to consult and engage with in the process to elaborate strategies to develop sustainable NTFP value chains. The project will work to raise the awareness and engagement of these stakeholders as part of its communications actions, in particular to examine questions of sustainability and identify opportunities for collaboration/partnership with IPLCs. Finally, the LUP process under component 1 will be a multi-sectoral process which aims to address questions of conflicting land use and is part of an integrated national framework.</p>

Description of risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
The project's intended outcome related to sustainable tourism development is impacted by the unfavorable conditions for tourism in Cameroon and/or at the international level.	Moderate	Moderate	The project's strategy on the development of ecotourism in and around CMNP is in alignment with policies and planning at the national and local level; however, the enabling conditions to establish a sustainable tourism value chain remain uncertain. The project recognizes that the full benefits from increased numbers of visitors may not be realized in the first years of the project and proposes to concentrate at the start on increasing the capacity for tourism (i.e., establishing key products, building institutional capacity) and strengthening dialogues between key stakeholders already working to develop CMNP as a tourist site. These investments have the potential to already deliver benefits to target stakeholders (e.g., employment for trackers, service providers supporting in-country tourists). Likewise, strengthening dialogues is critical to address some direct challenges that will not figure as part of this project (e.g., actors are already examining how to best address questions of access) and support adaptive and long-term thinking and planning as regards the CMNP tourism strategy.
Climate change or strong climate variability during project lifetime, lead to increased loss and deterioration of forests.	Moderate	Low	The risk is more relevant at the medium to long term. The project by strengthening systems for SFM and addressing the concerns and needs of IPLCs will contribute to improving resiliency. It will also contribute to maintaining the connectivity of the Congo Basin's humid tropical forest ecosystem.

#### *COVID-19 Risk and Opportunity Analysis*

The current global health crisis associated with COVID-19 pandemic presents a number of potential risks that could affect the project's implementation and outcomes. As part of its overall approach, the project will respect all national preventative measures put in place by the GoC to contain COVID-19, as well as those of the WWF. Costs for managing personal protection as part of social distancing measures have been integrated into the project management costs.

In addition, the project has integrated adaptive management instruments into its design and will apply these instruments to adapt as necessary to this risk. The inception workshop will be used to review the results framework and project timeline to determine if there is a need to make any adjustments due to operational challenges, funding, stakeholder involvement and partnerships as a result of the global health situation. The annual reporting process will also be used to ensure the project is able to adapt in a timely manner. A series of mitigation measures have been identified to address specific risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic as detailed in the table below. Finally, in addition to the risks presented in the table below, an analysis of the project shows that it also provides multiple opportunities to strengthen Cameroon's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance the resilience of its beneficiaries. These opportunities are presented following the table below.

Potential risk Probability of occurrence Impact Mitigation measures Impacts from COVID-19 affects the availability of technical expertise and capacity, specifically regional/international consultants and organizations are not able to travel to Cameroon to carry out various studies and support activities

Moderate Low In addition to its adaptive management approach, the project relies heavily on partners and sub-contractors with a national presence (e.g., AWF, UCLA/CBI, NGOs, ministries) for its implementation. According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include: ? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when experts could travel. ? National experts are recruited to work with regional/ international experts that provide expertise remotely, helping to build capacity of local experts in the process. National stakeholders have limited or no ability to travel for landscape, national, transboundary or regional meetings, trainings, workshops or exchanges, including those planned in collaboration and coordination with other national child projects and the RCP

Moderate Moderate Many of the project's executing partners have an established presence in the project's target landscapes and have, so far, been able to continue meeting with stakeholders and implementing activities. Regardless, the SEP will be reviewed and finalized at project inception based on the situation at the time. As necessary, adjustments to the means and timing of face-to-face activities will be made. The Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy and associated activities proposed for knowledge management at the landscape, cross-landscape, national and regional levels will also be developed taking into consideration the latest available information and the project will adhere to national and international guidance/measures on practicing social distancing. According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include: ? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when participants could travel and participate. ? Activities are reduced in scope, i.e., number of participants or number of meetings, workshops, trainings or exchanges, is made smaller to reduce risks. ? Alternative means of communication and exchange are applied to assure coordination and collaboration, as well as support capacity building and sharing of experiences. ? Visio-conference technology, remote platforms or means (e.g., radio), and printed materials are used to host events and exchange on lessons learned. Preventative measures reduce potential for project staff, technical consultants, and stakeholders to meet and undertake activities, leading to delays or stalling in implementation

Low High As detailed above, the project will implement adaptive management and the SEP will be adjusted, as necessary, to reflect the impacts of COVID-19. The project design includes on-site landscape coordination assistants for TRIDOM and TNS that will assure consultation and coordination with local stakeholders, much of which will be done in outdoor environments. In addition, many of the project's executing partners have an established presence in the project's target landscapes. According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include: ? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when participants could meet. ? Meetings and consultations are undertaken using different means and under different formats, for example smaller meetings with stakeholder representatives, remote communication via email, online meetings and phone, etc. COVID-19 may have impacts on the project strategy to develop strengthen inclusive, ecosystem-based value chains for NTFPs, such as reduced access to markets

Low Moderate During early implementation, and as part of its consultations with stakeholders and targeted analyses to support strategies to strengthen value chains, the project will work to identify any specific risks and develop mitigation measures. Many of the markets for NTFPs are local or national. COVID-19 may have impacts on the project strategy to develop strengthen a sustainable tourism value chain in the CMRC landscape, especially given potential impacts to anticipated international visitors over the short-term

Low Low As described above, the project recognizes that the full benefits from increased numbers of visitors may not be realized in the first years of the project and proposes to concentrate at the

start on increasing the capacity for tourism and strengthening dialogues between key stakeholders already working to develop CMNP as a national and international tourist site, which has the potential to already deliver benefits to target stakeholders. Attention and resource of the GoC and other stakeholders are redirected towards COVID-19 and affect the overall operations of the project Low Moderate As detailed above, the project integrates adaptive management instruments into its design and will apply these instruments to adapt as necessary to this risk. It has been designed in a participatory manner to align with the priorities of the GoC. Updated co-financing commitments have been confirmed as part of the project development process.

Potential risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
Impacts from COVID-19 affects the availability of technical expertise and capacity, specifically regional/international consultants and organizations are not able to travel to Cameroon to carry out various studies and support activities	Moderate	Low	<p>In addition to its adaptive management approach, the project relies heavily on partners and sub-contractors with a national presence (e.g., AWF, UCLA/CBI, NGOs, ministries) for its implementation.</p> <p>According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when experts could travel.</li> <li>? National experts are recruited to work with regional/ international experts that provide expertise remotely, helping to build capacity of local experts in the process.</li> </ul>

Potential risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
<p>National stakeholders have limited or no ability to travel for landscape, national, transboundary or regional meetings, trainings, workshops or exchanges, including those planned in collaboration and coordination with other national child projects and the RCP</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Many of the project's executing partners have an established presence in the project's target landscapes and have, so far, been able to continue meeting with stakeholders and implementing activities. Regardless, the SEP will be reviewed and finalized at project inception based on the situation at the time. As necessary, adjustments to the means and timing of face-to-face activities will be made. The Communications and Knowledge Management Strategy and associated activities proposed for knowledge management at the landscape, cross-landscape, national and regional levels will also be developed taking into consideration the latest available information and the project will adhere to national and international guidance/measures on practicing social distancing.</p> <p>According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when participants could travel and participate.</li> <li>? Activities are reduced in scope, i.e., number of participants or number of meetings, workshops, trainings or exchanges, is made smaller to reduce risks.</li> <li>? Alternative means of communication and exchange are applied to assure coordination and collaboration, as well as support capacity building and sharing of experiences.</li> <li>? Visio-conference technology, remote platforms or means (e.g., radio), and printed materials are used to host events and exchange on lessons learned.</li> </ul>

Potential risk	Probability of occurrence	Impact	Mitigation measures
Preventative measures reduce potential for project staff, technical consultants, and stakeholders to meet and undertake activities, leading to delays or stalling in implementation	Low	High	<p>As detailed above, the project will implement adaptive management and the SEP will be adjusted, as necessary, to reflect the impacts of COVID-19. The project design includes on-site landscape coordination assistants for TRIDOM and TNS that will assure consultation and coordination with local stakeholders, much of which will be done in outdoor environments. In addition, many of the project's executing partners have an established presence in the project's target landscapes.</p> <p>According to the situation, specific measures which could be considered to manage this risk include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Workplan is adjusted to postpone certain activities until a time when participants could meet.</li> <li>? Meetings and consultations are undertaken using different means and under different formats, for example smaller meetings with stakeholder representatives, remote communication via email, online meetings and phone, etc.</li> </ul>
COVID-19 may have impacts on the project strategy to develop strengthen inclusive, ecosystem-based value chains for NTFPs, such as reduced access to markets	Low	Moderate	During early implementation, and as part of its consultations with stakeholders and targeted analyses to support strategies to strengthen value chains, the project will work to identify any specific risks and develop mitigation measures. Many of the markets for NTFPs are local or national.
COVID-19 may have impacts on the project strategy to develop strengthen a sustainable tourism value chain in the CMRC landscape, especially given potential impacts to anticipated international visitors over the short-term	Low	Low	As described above, the project recognizes that the full benefits from increased numbers of visitors may not be realized in the first years of the project and proposes to concentrate at the start on increasing the capacity for tourism and strengthening dialogues between key stakeholders already working to develop CMNP as a national and international tourist site, which has the potential to already deliver benefits to target stakeholders.
Attention and resource of the GoC and other stakeholders are redirected towards COVID-19 and affect the overall operations of the project	Low	Moderate	As detailed above, the project integrates adaptive management instruments into its design and will apply these instruments to adapt as necessary to this risk. It has been designed in a participatory manner to align with the priorities of the GoC. Updated co-financing commitments have been confirmed as part of the project development process.

In addition to the risks presented above, an analysis of the project shows that it also provides multiple opportunities this project provides multiple opportunities to strengthen Cameroon's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance the resilience of its beneficiaries.

Specifically, the proposed project has the potential across its components to:

- ? maintain forest and freshwater ecosystems and their ecological functionality;
- ? support sustainable land and natural resource management that recognizes and protects natural capital; and
- ? engage the private sector in sustainable practices, which over the long-term contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation.

In addition:

- under components 3 and 4 the project has the potential to mitigate negative socioeconomic impacts, including for vulnerable groups that may be more adversely affected, by supporting the development of inclusive value chains for NTFPs, ebony, and tourism products in and around CMNP; and
- promote under Component 2, strengthen zoonotic disease surveillance systems that have the potential to contribute to early warning systems for emergent diseases and reduce their impacts.

Collectively, these opportunities have the potential to support a resilient recovery to the current pandemic and any future risks.

## **6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination**

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

The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility of the project with THE WWF GEF Agency providing oversight as the GEF Agency. As the main **Executing Agency (EA)**, MINEPDED will be responsible for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and the effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in line with WWF-US and GEF policy requirements. MINEPDED will nominate a **National Project Director (NPD)** who will be the contact point for the project within the government of Cameroon and responsible for coordinating project activities with national bodies related to the different project components as well as with the project partners. The NPD will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Manager (PM) on government policies and priorities. He/she will be supported by a Technical Advisors from both MINEDED and MINFOF.

Coordination for the implementation of the project with other ministries will be managed via the NPD and approval of the annual work plan and budget via the **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**. The PSC will be the main decision-making body for the project and shall provide overall policy orientation and supervision to the project EA. As such, it approves project reporting before submission to the GEF Agency (WWF-US) and provides strategic guidance to the PMU and to all executing partners. The PSC will be presided over and chaired by MINEPDED and will be composed of representatives of relevant project partners including other ministries, executing partners, civil society including women representatives and IPs, and the private sector. The WWF GEF Agency will participate as an observer. A **Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** will also be established to provide punctual support to the PSC on particular subjects, as relevant.

As the **Financial Administrator**, WWF Cameroon will provide their financial and operational infrastructure in support of the project. This includes, financial systems, policies and procedures, and risk assessment and monitoring. Project funding will flow to the Financial Administrator through a grant agreement from WWF-US (GEF agency), which can then be accessed by the PMU. The Financial Administrator will provide the necessary training to the PMU to ensure that project is executed according to the financial stands that the Financial Administrator provides..

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be co-funded by the GEF and established within MINEPDED. The main functions of the PMU, and under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure oversee fiduciary arrangements and operations and ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/B). The PMU will also ensure coordination with the RCP. The PMU staff will include: Project Manager (PM); Communications, and Knowledge Management Specialist; Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Safeguards Officer; Gender and Social Development Specialist; Project Assistant; Finance Manager; accountant; two Landscape Operational Assistants; and two project drivers.

Landscape coordination: Given the complex logistical context and distance of certain of the project landscapes from Yaounde, Landscape Operational Assistants will be recruited for the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes. These assistants will be based within the landscapes and will be responsible for day-to-day coordination of certain project activities at the local level. They will work in close collaboration with the PMU, the projects executing partners, sub-contractors, local administrative bodies, IPLCs, and other stakeholders to support project implementation. They will also play a significant role in project communications and monitoring by organizing regular meetings with key stakeholders to evaluate project progress.

Numerous executing partners will work with the project to implement activities under the different project components.

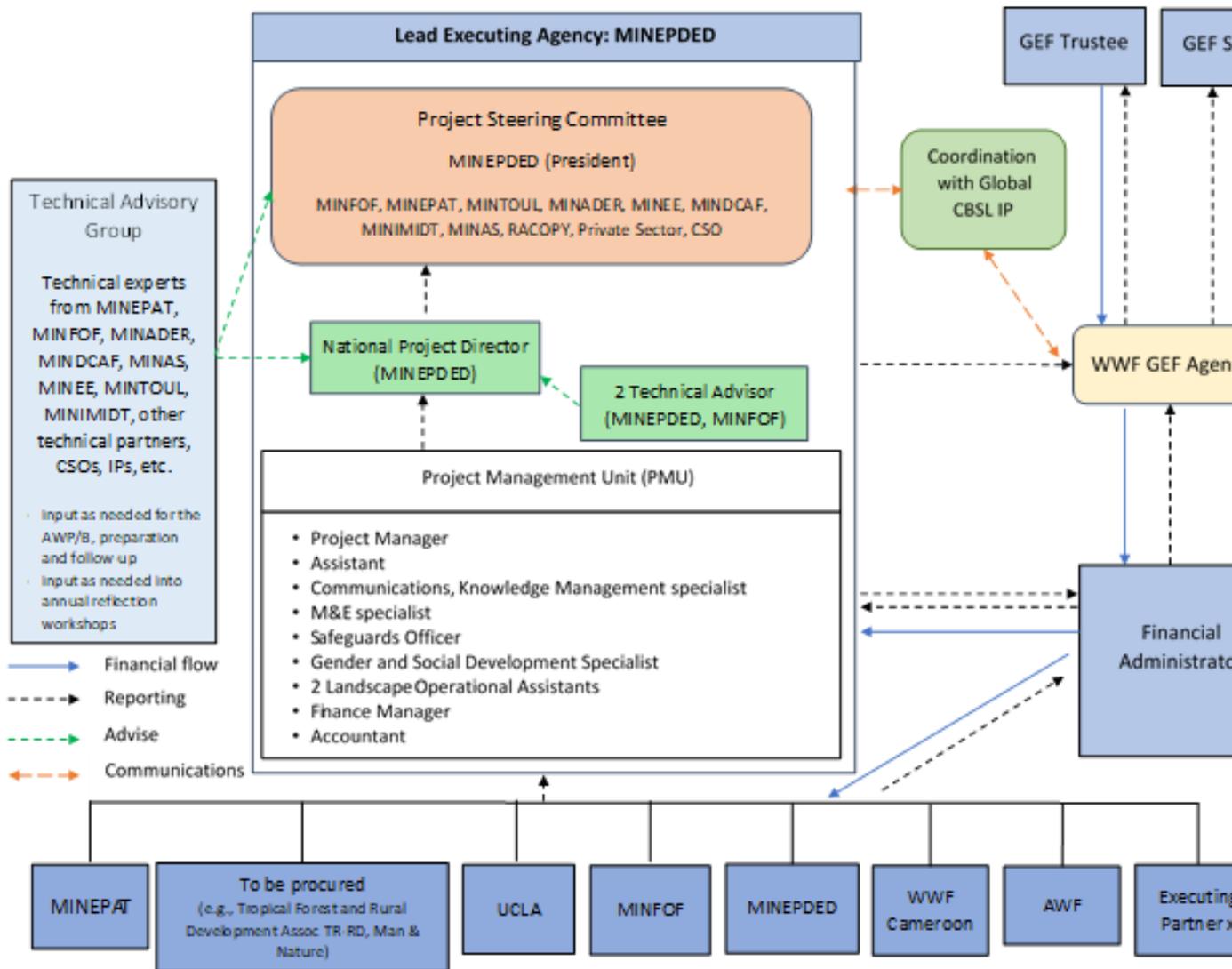
Project Activities	Executing Partners
<b>COMPONENT 1: MAINSTREAMING INTEGRATED LAND USE PLANNING (LUP) AND MANAGEMENT</b>	
<b>Outcome 1.1: Participatory, informed, and integrated LUP establishes a framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management across approximately 1,200,000 ha of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape</b>	
<b>Output 1.1.1:</b> Mapping and accounting of ecosystem natural capital completed for the Ngoyla (816,087 ha) and Mintom (381,431ha) council areas	PADIDJA and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under the coordination of MINEPAT, MINFOF and MINEPDED
<b>Output 1.1.2:</b> Integrated land use plans developed for the Ngoyla and Mintom council areas based on a multi-stakeholder process which builds the capacity of IPLCs, CSOs, private sector and governance entities to incorporate ecosystem natural capital accounting and recognize and respect the rights of IPLCs	
<b>Activities 1.1.2.1 to 1.1.2.3 and 1.1.2.9 to 1.1.2.11</b>	PADIDJA and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under the coordination of MINEPAT, MINFOF and MINEPDED
<b>Activities 1.1.2.6 to 1.1.2.8</b>	PADIDJA, Rain Forest Alliance and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINEPAT and MINEPDED
<b>COMPONENT 2: IMPROVING MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS AND GOVERNANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS, AND TARGETED INTERVENTIONS TO PROTECT THEIR ENDANGERED SPECIES</b>	
<b>Outcome 2.1: Management effectiveness of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks is improved through inclusive governance and management systems</b>	
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> Studies, management tools, and regional coordination to strengthen adaptive management systems of CMNP and LNP	
<b>Activity 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2, 2.1.1.5</b>	AWF for CMNP, WWF-Cameroon for LNP and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF

Project Activities	Executing Partners
Activity 2.1.1.3	WWF-Cameroon and National CSOs Partners under coordination of MINFOF
Activity 2.1.1.4	RACOPY and IP National CSOs Partners (tbd) in collaboration with CNDHL under condonation of MNAS
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> Trainings, workshops/meetings, equipment, small supplies, and technical assistance to strengthen and/or establish inclusive governance and management systems for CMNP and LNP	
Activities 2.1.2.1 to 2.1.2.6, 2.1.2.9	AWF for CMNP, WWF Cameroon for LNP and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF
Activity 2.1.2.7 and 2.1.2.8	RACOPY and IP National CSOs Partners (tbd) in collaboration with CNDHL under the condonation of MNAS
<b>Outcome 2.2: The effectiveness of forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks is strengthened through increased engagement and capacity, and the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders</b>	
Output 2.2.1: Meetings, communication, equipment, small supplies, field costs and technical assistance to strengthen engagement and coordination between local stakeholders, including IPLCs, on forest and wildlife management and monitoring	National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF and MINAS
<b>Outcome 2.3: The long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems in Campo Ma'an and Lobéké national parks and their peripheries are strengthened to minimize the risks of disease transmission between humans and wildlife and vice versa</b>	
Output 2.3.1: Zoonotic disease surveillance systems targeting diseases for great apes operational for CMNP and LNP	WWF Cameroon and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF
<b>COMPONENT 3: ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) THROUGH NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT (NTFP) AND HARDWOOD VALUE CHAINS</b>	
<b>Outcome 3.1: Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector reduce the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and deliver benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLCs) in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes</b>	
National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF and MINAS	
<b>Outcome 3.2: Public-private partnership (Ebony Project) to create a sustainable and socially responsible value chain for tropical hardwood species is expanded and delivering tangible benefits, including restoration and income generation, in the TRIDOM landscape</b>	
UCLA, CBI, Crelicam and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINEPDED	
<b>COMPONENT 4: INCREASING BENEFIT GENERATION FROM BIODIVERSITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>Outcome 4.1: Sustainable tourism value chain that engages IPLCs and the private sector is strengthened, reducing the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and delivering benefits to IPLCs in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape</b>	
Output 4.1.1: Viewing of habituated groups of gorillas and other sustainable tourism products involving IPLCs and the private sector developed in and around CMNP	
Activity 4.1.1.1 to 4.1.1.3	WWF Cameroon and National CSOs Partners (tbd) under coordination of MINFOF

Project Activities	Executing Partners
<b>Activity 4.1.1.4 to 4.1.1.9</b>	AWF and National CSOs (tbd) and local Partners under coordination of MINTOUL and MINFOF
<b>Output 4.1.2:</b> Meetings, trainings, exchange visits and technical assistance for CMNP ecotourism stakeholders to collaboratively manage CMNP ecotourism and establish CMNP as a pilot project for ecotourism development	AWF and National CSOs (tbd) and local Partners under coordination of MINTOUL and MINFOF
<b>Output 4.1.3:</b> Equitable benefit distribution mechanisms that include IPLCS developed and operational for ecotourism products in CMNP and Ebodj?	AWF and National CSOs (tbd) and local Partners under coordination of MINTOUL and MINFOF
<b>COMPONENT 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&amp;E), KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (KM), AND REGIONAL COORDINATION</b>	
<b>Outcome 5.1: Program results monitored and lessons learned inform adaptive management and outreach in support of SFM at landscape, national and regional levels</b>	
<b>Output 5.1.1:</b> Effective project coordination and gender-sensitive monitoring evaluation	MINEPDED
<b>Output 5.1.2:</b> Project achievements and results documented, and knowledge management products prepared for replication and scaling up	MINEPDED
<b>Output 5.1.3:</b> Regional coordination and active participation of key stakeholders in Congo IP	MINEPDED

World Wildlife Fund-US is the GEF Agency for the project and will provide oversight on strategic, administrative, safeguards, and fiduciary matters on behalf of the GEF Secretariat and GEF Trustees.

The figure below provides an overview of the institutional arrangements for implementation, which are further detailed in Section 2.3 of the ProDoc.



The project will coordinate with other relevant GEF and non-GEF initiatives primarily through its NPD and PMU. Most notably the Cameroon child project will work directly with the Regional Child Project (RCP) for the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscape Impact Program and with the other national child projects, specifically for CAR, DRC, EG, Gabon, and the RoC, to coordinate on the ground actions in shared transboundary landscapes as well as to promote the scaling out and up of results through regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. The project also builds on and will work to coordinate and share innovative experiences and best practices, as well as raise awareness on key needs and opportunities, with multiple global and regional GEF programs, including: the Global Wildlife Program and with the other national child projects, specifically for CAR, DRC, EG, Gabon, and the RoC, to coordinate on the ground actions in shared transboundary landscapes as well as to promote the scaling out and up of results through regional collaboration and knowledge exchange. The project also builds on and will work to coordinate and share innovative experiences and best practices, as well as raise awareness on key needs and opportunities, with multiple global and regional GEF programs, including: the Global Wildlife Program (GWP), the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR), and the Restoration Initiative (TRI).

Ongoing GEF initiatives with which the project will exchange knowledge and coordinate are presented in the table below.

Title	Description
<b>Congo IP</b>	
UNEP project ?Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin?	This project serves as the regional child project of the Congo IP. The objective and design of the Cameroon child project are in alignment with this project. Regular communication and coordination will be maintained throughout implementation.
World Bank project ?Scaling up ecological corridors and transboundary connectivity through integrated natural resources management in the Ngotto Forest landscape and Mba?r?-Bodingu? National Park? (10347)	In progress. This national child project of the CAR under the Congo IP aims to improve governance and strengthen capacity in the forest and mining sectors. It will be implemented in areas that overlap with the TNS transboundary landscape. As part of the regional component of the Congo IP, areas for collaboration include the strengthening of transboundary agreements and associated protocols, the alignment of methodologies and tools, sharing of data and best practices (e.g., surveillance of zoonotic diseases), and, in collaboration with RCP, knowledge exchange and dissemination (e.g., development of forest value chains, management effectiveness of forest areas).
Other Congo IP child projects	Under review or development (Gabon). Additional child projects are anticipated to be implemented in the DRC, EG, Gabon, and the RoC. This project will work with these other initiatives to coordinate activities in transboundary landscapes and at the regional level as detailed under sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the ProDoc.
<b>Other GEF interventions</b>	
UNEP project ?Removing barriers to biodiversity conservation, land restoration and sustainable forest management through Community- BAsed LAndscape Management ? COBALAM? (9604)	In progress. Although this GEF-6 project (approved for implementation in February 2020 for a period of 5 years) does not overlap with the proposed geographic scope of this Congo IP project, it also takes a landscape approach to looking at key questions of community forest protection, institutional alignment for integrated landscape planning, and SFM practices and enterprise management. These are all areas where there is the potential to learn and share experiences and best practices.

Title	Description
IUCN project ?Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of Local Plant Species and Tree Products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon? (9519)	In progress. This medium-sized project which was approved in 2018 aims to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods. It includes components that will provide important opportunities for knowledge sharing, including on strengthening capacity for SFM and the development of NTFP value chains.
World Bank project ?Wildlife and human-elephant conflicts management? (9212)	In progress. This project aims to address challenges to protected area management and biodiversity conservation, including human-elephant conflicts. It includes cross-border coordination with the RoC, and provides an opportunity to share experiences and coordinate.
World Bank project ?Strengthening the Management of Wildlife and Improving Livelihoods in Northern Republic of Congo? (9700)	In progress. This project is intervening in the areas of protected area management effectiveness and the involvement of IPLCs in SFM in northern RoC. As a transboundary area that overlaps with this project?s target landscapes, the project provides an opportunity for learning and coordination.

The project will also work to coordinate with a series of ongoing non-GEF initiatives that are active in the project landscapes, which are presented in the table below.

Title	Description
National LUP process	The GoC has launched development of the national land use plan with pilot processes to develop two regional land use plans with in the South and East Regions. These plans are in the process of being finalized. This project will coordinate with this national process as part its component on LUP.

Title	Description
LandCam Project	Scheduled to run through 2021, this European Union-supported project is working to assist stakeholders, including civil society platforms, to engage effectively and collaboratively in the process to improving land governance in the forest area of Cameroon. Among its expected outcomes are (i) strengthened capacity of key stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels across Cameroon; (ii) effective multi-stakeholder decision-making at local and national levels that are strengthened through field experience and enhanced capacities; and (iii) monitoring, learning and advocacy. This project has included many lessons that have been learned through LandCam and will continue to coordinate with the project during any overlap in the projects' implementation periods.
MINEPAT-PADI DJA	This GoC Program was set up within the context of the Mbalam-Nabeba iron ore industrial mining exploitation project and concerns 11 council areas around Dja Faunal Reserve, the Ngoyla-Mintom Forest Block and Nki National Park. Its overall objective is to improve the living conditions of the local populations as well as enhance cross-border exchanges through integrated land use management that involves construction of socio-economic infrastructures for local development as well as providing institutional support within the context of industrial mining in the concerned regions.
National Program for Participatory Development Phase 3 (PNDP)	The third phase of the PNDP runs from 2018-2022 and has two components to support local development and the decentralization process. Under its first component, the project aims to improve socio-economic conditions, increase the productivity of basic natural resources, and raise the incomes of the population in targeted municipalities, including municipalities in the three landscapes targeted by the Cameroon child project. Its second component aims to strengthen the capacities of institutions that support the decentralization process. It will also provide assistance for capacity building of municipalities and local actors such as service providers, multidisciplinary teams of sectoral ministries, elected officials and technical service providers so that they can fully assume an effective role as actors of local development. This is especially relevant as regards strategies foreseen to be implemented through the Cameroon child project in the TRIDOM landscape.
GIZ ProPFE ( <i>Protection des forêts et de l'environnement</i> )	Executed by MINFOF and MINEPDED, with support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GIZ ProPFE program began in 2015; its current phase is scheduled to continue through 2022. The project supports sustainable and ecological management of forest resources in line with the principle of 'protection by utilization'. It is active within four regions of Cameroon, including the Center and East regions. Its primary areas of intervention include: (i) promoting the sustainable use of forest resources and biodiversity in municipalities; (ii) developing value chains based on timber and non-timber forest products for the benefit of vulnerable local people; (iii) providing environmental education to increase levels of appreciation of natural resource, climate change mitigation and the environment; and (iv) improving general conditions for policy dialogue and valorization of forest resources. Previous phases of the program provide important baselines on the development of NTFP value chains.
African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)	AWF has a national conservation program in Cameroon that intervenes in multiple of the project landscapes, including Campo and TRIDOM. In 2016, AWF took over the management of funds provided by FEDEC in support to effective management of CMNP with special focus on anti-poaching. They also manage KFW funds in Campo to support: (i) the effective management of the Campo Ma'an Technical Operational Unit; (ii) engagement with Bagyeli communities; (iii) ecotourism; and (iv) sharing knowledge. AWF is also active around Dja Faunal Reserve in the TRIDOM landscape, where they are also working to engage IPLCs in SFM. AWF will be a key partner on this project, and its activities will be coordinated with their ongoing complimentary programs and projects.

Title	Description
Foundation for the Environment and Development in Cameroon (FEDEC)	Recognized as a public utility by Presidential Decree No. 363 of 16 November 2001, FEDEC has been supporting CMNP as a measure to compensate for damage to coastal forests caused by the Chad-Cameroon pipeline. This support is being provided to support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity in CMNP through five programs: (i) protection and land-use planning of the CMNP, (ii) fighting against poaching, (iii) monitoring and research on the dynamics of important wildlife species, (iv) ecological and socio-economic monitoring and research, and (v) ecotourism development. The project will coordinate with FEDEC in areas of the protection of CMNP, ecotourism, and ecological monitoring.
KfW	Through its "Basket Fund" support for protected areas, the KfW is supporting two simultaneous four-year (2018-2021) projects with CMNP's main technical partners AWF and WWF for a total of approximately 1.65 million USD. The support is being used to strengthen law enforcement, engage with local Bagyeli communities, support the development of ecotourism and ecological monitoring.
TRIDOM landscape program	In addition to sectoral government programs and multi-lateral programs, a large number of programs have and are being implemented in support of the TRIDOM. These include notably, the WWF implemented the Ngoyla-Mintom project; the ZSL, in partnership with AWF, project in the Dja Conservation Complex project; and multiple initiatives by IUCN ranging from anti-poaching to REDD+ related community-based actions. The project has consulted key partners under these projects during the design phase of project development and will continue to coordinate with them as relevant across this project's components.
Ebony Project	Launched in 2016, the Ebony Project was established to create a legal and socially responsible value chain for ebony and to serve as a testbed for community-based scalable rainforest restoration efforts. Its objectives are to: (i) work with IPLCs to create a scalable program for the sustainable production and stewardship of ebony and local fruit trees; (ii) model West African ebony distribution and assess harvesting rates and appropriate planting areas; (iii) understand the ecology of ebony to enhance natural reproduction and dispersal, and test restoration approaches; and (iv) test alternative propagation approaches. This project will work directly with the Ebony project under Component 3.
Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI)	CAWHFI is a UNESCO initiative targeting existing or potential Central African World Heritage Sites. In its first phase from 2003-2010, the program focused its action on the improvement of management in TNS, TRIDOM and the Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati landscapes. The program continued through 2013, providing support to: have TNS recognized as a World Heritage Site, strengthen the FTNS, mitigate the impacts of extractive industries in TRIDOM, strengthen transboundary cooperation and support wildlife protection. It has continued to provide support to the Dja Faunal Reserve.
Conservation and Rational Use of Central African Forest Ecosystems program (ECOFAC)	The EU has intervened in Central Africa through multiple conservation programs, including notably ECOFAC, which has been supporting efforts to preserve biodiversity and manage forest ecosystems for more than 25 years. Major efforts have been dedicated to anti-poaching activities, poverty reduction of surrounding populations, capacity-building and regional governance. This has included efforts to train managers of forest administrations and institutions responsible for the management of PAs. ECOFAC is currently in its sixth phase. Under ECOFAC VI support in Cameroon will be focused on the protection of the Dja Reserve in TRIDOM and to Faro National Park, located in the northern part of the country. The EU will also support MINFOF in the fight against poaching and illegal ivory trade.

Title	Description
TNS landscape	Since the signing of the TNS cooperation agreement in 2000, numerous partners have received support from a wide range of donors, including NGOs, bilateral or multilateral partners, and the private sector to progress transboundary biodiversity conservation and the implementation of TNS protocols and agreements on various aspects of conservation and development. The project will work to coordinate its interventions in the TNS with other ongoing initiatives in the transboundary landscape.
Sangha Tri-National Foundation (FTNS)	The objective of the FTNS is to contribute to the long-term financing of conservation activities, eco-development and cross-border cooperation within the forest complex called the TNS. In the case of the Cameroon segment, the FTNS has supported the management of LNP as well as actions to participatorily strengthen management of resources in its periphery. As a key partner of this project, close collaboration and coordination will be maintained with the FTNS in the areas of protected area management, community engagement in conservation and sustainable forest management, the development of NTFP value chains and wildlife protection.
WWF-Cameroon	WWF has a long-standing and active conservation program in Cameroon (since the 1990s), which includes projects in the Campo, TNS and TRIDOM landscapes. These programs are supported by a range of donors within and outside of the WWF network. They have been a key partner in the establishment of these landscapes and, at present, have individual strategies for their programs in each of these landscapes. These strategies include many areas that intersect with this project's strategies, including on LUP, engagement with IPLCs and the development of sustainable alternatives to unsustainable practices (including sustainable cocoa production in TRIDOM), protected area management and wildlife conservation (in LNP and CMNP), the surveillance of zoonotic diseases (in TNS and CMNP) and the development of ecotourism. This project will coordinate with these programs and share experiences. WWF Cameroon will also play a direct role in executing activities under this project related to gorilla habituation at CMNP.
Climate finance programs	Cameroon is currently involved in a range of climate finance programs. Cameroon embarked on the process of preparing for REDD+ through issuance of its Readiness Plan Idea Note (validated in 2008) and its R-PP in 2013. A steering committee was set up by order of the prime minister (No. 103/CAB/PM of June 13, 2012) to ensure the coordination and coherence of REDD+ activities in Cameroon. In 2014, Cameroon elaborated its national REDD+ strategy, which was validated in June 2018 by all stakeholders and the steering committee. Its FIP, endorsed in 2017, includes a program on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the southern forested plateau of Cameroon that overlaps with this project's geographic scope. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has also supported multiple readiness activities and included Cameroon in several multiple country programs. In addition, with support from Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI), the Cameroon is elaborating its NIF for REDD+, which is anticipated to be accompanied by a financial mechanism to enable funds to be channeled for implementation. The first draft of the NIF was presented in November 2017 and approved by the FIP Sub-Committee for revision and resubmission in 2018. A results-based instrument, under the coordination of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development will be used to facilitate the management of existing and future resources (e.g., CAFI, FIP). The project will work to coordinate with these programs as they continue to evolve.

#### 7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

The project is fully aligned with the main sectoral directives and policies of Cameroon, and contributes to, national priorities of Cameroon for the environment, land use planning, forest management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.

The Government of Cameroon (GoC) has laid out its ambitions to become an emerging country in the 'Cameroon Vision 2035', which provides the guiding vision for numerous national approaches and strategies, such as for industrialization; private-sector promotion; resource allocation; sub-regional, regional and international integration; and partnership and development assistance. It also lays the foundation for other key policies, including the second phase Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) for 2020-2027; the Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth in Cameroon; and the Rural Sector Development Strategy (RSDS). These strategies promote the incorporation of the environmental dimension into different policies and strategies and aim to ensure sustainable management of natural resources, including environmental benefits. As such the project is fully aligned with development priorities.

#### *Forest management*

The project is also fully aligned with the forestry policy of Cameroon, and will support the principal objective of the national forestry policy to maintain at least 30% of the national territory as forest with a representation of its ecological diversity. The project is also consistent with multiple national programs that have been established concerning the management of the environment, forests, and wildlife. These include the National Program for Environmental Management (PNGE) in 1995, the Sectoral Program on Forest and Environment (PSFE) in 2002, and the 2020 Subsector Strategy for Forests and Wildlife. Notably, it will directly contribute to the objective of the PSFE 'stakeholders manage resources and wildlife sustainably so as to ensure the sustainability of economic, ecological and social functions of all forest ecosystems in Cameroon' and, more specifically its components on valorizing forest products, conserving biodiversity, community management of wildlife and forest resources, and capacity building.

The NAPCC provides a framework to guide the coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives and serves as a planning tool for the various stakeholders to identify and monitor priority activities to be carried out in a series of key sectors in each of 5 identified Agro-Ecological Zones (AEZ). This project is aligned with multiple of the NAPCC's strategic axes in the two AEZ (i.e., AEZ 4: Monomodal Forest for Campo and AEZ 5: Bimodal Forest Zone for TNS and TRIDOM) that encompass the project's target landscapes, notably axis 2 to inform, educate and mobilize the Cameroonian population to adapt to the climatic changes and axis 3 to reduce the vulnerability of the population in the main sectors and agro-ecological zones of the country.

The project directly addresses the major issues in the forest sector as outlined in Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including (i) sustainable forest management through the harvesting and development of productive forests within the framework of plans; (ii) contribution to economic growth and poverty alleviation through the transfer of part of the tax revenue to communities, job creation, the creation of communal forests in the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) and community forests in the (Non-Permanent Forest Estate) NPFE (iii) conservation of biodiversity through the strengthening of the national network of protected areas, and (iv) coherence of the land tenure system through zoning plans. It is also fully coherent with major orientations on consistency of planning while limiting deforestation and degradation and key aspects of proposed program 19 on forests, i.e., reducing the vulnerability of forests to climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Cameroon's Forest Investment Plan (FIP) encompasses three programs: (i) Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the southern forested plateau of Cameroon; (ii): Resilience and adaptation to climate change in the Northern woodlands (high Savannas) and Sudano-sahelian zone and (iii) Integrated management of catchment areas in the Western highlands. The Investment Plan proposes three programs, the first of which overlaps with the project's geographical scope.

#### *Biodiversity and protected areas*

This project is fully in accord with the GoC's priorities as regards the protection of biodiversity. The second NBSAP outlines a policy orientation to reverse and halt the current trend in the loss of biodiversity as a way to establish a strong nature base that is indispensable for the growth of the nation's economy and a better livelihood of its people. It stresses that the country's rich biological diversity and the services offered by its diverse ecosystems are critical foundations for rural development and industrialization driven by production sectors, ambitions outlined in the Cameroon Vision 2035 and the GESP. The project will directly contribute to the mission of the NBSAP to "take all necessary measures to reduce the rate of national biodiversity loss and ensure long-term sustainability of critical ecosystems in order to guarantee by 2020 the continuous contribution of biodiversity and other ecosystem services to wealth creation including through mainstreaming, capacity building and funding biodiversity that is driven by a strong partnership with the involvement of indigenous and local communities and a focus on gender as a guarantee for future generations". Specifically, it will support the strategy's four major areas for intervention aimed at (i) redressing the drivers of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss (Strategic Goal A); (ii) the consequences of the drivers on the physical and ecological environment (Strategic Goal B); (iii) the consequences on the socio-economic environment (Strategic Goal C); and (iv) strengthening the capacity measures to managing biodiversity loss (Strategic Goal D). The NBSAP also lays out 20 national-level targets, and 10 ecosystem-specific targets, priority actions, timeframes for action, performance indicators, and actors/organizations responsible for implementation. This project will contribute to numerous of the identified targets, including targets 6 to reduce degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems, target 11 of effective and equitably managed protected areas, target 13 on community-based conservation and ecosystem management approaches, and target 19 on gender mainstreaming. It will also contribute to the ecosystem-specific targets for the tropical dense humid forest ecosystem.

### *Land use planning*

The project has been designed to directly align with the LUP framework of Cameroon and the country's decentralization laws. It will directly contribute to the elaboration of tools laid out in Law n°2011/008, i.e., Local Land Use and Sustainable Development Plans (PLADDT) for the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom, and be fully integrated into planning processes at the regional (i.e, East and South regions of Cameroon) and national frameworks.

### *Tourism*

The development of the tourism sector is a key component of the GoC's strategy for economic growth. The Cameroon Vision 2035 lays out the GoC aims to accomplish its tourism goals by: (i) enhancing knowledge of tourist areas; (ii) upgrading tourist sites and areas; (iii) developing tourist sites and (iv) promoting Cameroon as tourism destination. Among the specific targets that were set in the 2010-2020 GESP associated with the tourism sector were (i) the share of tourism in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is at least 7%, (ii) at least 1 million international tourists per year, (iii) 1000 tourist enterprises standardized, and (iv) 10 tourist sites developed. The project will support these goals through the development of a sustainable tourism value chains in and around CMNP.

### *Regional and global commitments*

At the sub-regional level, the project will also help Cameroon deliver on its commitments to the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and other sub-regional structures to which Cameroon is a member. The project is fully aligned with key regional priorities and plans for forests. Notably, the project is aligned with the six priority areas of intervention of COMIFAC's Convergence Plan for 2015-2025, including (i) harmonization of forestry and environmental policies; (ii) sustainable management and development of forest resources; (iii) conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; (iv) combating the effects of climate change and desertification; (v) socio-economic development and multi-stakeholder participation; (vi) sustainable financing. It will also directly contribute to cross-cutting axes focused on (i) training and capacity-building; (ii) research and development; and (iii) communication, awareness-raising, information, and education. At the sub-regional level, it will also help Cameroon deliver on its commitments to COMIFAC and other sub-regional structures to which Cameroon is a member, including the TRIDOM and TNS Transboundary Agreements.

The Project will also help Cameroon deliver on its various commitments under international agreements, including the CBD, SDG and its commitments under the UNFCCC and associated agreements. In addition, it will contribute to the countries voluntary commitments to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), which at the global level includes a commitment to reach LDN compared to baseline in 2015 and improve (net gain) land degradation across 10% of the national territory by promoting SFM. More specifically, the project will contribute to commitment to restore degraded land, and promote sustainable livelihoods that do not depend on the conversion of forested land.

## **8. Knowledge Management**

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

Knowledge management is an essential component of the project and will primarily be coordinated through its Component 5 ?Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), knowledge management (KM), and regional coordination?. This component aims to assure program results and lessons are well documented and disseminated to support SFM at the local, national, regional and international levels. Additional activities that contribute to knowledge sharing have been integrated under the different project strategies as part of efforts to build awareness, monitor and track results, contribute to behavior change, and scale out or up particular aspects of the project?s approach.

In year one, a gender sensitive and responsive knowledge management and communication strategy will be elaborated. The strategy will be designed to promote the project?s visibility and contribute to the achievement of the project?s objective by furthering project implementation and the replication and scaling up of SFM practices. The project?s inception workshop will be used to review the project's approach to communication and knowledge management, and to examine whether any of the project?s assumptions and underlying conditions may have significantly changed due to COVID-related issues, the national and regional security context, and/or any other contextual considerations. As part of the workshop a participatory discussion will be animated on how best the project can communicate and coordinate effectively with all stakeholders, including notably IPLCs, and will directly inform the project?s knowledge management and communication strategy.

Under the framework of the strategy, multi-faceted communication and KM actions and materials which integrate traditional, incremental and scientific knowledge will be designed taking into consideration the project's target audiences. These materials will include digital and non-digital means and tools, using a diversity of media and events. All materials will be branded and marked according to project guidelines and GEF communication guidelines. As part of KM, the project will also assure the timely transfer of project information to relevant national government bodies so that they can be used to inform national efforts on SFM. Additionally, the project will promote the alignment of methodologies and tools and the sharing of data and best practices. This includes in areas such as LUP and natural capital accounting, the surveillance of zoonotic diseases, biomonitoring, law enforcement, the development of sustainable forest-based value chains (e.g., improved incentives, sustainable sourcing, and practices), the recognition of IPLCs rights, and engagement of the private sector.

To promote collaboration, eliminate knowledge gaps and secure the development of effective strategies, 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. Results of the project will be regularly shared with the PMU of the RCP to support regional knowledge exchange, including through the knowledge management platform (KM Platform), the Congo IP online Community of Practice (CoP) and targeted thematic studies. Key project stakeholders will also participate in cross-landscape, bilateral and regional capacity building, knowledge sharing, and strategic exchange opportunities organized through the RCP or through other frameworks for transboundary or regional collaboration (e.g., transboundary agreements for CMRC, TRIDOM, TNS) to facilitate the direct transfer of knowledge and technologies and coordinate on strategic interventions.

A detailed Communications and Knowledge Management plan is annexed to the ProDoc of the project (see Appendix 14)

**Project communication targets and examples of communication tools**

Scale	Target	Examples of communication tools
<b>Regional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional bodies/initiatives</li> <li>- Decision-makers in other Congo IP countries (e.g., government officials)</li> <li>- Civil society leaders/influencers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFM/Forest landscapes Impact Program communication initiatives</li> <li>- Regional workshops</li> <li>- Exchange visits</li> <li>- Publications, leaflets, case studies, technical best practice documents</li> <li>- Videos or other media content</li> <li>- Dissemination of project datasets and/or communication materials on regional knowledge management platforms (e.g., online Community of Practice (CoP), Technical consultative platforms, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>National</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Centralized government staff/agencies</li> <li>- Other decision and policymakers</li> <li>- Civil society, including notably national leaders, influencers, organizations active at the national scale</li> <li>- National &amp; international NGOs</li> <li>- Other national level projects</li> <li>- Technical &amp; research institutions/initiatives (e.g., CBI)</li> <li>- National level professional/ smallholder associations</li> <li>- Private sector actors active at the national scale</li> <li>- National level platform of indigenous organizations (e.g., GBABANDJI)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFM/Forest landscapes Impact Program communication initiatives (e.g., Network of Parliamentarians for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPA))</li> <li>- National and regional workshops</li> <li>- Cross landscape exchange visits</li> <li>- Publications, leaflets, case studies, technical best practice documents</li> <li>- Videos or other media content (e.g., radio)</li> <li>- Dissemination of project datasets and/or communication materials on national knowledge management platforms</li> <li>- Social networks</li> <li>- Awareness raising events</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decentralized government staff/agencies &amp; decentralized technical services</li> <li>- Provincial, regional and communal decision and policymakers</li> <li>- Civil society, including notably leaders, influencers and organizations</li> <li>- Professional/smallholder associations</li> <li>- National &amp; international NGOs</li> <li>- Other landscape projects</li> <li>- Private sector actors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National and regional workshops</li> <li>- Cross landscape exchange visits</li> <li>- Publications, leaflets, case studies, technical best practice documents</li> <li>- Videos or other media content (e.g., radio)</li> <li>- Local consultations, meetings, workshops</li> <li>- Project posters and signs</li> <li>- Social networks</li> <li>- Awareness raising events</li> </ul>
<b>Local</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decentralized government staff/agencies</li> <li>- Local administrative authorities</li> <li>- Local leaders and influencers</li> <li>- Community members, including Indigenous peoples, women, and other vulnerable groups</li> <li>- Local CSOs/smallholder associations</li> <li>- Local projects and programs</li> <li>- Local private sector actors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Publications, leaflets, case studies, technical best practice documents</li> <li>- Videos or other media content (e.g., radio)</li> <li>- Local consultations, meetings, workshops</li> <li>- Trainings and learning visits</li> <li>- Project posters and signs</li> </ul>

## deliverables for knowledge management and communication

Deliverable	Timeline	Budget
Gender-sensitive/responsive knowledge management and communications strategy to support implementation, replication and scaling up of sustainable forest landscape management practices	Q2&3 of first project year	? Activity 5.1.2.1: Develop project communication and knowledge management strategy (in coordination with Congo IP RCP): USD 7,000
Implementation of knowledge management and communications strategy.	Throughout project implementation	
Outcome indicator targets (see Results Framework, ProDoc Appendix 3):		
? 11 communications, awareness raising, and KM materials produced and proportion (%) that target women (and other vulnerable groups)		USD 60,925
? 10 bilateral or regional events to coordinate and exchange knowledge on project strategies for transboundary landscapes in which Cameroon is represented as a result of this project.		USD 30,308
Output indicator targets (To be confirmed by the PMU and tracked as part of AWP&B tracking)		USD 40,616
? At least 5 communication/KM materials be produced to raise awareness and understanding on values of PA, environmental laws and regulations with a targeted distribution of at least 3,000 (reference to A.2.1.2.1)		USD 63,540
? At least 20 exchange visits were organized benefiting 120 individuals (80 women/40 men) (reference to A.3.1.2.5)		USD 35,565
? At least 1 strategic document to inform scaling out of PPP model be produced and at least 6 publications sharing insights on ecology, reforestation, community-based programs be produced (reference to A.3.2.3.2)		USD 20,308
? 2 exchange visits be organized, each with 10 participants (reference to A.4.1.2.6)		
	Total Budget	USD 258,262

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

## Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be carried out by the PMU and the projects executing partners. The Project Manager will be responsible for gathering M&E data for the annual results framework tracking. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. The Results Framework includes 1-2 indicators per Outcome. The baseline has been completed for each indicator along with feasible targets, set annually where relevant. A methodology for measuring indicator targets is provided. Indicator targets are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART), and disaggregated by sex where applicable. Component 5 of the Results Framework is dedicated to M&E, knowledge sharing and coordination.

At project inception, the results matrix will be reviewed to validate and, if required, update: i) the project's theory of change; ii) outputs; iii) indicators; and iv) baseline information and targets, based to review and refine the theory of change for the project and each of its components, and to examine whether the project's assumptions and underlying conditions remain correct or may have significantly changed due to COVID-related issues, the national and regional security context, and/or any other contextual considerations. Relevant core indicators have been included to provide a portfolio level understanding of progress towards the Results Framework that build on the specific targets the project established.

Annual reflection workshops have been budgeted to review Project progress and challenges, taking into account results framework tracking, work plan tracking, and stakeholder feedback to review Project strategies, risks, and the theory of change. The results of these workshops will inform Project decision making (i.e., refining the theory of change, informing Project Progress Report and the Annual Workplan and Budget).

Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Project Inception Report (within one month of the Inception workshop); (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Quarterly financial reports; (iv) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Closeout Report. In addition, assessment of the relevant GEF-7 core indicators will be required at mid-term and final project evaluation.

The project's M&E plan is summarized in the table below; detailed indicators and methods for verification have been established in the Results Framework. A more detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (with annual targets for certain indicators, data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will be developed during project inception by the Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist appointed to the PMU, and reviewed and approved by the PSC and WWF GEF Agency.

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget in USD
Inception Workshop	Project Management Unit (PMU)	Within two months of project document signature	65,000
Inception Report	Project Management Unit (PMU)	within one month of the Inception workshop	10,000
Capacity strengthening for M&E	Project Management Unit (PMU)	During the first year of implementation	15,000
M&E across the program and coherence across child projects.	PMU	Annually	30,000

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget in USD
Results-based annual workplan and budget with implementation targets (AWP/B)	PMU	Within one month of project start-up and on an annual basis thereafter covering the July to June reporting period	60,000
Annual PSC meetings and annual stakeholder reflection workshops	PMU	Annually	96,860
Quarterly Financial Reports	PMU	Every three months starting from first disbursement	(No budget required ? covered by the Financial Manager
Sub-recipient/partner progress reports and follow-up	PMU	Ongoing	65,000
Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with results framework and project tracking including M&E of Core Indicators	Project Manager and Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist	Every six months	60,000
Learning missions / site visits	PMU and other executing partners	Annually	60,000
Mid-term Evaluation (MTE)	By independent consultants based on ToR developed by PMU and WWF GEF Agency	During the 3rd year of the project	44,250
Terminal evaluation (TE)	By independent consultants based on ToR developed by PMU and WWF GEF Agency	Six months prior to the actual project completion date	44,250
Project Closeout Report (based on the format of the PPR)	PMU and WWF GEF Agency	Within two months of project closure	50,000
End of project workshop	PMU	Project Close	65,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>665,360</b>

## 10. Benefits

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

The project will strengthen the governance and management frameworks for forest management in the Cameroon segments of 3 landscapes, with interventions that are anticipated to deliver socioeconomic benefits in 7 targeted councils or municipalities. These landscapes are multi-use systems that are essential to the culture, food security and livelihoods of forest-dwelling IPLCs who live within them. The

ecosystems of the landscapes are also vital to residents of the landscapes, and people beyond, for numerous provisioning, regulation, cultural and supporting services they provide.

The project will generate socio-economic benefits by maintaining and enhancing the resource base on which IPLCs in the southern forest belt of Cameroon rely. It will directly address competing demands on this resource base by progressing informed and inclusive land use planning in the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom, thereby helping to secure the access rights of IPLCs to critical resources and serving as an important learning opportunity for how access rights can be formally recognized and respected through the national land use planning framework.

In all three of the targets landscapes the project will also support IPLCs in establishing modern and sustainable value chains for NTFPs, including through agreements with private sector operators. Simultaneously, the project will strengthen the development of an ecotourism value chain that engages IPLCs and the private sector in the Cameroon segment of the CMRC landscape. Furthermore, the project will support the establishment of a sustainable and socially-responsible value chain for ebony in Cameroon segment of the TRIDOM landscape. In addition to directly increasing income generation for target stakeholders, the Ebony Project will be used to develop recommendations on establishing models of public-private partnerships involving IPLCs. Each of these efforts aim to realize socio-economic benefits for rightsholders, while incentivizing them to manage their resources sustainably.

As such, the project, will work to increase productive and sustainable employment for IPLCs in rural forest areas. The project seeks to achieve a 10% increase in income from enhanced value chains and public-private partnerships for at least 450 people (of which at least 50% women).

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
<b>Medium/Moderate</b>			

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

Please see the attached risk screening, categorization and table detailing risks and responses.

The Climate Risk Assessment has also been attached.

Details on these risk assessments can be found in the ProDoc in Appendix 11 and appendix 12.

Please find attached the Environmental and Social Management Framework which is currently under final review by the government.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Env. and Social Management Framework</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>ESS Screening and Categorization</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

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

The project Results Framework can be found in Appendix 3 of the ProDoc, page 119.

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

Responses to comments from Council Members and the STAP are provided in the table below.

Council comments:

Council Member comments on the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)	
<p>Canada: The technical advisory panel made interesting observations which may be useful to highlight again:</p> <p>? There are two particular deficiencies: identifying and addressing the barriers to scaling and transformation, particularly with regard to vested interests; and articulating a clear theory of change (TOC) that links drivers of deforestation/forest degradation and their root causes to project structure, outcomes and overall objective, and which identifies critical assumptions. STAP recommends further clarification of barriers and how to address them, along with the development of a clear, detailed TOC with a clear logical sequence of the steps and assumptions required. In the PPG phase, the CBSL should provide detailed and realistic objectives that can be monitored and measured (and adjusted if necessary) over time.</p>	<p>While the Cameroon child project has been designed in coordination with the regional child project and other national child projects under the Congo IP, it has also been designed to respond to drivers of deforestation/forest degradation in Cameroon. It will apply an inclusive, integrated approach that aims to achieve and sustain the effective participation and empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). It lays out the barriers to be addressed and the assumptions associated with each of the project strategies. The specific areas of intervention within each landscape have been identified based on site-specific considerations, including the potential to achieve meaningful results in the six-year project period, baselines and available co-financing, as well as the ability to manage all safeguard considerations. In order to drive for impact and ensure cost-effectiveness, target areas that have the potential to achieve results under multiple strategies have been prioritized. The proposed outcomes aim to be realistic and will be monitored and adjusted as needed.</p>

Norway-Denmark: Our constituency welcomes this project but is very concerned about possible overlap with the work of the Central Africa Forest Initiative, CAFI which Norway, among others, is an important donor to. We would strongly encourage finding mechanisms that will ensure the best possible coordination between these two programs and avoid any double reporting. Coordination meetings should take place at the country level since each country has different projects.

More specifically:

- ? In terms of the results and indicators, how to ensure that there is no double reporting compared to CAFI-funded programs?
- ? Component 1 of the program ?Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM? as well as the land use planning methodology developed under the regional component of the program, overlap with the land use planning efforts in DRC and Gabon and potentially in Rep Congo. CAFI and the country focal points should be associated to the methodological work to avoid duplication or guidance contrary to on-going work already funded by CAFI.
- ? Equateur provincial program in DRC (FAO and WWF as implementing agency, approved in 2018): It would be important that in the program development phase the deliverables of the CAFI program could be mapped and a gap analysis be conducted to make sure that the GEF program in the same area does not duplicate those efforts.
- ? Tenure and natural resource rights are supported in DRC by CAFI both through the national land tenure reform process as well as the above-mentioned Equateur program.
- ? It is unclear to us whether CAFI funded programs are counted as baseline investments or co-financing. More specifically:
- ? If baseline investment; its characterization as sectoral and lacking integration (page 45) should be reconsidered as this is not in line with CAFI's stated objectives

The Cameroon child project recognizes the importance of coordinating with CAFI and other initiatives to capitalize on synergies and avoid double reporting. Dr. Haman, who serves as the focal point for both the GEF and CAFI in Cameroon has been very involved in the project. The Director of Conservation from the Ministry of the Environment, who supervises all focal points for environmental programs, has also participated in the validation workshop for the project.

In addition, a letter from January 7, 2021, by the Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) summarizes progress on the REDD+ process in Cameroon. The note synthesizes key points as regards the institutional arrangements for coordination on REDD+, that will also be applicable for CAFI. The Government, summarizing the attributions of each key actor in the investment phase, envisages that REDD+ be placed under the direct authority of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, who chairs the National Planning Council of the National Development Strategy. In addition, intersectoral coordination will be ensured by MINEPAT, which chairs the National Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the National Development Strategy, in which MINEPAT, MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINADER, MINFI and others participate. The operationalization of REDD+ will be ensured by MINEPDED through the REDD+ National Coordination and the operational involvement of designated focal points in MINFOF, MINEPAT, MINFI and MINADER among others.

The Government also foresees the establishment of a technical and fiduciary team dedicated to REDD+ activities.

The Adjusted Work Plan that the Government developed in November 2020 determines the technical team to be recruited and which constitutes the REDD+ Technical Secretariat. The experts of this technical team will be recruited on the basis of their skills and through calls for applications. The Government has requested WWF to provide it with fiduciary facilities, including the recruitment and management of experts for the REDD+ Technical Secretariat. The assessment of the ownership and implementation of the documents prepared in the framework of the initial financing (National REDD+ Strategy; Forest Investment Program) that refer to both the REDD+ process and the CAFI initiative.

The project will continue to follow the progress made as regards the REDD+ process, and CAFI in

<p>United States: Recognizing that the intent of these projects is to mitigate or reverse deforestation, the United States needs to officially confirm for internal purposes that the following projects will not involve any logging of primary forests. Can the GEF please affirm that no logging of primary forests will occur during the implementation of projects: 10125, 10184, 10188, 10192, 10198, 10206, 10208, 10220.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Cameroon child project will not involve any logging of primary forests.</p>
	<p>The STAP screening of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program provides feedback on what was proposed under the regional program, which integrates multiple national child projects. While the comments were not specific to the Cameroon child project, the comments were considered during the development of the Cameroon child project. The Cameroon child project is based on a ToC that is specific to Cameroon and is based on a careful consideration of root causes and drivers of forest degradation and deforestation, while also recognizing and addressing key barriers and assumptions. It builds on lessons learned from other previous and ongoing initiatives. The project was designed in coordination with the regional child project, and aims to contribute to its objective. This includes through the integration of innovative approaches such as natural capital accounting, while specifically considering how such innovations can be scaled up given the national context in Cameroon.</p> <p>At the same time, due to the importance of the barriers to effective engagement and continued participation of IPLCs in SFM, the Cameroon child project has made improving their engagement and participation a cross-cutting theme. Each of the project strategies aims to improve their participation, whether it be through increased participation in LUP or strengthening value chains on which they rely. Recognizing that the social context is quite complex, an annex has been added to the project's ProDoc that provides a more detailed discussion of peoples in the project's targeted landscapes.</p>

STAP comments:

Note: The STAP screening of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program provides feedback on the Program Framework Document, and did not include any comments specific to the Cameroon child project. While the comments were not specific to the Cameroon child project, many of the comments were considered during the development of the Cameroon child project.



STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)

STAP Overall Assessment

Minor

STAP welcomes the submission of the Program Framework Document for the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL). The Basin is the Earth's second largest area of contiguous moist tropical forest, but the services it provides are under increasing pressure from deforestation, fragmentation, and infrastructure and other economic activities. There have been numerous conservation activities in the Congo Basin in recent years (outlined in detail in the Baseline section), this program offers a number of important policy and institutional innovations. For example, the use of integrated land use planning (iLUMPs) and the application of natural capital accounting (NCA) is innovative for this region, as is strengthening indigenous and local community tenure and management rights. For all of these innovations, it will be important to incorporate lessons learned from similar projects as well as from the CBSL program as it advances. The program builds strongly on multi-stakeholder partnerships, which should help promote durability of project benefits. Risks are well articulated at a general level, but lack specificity or convincing responses in some cases. Note that there are real barriers to effective participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) and women in consultations and planning processes. To overcome these barriers, proactive strategies and targeted expertise will be required to mitigate. There are two particular deficiencies: identifying and addressing the barriers to scaling and transformation, particularly with regard to vested interests; and articulating a clear theory of change (TOC) that links drivers of deforestation/forest degradation and their root causes to project structure, outcomes and overall objective, and which identifies critical assumptions. STAP recommends further clarification of barriers and how to address them, along with the development of a clear, detailed TOC with a clear logical sequence of the steps and assumptions required. In the PPG phase, the CBSL should provide detailed and realistic objectives that can be monitored and measured (and adjusted if necessary) over time.

Comment specific to Congo IP PFD. Even though the comment is in reference to the Congo IP PFD, the Cameroon project is designed to integrate institutional innovations and aims to strengthen IPLCs rights and their implication in different management and decision-making fora.

The Cameroon project recognizes the real barriers to effective participation of IPLCs and has made their engagement a cross-cutting theme across all components. The consultation process during project design was conducted to ensure IPLCs, including women, were able to participate (including through one-on-one or small group meetings); representatives of organizations that work to protect their rights were also

**STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)**

<p>Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?</p>	<p>The objectives are vague and say little about what state is aimed for in terms of actual global environmental values (biodiversity, carbon storage, etc). The overall objective is "To catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnerships with the private sector". But this says very little about what such change should look like, or how it relates to biodiversity/carbon/land degradation goals. The "long term solution" put forward is that "The six basin countries need to work together to undertake national and cross-border actions that stabilize forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations so that the Congo Basin forest ecosystem remains healthy and thriving" (p. 36); and later on p 44 it is said that realizing the overall objective will lead to "an intermediate state wherein the Congo Basin forest ecosystem is healthy and thriving with stable forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations". But this could involve stable forest cover/biodiversity etc. at levels much lower than today - is it possible for objectives to actually set out what the project seeks to achieve in terms of forest/biodiversity/climate outcomes, being realistic about the coming pressures?</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD; however the Cameroon was designed taking into consideration the coming pressures and aims to be realistic and strategic in what it can achieve.</p>
<p>A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?</p>	<p>Overall yes, though the categorization of activities into components is conceptually fuzzy, and the links between each component and how these address drivers/threats/root causes is not clearly explained.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.</p>	<p>Program Outcomes are provided for each Component; however, they are not broken down into specific short term and medium-term effects. For Component 1 - the main output is the number of ILUMPs developed and the area they encompass. Component 2 has to do with improved management effectiveness (METT) and connectivity. Component 3 focuses on forest-related value chains and the extent to which communities are engaged and empowered. And Component 4 refers to CB, KM and regional cooperation.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?</p>	<p>It is hard to assess this without a clear TOC that identifies how the outputs of each component affect outcomes and the objective and identifies critical assumptions. On the whole the activities do indeed appear appropriate and likely to generate these GEBs, but the complexity of the program and the large number of potential risks make this difficult to assess.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>

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<p>A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?</p>	<p>As discussed above, outputs are not specifically outlined for each of the Components. Rather indicators are provided for each Component which seem to serve the same purpose.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>Is the problem statement well-defined?</p>	<p>Key points are generally well covered in the problem statement, although this is not written clearly and needs much stronger organization - for instance, there is no explicit discussion of root causes, although some of these are highlighted earlier in the program rationale. Specific points: *A general point throughout is that the term "PA" is used without definition, and it is not clear whether it includes zones such as community-managed hunting zones/community forests and state-run trophy hunting concessions etc. Different uses seem to imply that PA either does or doesn't include these at different points. So, this is hard to interpret. Cultural and socio-economic significance: *Great to see the analysis of the underlying problems with tenure here, though these could be helpfully pulled out as a root cause. *Important to recognize that conservation and PAs have also been a major cause of eviction and dispossession of forest peoples from their land, not just granting of concessions for agriculture/forestry etc. *Discussion of peoples is somewhat inadequate, and in particular doesn't highlight the difference between forest peoples generally recognized as indigenous ("Pygmies"), who are primarily hunter-gatherer and marginalized in land policy/politics etc. and the agricultural ("Bantu") groups. C African states (including Gabon - see <a href="http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/504451468251730621/Programme-Sectoriel-Forets-et-Environnement-PSFE-Plan-de-developpement-des-peuples-autochtones">http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/504451468251730621/Programme-Sectoriel-Forets-et-Environnement-PSFE-Plan-de-developpement-des-peuples-autochtones</a>) have recognized the need to recognize indigenous peoples - see e.g. work of African Commission <a href="https://www.iwgia.org/images/publications//African_Commission_book.pdf">https://www.iwgia.org/images/publications//African_Commission_book.pdf</a>. Legislative and policy context: *It may be helpful for this to include key characteristics of legislative/policy contexts operating at national level in region: there are high-level characteristics across the region that are extremely relevant to understanding current situation e.g. highly centralized state ownership of land, in general with little capacity, inadequate enforcement capabilities and often patchy environmental regulatory frameworks, etc.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD; however, recognizing that the social context in Cameroon, as in the rest of the Congo Basin is quite complex, an annex has been added to the project's ProDoc that provides a more detailed discussion of peoples in the project's targeted landscapes.</p>

STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)

<p>Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?</p>	<p>Threats and Root causes: *Recent publication on deforestation in region could helpfully be cited  <a href="https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat2993.full">https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat2993.full</a> * The connection made here to lack of tenure of indigenous/forest dependent people is puzzling - presumably it is not indigenous people (generally reliant on hunting/gathering) that is responsible for this? Or if this is intended to imply that it is because of lack of tenure that forest people can't keep the farmers out of their lands, this should be clarified. * Discussion of some drivers is superficial e.g. discussion of poaching and trafficking focused on lack of law enforcement rather than highlighting underlying drivers of poaching/IWT, which can include dispossession, lack of incentives to conserve, lack of legal rights to sustainably use etc (see e.g. <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/conl.12082">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/conl.12082</a>), as highlighted in earlier discussion. *There is no clear integrated discussion of root causes here - proximate drivers are discussed (spread of agriculture, poorly managed forestry, poaching etc), sometimes with reference to root causes like population growth, and sometimes without. Annex D, which apparently has a diagram showing root causes, is missing. Barriers: * This section is not clearly and coherently organized - a clearer and more logical breakdown of broad context; proximate threats; root causes; and barriers to change would be really helpful. *Much of this material reads as articulating drivers of harm, rather than barriers to change (and indeed much is phrased as drivers e.g. "Conflicting and isolated sectoral developments....lead to habitat loss..."). * Each barrier has a lot of rather unrelated points lumped in together, without a clearly articulated conceptual grouping. For example, in the first, the lack of community rights to manage land does not fit well under the heading "Conflicting and isolated sectoral developments..". While lack of these rights does raise conflicts over land use, it is a much broader point that also leads to other issues, so this is not a good fit. This barrier might be better named something like "Lack of integrated land use planning" and be one of the root causes of deforestation etc. In the third barrier, too, there are many disparate elements lumped together. Most of it appears to be linked by being about lack of incentives for biodiversity-friendly livelihood/economic activities. But the title as written is extremely broad and cover so much more - such as that for communities many potentially sustainable uses are simply illegal. *Barrier 3: Note that there are some models of community management in the region - it is an overly strong statement to say their engagement in PA management and benefit-sharing is lacking. Rather, perhaps better to highlight there is a need for strengthening, scaling up and learning from positive examples. Important to note that the major, or at least very important, benefits of sustainable use for forest dependent communities will generally be subsistence use - food, medicine, cultural uses etc, rather than commercial (though recognition of scope for these is welcome).</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p> <p>The Cameroon child project is based on a ToC that is specific to Cameroon and is based on a careful consideration of root causes and drivers of forest degradation and deforestation, while also recognizing and addressing key barriers and assumptions.</p>
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**STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)**

<p>Is the baseline identified clearly?</p>	<p>*The baseline section does not give a clear picture of the current trajectory of environmental change in the region, but rather of what is being planned or underway in the region. If this is what is intended by the baseline here this is fine, but it would be helpful to have a clearer baseline on the actual on-the-ground biodiversity/forest/climate parameters that are the subject of the program. As written here it is mainly a list of what various donors/agencies are currently planning to do, without enough detail to understand how these affect the situation on the ground, although some of the country baselines (e.g. for CAR and ROC) do give a clearer idea of the on-the-ground baseline. There is more useful comment on the baseline on p45 which could be incorporated here, and in the section on Incremental/additional cost reasoning - these sections are more helpful to the reader in understanding the baseline situation.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?</p>	<p>No, but this detail will be developed through child projects.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?</p>	<p>Baseline information for the overall program lists numerous programs and ongoing activities, organizations, etc. as per usual. As part of the CBSL IP, it would be very useful if the coordination grant in developing a platform could provide detailed information on all of these programs in a spatially explicit manner to show how they related to each other and how this project will add value in terms of overall global (and local) benefits.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD. The baseline section of the Cameroon child project aims to resent the baseline by thematic area and landscapes to provide an overall view.</p>

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<p>For multiple focal area projects: are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators; are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and how did these lessons inform the design of this project?</p>	<p>No lessons from past work are described, and drawing such lessons would be extremely helpful.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD; the Cameroon child project builds on lessons learned from other previous and ongoing initiatives and includes a section on these lessons in its ProDoc.</p> <p>-</p>
<p>What is the theory of change?</p>	<p>Annex 5, a diagram of the TOC, is not included. The TOC is described to some extent in the text, but as there is no logic of how each program component will address the key drivers described, it is hard to work out exactly what the TOC is. The program logic does not clearly and convincingly link root causes and proximate threats to program structure and outputs, or clearly identify critical assumptions in the logical chain. The components of the program (which are confusingly given substantively different names at different points) (e.g. (i. integrated land use planning ii. Maintaining/enhancing connectivity in key landscapes iii. Sustainable use outside PAs) are articulated in terms of how they address the four identified barriers, without linking this back to underlying drivers/root causes that were identified earlier. For example, the document states "The single most important national policy issue related to biodiversity conservation is land and resource ownership", but there are no program components that clearly link to and address this driver. While assumptions and risks for program success are articulated at a general level, it would be helpful to integrate these into a graphic TOC, to identify critical assumptions that underlie particular causal pathways in the TOC ? this would indicate what parts of the program are dependent on what assumptions. One important assumption/risk is about forest-dependent, particularly indigenous, people, being able to participate effectively in consultations/planning, should be highlighted ? there are substantial barriers to this and a long history of marginalisation in such deliberations. This underpins achievement of much of the program's desired outcome (particularly given small scale conversion to agriculture is a key driver of forest loss), so deserves explicit and careful attention.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>

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<p>What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?</p>	<p>The PFD indicates the four program components will address the four barriers, with (it is implied) each addressing one barrier. But how the components link back to the drivers and root causes is not well articulated. This comes back to the unclear articulation of the drivers and root causes to begin with. And the linkage of each program component to its corresponding driver is weak. For example, component (ii), "the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat... is improved by maintaining/enhancing connectivity..." is linked to overcoming barrier (ii) "forest landscape sustainability is compromised by poor governance of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors". But improving connectivity doesn't address poor governance. This seems rather conceptually confused. The diagram may help. The discussion on p45 under integration is much clearer in indicating how exactly the program is intended to shift the baseline (in relation to integrated planning at least). Including a similar description for the other components would be extremely helpful in clarifying the TOC and enabling assumptions and risks to be articulated.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
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<p>? Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?</p>	<p>Overall the mechanisms of change are plausible, but underlying assumptions are not well articulated. For example, the program highlights throughout the inclusion of forest-dependent people, but the assumptions around being able to do this effectively (and the barriers to doing this effectively) are not recognized anywhere. *Component 1 is well described, and the text on p45 under integration makes clear how it is expected to address a key driver of degradation, the lack of integrated land use planning. It seems that empowering communities to manage forests/wildlife is part of the thinking here, from some of the language, but if this is among the objectives of this component it should be stated - otherwise they are likely to be politically marginalized in the process ("involvement" in practice can mean just being told what is going to happen, unless it is really clear that one of the aims is to entrench a legally-recognized management role). There needs to be a focus in this section on implementation as well as planning, and some sort of process to adaptively review and support implementation in the face of inevitable roadblocks. This may be inherent, but it may be good to make it explicit to ensure the focus is on effective implementation, not just the planning phase. Or if this is done in component 4 perhaps indicate that clearly. *Component 2 is clearer here. Re the indicators here, it is perhaps a bit concerning that these focusses so narrowly on protected areas, as there is so much important biodiversity outside of current PAs. Note that many aspects of this component and others actually contribute to addressing wildlife crime (the benefits, better governance, inclusion) - addressing wildlife crime goes well beyond "catching poachers". *Component 3 is extremely broad, but the logic of combining all "use" activities together is clearer here. Note, however, that this component is sometimes spoken of as being about empowering communities (see e.g. p 51, para beginning "Furthermore"..), whereas it is much broader than this and is about shifting private sector patterns of exploitation also. Note that text is rather inconsistent as whether it is trying to shift communities away from using the forest or to trying to use it sustainably (important to encompass both - former where uses are unlikely to be able to be made sustainable (e.g. primate hunting, high population growth), latter where they can (most subsistence uses, NTFPs, community forestry etc.)). The indicators here need work though - what about area under sustainable subsistence use? area under management where communities have decision-making role? reduced deforestation by private sector? Reduced overexploitation of subsistence resources? Reduced IWT involving communities? Would be good to get beyond Output indicators to Outcome here.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?</p>	<p>Yes, this seems clear. Note that in the CAR section we seem to have moved from the project's approach of empowering communities to play a role in managing forests/wildlife to "alternative" livelihoods - is making subsistence use sustainable not important here? In the DRC section, where it says "private" land - is this intended to mean community land? Nothing on wildmeat in Gabon, where it is a major issue (NTFPs and wood won't feed people) (see e.g. CIFOR work <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/26267975?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents">https://www.jstor.org/stable/26267975?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents</a>) ?</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD, and CAR, DRC and Gabon child projects.</p>

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<p>Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?</p>	<p>Yes, although many indicators currently measure only outputs rather than outcomes (see above for example).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?</p>	<p>There are some important innovations here. Applying NC accounting. Integrated land use planning is innovative in this region at least. Incorporating lessons learned on how it has helped, AND what goes wrong in such processes, would be extremely reassuring. Strengthening indigenous/LC tenure/management rights is innovative in the region (though it has been ongoing for thirty years elsewhere), but likewise it would be reassuring to see some lessons learned from experience incorporated here in term of where/how this works and how it can go wrong. These are the main innovations - the rest appears to be about scaling up and coordinating what is already going on.</p>	<p>The Cameroon child project will apply innovative techniques for natural capital accounting and integrated LUP that engages IPLCs. The methodology for LUP proposed is aligned with a national approach that has already been rolled out at higher levels and builds on lessons recoded as part of the European Union-funded project ?LandCam: Securing Land and Resource Rights and Improving Governance in Cameroon? as detailed in section 3.7 of the ProDoc.</p>

**STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)**

<p>Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?</p>	<p>Transformational change will be needed (i.e. through NCA or other means) to provide an attractive alternative to large scale logging, mining, forest concessions, etc. that are planned for the Congo Basin and which are expected to contribute to much needed economic growth and poverty alleviation.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD.</p>
<p>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p>	<p>Strongly recognized, although assumptions and risks here not clearly articulated (e.g. structural barriers to women's participation (family responsibilities, male opposition etc.)</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD. Cameroon child project has a detailed Gender Strategy and Action Plan.</p>
<p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?</p>	<p>*Risks are generally well articulated. Note that there are real barriers to effective participation of IPLCs and women in consultations (people with little political power often unable to speak out clearly in support of their own interests, unable to attend meetings, language barriers, may be subject to (violent) reprisals from others, etc.) These risks will need proactive strategies and targeted expertise to mitigate. The mitigation measure for Risk 2 re divergence of economic interests is unconvincing. Several of the risks appear to justify the existence of the program itself (for example R8 on coordination and R 11 on duplication. A very real risk is R10 on conflict (medium to high) but the mitigation measure doesn't seem to account for how projects might be designed differently as a result (see Ratner, B.D. 2018. Environmental security: dimensions and priorities. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.)</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD. Cameroon child project has identified specific risks and mitigation measures.</p>
<p>Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?</p>	<p>There is little evidence of this.</p>	<p>Comment specific to Congo IP PFD. Cameroon child project includes Section 3.7 on lessons learned through other projects.</p>
<p>Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?</p>	<p>"</p>	<p>N/A</p>

**STAP Screen of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (#10208)**

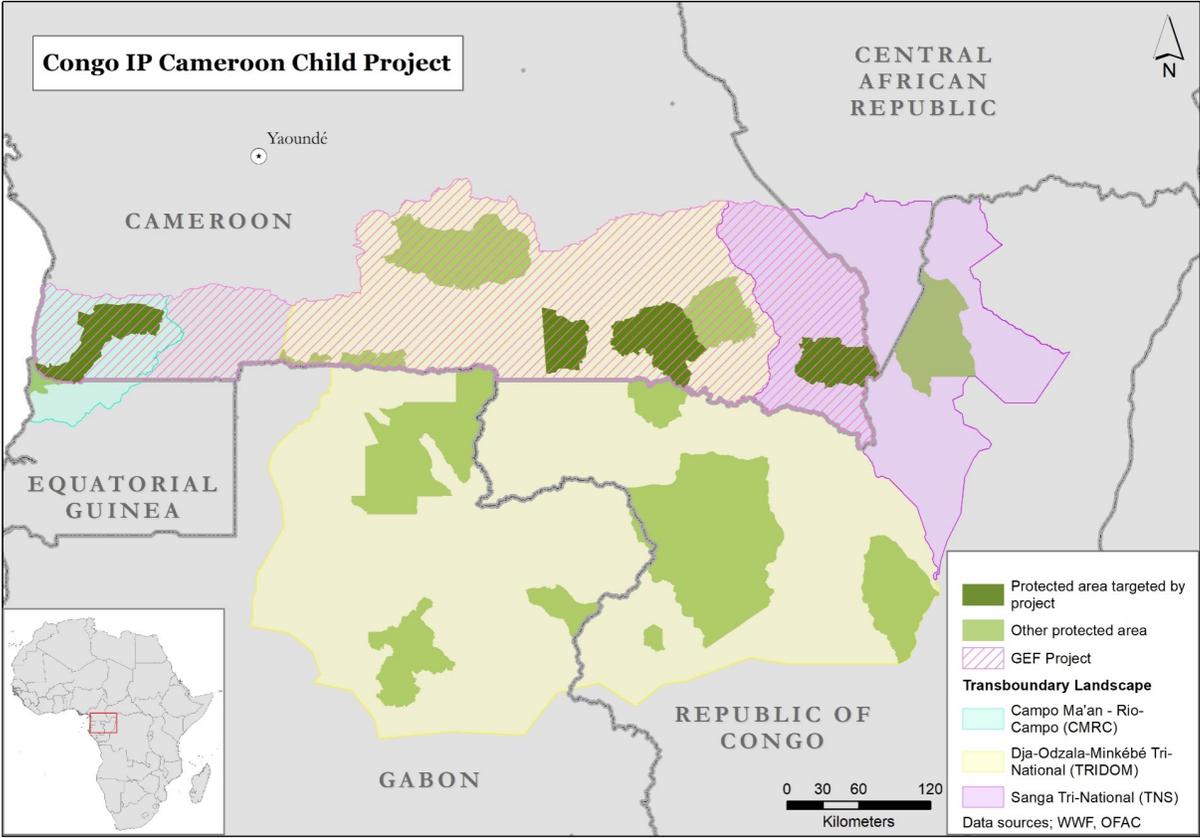
Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	"	N/A
How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	"	N/A
Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?	"	N/A

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

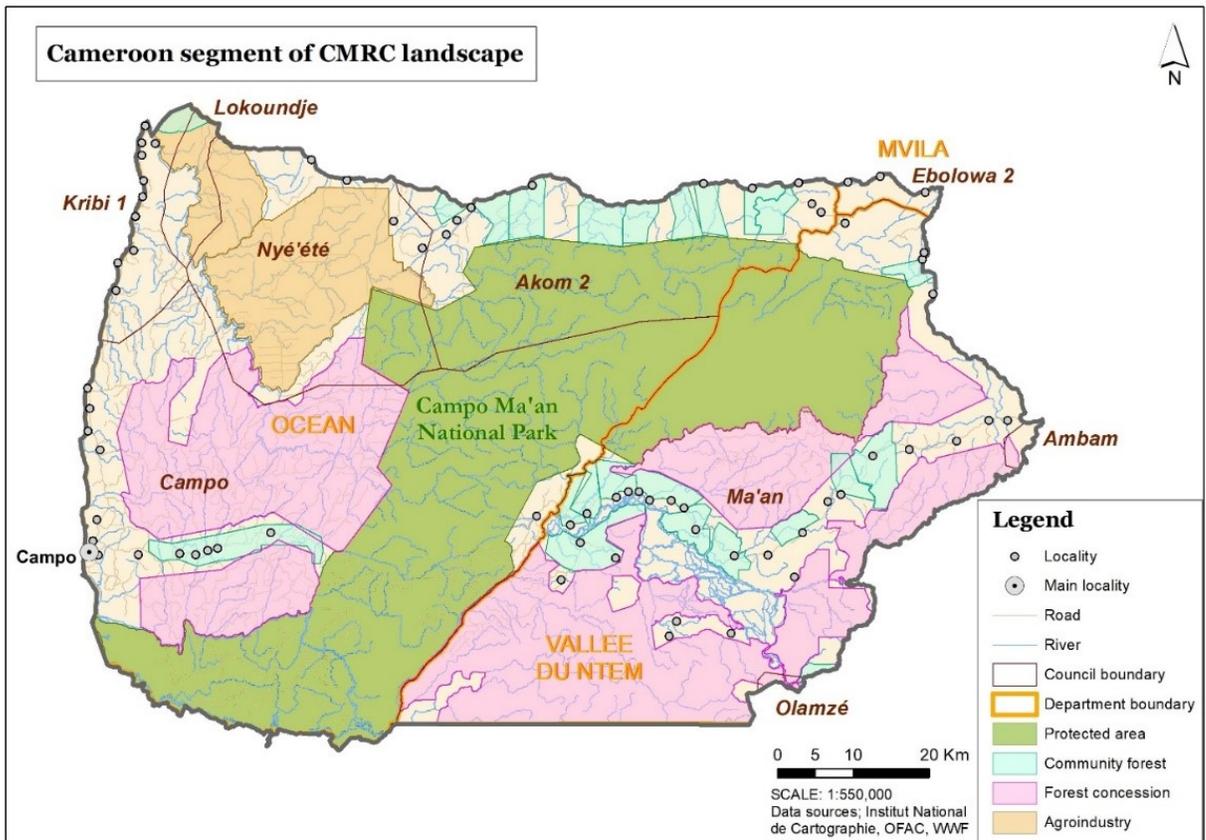
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Project Development			
International Consultants	94,680		94,680
Local Consultants	51,793	34,721	17,072
Salaries and Benefits	38,000	54,997	(16,997)
Safeguards	25,000		25,000
Travel and Workshops	75,612	60,552	15,060
Kick-off & Technical workshop #1			
Stakeholder engagement			
Project Preparation meetings			
Validation Workshop			
Other Direct Costs	14,915		14,915
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>150,270</b>	<b>134,815</b>

**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

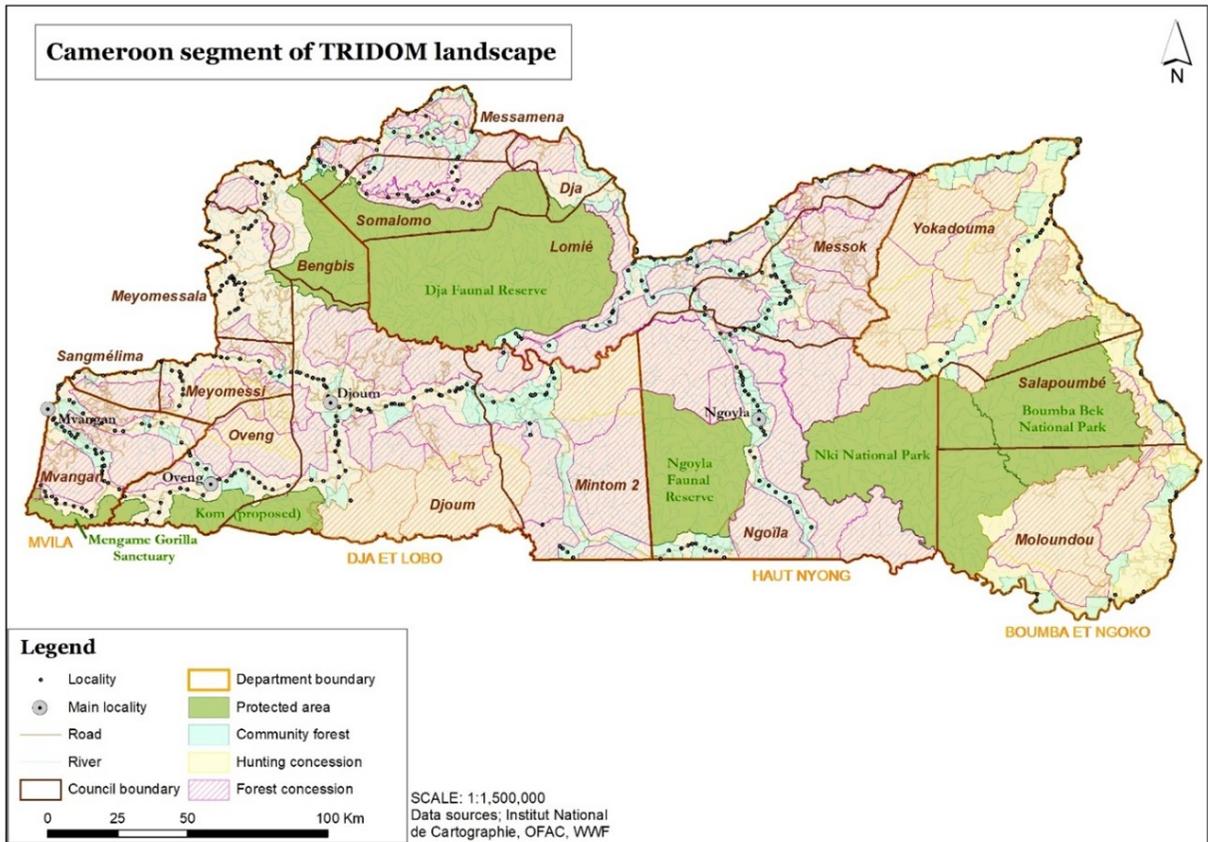
**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**



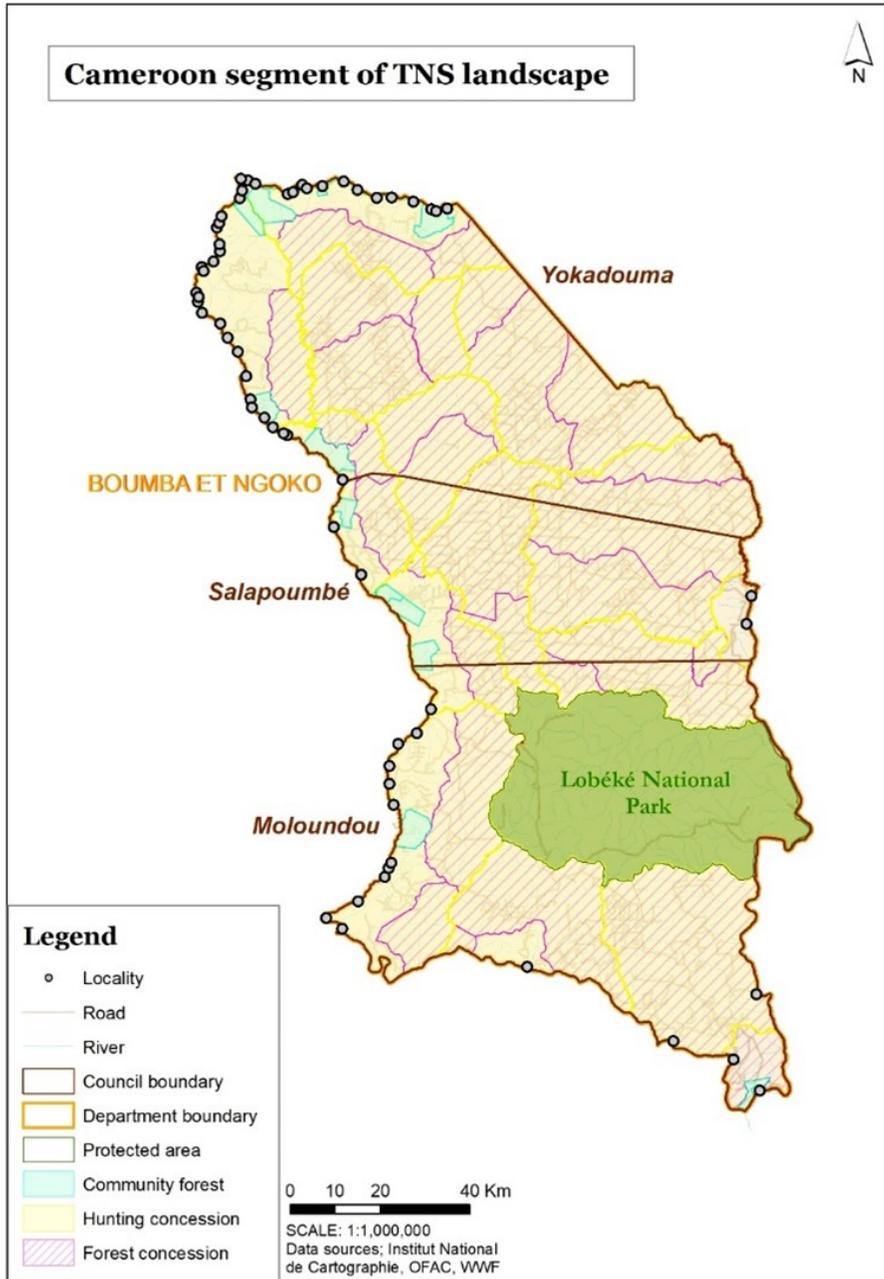
**Figure 1.** Overview of Cameroon Child Project Area and three targeted transboundary landscapes



**Figure 2.** Cameroon segment of Campo Ma'an-Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape



**Figure 3.** Cameroon segment of Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape



**Figure 4.** Cameroon segment of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape

## **ANNEX E: Project Budget Table**

**Please attach a project budget table.**

**GEF Project Budget Overview**

The budget was developed in accordance with the expected results of the project and the resources needed to carry out the various activities. This budget complements the existing and projected resources of the various partners implementing activities related to the project. The contribution made by the GEF will ensure that the results of the project are achieved with the desired impacts.

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

1.00

Expenditure Category	Ref.	Description	Component (US\$eq.)							M&E	PMC	Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity <small>(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]</small>
			Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Sub-Total					
Goods	1	Field Equipment		53,429	-	61,883		115,312			115,312	WWF Cameroon	
		Office Equipment		-	-	-	-	-	7,203	7,203	7,203	MINEPDED	
				53,429	-	61,883	-	115,312	-	7,203	122,515		
Vehicles		Motorcycles x2		10,950	-	-	-	10,950			10,950	MINEPDED	
	16	Vehicle 4WD x 2		47,500	-	-	47,500	95,000	47,500	-	95,000	MINEPDED	
		Vehicle/boat Running Costs		50,579	-	-	41,012	91,591	41,012	-	91,591	MINEPDED	
				109,029	-	-	88,512	197,541	88,512	-	197,541		
Grants/ Sub-grants	2	AWF		507,195	-	298,040		805,235			805,235	MINEPDED	
	3	UCLA, CBI, Crelicam		-	-	984,517		984,517			984,517	MINEPDED	
	4	National and Local NGOs	184,313	733,413	1,388,071	422,839		2,728,636			2,728,636	MINEPDED	
	5	PADIDIA	611,383	-	-	-		611,383			611,383	MINEPDED	
	6	Small grants IPLC Ecotourism		-	-	91,122		91,122			91,122	MINEPDED	
	7	Small grants NTFP (IPLC NTFP enterprises)		-	551,085	-		551,085			551,085	MINEPDED	
	8	Rain Forest Alliance	118,136	-	-	-		118,136			118,136	MINEPDED	
	9	RACOPY		95,574	-	-		95,574			95,574	MINEPDED	
				913,832	1,336,182	2,923,673	812,001	5,985,688	-	-	5,985,688		
Consultants		International consultants for short-term technical assistance		14,400	-	68,000		82,400		-	82,400	WWF Cameroon	
		Midterm and Terminal Evaluation		-	-	-	88,500	88,500	88,500	-	88,500	MINEPDED	
		Local consultants for short-term technical assistance		104,797	-	63,000		167,797		-	167,797	WWF Cameroon	
		Safeguards Analysis and mitigation plans	8,838	26,514	17,674	8,838		61,864		-	61,864	MINEPDED	
		8,838	145,711	17,674	139,838	88,500	400,561	88,500	-	400,561			
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	10	Project Manager		-	-	-	-	-	-	46,398	46,398	MINEPDED	
	10	Land use planning and Land management expert	110,794	-	-	-	110,794				110,794	MINEPDED	
	10	Wildlife management specialist		106,170	-	-	106,170				106,170	MINEPDED	
	10	Sustainable forest management specialist		-	132,715	-	132,715				132,715	MINEPDED	
	10	Finance Manager		-	-	-	-		160,701		160,701	MINEPDED	
	10	Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist		-	-	185,592	185,592	185,592			185,592	MINEPDED	
	10	Project communication and knowledge management Specialist		-	-	210,338	210,338				210,338	MINEPDED	
	10	Safeguards Officer	50,264	50,265	50,265	50,264	201,058				201,058	MINEPDED	
	10	Gender and Social Development Specialist	30,159	70,370	70,370	30,159	201,058				201,058	MINEPDED	
10	Accountant		-	-	-	-	-	-	117,542	117,542	MINEPDED		
10	Landscape Operational Assistants	57,224	57,224	114,449		228,897				228,897	MINEPDED		
10	Project assistant	9,744	9,744	9,744	9,744	13,919	52,895	13,919	2,784	55,679	MINEPDED		
10	Drivers (2)		52,078	-	-	52,078	104,156	52,078		104,156	MINEPDED		
		258,185	345,851	377,543	90,167	461,927	1,533,673	251,589	327,425	1,861,098			
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	11	Workshops/Meetings (local)		19,391	-	-	19,391			-	19,391	WWF Cameroon	
	12	Workshops/Meetings (national)	44,709	62,934	92,750	35,875	102,024	338,292	102,024		338,292	MINEPDED	
	13	Workshops/Meetings (national)		24,136	-	-	24,136				24,136	WWF Cameroon	
	14	Workshops/Meetings (regional)		71,271	-	-	71,271				71,271	WWF Cameroon	
		Training sessions		38,726	-	-	38,726				38,726	WWF Cameroon	
		44,709	216,458	92,750	35,875	102,024	491,816	102,024		491,816			
Travel		Vehicle rental		16,740	-	6,960		23,700			23,700	MINEPDED	
		Regional/International Travel		10,180	-	-	48,178	58,358			58,358	MINEPDED	
		In-country travel	6,071	-	-	61,613	67,684	61,613			67,684	MINEPDED	
		In-country travel		20,926	-	-	20,926				20,926	WWF Cameroon	
		6,071	47,846	-	6,960	109,791	170,668	61,613		170,668			
Supplies		Supplies (Community engagement)		6,434	-	-	6,434				6,434	WWF Cameroon	
		Supplies (Wildlife)		13,919	-	-	13,919				13,919	WWF Cameroon	
		Supplies (Health check)		18,559	-	-	18,559				18,559	WWF Cameroon	
		Supplies (office)		-	-	-	-		13,483		13,483	MINEPDED	
		Supplies (software)		-	-	2,547	2,547				2,547	WWF Cameroon	
		Supplies (Gorilla tracking)		-	-	65,237	65,237				65,237	WWF Cameroon	
		Covid-19 Personal Protective Supplies		-	-	-	-		21,546		21,546	MINEPDED	
			38,912	-	67,784	-	106,696	-	35,029	141,725			
Other Operating Costs		Annual Audit		-	-	-	-	-		67,941	67,941	MINEPDED	
		Communication and KM materials		-	-	-	24,746	24,746	24,746		24,746	MINEPDED	
		Training and communication materials		8,212	-	-	8,212				8,212	WWF Cameroon	
		Internet access		-	-	18,309	18,309	18,310			18,309	MINEPDED	
		Office (maintenance)		-	-	18,297	18,297		20,147		38,444	MINEPDED	
		Phone credit		-	-	30,066	30,066	30,066			30,066	MINEPDED	
	15	Field cost		-	-	48,927	48,927				48,927	WWF Cameroon	
			8,212	-	48,927	91,418	148,557	73,122	88,088	236,645			
Grand Total			1,231,635	2,301,630	3,411,640	1,263,435	942,172	9,150,512	665,360	457,745	9,608,257		
			-	394,200	-	309,594	-	703,794	-	-	703,794		

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

**ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows**

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

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

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).