



REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Sustainable farming and critical habitat conservation to achieve biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management effectiveness in Western Cameroon - SUFACHAC			
Country(ies):	Cameroon	GEF Project ID: ¹	5210
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	ADDIS No. 00909
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection & Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in partnership with: University of Dschang, the Environment and Rural Development Foundation and Chede Cooperative Union.	Re-submission Date:	January 15, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	163,105
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 		

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
BD-1	Outcome 1.1: Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas.	Output 1. New protected areas (number) and coverage (hectares) of unprotected ecosystems.	GEF TF	552,027	3,045,984
BD-1	Outcome 1.2: Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management.	Output 3. Sustainable financing plans (number).	GEF TF	337482	1,683,523
BD-2	Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation	Output 1. Policies and regulatory frameworks (number) for production sectors. Output 2. National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.	GEF TF	827386	1,383,333
Total project costs				1,716,895	6,112,840

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

Project Objective: To strengthen and expand the PA network of, and mainstream biodiversity conservation in, the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. Critical wildlife habitat conservation through creation / strengthening of Protected areas	Inv	Outcome 1. A fully completed , strengthen and effectively managed Bakossi Banyang Mbo Lebialem (BBML) Technical Operation Unit (TOU) and its strengthened and well managed PA network.	Output 1.1. Bakossi (29 320 ha) Banyang Mbo Lebialem (690,000 ha) -BBML Technical Operation Unit (TOU) established and effectively managed. Output 1.2. Management Plans (2MPs) for the two existing PA are validated and it integrate community-based approaches to PA management. Output 1.3. Two New PAs (Kupe and Tofala Hill covering 11,528 ha) are classified, (supported by draft ESIA's / ESMPs - see Output 1.4). Output 1.4. ESIA's for PA Management Plans prepared to newly defined standards (see Output 2.1) and being implemented according to approved / ESMPs.	GEF TF	590,400	1,087,600
2. Promotion of communities livelihood and biodiversity conservation through IESMP	Inv	Outcome 2. Strengthened regulatory framework and coordinated investments mitigate environmental and social impacts of development projects and PA management	Output 2.1. Regulatory frameworks, standards and guidelines for preparation of ESIA's and ESMPs for PA management and other public / private sector development projects that have impact on PAs and/or biodiversity are developed. Output 2.2. One Policy and a set of guidelines on collaborative management and conservation incentives that link clearly to PA Management Plans and associated ESIA's / ESMPs ESMPs is drafted . Output 2.3. Collaborative management & conservation incentives program is implemented on pilot scale at priority sites around PAs. Output 2.4. Private sector co-financing is negotiated for PA management and/or livelihood activities that are supportive of	GEF TF	600,000	3,237,000

			PA management in BBML Landscape. Output 2.5. Local Land Use Plans (LUPs) developed for areas with existing or potential land use conflicts around PAs that identify HCV forest and development potentials and realistic management options negotiated with local communities. Output 2.6 Contribute to the elaboration of a common Sustainable Financial Mechanism (SFM) for SW Region PAs.			
3. Knowledge Management, monitoring and evaluation	TA	Outcome 3. Improved knowledge and monitoring of the socio-economic & environmental values of BBML landscape	Output 3.1. Training needs, learning framework are established, and training packages developed to build capacity for Environmental & Social Impact Assessment for Protected Areas (PAs) and projects that have impact on biodiversity and/or PAs. Output 3.2. Common framework for M&E of socioeconomic & environmental performance of conservation & development initiatives in the BBML Landscape developed, tested and adopted by all stakeholders. Output 3.3. Lessons are learn from project activities and impacts communicated.	GEF TF	370,414	1,088,240
Subtotal					1,560,814	5,412,840
Project management Cost (PMC) ³				GEF TF	156,081	700,000
Total project costs					1,716,895	6,112,840

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
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³ PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

National Government	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development	In-kind	950,000
National Government	Regional Delegation of Ministry of Nature Protection and Sustainable Development	In-kind	500,000
National Government	University of Dschang	In-kind	250,000
Private Sector	Chede - Moringa Initiative	Cash	2,000,000
CSO	Chede	In-Kind	800,000
CSO	Environment & Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF)	Cash	1,462,840
GEF Agency	UNEP/GRASP	Cash	100,000
GEF Agency	UNEP/GRASP	In-Kind	50,000
Total Co-financing			6.112,840

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Cameroon	1,716,895	163,105	1,880,000
Total Grant Resources				1,716,895	163,105	1,880,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this

table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	167,500	1,540,000	1,707,500
National/Local Consultants	375,000	1,086,000	1,461,000

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF⁴

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

⁴ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

No major changes since the PIF, but now makes more explicit reference to the 9th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) which requested all parties to ensure PAs contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development, and to the Revised Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the Aichi Targets which were adopted at the 10th COP, and Decision No. UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/3 of 5 December 2012 adopted at the 11th COP on "Monitoring progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets". In rural areas of Cameroon, poverty had grown by 3 points, especially in the northern regions. In Cameroon, poverty continues to be fundamentally a rural phenomenon with women and children particularly hard-hit and most vulnerable. (Poverty Survey ECAM III). 52 per cent of people in poor households are women, and half the members of poor households are under 15 years of age. The key factors identified by ECAM III as the causes of poverty are: household size, education level, socio-economic grouping and access to productive assets. Poor communities, especially local communities depend on biodiversity resources to sustain livelihoods. The pressure on biodiversity as a result of poverty is discernible. About 40% of the population are classified as poor and a major cause of poverty is the socio-economic situation and access to productive assets. In a vicious circle the poor depend on biological resources for their livelihood. Where poverty is generalised, the issue of food insecurity becomes apparent with the poor turning to overharvesting of biodiversity resources and poaching, to sustain their livelihoods. The degree of utilization has varied according to social factors, but it is clear that natural ecosystems are becoming degraded in target sites where indigenous peoples (IPs) and other local communities live (Cameroon NBSAP II, 2012).

The project aims to support progress towards a number of Aichi targets and indicators (See Annex O for more details), in particular: Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of Biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society - All Targets 1 to 4; Strategic Goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on Biodiversity and promote sustainable use: Target 5 relating to reduced rates of loss of natural habitats and degradation; Target 7 relating to the area of agriculture and forestry under sustainable management, ensuring conservation of biodiversity; and Strategic Goal C. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, with particular relevance to Target 11 (area conserved through effective and equitable management of ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas, and other effective areas-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes) and Target 12 (relating to the prevention of extinction of known threatened species and improvement of their conservation status). In particular the Project addresses Target 2 - "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems" by "developing policies considering biodiversity and ecosystem service in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment" (a Category C, national-level indicator).

It also now recognises the existence of a draft Rural Development Strategy which puts strong emphasis on: food security as the top priority; a green and equitable agricultural development; improving the effective management of protected areas and on improving the implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for both private sector and protected area management.

The following strategies listed in the PIF remain relevant:

- The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP or DSCE in French), identifies promotion of biodiversity conservation as one of the target to achieve MDG 7.
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Cameroon which identified 6 major ecosystems indicated that there is a necessity to reinforce the knowledge of biodiversity resources and their potential for sustainable management by local communities and at national

level.

- The Cameroon National Committee on Bioscience, which includes various scientific and research institutions, during various national stakeholder consultations and scientific reviews, recognized the need for development of tools and methodologies for the evaluation, assessment and valorisation of biological resources
- The Forestry and Environment Sector Program (PSFE) defined the national policy framework for biodiversity conservation and management. In its component 4, the Banyang Mbo-Bakossi landscape is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened. It is classified as of “very high” conservation priority.
- The National Protected Areas and Wildlife Strategy and the Biodiversity Vision for Cameroon both put emphasis on the protection of mountain, coastal and marine ecosystems that are insufficiently represented in the protected areas network.
- The National Plan for Environment Management (PNGE) in which project activities will support effective implementation of policies, strategies and environment protection for sustainable resources uses to achieve sustainable development.
- The “Plan de Convergence” of COMIFAC promotes sustainable and consultative management of forest resources and the establishment of a network of representative protected area system and ecosystems for livelihood and global environment conservation. The project will particularly contribute to Axe 4: Biodiversity conservation of this plan. In its 2009 Strategic Plan, the Central African Protected Area Network (RAPAC), an organ of COMIFAC, identified six specific programs of which the following are supported by the GEF Project: 1. Improving the overall quality of PA management; 3. Harmonization of management instruments and promotion of good governance; 4. Relevance and coherence of the PA network; 5. Contribution of PAs to socio-economic development. In more detail, Program 5 aims to "Promote cultural and social economic valorisation of PAs and the development of alternative activities to reduce pressure on PA sites and to help reduce poverty in the communities surrounding pilot sites."

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework has been developed for the period of 2013 – 2017. In line with this framework, the project contributes to the Cooperation Axe No1: Support to a strong growth, sustainable and all-inclusive. The project contribute particularly to Outcome 1: By 2017, the national institutions develop and implement in participative manners policies and strategies favourable to sustainable development and the inclusive growth. The project will contribute to this outcome by supporting the Government of Cameroon to complete the creation of the Technical Operation Unit which comprise of two existing Protected Areas (PA) and the two other one to be created. The Government will therefore having adequate policy in place to managed sustainably these PA. Furthermore, the project will be supporting the Government of Cameroon to bridge the gaps related to lack of adequate guidelines for Environmental and Social Impacts Assessments guidelines and tools which will consider High Conservation Value Forests and Sustainable Farming practices. Theses project outputs will not only create enabling policies in project area, but also will provide opportunity for the Government and stakeholders to test these experiences elsewhere. UNEP will ensure that these contribution to UNDAF implementation be capture in its annual review through UNEP regional Office for Africa and periodic discussion between the project TM and UNCT environment team. The Task Manager will also ensure that project team participate as required to UN supported projects in the country.

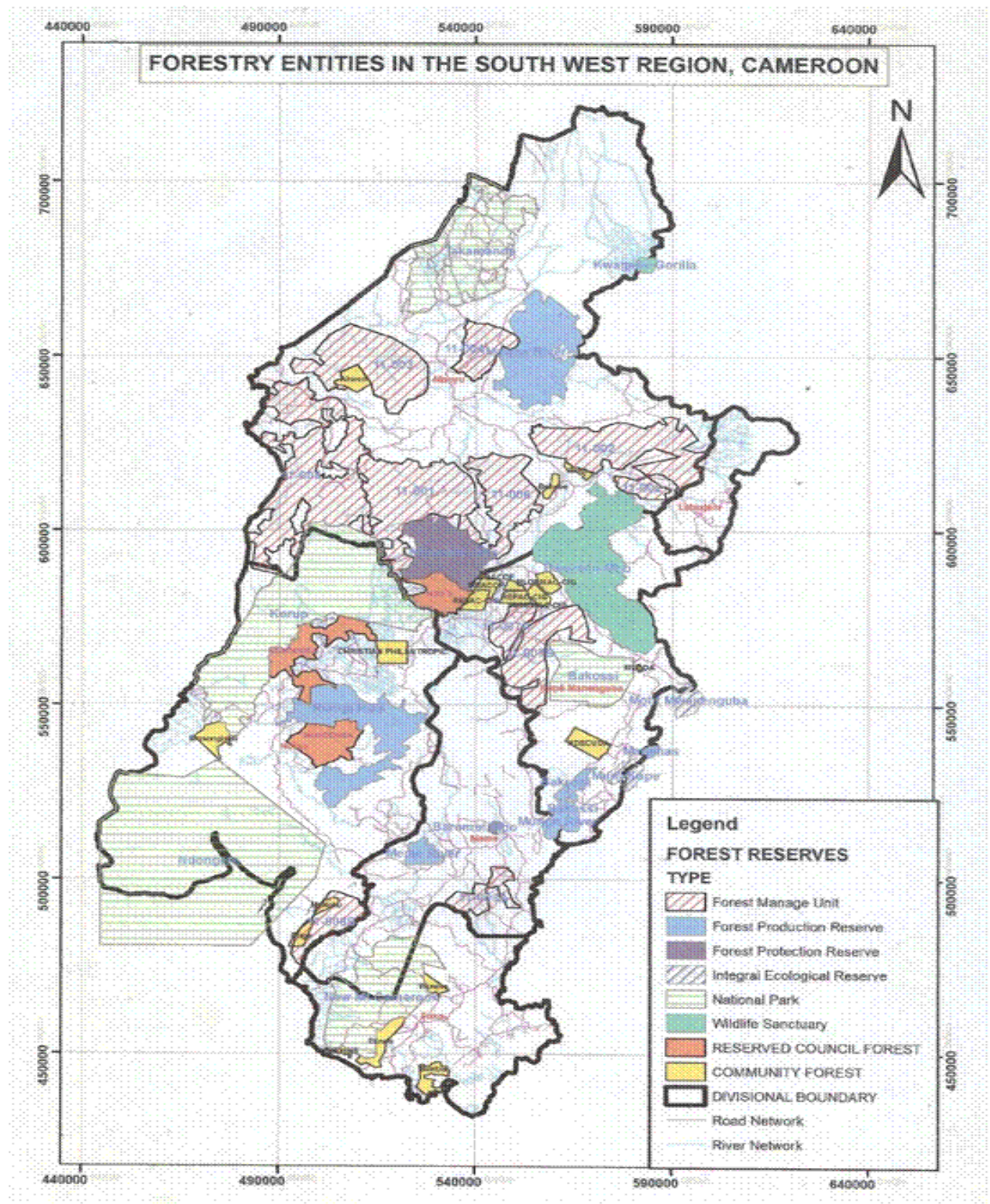
A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities. NA

A.3 The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage: NA

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:



— Project Area



This section has been substantially modified since the PIF, based on the findings of an extensive field mission, an in-depth review of the literature and thorough consultations conducted during project preparation.

1. Cameroon's geography ranges from Sahelian semi-desert in the north through grassland to the humid rainforest biome of the Congo Basin in the south, with a range of climatic and vegetative zones in between. Cameroon is endowed with significant natural resources, including oil, high value timber species, and agricultural products (cocoa, coffee, cotton, palm oil). In terms of biological diversity, the country is second only to the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa, with some 409 species of mammals (including half of Africa's 52 species of higher primates), 848 species of birds, nine thousand species of vascular plants (of which at least 156 are endemic), 171 species of amphibians, 210 species of reptiles, and 138 species of fish. Over the past 2 decades, Cameroon has expanded its Protected Area network from almost 2.25 million hectares in 1995 to over 3.7m ha in 2011 accounting for 8.11% of the country's land area. By 2011, the total area classified as permanent forest reached 8.72 million hectares (including the above-mentioned Protected Areas). A further 3.12m ha have been declared as permanent forest, but are pending classification and an additional 1.5m ha are planned to become permanent forest. Once completed, this would bring the total Permanent Forest estate to 13.4 m ha. Approximately 4.1 m ha are allocated for commercial logging, an additional 3.2 m ha are in the process of competitive attribution for industrial logging, and a further 641,000 hectares are planned for logging (which will result in a total of 8 million hectares of production forest).
2. The SW Region, in which the Project is situated, is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance that supports a high diversity of animal and plant species, large numbers with restricted ranges, and many of which are threatened (Cameroon 4th CBD National Report, Chap 1. Section 1.1, 2009). The project area is part of the volcanic mountain chain that connects Mount Cameroon with the Adamaoua massif. The mountain chain protects a densely forested and undulating landscape that covers much of the South-West Region (Mountjoy and Hilling, 1988). The altitude of this range (up to 4,100m) and its intense rainfall have created unique ecological conditions that harbour some of the richest concentrations of flora and fauna in Africa (Alpert, 1991). The proposed project area ranges from 180m to 2,900m above sea level, harbouring a transition from lowland forests, montane forests and montane savannahs, thus conferring an extraordinary degree of ecosystem, habitat, plant and animal diversity for all taxa. It also provides a wide range of biological resources and ecosystem functions. Floristically, the area is part of the Hygrophilous Coastal Evergreen Rainforest, which occurs along the Gulf of Biafra, and is a sub-unit of the Cross-Sanaga-Bioko Coastal Forest ecoregion (Olson et al. 2001, WWF 2001). The ecoregion is considered an important centre of plant diversity because of its probable isolation during the Pleistocene (Davis et al., 1994). The forests of the region are also considered to be some of the oldest on earth (Gartlan, 1992). This set of characteristics have made the South West the subject of long-term interest for foresters, and scientific researchers (Lanz, 2000), who over the last century have developed a network of Forest Reserves, logging Concessions (Forest Management Units) and more recently Protected Areas in the Region. Today, the South West hosts six of Cameroon's 35 Protected Areas.
3. While it has been observed that the Cameroon-Nigeria cross-border area is more floristically diverse than other forests in the Guineo-Congolian region (Sunderland et al, 2003), the biodiversity of the project area has remained less well studied until recent surveys of the area's flora (Plant Checklist - Cheek et al, 2004), herpetofauna (Kupe, Muanengouba and the Bakossi Mountains, - Wild, 2004, Gonwouo, et al. 2006), and avifauna (Bakossi - Amiet and Dowsett-Lemaire (2000), Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett (1998b, 1999c, 2000a), Faucher (1999); Mount Kupe - Bowden (2001), Bowden and Andrews (1994), Dowsett-Lemaire, and Dowsett (1998b, 2000a), Stuart (1986), Williams (1998); and Banyang Mbo - Powell (1998)). Some sites are of special interest, such as Lake Beme / Bermin, where researchers recently identified eight new

species of *Tilapia* that are strictly endemic to that lake (Stiassny et al, 2002; Schliewen 2005). Small seasonal forest pools and streams throughout Bakossi lowlands support at least five species of killifish (*Aphyosemion* spp) that are endemic to Bakossi and the adjacent Rumpi Hills. The world's largest frog, the Goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*) is present up to 700m in the eastern tributaries of Kupe and Muanenguba. Muanenguba and Bakossi host the richest assemblage of Chameleon species in Africa (seven species found at Muanenguba alone), with one species, *Chamaeleo wiedersheimi perreti*, being a near-endemic found only in Bakossi, Muanenguba and recently in Banyang Mbo. There are also a number of endemic amphibians such as the frog species *Leptodactylodon wildi*, known only from the vicinity of the villages of Kodmin and Edib in the Bakossi Mountains, and *Hyperolius dintelmanni* sp. nov., which is known only from the Edib Hills in the Bakossi Mountains, but is not found within any of the Protected Areas. Both are listed by IUCN as Endangered. There are a number of Red List species of mammal in the project area including forest elephants (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla deihli*), Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Preuss's Guenon (*Cercopithecus preussi*), the giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*). The eastern-most and most isolated population of Cross River gorillas occurs in the proposed Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, which lies within the project area, in Lebialem Division. IUCN lists the Gorilla and the Chimpanzee as two of the most endangered great apes in the world, and the drill is also listed by IUCN as endangered. Experts believe there are approximately 300 Cross River gorillas living along the Cameroon – Nigeria border (Sarmiento and Oates, 2000, Sunderland-Groves et al, 2003, Bergl and Vigilant, 2007), while the *P.t. ellioti* chimpanzees, the least numerous subspecies, number about 6,500. Both are threatened with habitat destruction and human encroachment, while a sophisticated and rapidly expanding illegal trade in live great apes and great ape meat that is closely linked to organized crime is accelerating the conservation crisis. Both Cross River gorillas and the *ellioti* chimps could face extinction within the next decade in Cameroon at the current rates of decline.

4. Among the many bird species found in the BBM landscape there are endangered species such as the Mount Kupe Bush-shrike (*Telophorus kupeensis*), White-throated Mountain-babbler (*Kupeornis gilbert*) and Bates's Weaver (*Ploceus batesi*); vulnerable species such as the Bannerman's Weaver (*Ploceus bannermani*), Yellow-casqued Wattled Hornbill (*Ceratogymna elata*), Grey-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes oreas*) and Green-breasted Bush-shrike (*Malaconotus gladiator*); and near-threatened species such as the Grey-headed Greenbul (*Phyllastrephus poliocephalus*), Cameroon Montane Greenbul (*Andropadus montanus*), White-tailed Warbler (*Poliolais lopezi*), Crossley's Ground-thrush (*Zoothera crossleyi*), Ursula's Sunbird (*Nectarinia ursulae*), White-naped Pigeon (*Columba albinucha*), and Monteiro's Bush-shrike (*Malaconotus monteiri*) (Birdlife International's Database of Important Bird Assessments). The presence of such a wide range of endangered and near-threatened bird species resulted in the designation of Bakossi Mountains, Mt Kupe, Banyang Mbo and Muanenguba all as Important Bird Areas by Birdlife International.
5. With the adjoining Rumpi Hills, the Bakossi Highlands constitute what is possibly the largest intact pristine block of sub-montane forest (800-2000 m alt) in Africa. Despite this fact, the greater part of the Bakossi Mountains was largely unexplored by botanists until the Royal Botanical Garden Kew initiated surveys and published a plant checklist in 2004 (The Plants of Kupe, Mwanenguba and the Bakossi Mountains, Cameroon: A Conservation Checklist – Cheek et al, 2004, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew). The sub-montane forest, together with the adjoining lowland forest contributes the bulk of the remarkably high number of plant taxa - 2,412 species in total, of which 82 are endemic to the checklist area including a newly discovered tree species, and 232 species are threatened with extinction, emphasizing the extraordinary biodiversity of the Bakossi tribal area. The results of above-mentioned biological surveys within the Bakossi National Park, the proposed Mt Kupe and Muanenguba IERs, have to a large extent contributed to the Government's decision to upgrade the status of the previously existing Forest Reserves

of Banyang Mbo and Bakossi Mountains to a higher protection status, and to the proposals to create new Protected Areas on Mt Kupe, Mt Muanenguba and Tofala Hill.

6. By 2013, the area of land that had either already been legally designated to a specific forest use, or was proposed for designation, reached 52% of the total area of the South West Region. This can be compared with the area planted to agro-industrial plantations which represents 2.8% of the Region's land area, although the area of these agricultural concessions (not yet developed) is significantly larger at 6.6% of land area. At Divisional level, 47.4% of Kupe Muanenguba Division is gazetted, or is in the process of being allocated to forest purposes. In Lebialem Division, 12% is proposed for gazettement by creation of Tofala Hill, but currently it has almost no gazetted forest.
7. The abundant fertile volcanic soils within the SW Region have also attracted in-migration for commercial and subsistence agriculture over the past century thereby supporting a rapid population growth. According to the 2005 national census (INS, 2010), 1,316,079 people lived in the SW Region, representing 7.5% of the country's population. Average population density in 2005 was 53 persons per km², slightly higher than the national average of 42, and is projected to reach 62 persons per km² by 2015. The primary productive sectors of the local economy are essentially agriculture (commercial and subsistence farming), collection of NTFPs, hunting, fishing, livestock rearing and forestry. Over 90% of the population of the area rely on these activities for livelihood, with farming predominating as the key source of food security and household income, followed by NTFP collection. Hunting is becoming increasingly less important due to dwindling wildlife population, while artisanal timber lumbering using chainsaw is carried out by few specialized dealers, made up of mostly non-natives of the area. Farming for subsistence needs and cash crops is the mainstay of the population but youth unemployment rate is significantly high in rural areas as many have rejected farm work and lack the marketable skills needed for gainful employment. Farming is done primarily in close proximity to the villages but as competition for land increases in more populous areas, people walk or even travel by vehicle a considerable distance to open farms wherever land is available. However, wealthier town dwellers are investing in food crop production and the average farm sizes are increasing. In the absence of strict controls, this has in some cases resulted in encroachment into existing or proposed PAs. Men engage mostly in the production of crops such as cocoa, oil palm, coffee, tapping of palm wine, hunting, fishing, dredging of sand, while women mostly cultivate cocoyam, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, egusi, plantain, colocasia, maize, beans and the collection of non-timber forest products. Small scale oil palm production is particularly important in the Lebialem Division, around Tofala Hill. The soaring food prices in the distant urban centres, which reflect a rapid increase in urban demand and poor farm to market roads, are already having a ripple effect on the scale and size of farms cultivated. But in the absence of good all-season roads, the communities in the more remote villages have great difficulty in selling their produce profitably, and most of the end-market price is absorbed by high transport costs.
8. Most local farming systems are characterized by low productivity and profitability due to poor road infrastructure and difficult access to markets making it difficult to purchase agricultural inputs or to sell produce. Most of the produced cocoa, coffee and other merchantable produce in the hinterlands is transported by head-load to the bulking and trade centres. The lack of electricity has largely hindered the development of processing activities to drying and sale of farm produce in the primary state. Crop drying and transport to market is a major challenge, especially during the rainy season. Traditional technologies for cocoa drying have major implications on the quality and merchantability of produce. High levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons from smoke contamination make it impossible to export to Europe after 1 April 2013 (EU Commission Regulation No 835/2011 of 19 August 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in foodstuffs). The inefficiency of current crop drying techniques also increases the demand for fuel wood with implications for rates of deforestation.

9. Until today, large scale plantation agriculture in the project area is rare, with the exception of the Cameroon Development Company (CDC) rubber plantations and the PHP Banana plantations to the south of Mt. Kupe around Loum. However, the 2009 Establishment Convention for a large oil palm plantation in the project area, followed by the signature in November 2013 of three Presidential Decrees, allocate the New York based Herakles Farms / SG Sustainable Oils Cameroon Limited (SGSOC) a concession to establish a 19,843 ha oil palm plantation with possible future extension. The concession is situated between four biodiversity hot spots, to the north of Bakossi National Park and the Rumpi Hills, to the west of Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary and to the south of Korup National Park thus cutting across several important conservation landscapes in the region. The concession poses a substantial threat to these habitats both in terms of habitat disturbance and facilitating access to illegal and illicit actions. The ESIA and ESMP prepared by SGSOC have also been heavily criticized for their treatment of impacts – largely avoiding any mitigation by claiming, for a range of different environmental and social impacts that “due to the numerous and significant socio-economic benefits provided by the conversion of secondary forest to palm plantation, no additional mitigation measures are recommended for this impact.” There are also many new smallholder plantations and farms developing in the region which are putting additional pressure on the land and the protected areas across the landscape.
10. A rapid situational analysis of past and current conservation efforts across the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape recently commissioned by Flora and Fauna International (FFI, Mambo and Tchamba, 2011) indicates that the main challenges across the landscape include wildlife poaching, legal and illegal logging and large scale agricultural expansion. Additionally, the tarring of the Kumba-Mamfe section of the Cameroon-National trans-Africa road network, commissioned by the Ministry of Public Works and funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), passes through the west and north of the BBM landscape. This will greatly ease access for all, including those managing the Protected Areas, and improve the livelihoods of those people who have suffered substantially from poor roads, particularly in terms of improving farm-gate price of agricultural commodities. It may also increase tourism potential in the Bakossi NP and Banyang Mbo WS (although these are very limited). However, the résumé of the environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) of the road project notes that it will also likely have negative impacts on adjacent PAs including an “increased risk of illegal exploitation of timber resources and non-timber forest products”. Among the cumulative negative impacts, the ESIA anticipates that “greater risk of degradation to protected areas and forest reserves is a possibility”. It will also certainly increase pressure to convert land outside the Protected Areas by both small and larger scale investors. However, the ESIA is deficient in its treatment and mitigation of impacts on biodiversity, adjacent protected areas, poaching and induced land use change, providing resources only for sensitization. There is need to draw lessons from the ESIA regarding how to better identify and quantify the impacts and to establish appropriate mitigation measures. Follow up of implementation of the environmental and social management plan (ESMP) for the road remains a major challenge. Finally, climate change is likely to significantly affect water resources in the area that is likely to have a direct effect on biodiversity and survival of ecosystems.
11. The project site, Bakossi Banyang Mbo falls administratively within the Kupe-Muanengouba and Lebialem Divisions of the South West Region of Cameroon administered by a Governor with Regional Delegates of the main technical departments: Forestry - MINFOF, Environment - MINEPDED, Agriculture - MINADER, Economy, Planning and Territorial Administration - MINEPAT, Health - MINSANTE, Education - MINEDUC, Livestock and Fisheries - MINEPIA, Mines - MINIMIDT, Water and Energy – MINEE, among others.
12. MINFOF is in the process of allocating a forest concession for Forest Management Units (FMUs) 11-007(A and B) (36,269 ha in total) for exploitation, which lie just to the north of Bakossi National Park. This proposed concession area was also targeted by SGSOC for conversion to plantations, but at

MINFOF's request, has so far been retained as a Forest Management Unit for sustainable logging, and as such should become part of the 'permanent forest estate'.

13. Conservation-oriented NGOs and development partners have drawn much attention to the external threats to the biodiversity of the region's existing or proposed protected areas, and the forest patches between them. But there are also potentially large social impacts resulting from the creation and management of these Protected Areas on the local communities who live adjacent to, or sometimes within them. Studies and consultations conducted during project preparation revealed that local people have consistently expressed concerns about the livelihood and social impacts of new, or modified protected areas during the public consultations. These concerns were partly but not fully taken into account during gazettment. For example, modifications to the Bakossi Forest Reserve and its upgrading to a National Park status in 2007 has resulted in some 19 settlements now falling inside the National Park. Villagers were told that they would be resettled and/or compensated, but no resources have been made available for such resettlement, and bitter experiences from Korup National Park show that it is not feasible. Local Chiefs around Mt Kupe, while supportive of the creation of a protected area on their mountain, are also concerned that the legal status of an Integral Ecological Reserve (IER) for Mt Kupe proposed in a submission to the Ministry in 2009 will exclude all forms of access and use, even for eco-tourism, cultural practices and scientific research without written permission from the Minister of Forestry. Further, all forms of use, even for collection of NTFPs, is forbidden in an IER. While access and use in Wildlife Sanctuaries are less restricted, communities living around the existing Banyang Mbo and proposed Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuaries have equally expressed concerns about the restrictions they pose on hunting. So far, there has been very little management or control of any of the PAs targeted by the GEF project, except for WCS-supported interventions in Banyang Mbo which stopped in the mid 2000s and the recent allocation of game guards to Banyang Mbo Sanctuary and Bakossi NP. New efforts to strengthen protection will certainly trigger resistance and conflict.
14. The 2011 FFI Situational Analysis reports that "the population of the South West has evidently learned to co-exist with protected forests and wildlife since the pre-independence period with the creation of several protected forests in the 1930's by the colonial administration. On the other hand, the population is unable to clearly figure out what added value these protected and conserved forests contribute to the improvement of their livelihoods. The poorest of the poor inhabit the forests, though the forests are generally considered as a reservoir of wealth and a safety net for the ever-increasing population of the planet Earth. To attempt an answer to this rather disturbing reality, several national and international conservation and development initiatives have been making substantial efforts to improve on the mutuality between nature conservation and community development. Several strategies have been developed, implemented and evaluated, but the impacts of these efforts on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods improvements have generally been low, far below the expectations of the various stakeholders." The authors conclude that there is "significant scope for further reflection on strategies and modes of delivery to progressively narrow and bridge the existing gap between development and conservation, particularly seeking for opportunities to enhance the direct contribution of nature conservation interventions to community development and [show] how development efforts of the government and its partners would enhance conservation of natural ecosystems".
15. While the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) has lead responsibility for PA creation and management, and is certainly conscious of these potential negative social impacts, they are not in a financial position to mitigate them without external support. The support provided by development partners for the management of PAs in Cameroon in general, and the South West Region in particular over the past 25 years has often been inadequate in quantity, quality or duration to deliver long-term benefits of conservation to local communities. Loss of community support for PAs is perhaps one of the greatest threats to their long-term sustainability. Solutions are urgently required to restore confidence of local communities, and indeed the Government, of the contribution of PAs to rural development, employment

creation and poverty alleviation. PAs are also seen as part of the portfolio of approaches to implementing REDD+, and as such, putting in place adequate social safeguards to avoid replication of past shortcomings will greatly ease the adoption of enhanced PA management as part of the national REDD+ framework. Internationally, there exists a well-documented literature on the social impacts of PAs. Social scientists tend to highlight negative impacts such as evictions and displacement while conservationists rebut these arguments and emphasise employment benefits, revenue sharing and so on. The 5th IUCN World Parks Congress in 2003 was clear that PAs should not cause or exacerbate poverty (Rec.V29). Similarly the CBD's PoWPA (Programme of Work on Protected Areas) calls for an assessment of the social impacts. More recently the CBD CoP9 called on Parties to ensure PAs contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development. Despite this, progress on assessing social impacts and understanding the trade-offs between conservation and poverty alleviation objectives have been slow. A variety of methods exist but these are limited in their coverage, objectivity, comparability. They can also be resource intensive and beyond the capacity of PA managers to implement.”

16. Cameroon's 1995 Framework Law on the Environment, and Article Ministerial Arrêté No. 0070/MINEP of 22 April 2005 lists the management of a Protected Area as one of various categories of “project” that is subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. However, to date, no such legally compliant assessment has been conducted for the management of any Protected Area in Cameroon based largely on the argument, made by MINFOF, that PAs have few or no negative environmental impacts. The ESIA process is designed to identify both environmental and social impacts. The failure to identify and adequately address social impacts of PAs is one of the reasons why communities so often express concerns about Protected Areas in Cameroon.
17. The Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) has the mandate to define measures for environmental management, in liaison with other Ministries, which includes the definition of the conduct, content and quality of ESIA's and ESMPs for specific types of project. It also has the mandate to monitor the environmental conformity of all project implementation. MINEPDED is also responsible for leading the preparation of the REDD+ mechanism. The GEF project is an ideal pilot project for the design and testing of environmental social safeguards for Protected Area and buffer zone management. This fits closely with the evolving National REDD+ Strategy as envisaged in the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) adopted in January 2013. MINEPDED's key role in supervising the preparation and monitoring of ESIA's and ESMPs, and for coordinating REDD+ development is the main justification for MINEPDED being the lead institution for execution of this project.
18. The creation and maintenance of corridors or buffers between and/or around protected areas or high conservation value areas to ensure biological connectivity is not yet adequately addressed in the project area and can only be tackled through participatory land use planning approach. Until recently, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Management (MINEPAT) had not yet developed a framework or process for participatory land use planning, focusing instead on developing sector-by-sector strategies, and promoting large scale agricultural development before completing any integrated cross-sectoral land use plans. The 2011 Law on Sustainable Land Management provides a new framework to address land use planning at national, regional and local levels, and various partners have offered to support MINEPAT to develop Regional Schemas to guide future land management and allocation. The GEF Project will compliment these initiatives by supporting preparation of local land use plans in priority areas where there is a clear need to define land use around existing or proposed new Protected Areas. The Ministry of Forestry is preparing a draft strategy for forests and biodiversity. A rural development strategy is also in preparation led by MINEPAT that attempts to coordinate the actions of the agriculture, livestock, forestry and environment sub-sectors, and to make more effective use of limited budgets and manpower for sustainable rural development in the context of climate change.

19. The prevailing government strategy recognizes the weak institutional capacity to implement integrated and sustainable rural development, the need to decentralize development planning and action, privatize production and commercial activities and empower communities to contribute to and manage their own development. The policy structure is therefore conducive to community demand-driven development that is based on participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes.
20. The baseline activities in the project area include the provision of basic social services by the Government, but also boosting the development potential by valorising the rich natural resources of the region. The planned tarring of the Kumba-Mamfe road will have very substantial impacts on land and natural resource use in the region. Other important public sector initiatives include construction of infrastructure and roads to facilitate access to markets through a joint initiative of South West Development Authority (SOWEDA) and the Central Government of Cameroon. In the environment sector, the Government operations in collaboration with international donors and organizations are highlighted below. The following interventions, their associated budget where known, and linkage with GEF project is provided below:
21. In the Bakossi-Banyang Mbo TOU, the former Bakossi and Banyang Mbo Forest Reserves have already been upgraded to a National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary respectively, but neither yet have management plans. The process to gazette the Mt Kupe Integral Ecological Reserve was initiated in 2005 with support of WWF's Coastal Forest Program with issuance of a public notice and conduct of public consultations but has since stalled due to lack of funds and has not been followed up for some years. From available documentation at MINFOF HQ, it is not clear that the gazette dossier was ever transmitted to the Prime Minister's Office. The process to gazette the Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, which will protect the easternmost and most isolated population of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla, [*Gorilla gorilla deihli*] (Sarmiento and Oates, 2000, Sunderland-Groves et al, 2003, Bergl and Vigilant, 2007), was initiated in 2011 by local NGO, ERUDEF with support from FFI. The public notice was issued and public consultations for Tofala Hill were concluded in 2013. Submission of the Tofala Hill dossier to the Prime Minister's office has reportedly been done and signature is anticipated in the near future. Neither of these proposed PAs have yet been demarcated on the ground. Meanwhile, little progress has been made with completing the gazette of two other proposed PAs: Mt Kupe and Muanenguba Integral Ecological Reserves.
22. The rich biodiversity in the BBM landscape faces various threats, which include gradual ecosystem degradation and habitat fragmentation due to land use changes, and the specific targeting of rare and endemic species by hunters - primarily to supply lucrative urban markets, and wildlife collectors who trade rare species to international markets for very high prices. Underlying causes include a lack of clear land management and environmental protection regulations and guidelines to guide development planning in such a way as to simultaneously promote sustainable development and protect environmental values. Instead of identifying and supporting the sustainable use of valuable resources within these forests, recent efforts to protect the area's biodiversity through creation of protected areas risks exacerbating poverty by restricting community access to valuable natural resources, without coming up with sustainable and viable alternative economic activities. While the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry, Economy and Plan all pursue their respective development plans, the cross-cutting role of MINEPDED to enforce regulations and coordinate efforts to protect environment and nature and promote sustainable development has not yet been fully clarified or operationalized at field level due to a lack of specific regulatory instruments, limited resources, weak capacities and inadequate institutional arrangements to ensure enforcement.
23. The situation in the SW Region is confirmed by the NCSA process finding, which recognized the following as priority issues (Cameroon NCSA Report section II-1.4 October 2007) to be addressed as far as biodiversity conservation is concerned:

- Insufficient financing for the implementation of projects and programs;
 - Insufficient technical capacities for biodiversity in-situ and ex-situ conservation, planning of priority actions, participative management, integrated landscape management, scientific research or dissemination of findings;
 - Inadequate application of some legal instruments related to biodiversity on the ground;
 - Insufficient synergy among sectors concerned by biodiversity conservation;
 - Lack of awareness of national legislation on biodiversity by various stakeholders.
24. MINFOF core budget for field operations (before addition of partner support) is extremely limited: the annual budget for investment and operations is 12 million Fcfa per annum (USD 24,000) for each of Banyang Mbo WS and Bakossi NP. Budgets for Divisional Delegations are 10 million Fcfa per annum (USD 20,000), and the Chiefs of Forestry and Wildlife Posts in the Project Area receive 2 million (USD 4,000) per annum. In the absence of additional funding, they cannot achieve either effective PA management, or meet the expectations of local communities with regards to provision of mitigating measures for restrictions of access to resources within PAs.
25. MINFOF efforts have been substantially supported by the multi-partner funded Program for Sustainable Natural Resources Management in SW Region (PSMNR-SWR), whose objective is to contribute to the preservation of high-value ecosystems in the SW Region of Cameroon, and thereby contribute to improved livelihoods of the surrounding communities in a sustainable manner. It aims to promote sustainable forest and wildlife management by affected stakeholders for their own benefit. PSMNR is implemented by MINFOF through its regional Delegation in the SW Region, and is co-financed by the German Development Bank (KfW – EUR 10 million from 2011) and German Technical Cooperation (GIZ – EUR 3 million from 2011), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The German Cooperation has just committed another EUR 10 million to the PSMNR-SWR from 2014 until the funds are exhausted. One core element of PSMNR-SWR’s objectives is the long-term integrity of Protected Areas in the Region, including Korup, Mt Cameroon and Takamanda National Parks, and more recently the Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary. The PSMNR has recently committed approximately EUR 300,000 to the management of Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary, which will include regular surveillance, wildlife monitoring and capacity building over the next few years. In 2014, the German Cooperation will finance the preparation of a management plan for Banyang Mbo, and WWF has secured funds from WWF Sweden to support MINFOF to prepare a Management Plan for Bakossi National Park.
26. PSMNR has made important progress in developing a framework for negotiating and financing “conservation and development agreements”. These outline a negotiated quid-pro-quo agreement with communities living next to protected areas to support biodiversity efforts in return for specific development assistance, as prioritized by local communities. PSMNR has only expanded its scope of interventions to the project area in the last year, starting with development and implementation of a patrolling strategy in Banyang Mbo. At the end of 2013, German Cooperation committed substantial additional funds to support: a) the preparation of a Management Plan for Banyang Mbo WS; b) livelihood activities in communities around Banyang Mbo WS; and c) land use planning in the area between Banyang Mbo WS, Korup NP, Bakossi NP and Rumpi Hills – which is the target area for the recently approved large scale oil palm project of Herakles Farms.
27. WWF, also a PSMNR partner has been active in the Bakossi Highlands for some time with funding from WWF Sweden, primarily focusing their support to livelihood activities in adjacent communities. WWF Sweden has recently committed additional funds to prepare and implement a Management Plan for Bakossi NP, and to continue their livelihood support program for the surrounding communities.

28. CHEDE Cooperative Union Ltd is a federation of farmer cooperatives. It has supported the organization and linking of farmer groups to markets in and around the Bakossi Highlands. Chede's membership as of 30 June 2012 included 30 farmer groups (cooperatives, common initiative groups, and other village-based civil society organizations) comprising a cumulative total of over 10,000 individual farmers and development actors.
29. A number of local NGOs (CAD, PFPF, CERUT, Nature Cameroon, among others) have also supported a range of small-scale livelihood initiatives within the Bakossi Banyang Mbo Landscape, some of them with WWF funds. IRAD Ekona has worked with the South Western Regional Delegation of Forests to support propagation of some Non Timber Forest Products.
30. Many, but not all of the above initiatives have been designed to support biodiversity conservation through the development of livelihood activities as "alternatives" to a dependence on e.g. hunting of wildlife and other natural resource exploitation that are rightly or wrongly considered 'unsustainable'. However, in the absence of a quantified assessment of the social impacts of PA management on specific sub-groups of the community, such investments in 'alternatives' have not always targeted the key groups that should rightly be 'compensated' for reduced access rights to the forests that they traditionally owned, that may result from the higher level of protection proposed by PA management plans. Even where the correct groups have been targeted, the income generated from these alternative livelihood activities has typically not been either commensurate with the reduction of socio-economic benefits that these restricted access rights imply, or sustainable at the end of the phase of significant external subsidy, typically provided by time-limited projects.
31. Further there is a lack of strong institutional structure to address the necessary cross-sectoral coordination of land use planning and sustainable rural development to secure the long-term protection and management of existing or proposed PAs. In the rest of the SW Region, MINFOF has established three out of four planned Technical Operational Units (TOUs) for Mt. Cameroon, Korup-Ndongere and Takamanda-Mone to try to improve coordination. A TOU is an institutional mechanism adopted by MINFOF to promote a landscape approach to PA conservation in a given geographical space. A Technical Operational Unit is an institutional structure that is designed to support coordination of all forestry and land use activities within the TOU's geographical boundaries. The intention is that a TOU will support management not only the PAs within its limits, but also contribute to the more sustainable management of forests within the broader surrounding rural landscape that influences those PAs. Their mission is to develop and implement a participatory forest and wildlife management strategy in view of the long-term conservation of biodiversity within their limits, and improvement of the livelihoods of the local population in concert with other governmental and non-governmental organizations.
32. As the geographical scope of the PSMNR is expanding to also include PAs within the Bakossi Banyang Mbo Landscape, a draft Decree for the creation of the fourth and final Bakossi Banyang Mbo (BBM) TOU has been prepared by MINFOF, but has not yet been signed. TOUs are expected to develop and implement management of forests within the zone; to support local community development; to implement the proposals of the *Plan de Zonage* Phase 5; to facilitate the capacity strengthening of partner organizations, particularly those involved in forest and wildlife management; to advise the Provincial Delegates responsible for Forestry, Wildlife, Environment and nature protection and all other decision-makers involved in the domain of sustainable forest and wildlife resources management, while strengthening the monitoring and control of forest exploitation in the region; to ensure, in collaboration with the services of MINFOF and MINEPDED, the respect of ESIA norms; to establish collaboration conventions with local, national and international institutions with the goal to obtain support for sustainable forest and wildlife management within the TOU zone; to ensure the involvement of local communities in decision making at all levels; and to monitor the utilization of decentralized forestry taxes in the TOU zone.

33. The existing TOUs in the SW Region have been established under the supervision of the Regional Delegate for Forestry and Wildlife, but include all relevant sectoral ministries, and where they cut across more than one Divisional Boundary, they are chaired by the Governor of the SW Region and co-chaired by the Regional Delegate for Forestry. Recent reviews of the performance of TOUs over the years have highlighted the lack of differentiation between the TOU and the classical Ministry of Forest & Wildlife structures (the appointed Conservator of the TOU is often already the Divisional or Regional Delegate). The reviews also identified that coordination needs are increasingly about broader land use planning, which is actually the mandate of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Management (MINEPAT), and not MINFOF. If possible, before the creation of the Bakossi Banyang-Mbo TOU, the GEF Project should support the drawing of lessons from past TOU experiences and determine how best to structure the new TOU to ensure full coordination with other Ministries, particularly MINEPAT, which is mandated to lead land use planning and coordinate public investment, and MINEPDED, which has the role of environmental management and nature protection. The GEF project may contribute to the finalization of this decree (if not already signed before project launch), and will certainly contribute towards its operationalization.
34. In stark contrast to the rest of the SW Region, there has been much less research and as yet, no Protected Area has been gazetted within Lebialem Division. However, over the past 10 years, ERuDeF, a local NGO, has initiated a number of conservation initiatives around Tofala Hill including: biological and socio-economic surveys; the preparation of the Gazettement proposal for Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary; tree nurseries and agroforestry initiatives to improve the sustainability of agriculture around the proposed Sanctuary; and livelihood initiatives such as bee-keeping, ecotourism and the introduction of improved oil-palm presses. The assessment and monitoring of land use change and community perceptions of land use change within the Lebialem-Mone Banyang Mbo landscape has been supported by FFI in partnership with the University of Cambridge, UK, ERUDEP and the University of Dschang. Over the years, these ERuDeF implemented micro-projects have been funded by various sources, including Lifeweb, GRASP, Man and Nature, Trees for the Future, FFEM, Government of Taiwan, and FFI. Other sites within Lebialem Division that have been surveyed and are being proposed as additional conservation sites include the Mak Betchou forest, which borders on Banyang Mbo.
35. FFI, a partner in the proposed GEF Project, is working with the Institute for International Environment and Development (IIED), IUCN, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to implement the second phase of a research project that first began in 2008 entitled "Social Assessment of Protected Areas" (SAPA). SAPA is intended to develop, test and roll out a methodology that can be used as a standard across all sites, is sufficiently objective and rigorous to inform decision-making but cost-effective for PA managers to implement. Without such an approach, understanding – and acting on – the social impacts of protected areas will remain an issue of continuous debate but limited progress. The research responds to the call from CBD CoP9 to Parties to ensure PAs contribute to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development. While the field research of SAPA Project will be implemented in East Africa and Ghana, the results of SAPA will help to inform the GEF SUFACHAC project, and vice versa.
36. A significant Private Sector initiative in the project area is the implementation of a cocoa sustainability certification program by TELCAR (Cargill's joint cocoa export enterprise with a local partner) has been implemented in the SW Region since 2011 with partial support from TELCAR and Cargill, in collaboration with GIZ's Cocoa Livelihood Program. The program supports farmer field schools, which train all farmers, without exception, in various sites within the SW Region to meet the Rainforest Alliance Sustainability Standard. After a Pilot phase around Mt Cameroon, the program was extended in 2013 to include Tombel Zone in the vicinity of Bakossi National Park. It aimed to train more than 5,000 farmers by the end of 2013. Farmer training has been delivered by SOCODEVI, a Canadian network of cooperatives and mutual that share technical expertise and know-how with partners in developing

countries in order to create, protect and distribute wealth. The 9-month training program trains all farmers in an area to meet the standards, which includes respect of protected areas, the respect of hunting regulations, avoidance of planting closer than 5 meters from watercourses, and the use of integrated pest management techniques. The program works with Syngenta to train farmers on the correct use of crop protection products – ensuring the health and safety of farmers, and minimizing the environmental impact. The program also supports “farm development” – a pre-financing policy provides financial assistance to farmers, which they use to invest in crop protection and fertilizers, and “community support” which so far has concentrated on promoting the rights of children by improving access to education and preventing child labour. The program also supports Community Development initiatives, such as the establishment of groups and cooperatives, and reinforcing the capacity of existing groups. The first phase, supported by the World Cocoa Foundation, ended in 2013, but the ‘permanent’ program will continue with own funding and possibly external support. So far, the program has not yet secured a price premium for farmers, but claims to have improved yields and quality of cocoa, and reduced costs by reducing the unnecessary use of pesticides through providing site-specific prescriptions. The next step is to introduce a price premium will be paid for better quality cocoa that meets the standard. This is essential to secure farmer loyalty to specific markets. Another key challenge identified by Cargill is to develop crop-drying techniques that reduce smoke contamination to meet new EU standards on PAHs, and simultaneously reduce fuel-wood use – thereby reducing impacts of cocoa drying on forests.

37. The Moringa Partnership, which is a €100 M agroforestry fund which invest in large scale, sustainable, and replicable agroforestry projects in Africa and Latin America. The initiative is currently discussing with a local NGO partner, CHEDE and the Government of Cameroon, to develop a project in the GEF project area. The Moringa Partnership project will support community and agribusiness development investments that will underpin community livelihoods in project area.
38. UNEP specific baseline activities include Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) programme which aims to enhance cooperation and coordination in support of wildlife protection and law enforcement implementation in the region, to ensure the long-term viability of the gorilla and chimp populations. The Expected outputs of the programme include: 1. Law enforcement training and techniques are implemented to fortify a network of cooperation protocols and great ape conservation projects developed in the region to share intelligence, scientific information and best management practices; 2. Innovative and transferable approaches to great ape conservation, management and enforcement identified, encouraged within protected areas or high conservation value areas networks and included in the management plans; 3. Education and awareness programmes targeting different stakeholders, including local communities, decision-makers, donors, consumers and media; 4. Innovative financing and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mechanisms developed to support the conservation efforts for great ape and other flagship species across the landscape.
39. Currently, under the GRASP Project entitled “Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) - an innovative tool to improve livelihoods through the conservation of great apes as flagship species”, GRASP in collaboration with WWF is conducting activities which objective is to define national High Conservation Value (HCV) indicators in Cameroon in the landscape priority areas, where developments are currently being planned, and also at the national level to be integrated into the national level land-use planning process. Under this collaboration, activities to be carried out with the support of the small-scale funding include:
 - a. Data collection and creation of a HCV thematic working groups (ecosystem/biodiversity and community’s rights) to define thresholds in order to determine which values and areas are significant and crucial and which are not.
 - b. Capacity building on existing HCV criteria and generic indicators.

- c. Presentation of different types/categories of existing forest landscapes to stakeholders (Government agencies, companies, smallholders, local NGOs/CSOs, local communities) in Cameroon.
 - d. Definition of HCV national indicators on the basis of existing generic HCV criteria
 - e. Fix thresholds for what are major and minor indicators.
 - f. Organize workshop with key stakeholders for validation of national HCV indicators and post a list of validated national HCV indicators on The HCV Natural Resource Network website.
- These GRASP activities are in line with the GEF project work including the HCVF in the ESIA therefore close collaboration will be observed by both GRASP and the GEF project to ensure synergy and complementarity.
40. UNEP's other engagements in supporting Cameroon conservation efforts; involve building capacity of trans-boundary local communities for their active participation in habitat and Gorilla protection both in Cameroon and Nigeria. The Gorilla Guardians Training project, financially supported by the Norwegian Government and implemented in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Convention of Migratory Species (CMS), aims at creating and building the capacity of community eco-guards. Trans-boundary eco-guards training program in Cameroon and Nigeria to prepare Gorilla Guardians to protect the highly endangered Cross River gorillas found in the region. The objectives of this project are to 1.) protect gorillas, 2.) engage community support, 3.) create local stakeholder partnerships.
 41. Furthermore, UNEP in collaboration with Disney's Animal Kingdom, the Born Free Foundation, and Pan African Sanctuary Alliance have embarked on one of the first and biggest primate reintroduction initiatives. The Chimpanzee Reintroduction Project, where more than 150 orphaned chimpanzees are targeted for return back to the forests of Southwest Province of Cameroon, through an ambitious program. The chimpanzees are pooled from sanctuaries in Limbe (Limbe Wildlife Centre), Mefou (Ape Action Africa) and Yaoundé (Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre) under the umbrella organization, the Cameroon Chimpanzee Reintroduction Group (CCRG). The project started in September 2011. The CCRG is looking for appropriate forests throughout SW Region and which will require a variety of ecological investigations, including 1.) environmental impact assessments, 2.) wild chimpanzee surveys, 3.) forest analyses and restoration, 4.) conservation outreach and sensitization, and 5.) local stakeholder involvement and support. Each of these five tasks will create opportunities for scientific research, capacity building, local ownership, and possible investment in eco-system services through UNEP programs such as REDD.
 42. The history of conservation initiatives within the Project Area has been typified by a series of short term projects that have come and gone, often closing before achieving their stated objectives (such as securing the gazettement and long-term management of proposed PAs), and not leaving behind improved livelihood initiatives that will be sustained in the absence of a continued subsidy.
 43. Without GEF, public investment by government, supported by the wide range of small scale, externally funded investments of the type listed above, will likely continue to be implemented in isolated, sector specific ways. Uncoordinated and poorly planned development will accelerate biodiversity loss due to habitat destruction and fragmentation particularly in the absence of adequate mitigation measures to address possible impacts of expanding large and small-scale agriculture. Likewise, inadequate mitigation of the social impacts of Protected Area creation and management risks alienating local communities towards efforts to protect biodiversity.
 44. In the absence of new approaches to sustainable financing that build on sustainable local institutions and community structures, the new project will not ensure long-term, integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural development.

45. As can be seen from the baseline scenario, there has been long-term investment in conservation efforts in the region, but the Ministry of Environment has been largely absent from this process. The result is that the quality of Environment and Social Impact Assessments for nearby development projects has been weak, and non-existent for management of Protected Areas, even though both require ESIA's according to the Cameroonian legal framework.
46. Table 1 below shows the area of land allocated to different types of forest management in the Project area (Kupe Manenguba and Lebialem Divisions).
47. The tables show that there has been substantial classification of forests in the Kupe Manenguba Division for both production and protection, but very little in the Lebialem Division. Those Permanent Forests in the Kupe Manenguba Division have largely not yet been brought under effective management and some are still at the proposal stage, and are awaiting gazettelement.

Table 1. Area and percentage of land in Division covered by different forest types.

Division / Forest Type Division	Gazetted	In process	Proposed	Grand Total	% of
Kupe Manenguba	106,920	14,786	36,550	163,285	47.4%
• Community Forest	15,524	231	0	15,755	4.6%
• Council Forest	0	11,903	0	11,903	3.5%
• Forest Management Unit	5	0	36,072	36,077	10.5%
• Forest Reserve Fxr	7,879	0	0	7,879	2.3%
• Integral Ecological Reserve	0	2,652	0	2,652	0.8%
• National Park	29,446	0	0	29,446	8.5%
• Production Forest Reserve	0	0	478	478	0.1%
• Vente de Coupe	0	2,533	2,496	5,029	1.5%
• Wildlife Sanctuary	54,066	0	0	54,066	15.7%
Division / Forest Type Division	Gazetted	In process	Proposed	Grand Total	% of
Lebialem (all Forest under Management)	151	7,677	0	7,828	12.2%
• Forest Management Unit	151	0	0	151	0.2%
• Wildlife Sanctuary	0	7,677	0	7,677	12.0%

A.5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCE/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global

environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

48. In general terms, the approach of the project remains as proposed in the PIF with the same major Components. That said, the detailed incremental / additional cost reasoning for the project, and the sub-components have been adapted to the more in-depth analysis of the baseline situation that has been possible with the PPG (See Summary baseline financing Table after para. 66 below) , in particular the identification of substantial new funding for the Project Area that was not programmed at the time that the PIF was prepared, and a rationalization of proposed activities to fit with the limited budget for such a large area, and a careful analysis of the appropriate role of MINEP, which is Executing Agency for the Project.

THE GEF ALTERNATIVE: Project objectives, components, and results.

49. The baseline situation in the project area is characterised by the issues summarised in paragraphs 44 & 45. The GEF project will build on the baseline activities outlined above and summarized in the table below to: (i) expand (through acceleration of gazettement of the TOU and the new PA which was initiated since 2005 and delayed due to lack of financing) and ensure effectiveness in the management of existing and proposed protected areas and / or high conservation value areas (through support for the development of management and business plans) ; (ii) support biodiversity mainstreaming into land use planning and the planning of public and private sector initiatives in the vicinity of the Protected Areas, and its consideration in the social and environmental impacts assessment of Protected Area creation and management through the development of stronger social safeguards to ensure that any negative social impacts are adequately mitigated by improved livelihood activities outside the PAs. By doing so, the GEF funding will significantly influence both public, private and donor funding in the region to better prioritize the limited funds available to avoid and/or offset the environmental impacts of development projects, and support social groups affected by Protected Areas to adapt and improve their livelihoods to more sustainable activities.

50. The Project Objective and Global Environmental Objective (GEO) are the same: ***To strengthen and expand the PA network of, and mainstream biodiversity conservation in, the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape.***

51. In the context of this project “Sustainable Farming” means any one or more of the following: more efficient agricultural production; better processing methods that improve product quality and value, reduce post-harvest losses and/or reduce energy demand of drying; certification and marketing that improves returns to farmers; better access to markets; and the provision of essential services to farmers such as, training, organizational development, inputs and financing. “Safeguards” means the regulatory framework and guidelines for the preparation and implementation of Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). In this project, the Safeguard instruments will focus on improving the management of impacts of development and conservation projects on socio-economic wellbeing, High Conservation Value (HCV) Forests, and High Carbon Stock (HCS) forests. It will also clarify how the principle of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) will be implemented during the preparation of such projects.

52. Key outcome Indicators:

- TOU created and 2 new PAs classified. Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score has improved over baseline value for the two existing and two proposed new PAs by project closure.

- Specific regulatory framework and guidelines for environmental and social safeguards drafted and adoption process and implementation being supported through an investment plan by all new PA managers in the Project area and beyond by the end of the project.
- The priority sites for socio-economic development, biodiversity conservation, and provision of ecosystem services in BBML landscape are better identified, integrated into Land Use Plans and monitored.

53. Under the GEF Intervention Strategy (Alternative scenario), the project consists of three components:

54. COMPONENT 1: Critical wildlife habitat conservation through creation / strengthening of Protected areas. Leading to Outcome 1: Fully completed, strengthen and effectively managed Bakossi Banyang Mbo Lebialem (BBML) Technical Operation Unit (TOU) and its and strengthened and well managed PA network.

Output 1.1: Bakossi-Banyang Mbo Lebialem (BBML) Technical Operation Unit (TOU) established and effectively managed: The TOU is envisaged as the mechanism to coordinate all government and partner activities relating to forest management within and outside Protected Areas within the BBML. The establishment of the TOU will benefit from a review of the experience of previous TOUs and thorough consultation with all stakeholders over the design of the BBML TOU, to ensure that it is designed to be able to fulfil the broad mandate of preparing integrated land use plans and coordinating sustainable rural development initiatives of multiple sectors. The Project will provide training for the TOU staff on Global Environment Benefits and ecosystem services; to better implement MINEPDED key policies and procedures; and on other important relevant developments. The GEF Project will also provide support for the institutional capacity building for the management of TOU, with priority for activities relating to the PAs not already supported by PSMNR or WWF, thereby bringing the financing gaps for effective PA management. These institutional support will include purchase of office and field equipment necessary for the TOU and PA biodiversity and management effectiveness monitoring tools including IT software and hardware, building capacities of PA technical staff and communities organised groups and opinion leaders,.

Output 1.2: Management Plans (2MPs) for the two existing PA are validated and it integrate community-based approaches to PA management: The GEF project will not finance the preparation of Management Plans for the existing PAs as these should be financed by MINFOF with support of partners (PSMNR / WWF). The GEF project will instead finance the cost of additional consultation meetings on draft Management Plans for Banyang Mbo WS and Bakossi NP to ensure that social impacts of PA management are properly addressed in the ESIA's prepared under 1.4 below.

Output 1.3: **Two** New PAs classification process is supported, (supported by draft ESIA's / ESMPs - see Output 1.4): This includes activities to support the finalization of the classification process for Tofala Hill and Mt Kupe including labor and professional costs of opening, demarcating and surveying of boundaries, etc. The GEF project will finance a review of the draft Gazettement Decree for Mt. Kupe to ensure local understanding and acceptance (FPIC) of proposed legal status, and if necessary revise Decree prior to resubmission. This is critical given the strict level of protection implied by the proposed status of an Integral Ecological Reserve that does not match with local community expectations for its future participatory management and use. It will also finance consultation meetings on Gazettement for Tofala Hill to discuss with communities the new status of Tofala Hill including ensuring that FPIC principles are respected. As the gazettement process is now concluded, the Project will support the preparation of draft forest management plans for Mt Kupe and Tofala Hill: including inventory costs; participatory mapping and any other activities related to the preparation of draft management plans for these PAs.

Output 1.4: ESIA's for PA Management Plans prepared to newly defined standards (see Output 2.1) and being implemented according to approved / ESMPs: The GEF Project will support MINFOF institutional

capacity building in preparation and implementation of ESIAAs that reflect clearly biodiversity conservation and how the PA creation will generate financial, social, environmental and other costs / benefits (participation, sense of ownership, changes in access rights, etc.), to the communities and conservation objectives drawing on lessons learned about PA management in the Central African Region (3 will be funded by GEF project as pilot testing to show case; 1 will be funded by MINFOF). The Project will also fund the necessary public meetings to ensure that these ESIAAs / ESMPs are validated according to legally defined procedures & standards (see output 2.1) and approved by an inter-ministerial committee. To minimize possible resistance to ESIA preparation, the Project will facilitate submission of these ESIAAs to MINEPDED. Finally, in the course of lessons learning, the Project will finance one review of the performance of these ESMPs during their implementation.

55. COMPONENT 2: Sustainable farming practice and promotion of communities' livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through Integral Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP). Leading to Outcome 2: Strengthened regulatory framework and coordinated investments mitigate environmental and social impacts of development projects and PA management.

Output 2.1: Regulatory frameworks, standards and guidelines for preparation of ESIAAs and ESMPs for PA management and other public / private sector development projects that have impact on PAs and/or biodiversity are developed. The activities under this output are as follows:

(i) The GEF Project will support an objective and thorough review of previous ESIAAs and resulting ESMPs prepared for all major development projects in the project area, and for similar projects elsewhere in Cameroon. Within the Project Area, the review of ESIAAs will cover planned large scale palm oil plantations, new road infrastructure and existing / new Protected Areas, all of which can create competing demands for land & resources and trigger tensions between various stakeholders over access to resources in the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape. In particular, the purpose of the review is to evaluate how these ESIAAs and ESMPs have addressed impacts on biodiversity and social wellbeing, as well as conflicts over land and scarce renewable resources. Further, the review will look at how social impacts of Protected Areas have been identified, quantified and addressed through mitigating measures (such as alternative income generating activities) in PA Management Plans or associated development projects. The findings about the adequacy of mitigation measures from Cameroon experiences will then be compared against global best practice, as identified by the ongoing SAPA Project (IIED, FFI, WCS, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC) mentioned in the previous section. The review will extract lessons on how the legally prescribed ESIAAs can best compliment the Management Plan preparation process, in a practical and constructive manner. The rationale is that well prepared ESIAAs and ESMPs can much better target scarce conservation resources to address the key threats to biodiversity and in priority support livelihoods of social groups that are most affected by Protected Area creation, or the impacts of other projects. The review will identify best practice as well as shortcomings, and distill lessons learned. The lessons learned will form the basis for completing the regulatory framework, and preparing guidelines for future ESIAAs and ESMPs.

(ii) On the basis of the above review, the project will finance the preparation of a draft Ministerial Arrêté and guidelines on best practice for the treatment (in ESIAAs and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and Conservation projects. The arrêté and guidelines will define the specific requirements of ESIAAs and ESMPs that must be prepared during a) the design phase of development projects that have impacts on biodiversity, and b) the preparation of management plans for Protected Areas. It will also develop guidelines on the design and monitoring of adequate mitigating measures for various types of impacts: a) the impact of various types of development projects (roads, agro-industrial plantations, mines, forest concessions) on biodiversity and on socio-economic wellbeing of adjacent communities; b) the impact of PA management on the socio-economic wellbeing of specific groups of people negatively impacted by conservation measures, such as but not limited to the restriction of access rights (hunting, NTFP collection, timber cutting, etc.), restrictions on

cultural practices and the limitation on farm expansion; and c) the impact of development projects on High Carbon Stock Forests. These guidelines will identify clear methods for the quantitative and/or qualitative assessment of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests, High Carbon Stock (HCV) forests, and socio-economic impacts. The guidelines will also define criteria and thresholds for determining when such impacts are unacceptable, thus helping decision makers to determine when certain proposed projects should be redesigned, relocated or not approved. Where project impacts are below defined thresholds and deemed acceptable, the guidelines will outline appropriate mitigating measures that must be implemented by the project developer to 'offset' any residual negative impacts of authorized developments after impacts have been minimized. By supporting such a clarification the GEF funding will not only support more effective conservation of biodiversity in the SW Region, but it will also make a critical contribution to the framework for implementing REDD+ initiatives in Cameroon. Finally, the regulations and guidelines will clarify how project developers will respect the obligation to solicit the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of communities affected by both development and conservation projects before their approval. Finally, these draft regulations and guidelines will be presented to stakeholders for validation before they are submitted for signature. The review, and the resulting guidelines will be of broad interest to similar projects being implemented within SW Region, elsewhere in Cameroon and even in other countries that are grappling with the same challenges. The Review should therefore provide Global Environmental Benefits.

Output 2.2: **One** Policy and a set of guidelines on collaborative management and conservation incentives that link clearly to PA Management Plans and associated ESIA / ESMPs is drafted. ∴ The project will fund a review a) PSMNR approach to collaborative management and conservation incentives (CMCI), and b) treatment of social impacts of conservation and development projects elsewhere. It will distil best practice, ensuring clear linkages with the ESIA and ESMP process (Output 2.1) and summarize good practice for inclusion in the draft new ESIA Guidelines for PA management. The Project will share its findings and recommendations with PSMNR for integration into PSMNR policy on CMCI. Finally, the project will fund a set of 4 workshops around each PA site to allow stakeholders to review and validate the guidelines for a) addressing social impacts of PA management within the Project Area, and b) supporting viable CMCI packages.

Output 2.3: Collaborative management & conservation incentives (CMCI) program is implemented according to revised Policy and Guidelines on a pilot scale at priority sites around PAs and is positively evaluated by beneficiaries: This subcomponent will support the following activities: (a) outreach and training activities to build capacity of local groups to implement the CMCI Program in accordance with new guidelines; (b) funding sustainable farming micro-projects in accordance with the adopted PSMNR Policy and Guidelines on CMCI, by provision of seed funds for the Grant mechanism (estimate \$40,000 per project x 10 micro-projects inclusive of external technical support); and (c) an independent technical and financial audit of the funded CMCI initiatives with a view to developing scaling-up recommendations at mid term and the end of the project. The micro-projects to be supported have not been predetermined, but will come out from a clear analysis of the threats to PAs and impacts of PAs on local communities, and a participatory design of promising solutions. These micro-projects will be implemented through contracts between the beneficiary groups and one or more of the local NGOs, service providers and the private sector. The latter will support development of the sustainable farming activity whenever there is a need, as negotiated between the two parties and the Project Director and Technical Adviser.

Output 2.4: Private sector co-financing is negotiated for PA management and/or profitable & sustainable livelihood activities that are supportive of PA management in BBML Landscape: The Project will organize annual forums to stimulate private sector investment alongside the micro-project funding provided by GEF. GEF funds will pay the incremental costs of achieving additional global environmental benefits from private sector initiatives, and in this way, anticipates being able to leverage significantly greater private sector funds. The project will support community groups to prepare projects / business

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

Output 2.5: Develop two local Land Use Plans (LUPs) for areas with existing or potential land use conflicts around PAs: The GEF funds will contribute to HCV / HCS and other surveys to identify conservation priority areas/wildlife corridors between Mt Kupe and Bakossi NP, and Tofala and neighboring forest. The University of Dschang and other research institutes will co-finance some of these activities with own funds to extend and deepen research. In view of the high biodiversity of the region, and the increasing threats to it, it is of foremost importance to obtain a clear picture of the magnitude of expected land use changes, identify key factors and actors driving the change process and build strategic alliances to mitigate negative environmental impacts, especially in the face of mounting threats and opportunities from climate change. The GEF project will advocate a sustainable approach to future land allocation and will support MINEPDED to draw lessons from the ESIA processes for the various developments proposed in the project area, promote the adoption of sustainable farming practices by large plantations, smallholders and subsistence farmers, and learn about the effectiveness of certification schemes for agricultural and forest production. Such initiatives can potentially reduce pressure on protected areas and enhance food security across the region.

Output 2.6: Contribution to the elaboration of a common Sustainable Financial Mechanism for SW Region PAs, is ensured: This sub-component will finance the following activities: a review of best practice for sustainable financing of PAs based on GEF, UNEP, regional and global experiences; an evaluation of the potential for environmental / biodiversity / carbon offsetting of development projects to contribute to sustainable financing of PAs. Based on the outcome of the above sub-components, the Project will finance one workshop to integrate findings on best practice, potential for offsetting, and experiences of mobilizing private sector finance into the common Sustainable Financing Mechanism for the SW Region. In this way, the GEF Project will contribute to the development of an integrated framework for public and private finance that can guarantee long-term investment in the protection of biodiversity and sustainable livelihood options of local communities. The results of these reviews will contribute to the ongoing efforts to establish a sustainable financing mechanism being led by MINFOF for PAs and MINEPDED for REDD+ at the national level, and PSMNR partners at the local level.

56. COMPONENT 3: Knowledge Management, monitoring and evaluation. This component aims to improve knowledge and monitoring of the socio-economic & environmental values of BBML landscape fosters implementation of integrated land use plans, leading to Outcome 3. Improved knowledge and monitoring of the socio-economic & environmental values of BBML landscape

Output 3.1: Training needs, learning framework are established, and training packages developed to build capacity for Environmental & Social Impact Assessment for Protected Areas (PAs) and projects that have impact on biodiversity and/or PAs.: This sub-component will support the design and delivery of training modules for ESIA practitioners and key staff of MINEPDED, MINFOF and other key agencies in global best practice, and revised national standards for social and environmental safeguards, with focus on: Free

Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock (HCS) Forests; effective consultations during classification processes; viable community based natural resource management options; and sustainable farming initiatives. The Project will support the preparation of a database of sustainable and profitable interventions that can usefully be replicated within the project area, and in similar areas. This database will provide guidance on the key characteristics of success of each successful intervention and a stepwise guide to its effective implementation. This sub-component will also fund the dissemination of information about environmental and social values of the BBML Landscape, and the successful initiatives of the project to a wider audience.

Output 3.2: Common framework for M&E of socioeconomic & environmental performance of conservation & development initiatives in the BBML Landscape developed, tested and adopted by all stakeholders: This will contribute to the development, testing and adoption by all stakeholders of a common framework for M&E of socioeconomic & environmental performance of conservation & development initiatives in the BBML Landscape. It will support the hiring of an M&E specialist to set up M&E system and provide coaching to data collectors. A useful model for such a monitoring system is the Landscape Outcome Assessment Method (LOAM) developed by IUCN in Cameroon among other places. It will also support M&E training workshops and fieldwork costs, and the regular implementation of monitoring / specialist studies to assess the performance of the project. A key activity will be the collection of baseline and subsequent data collection in participatory monitoring of changes in ecological and socio-economic indicators in accordance with the agreed M&E system. A lump sum budget has been allocated for field data collection for as yet undefined indicators to be specified in the M&E system. The last activity in this sub-component is to engage a core group of (multi) stakeholder representatives to contribute to regular participatory monitoring of project performance. This will likely be through the organization of annual stakeholder forums in which representatives of key groups affected by management of each of the four target Protected Area, the activities of the GEF Project and/or other projects in the landscape come together to provide input on the participatory monitoring & evaluation system. The evaluations may first be done at the level of each PA and then combined for the overall Landscape.

Output 3.3: Lessons are learnt from project activities and impacts communicated: This output will ensure that the project summarizes and disseminates the tools and results of implementing them to a broader audience. In particular, the social safeguards that are developed in this project should be of considerable interest to the development of the national REDD+ strategy in Cameroon and to the Regional REDD+ initiative (also GEF funded) that is building capacity for REDD+ implementation in the Congo Basin.

The GEF increment / Global Environmental Benefits (GEB)

57. The GEF financing will add value through providing the funds to complete the classification process and begin manage some of the long-proposed new Protected Areas within the project area - processes, which have hitherto been severely limited by lack of government resources. It will also identify key corridors that link existing and proposed future Protected Areas. Investment in community-based collaborative management of the PAs should ensure long term sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources, and reduce the pressure on endangered species that reside within the area.
58. With the GEF financing, incremental global environmental benefits expected include: the classification of two new Protected Areas and contribution to the management effectiveness of two existing PAs. It will promote sustainable farming in the area surrounding the PAs, through clear identification of the threats to each PA and the impacts of each PA on specific groups of people, and design targeted mitigation measures to address these threats and impacts, through sustainable farming interventions.
59. Importantly, the lessons generated under this Project will help demonstrate how the participatory preparation and implementation of ESIA's and ESMP's for PA management through coordinated public

and private sector investment in sustainable farming initiatives can effectively build a positive collaboration and minimize potential conflicts between PA managers and local communities, thereby making the PAs more socially sustainable in the medium to long term.

60. The baseline projects and initiatives alone could not fully address aspects of nature protection that are critical for effective long-term biodiversity conservation (i) available funds were inadequate for the completion of the gazettement process and preparation of management plans for 2 of the 4 PAs in the project area; (ii) absence of an integrated ecosystem-based approach to land use planning and management meant that PAs are becoming isolated, as corridors to link them have not been identified or managed appropriately; (iii) threats to PAs, and impacts of PAs on local communities have not been methodically identified, and livelihood support initiatives have not been designed so as to be sustainable, meaning that often they did not achieve the desired result; (iv) effective financing mechanism(s) that use public funds strategically to leverage private funds had not been put in place to support long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable business development (such as certification of forestry and agricultural operations to appropriate international environmental standards).
61. The GEF component of the project addresses these issues through completing the gazettement of 2 of 4 PAs which are known to harbour a diverse range of endemic, endangered and near-threatened species in diverse taxa, and supporting the preparation of management plans (Component 1). This will deliver global environmental benefits, by expanding the protected areas systems in an area of high biodiversity, thereby improving the management effectiveness of protected areas systems (GEF5 BD-1). This will be monitored through the GEF 5 Biodiversity tracking tools.
62. In partnership with PSMNR and MINEPAT, the project will develop and test the participatory development of local multi-sectoral Land Use Plans which will contribute to the establishment of an improved network of PAs and corridors between them (Component 2). This will generate knowledge and create opportunities for conservation of habitat and corridors for threatened species (habitat services), outside protected areas and help to find an appropriate balance between sustainable multi-sectoral development and nature protection in the Project Area and better mainstreams biodiversity and ecosystem services into policy, planning and action across sectors (GEF 5 BD-2 and LD-3).
63. By contributing to an appropriate policy on collaborative management and conservation incentives, and by completing the regulatory framework and producing guidelines for the implementation of environmental and social safeguards and tools, including managing the environmental and social impacts that may result from Protected Area management, GEF funds will promote more environmentally & socially sustainable farming in the vicinity of PAs, that simultaneously supports biodiversity conservation and improves rural livelihoods (component 2).
64. The GEF Project will also ensure the sustainability of the project outputs through a comprehensive knowledge management approach (Component 3) that strengthens stakeholder understanding & capacity for implementation of the new regulatory framework (Component 2). It will directly support the preparation of ESIA's and ESMPs during the drafting of Management Plans for most of the Protected Areas in the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape (Output 1). This holistic approach will enable GEF funding to be catalytic and create enabling conditions for long term public and private sector investment that supports conservation and livelihood promotion in the region.
65. The structure of the GEF project will help to promote collaboration between the many initiatives being developed in the project area. In absence of the project, these would likely be developed separately and consequently yield less impact. The GEF investment will be catalytic in putting in place a multi-actor platform that will bring communities, conservation partners and private sector together to plan joint investments that both protect biodiversity and improve livelihoods.

66. The GEF resources will also introduce and build capacity for innovative financing mechanisms, particularly through strengthening value chains and leveraging additional financing from the private sector for certified agricultural and forestry production and alternative livelihood development. The involvement of local stakeholders and CSOs will enhance the decision making process in managing the production landscape (GEF 5).

Summary Presentation of cofinancing activities per funding partner

Partners	Summary of Baseline activities/funding	Component
Government (MINFOF, MINADED, MINEPAT)	National contribution to administrative and technical creation and management of Protected Areas Legal custodian of environment, wildlife and land use planning issues Management of the Land Use Planning processes	Component 1, 2 &3
ERUDEF	Local conservation initiative, livelihood options	Component 1,2&3
CHEDE	Communities organization and capacity building	Component 1,2 and 3
MORINGA INITIATIVE	Communities livelihoods	Component 2
University of DChang	Research , coordination activities	
Grasp	Determination of High Conservation Value Forest Indicators	ESIA and ESMP development
PSMNR/MINFOF	Management Plans for 2 existing PA Preservation of high-value ecosystems in the SW Region of Cameroon Improved livelihoods of the surrounding communities in a sustainable manner Collaborative management and conservation incentives (CMCI), Management of some Protected Areas in South Western Region Land Use Planning between Protected Areas in South Western Region	Component 1 Component 2

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks: -

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
The existing policy, legal and fiscal framework a) does not encourage sustainable land use and production practices; and b) does not adequately protect ecosystem services such as carbon stocks,	High	Output 2.1 of the Project will address this risk by supporting the further development the regulatory framework, standards and guidelines for preparation of ESIA's and ESMPs for PA management and other public / private sector development projects that have impact on PAs and/or

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
biodiversity and supply of natural products that contribute to local livelihoods.		biodiversity. Specific methods for Social Impact Assessment will be identified and adapted for application when drafting ESIA's & ESMPs to identify potential social impacts of Protected Areas on local communities.
Reluctance of local communities to support Protected Area creation and management as a result of either: a) the potential social impacts such PAs may have on them, through direct limitation of access rights to land & resources within existing or proposed new PAs; or b) concerns about how such PAs will impact their cultural and traditional beliefs and practices.	High	<p>This risk will be addressed by Output 2.1 (see above) and the following activities:</p> <p>3.1.1 will ensure that ESIA practitioners are trained in these new methods prior to conducting ESIA's in the Project Area.</p> <p>1.2.1 will support consultation meetings on draft Management Plans for PAs to ensure that social impacts of PA management are properly addressed in associated ESIA's / ESMPs and where necessary request MINFOF to revise PA boundaries to minimize negative impacts that cannot be mitigated.</p> <p>1.4.1(b) ESIA's / ESMPs presented, reviewed and validated by representatives of affected groups according to legally defined procedures & standards.</p> <p>2.3.2 will fund and implement carefully selected micro-projects that mitigate impacts of PAs on specific groups.</p> <p>3.2.3 will engage a core group of multi-stakeholder representatives (PA level Consultative Platforms) to contribute to regular participatory monitoring of project performance.</p>
Weak enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, allows the arrival of unsustainable projects, and persistent illegal or unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. This will continue to foster degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.	Moderate	<p>The project puts strong emphasis on the preparation and continuous monitoring of high quality ESIA's and ESMPs to ensure respect of agreed mitigating measures for significant development projects and the management of Protected Areas.</p> <p>Outputs 1.1 and 1.4 of the Project will address this risk, specifically Activities:</p> <p>1.1.4. Support MINFOF / GoC technical staff operational costs at Mt. Kupe & Tofala.</p> <p>1.1.6 will pay for field allowances for 10 locally hired ecoguards.</p> <p>1.4.2 will support Divisional Committees for Monitoring ESMPs to monitor regularly the effective implementation of ESMPs.</p>
Large scale farming development in the region. Over the past century, the South–West Region of Cameroon has been the most targeted area for large-scale commercial agriculture due to its fertile volcanic soils and proximity to markets and ports.	Moderate	<p>Output 2.1 of the Project will address this risk, specifically Activities:</p> <p>2.1.1. Team of national environmental & social experts will review ESIA's & ESMPs for a) development projects in the project area and further afield that have impact on biodiversity and b) PA gazettement processes (minutes of consultation meetings etc.) and management planning process identify social and environmental impacts, and determine how effectively they are addressed.</p> <p>2.1.2. Prepare draft Ministerial Arrêté and guidelines on best practise for the treatment (in ESIA's and ESMPs) of Biodiversity (HCV), Carbon Stocks (HCS), and socio-economic impacts of development and conservation projects. Arrêté will also clarify how to obtain the Free</p>

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
		<p>Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) of local communities before approval of such projects.</p> <p>The original project PIF envisaged the GEF Project preparing a land use plan to address the above gap. This was beyond the legal mandate of MINEPDED (Executing Agency) and overstretched the GEF budget. Instead, KfW is making funds available for MINEPAT to coordinate preparation of a regional land use schema, and a more detailed plan for the vicinity of the Herakles Project.</p> <p>The revised GEF project will limit its investment to developing local land use plans:</p> <p>Output 2.5 Two local Land Use Plans (LUPs) developed for areas with existing or potential land use conflicts around PAs.</p>
<p>The planned (ADB funded) road construction project will increase access to Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscapes. The résumé of the ESIA of the road project notes that it will likely have negative impacts on adjacent PAs including an “increased risk of illegal exploitation of timber resources and non-timber forest products”.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The request of developing a management plan of the area is a political will from the Government of Cameroon to ensure sustainable management of the South Cameroon Ecosystem.</p> <p>The project will develop an adequate strategy to work with local communities with possible technical backstopping from partner’s institutions involve in the execution of the project in the area namely the University of Dschang, FFI, ERUDEF and CHEDE.</p>
<p>There is a risk that the Executing Agency (MINEPDED) lacks capacity and experience for project and fiduciary management. There is additional risk that project execution by a government institution will not be sufficiently rooted at the field level.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The Project Director (the Regional Delegate of MINEPDED) will need to execute the project through close consultation with MINFOF Regional Delegation, the TOU team, and with various implementing partners on the ground.</p> <p>Specifically, this risk will be addressed by the following activities:</p> <p>1.1.5 fund an experienced Project coordinator with responsibility for day-to-day management of the project, under the supervision of the Project Director, and Divisional Delegates in the field. The PC will make regular field missions to plan activities with implementing partners on the ground, and monitor progress, providing advice where necessary.</p> <p>1.1.8 establish local offices to facilitate local project implementation.</p> <p>1.1.3 train the PIU team in GEF Procedures, MINEPDED key policies and procedures, and ensure ongoing training on other important developments.</p>
<p>Risk of confusion over the role of different GoC institutions. The PIF did not adequately identify and differentiate the specific roles of different stakeholder (in particular the Ministries of Forestry – MINFOF, and the Ministry of Environment (MINEPDED) towards PA management and mainstreaming biodiversity in landscape management. The risk was that MINEPDED would have taken on a legally non-mandated role in PA management within the project.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>In the revised, final Project design, all of Component 1, which relates to PA creation and management will be implemented by MINFOF through workplans, budgets and ToRs that have been agreed with MINEPDED Project Director.</p> <p>The revised project design also assists MINEPDED to clarify and play its mandated role in the process of land allocation, i.e. to ensure that high quality Environmental and Social Impact Assessments are conducted during development project design, and during the gazettement and management of Protected Areas.</p>
<p>Key private sector and conservation organisations</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Output 2.4 of the Project will address this risk, by securing private</p>

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
are reluctant to coordinate and co-finance pilot projects for conservation and sustainable production that mitigate impacts of PA management.		<p>sector co-financing for PA management and/or profitable & sustainable livelihood activities that are supportive of PA management in BBML Landscape. The three activities envisaged for this Output are designed to encourage such investment:</p> <p>2.4.1 Annual forums to stimulate private sector investment organized by the project.</p> <p>2.4.2 Projects / business plans for co-investment between local communities and private sector partners in sustainable agricultural / natural resource based enterprises.</p> <p>2.4.3 Field missions with private sector to design, implement and monitor co-financed projects.</p>
Risk of inadequate project coordination in a complex institutional environment with many ministries, donor supported programmes / projects and the private sector implementing activities in the same landscape.	Moderate	<p>Component 1 of the Project will support establishment and operation of the BBML Technical Operational Unit whose main mandate is to coordinate all interventions relating to forest management within & outside Protected Areas within the landscape. The following activities will ensure better coordination at various levels:</p> <p>1.1.2 Agree with TOU coordination team a 4-year program and annual workplans for the TOU, which shows GEF Project contribution and defines MINEPDED role.</p> <p>3.2.3 Engage a core group of multi-stakeholder representatives (Protected Area level Consultative Platforms or PACP) to contribute to regular participatory monitoring of project performance.</p>
Lack of adequate budget for conservation of PAs and for all mitigating measures to offset social impacts of PA management.	Moderate	<p>Since the PIF was drafted two significant new commitments have been made to conservation in the region - from KfW and WWF. However the long-term funding is still not assured. KfW and WWF have also committed to establishing a Sustainable Financing mechanism. In contrast to the PIF, the GEF Project will therefore leave this role to KfW & WWF, but will contribute to the elaboration of a common Sustainable Financial Mechanism for SW Region PAs based on UNEP / GEF experiences, specifically through Output 2.6, and the following activities:</p> <p>2.6.1 Review best practise for sustainable financing of PAs based on GEF / UNEP experience, with a focus on case studies with significant private sector contributions.</p> <p>2.6.2 Evaluate potential for environmental / biodiversity / carbon offsetting of development projects to contribute to sustainable financing of PAs.</p> <p>2.6.3 Integrate findings on best practise, potential for offsetting, and experiences of mobilising private sector finance into the common Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SWR.</p> <p>Output 2.4 aims to secure private sector co-financing for PA management and/or profitable & sustainable livelihood activities that are supportive of conservation.</p>
While the Project is in a high rainfall area, there is a risk that increasing climate variability can have negative impacts on local communities, particularly due to disruption of the farming	Low	<p>The project is not designed as a climate change adaptation project, but where communities identify climate variability as a key issue, they can request support from the GEF project to introduce pilot adaptation measures through:</p>

Risk	Level	Mitigation measure
calendar.		Output 2.3: Collaborative management & conservation incentives (CMCI) program.
Regular monitoring and assessment of key indicators might not be sustainable and may not be continued after the end of the project because no institution with sufficient technical and financial capacities will have assumed the responsibility to coordinate the monitoring process.	Medium	<p>The Project will address this risk through implementation of Output 3.2 which aims to establish a common framework for M&E of socioeconomic & environmental performance of conservation & development initiatives in the BBML Landscape. The recommended methodology (IUCN’s Landscape Outcomes Assessment Method) is based primarily on a regular participatory assessment of a few key indicators.</p> <p>Building a capacity for and ownership of a regular participatory monitoring mechanism is likely to ensure that stakeholder interest, and funding remain available to continue the M&E system in the long term.</p>

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

67. The project will build and compliment the ongoing GEF-funded projects executed in Cameroon and the region. During GEF4, 13 projects were approved by GEF Council in Congo Basin under the Congo Basin Strategic Programme (CBSP) led by World Bank. During the PPG phase a comprehensive assessment of impacts and lessons learned from GEF activities in Cameroon and the region was conducted to capture the positive lessons learned and also the experiences from less successful projects.

68. Lessons have been drawn from the Forest & Environment Development Program (FEDP), a Joint World Bank IDA / GEF Development Policy Operation (DPO) (Project IDs: P070656 and P073020), whose objective was “to strengthen public and private efforts to achieve socially-, economically-, and ecologically-sustainable use of national forest and wildlife resources”. The FEDP closed in December 2011, with overall GEO outcomes rated as ‘unsatisfactory’. The Implementation Completion Report (WB Report No: ICR00002223) highlights the importance of clarifying the distinct roles of MINFOF and MINEPDED in management of forests and the broader environment. The current GEF project preparation process has made considerable effort to pinpoint what role MINEPDED should, but so far has not, been playing in Protected Area management, and the design ensures that any activity that should be undertaken by MINFOF will be done directly under MINFOF supervision – with the GEF Project (that is managed under MINEPDED) o funding the operation in consultation with MINFOF. However, it should be noted that while the overall FEDP was considered unsatisfactory, MINEPDED (then called MINEP) performed satisfactorily and achieved all the outcomes for which it was responsible, including those relating to the publication of environmental regulations, information management and implementation of the Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan of the FEDP. The FEDP also highlighted the key importance of ensuring inter-ministerial cooperation. In this SUFACHAC Project, coordination will be enhanced through the proper structuring of the Technical Operations Unit (TOU) for the BBML, so that technical tasks are appropriately allocated to the respective technical ministry, under the overall coordination of MINEPAT. The project design envisages drawing lessons from the TOU experience before institutionalizing the BBML TOU.

69. The ICR of the FEDP also identified the overarching shift of Government focus and interest currently taking place in Cameroon, from sustained livelihoods and natural resources management towards a greater emphasis on economic growth and employment. Although the forestry sector is a key source of employment, it appears to be facing more competition in comparison with other sectors in the recent growth and employment strategy. The current GEF Project must therefore take great care to demonstrate that Protected Areas a) contribute to local job creation and b) do not unduly limit livelihood opportunities

without appropriate mitigation of social impacts. The ICR concluded that the increasing pressure on Cameroon's forests for conversion to agriculture was a defining element of the eventual failure of the FEDP, leading Government to resist the widespread gazettement of new Forest Management Units. The final design of the current GEF Project has therefore focused on the designated role MINEPDED plays in the process of land allocation, i.e. to ensure that high quality Environmental and Social Impact Assessments are conducted, and avoids putting MINEPDED in any un-mandated role vis-à-vis planned development projects in the region (which was a significant risk in the project design proposed in the PIF).

70. Furthermore, the project as having mainstreaming as one of its components, will learn from the resources produced by the UNEP-UNDP Poverty and Environment Initiative particularly its publication titles "Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development: A Handbook to Strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes". The handbook provide guidelines and lessons learn on "Mainstreaming Poverty-Environment Objectives in Sectoral and Subnational Planning Processes". This is in line with the Component 2 of the project activities and will be usefull in the process.
71. The Project will coordinate with, and exchange experiences with the GEF/WB CBSP Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ngoyla Mintom Forest (GEF \$3.5m), whose objective is to improve the conservation and management of core areas within the Ngoyla Mintom forest massif and improve access to income-generating activities for local communities. It aims to achieve this through 3 components: 1. Strengthening government and civil society capacity for participatory planning and management of the core areas; 2. Design and implement a Livelihood Support Mechanism; and 3. Design and implement a long term Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Ngoyla-Mintom Forest Massif; and Project Management. As was decided for the GEF Ngoyla Mintom project, the SUFACHAC Project leaves large-scale land use planning to the appropriate authority (MINEPAT) and other donors with adequate resources to tackle this large task properly. The SUFACHAC Project focuses on supporting MINEPDED to perform its role in feeding the Land Use Planning process with relevant information about biodiversity, social impacts, and identifying and promoting sustainable land use and livelihood options.
72. The Project should both contribute to, and draw valuable lessons from the regional GEF project entitled "Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest management in the Congo Basin" (GEF \$13 million), which puts a strong emphasis on an inclusive REDD+ policy dialogue as well as a focus on the social dimension of REDD+, and further recognizes the importance of forest-dependent people's livelihood objectives in the management of forest ecosystems. The GEF Regional REDD+ project specifically aims to promote inclusive participation of key stakeholder groups in REDD+ debates and to provide knowledge and guidance on how to better achieve social co-benefits in REDD+ approaches. The GEF SUFACHAC project should identify some important lessons about how best to conduct social impact assessment during the establishment and/or management of Protected Areas that can feed into the regional dialogue on social safeguards for REDD+. The project will learn from the UNEP/GEF project on PA resilience to climate change executed by UNEP-WCMC and which aims at "Build capacity in the region to better integrate the likely effect of climate change on protected areas, and develop new management approaches". The tools and guidelines developed by this project will serve the SUFASHAC project particularly in the development of the Management Plans of the four (4) PAs.
73. Finally, in addition to coordinating with GEF-funded projects, the SUFACHAC project will build and compliment the on-going regional projects such the preservation of high value ecosystems in the South West region by GIZ/KfW, WWF, WCS and GFA, nature conservation to secure the habitat range of the cross river gorilla and other endangered species by WCS; and the conservation of the cross river gorilla and its habitat while ensuring the livelihoods of local population by ERUDEF, FFI and the University of Dschang.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

74. A stakeholder analysis was conducted during the Project Preparation, funded by the PPG. A representative sample of these stakeholders were then met in the field and invited to two Workshops both held in Limbe, Cameroon: an Inception Workshop between 3 to 4 of July 2013, and a Validation Workshop for the final Project concept, held between 21-22 January 2014.
75. Stakeholders in the management of the Protected Areas include first and foremost the communities who live closest to, and have traditionally used these forests and adjacent lands to sustain their social and economic wellbeing. Their effective engagement during project implementation will be assured through the identification of, and support for, activities which simultaneously improve the livelihoods of local communities and build local support for effective conservation measures. Careful identification and engagement of community members affected by PA management is key to success of the project, and to the successful long-term conservation of biodiversity in the landscape. The Project provides resources to allow regular consultation with local communities through Protected Area level Consultation Platforms (Activity/Deliverable No. 3.2.3).
76. The role of Government agencies has also been carefully analysed. MINFOF, which is responsible for PA creation and management already has significant financial support to protect 2 of the 4 PAs targeted by the Project. The key role played by the MINFOF-led PSMNR, and its partners (WWF, WCS, GIZ) in Protected Area Management in the SW Region has now been properly recognised, the partners fully consulted, and their ongoing role adequately integrated into the final project design. The primary mechanism for overall coordination will be the GEF Project Steering Committees, and at the operational level on a day to day basis, the Technical Operational Unit will ensure coordination of the various government and donor supported activities relating to forest management in the BBML TOU. Additional GEF resources will be made available to support MINFOF to play their mandated role in the other two PAs where internal and partner resources are inadequate to complete the planned gazettelement and management.
77. MINEPDED, which is the Executing Agency for the project will have a crucial role to play in revising the legal framework for ESIA's, clarifying how the tool should be applied to Protected Area Management. They will also facilitate the leveraging of Private Sector initiatives that can support sustainable development in the region, particularly through the identification and promotion of certification schemes.
78. MINEPAT is responsible for Land Use Planning (LUP) and for coordinating rural development. Through its proposed involvement in the TOU, MINEPAT will help to identify, plan and coordinate coherent public and private investment for sustainable rural development in the vicinity of the PAs.
79. Sustainable farming is the primary economic activity and therefore farmers will play a central role in the matrix of solutions. Local farmers are the major private sector investor in the landscape, supported by a range of upstream and downstream suppliers, traders and processors who provide inputs, services and markets to farmers. The Private Sector will be engaged through direct contact, and through their regular membership of the proposed public-private sector platforms with key community leaders and farmers.
80. Research organisations and academia such as the University of Dschang can help to identify biodiversity priorities and conservation solutions, agronomic best practises and promising new business opportunities.
81. The many local NGOs operating around all the PAs targeted by the project were identified as much as possible and those most involved in PA management, or supporting relevant alternative livelihoods will be engaged as project implementing partners through contracts negotiated with the PIU.

82. During project implementation, stakeholder analysis will be deepened, and engagement will be sustained through various institutional structures: the project steering Committee, local PA-level Consultation Platforms and through regular public-private sector forums with innovative farmers and community leaders. The proposed landscape level Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism will also bring stakeholders together on an annual basis to share perspectives and mutually evaluate the effectiveness of project interventions on the basis of mutually agreed set of social, economic and environmental criteria.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF):

83. The Project will first and foremost provide socio-economic benefits to those who are directly impacted (as identified by an ESIA) by the establishment and management of Protected Areas within the Project Area, for example by prioritising support to those whose access to resources within a PA will be restricted by proposed management interventions, by helping to identify and invest in alternative livelihood activities. The project will ensure that women's use of Protected Areas is equally recognised and that where such uses must be restricted, that they too are given equal access to project support to ensure that they find at least as viable alternatives. For example, in the case of Tofala Hill, it is women who are the most prominent 'encroachers' within the newly created Protected Area because they have restricted access to fertile land for food crop production outside the PA. The ESIA will identify such groups and ensure that some financial resources are allocated at addressing this threat in such a way that the adequately addresses the drivers that push women to encroach. This could involve improving access to land outside, or improving farming techniques, yields and revenues on the limited land available to women outside the PA. More concretely, the project planned to develop Collaborative management & conservation incentives program (**Output 2.3**). Within the framework of this program women and vulnerable group and youth will be given due attention as any impact of these will positively yield results. Women as the main dealers taking care of the family and youth facing unemployment with consequent collaboration in illegal activities, will see their livelihood ameliorated through the project activities. At the national level, the improved framework and tools for environmental and social safeguards relating to the management of Protected Areas should benefit others by stimulating a rethink about how Protected Areas are managed throughout the national territory and the region beyond. The GEF project will benefit from close association to the Social Assessment of Protected Areas initiative, by feeding lessons learned from that process into the development of regulatory frameworks and practical tools for application within the GEF SUFACHAC project. In Cameroon and many other countries in Central Africa Region for example, ESIA are not consider in PA creation. This project is therefore bringing innovation in the creation of PA and which will strengthening the PA governance.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

84. Cost effectiveness is one of the key underlying principles that guided project design. During the project preparation process a thorough inventory has been made of the existing funding for Protected Area management within the area and is carefully tailored to compliment this rather than duplicate it. The GEF funds are being used as much as possible to leverage additional funds, by conducting studies and ESIA's that will influence the way that government (with development partner support) and the private sector allocate their funds. The design is intended to use the very limited GEF funds to maximum effect. The potential impact of the project should have impact well beyond its geographical scope. The completed legal framework for ESIA's of Protected Areas developed and tested by this small project should influence the approach of MINFOF and its funding partners to address

methodically and comprehensively the social impacts of Protected Area management. This will have impact well beyond the Project area, to the South West Region, the National level and by example to the Congo Basin Region. Another key aspect of cost-effectiveness is the proposal to refine and use the Environmental & Social Impact Assessment tool as a means of more accurately targeting investments in livelihood support initiatives. Historically, these have been very poorly targeted, often not benefiting those with the greatest stake in the PA, such as those people who are directly affected by PA management. Typically, conservation initiatives have very limited funds for such livelihood activities. Hence a clear, legally recognised mechanism for identifying the groups and individuals who should be supported, and a contractual mechanism (ESMP) that outlines what will be done is highly efficient, and is most likely to ensure that agreed mitigating measures are actually implemented. The legal framework provides a mechanism at Divisional level to regularly monitor ESMP implementation, including the allocation of resources for its conduct, thereby minimising the need for extra-ordinary budgets to monitor project implementation.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

85. The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&E plan is consistent with UNEP procedures and the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.
86. Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress, including the tracking of activities and financial resources, as agreed in semi-annual work plans and related budget plans, (b) proactively identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c) assess and report on progress towards, and final achievement of planned outputs, outcomes, targets and indicators as outlined in Annex A: Project Logical Framework.
87. When appropriate and possible, other stakeholders (NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, private sector and community members) will participate in monitoring activities and mechanisms, and be invited to provide views and perceptions during evaluations.
88. The M&E plan includes an inception report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term and final evaluations.
89. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized in the Project Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.
90. The project Logical Framework presented in Appendix A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators, along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix I, will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification are summarized in Appendix H.
91. M&E related costs are fully integrated in the overall project budget, with all costs for collection of monitoring information being embedded in the activities.
92. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for data collection and upstream reporting of monitoring information and overall progress towards achieving results to the Steering Committee and the UNEP/GEF on a semi-annual basis. Additional Project monitoring will be provided by UNEP with support from the Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation within the UNEP/ UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in Nairobi.

93. The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix XX. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

Template for Costed M&E Workplan (to be inserted in the CEO endorsement template)

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Implementation Unit (PIU) UNEP 	\$5,000 budgeted under 1.1.		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP 	None		1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU Executing agencies and consultants 	None (included in management budget)		Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/Operational Reports to UNEP and FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU 	None		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP National partners 	\$20,000 Budgeted under 3.4		Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU 	None		Annually
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP 	None		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP National partners 	None – covered by field costs of project.		As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP External consultants 	\$20,000 budgeted under 2.3(c)		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP External consultants 	\$25,000 budgeted under 2.3(c)		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP 	\$15,000 budgeted under 3.4		Annually
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP 	None		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU 	None		Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU UNEP 	\$15,000 under 3.3.		Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		\$100,000		

Project Inception Phase

94. A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be held within the first three (3) months of project start-up with the participation of the full project team, relevant GoC counterparts, co-financing partners, and the UNEP Focal Point, as appropriate. A fundamental objective of the IW will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework and the GEF Tracking Tool. This will include reviewing the results framework (indicators, means of verification, and assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalizing the Annual Workplan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project.
95. Additionally, the purpose and objective of the IW will be to: a) introduce project staff to project stakeholders that will support the project during its implementation; b) detail the roles, support services, and complementary responsibilities of UNEP staff in relation to the project team; c) provide a detailed overview of UNEP-GEF reporting and M&E requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), mid-term review, final evaluation and financial reportings. Equally, the IW will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNEP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews including arrangements for annual audit, and mandatory budget re-phrasings.
96. The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms.
97. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase. The IW will also be used to plan and schedule the Tripartite Committee Reviews. A report on the Inception Workshop is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting (see details below).

Monitoring Responsibilities and Events

98. A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: a) tentative timeframes for Project Steering Committee meetings (and other relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms); and b) project-related M&E activities.
99. Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Technical Adviser / Project Coordinator (TA/PC) based on the project's AWP and its indicators. The TA/PC will inform the UNEP, the National Executing Agency of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The TA/PC will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the IW with support from UNEP Task Manager.
100. Specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this workshop. These will be used to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the AWP. Targets and indicators for subsequent years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will

occur according to the schedules defined through specific studies that are to form part of the project's activities.

101. Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point through six-monthly exchanges with the project implementation team, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock of and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. The UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point, as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to the project's field sites, or more often based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/AWP to assess first-hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also take part in these trips, as decided by the Steering Committee. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the UNEP Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Steering Committee members, and UNEP-GEF.
102. Annual monitoring will occur through the PSC meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Project Steering Committee meeting at least once every year.
103. The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve (12) months of the start of full implementation. The project proponent will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNEP GEF Task Manager / GEF Operational Focal Point at least two weeks prior to the PSC for review and comments.
104. The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions in the PB. The Project Coordinator will present the APR to the PSC, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the PB participants. The Project Coordinator will also inform the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. UNEP has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be conveyed by UNEP to project stakeholders at the IW, based on delivery rates and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.
105. The Terminal PSC Review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Coordinator with guidance from UNEP is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNEP GEF and Country Operational Focal Point. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the PSC meeting in order to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the PSC meeting. The terminal PSC review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects being implemented.

Project Monitoring Reporting

106. The Project Coordinator, with guidance from UNEP-GEF team, will be responsible for the preparation

and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process and that are mandatory.

- A **Project Inception Report (IR)** will be prepared immediately following the IW. It will include a detailed First Year/AWP divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This work plan will include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNEP Task Manager or consultants, as well as timeframes for meetings of the project's decision-making structures. The IR will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any M&E requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12-month timeframe. The IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions, and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the IR will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to the IR's circulation, the UNEP/GEF will review the document.
- The **Annual Project Report (APR)**. It is a self-assessment report by the project management to the project partners and provides input to the UNEP Regional Office reporting for UNDAF process and the Results-Oriented Annual Report (ROAR), as well as forming a key input to the PSC Review. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the PSC Review, to reflect progress achieved in meeting the project's AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following sections: a) project risks, issues, and adaptive management; b) project progress against pre-defined indicators and targets, c) outcome performance; and d) lessons learned/best practices.
- The **Project Implementation Review (PIR)** is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from on-going projects. Once the project has been under implementation for one year, a PIR must be prepared by the project management and submitted by UNEP to the GEF. The PIR should then be discussed in the PSC meeting so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project, the Implementing Partner (MINEPDED), and the UNEP. The individual PIRs are collected, reviewed, and analyzed by the UNEP Operational Focal Point prior to sending them to the GEF by UNEP-GEF Coordination Office.
- **Half year (July – December) Progress Reports** outlining main updates in project progress will be provided every six months to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager. The January – June progress report stand as the PIR described above.
- **Specific Thematic Reports** focusing on specific issues or areas of activity will be prepared by the project team when requested by UNEP-GEF, or the Implementing Partner (MINEPDED). The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNEP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learned exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNEP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.
- A **Project Terminal Report** will be prepared by the project team during the last three (3) months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements, and outputs of the project; lessons learned; objectives met or not achieved; structures and systems implemented, etc.; and will be the definitive statement of the project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's activities.

- **Technical Reports** are detailed documents covering specific areas of analysis or scientific specializations within the overall project. As part of the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft Reports List detailing the technical reports that are expected to be prepared on key areas of activity during the course of the project, and tentative due dates.

107. Where necessary, this Reports List will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Technical Reports may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive and specialized analyses of clearly defined areas of research within the framework of the project and its sites. These technical reports will represent, as appropriate, the project's substantive contribution to specific areas, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information and best practices at local, national, and international levels.

108. Project Publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the project in the form of journal articles or multimedia publications. These publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon the relevance and scientific worth of these reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The project team in consultation with UNEP, the GoC, and other relevant stakeholder groups will also plan and produce these publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources will need to be defined and allocated for these activities as appropriate and in a manner commensurate with the project's budget.

Project Evaluations/Reviews.

109. UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process.

110. The project will be reviewed or evaluated at mid-term (tentatively in October 2017). The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools. The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.

111. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

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

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

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

Standard Terminal Evaluation ToR template should be obtained from the Evaluation Office to make sure the latest version is used.

Audit Clause

114. The GoC will provide the UNEP with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNEP/GEF funds according to the established procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals. The audit will be conducted according to rules, and audit policies by the legally recognized auditor of the GoC, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the GoC.

Learning and Knowledge Sharing

115. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition, the project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNEP-GEF sponsored networks, organized for Senior Personnel working on projects that share common characteristics.

116. UNEP-GEF Coordination Office has established an electronic platform for sharing lessons between the project managers. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analyzing lessons learned is an on-going process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every twelve (12) months. UNEP-GEF shall provide a format and assist the project team in categorizing, documenting, and reporting on lessons learned. Specifically, the project will ensure coordination in terms of avoiding overlap, sharing best practices, and generating knowledge products of best practices in the area of PA management.


PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this form. For SGP, use this OPF endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Justin Nantchou NGOKO	Director, GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE PROTECTION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	12-08-2012

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan VanDyke, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		Janusry 15, 2016	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation UNEP/DEPI	+254 20 7623860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep. org

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).

See separate Annex A.

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).

All comments have been duly addressed and considered during the PPG, and issues are reflected in this CEO endorsement request.

GEFSEC COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE PIF STAGE:

Only those GEFSEC comments that required additional responses are listed below. Titles and numbering is that from the question numbers in the original GEFSEC Review Sheet (noting that the numbering in the revised format GEFSEC Review Sheet has now changed).

PROJECT CONSISTENCY

Question 7: 02/25: Indicative measurable outputs have been provided. At CEO endorsement, these outputs will have to be further detailed and confirmed.

RESPONSE: Outputs have been refined and further detailed.

Question 8: 02/25: Outcomes have been reformulated. The number of expected outputs has been reduced. The identified objectives are relevant. Clarification on the TOU status is satisfactory. The METT and detailed information related to the financial mechanism will have to be provided at CEO endorsement stage.

RESPONSE: The METT scores for each of the 4 PAs in the Project Area will be developed or updated during Project Inception Phase to provide a baseline. See response to Question 14 for more information about the financial mechanism.

Question 10: 02/25: Indicative measurable outputs have been provided. At CEO endorsement, these outputs will have to be further detailed and confirmed.

RESPONSE: SMART indicators developed to allow for monitoring over time.

Question 11: 02/25: The additional information provided helps to better understand the baseline situation and how the project will operate. The on-going activities supported by the government and its partners are well developed. At CEO endorsement stage, a tentative budget of the baseline activities will have to be provided.

RESPONSE: The revised Project design will use Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to pinpoint those stakeholders and/or individuals which are of most immediate threat to the Protected Areas, or are affected by their management and focus the attention of all further Project interventions on these individuals / groups.

Question 13: 12/20: Incremental reasoning is difficult to assess at the moment given the baseline and component description. If the GEF activities aim to develop and implement an Integrated Land Use Plan, please be more specific in the description of the current situation (baseline) and focus the project's outputs on this objective.

02/25: From the information provided, we understand that the project will adopt a landscape approach, in addressing both the management of PA and the development / support of sustainable livelihood in the PA buffer zones. The project will build on the on-going programs and will coordinate them; ensuring a holistic approach. The reasoning is clear and relevant.

RESPONSE: The revised Project design has further elaborated the logic for the landscape approach, making it clear what the role of MINEPDED is in ensuring sustainable land management in and around Protected Areas.

Question 14: 12/20: The project aims to address wildlife poaching, small and large-scale agriculture expansion. The project suggests developing numerous key tools: PA, PES mechanism, certification, valuation of ecosystem services... Although each of these tools seems relevant for addressing the mentioned threats, it is not entirely clear how the project will be able to adopt a holistic approach and ensure that each activity will profit to each other's. Please explain further.

02/25: The project framework has been reformulated and restricted to four major outputs. The main objective is to address the existing and potential new threats from large and small-scale agriculture around four PA in West Cameroon. It is noted that during PPG, analysis regarding financial mechanism development will be undertaken. At CEO endorsement stage, clear proposal will have to be presented.

RESPONSE: During the PPG baseline studies and consultations it was learned that KfW and WWF have since committed to developing such a mechanism for all Protected Areas in the whole South West Region and detailed analyses of options for the establishment of a financial mechanism is already ongoing. In the revised submission the GEF project will not therefore take lead responsibility for developing the Financial Mechanism proposed in the PIF. Instead, the GEF Project, under Output 2.6 will contribute to the elaboration of a common Sustainable Financial Mechanism for SW Region PAs by: 1) Reviewing best practise for sustainable financing of PAs based on GEF / UNEP experience; 2) Evaluating the potential for environmental / biodiversity / carbon offsetting of Development projects to contribute to sustainable financing of PAs; and 3) Integrating findings on best practise, potential for offsetting, and experiences of mobilising private sector finance into the common Sustainable Financing Mechanism for SWR. There are clear synergies between the financing mechanism being developed for SWR and the need to establish financial mechanisms for implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy whose preparation is coordinated by MINEPDED.

Question 15. Are the applied methodology and assumptions for the description of the incremental/additional benefits sound and appropriate?): 12/20: This needs some additional information throughout. As an example, how the creation of the Technical Operation Unit will support the improvement of the PA management effectiveness, and what will be the metric to assess the progress? Also it is unclear how the integrated land use plan will be developed e.g. will it address only small scale agriculture or also integrate large scale agriculture? Finally how the financial incentives /mechanisms (PES, commercial opportunity, certification, biodiversity conservation mechanism) will be complementary and contribute to the sustainable land use management, as a all.

02/25: Clarification has been provided regarding the Technical Operation Unit The priority areas for support related to sustainable agriculture are around the four targeted PA. Only one financial mechanism will be developed to support the mainstreaming activities. It is noted that all the information regarding this mechanism will be provided at CEO endorsement stage.

RESPONSE: Further clarity is provided in the baseline project (Section A.4) about the institutional mandate and lessons learned from the experiences of other TOUs in the SW Region. The TOU for the BBML Landscape will probably be created prior to the start-up of the GEF project, so the GEF funds will support its operations. However, the project will try to promote a TOU structure that is inclusive of all sectoral interests to ensure a balanced approach to land management in the project area. Regarding financial mechanisms, see first our response to Question 14. Note also that the GEF Project will review and build on the experiences of the KfW funded Collaborative Management and Conservation Incentives (CMCI) mechanism, which is the tool that has been developed over the years for supporting community management and livelihood activities on the ground. This mechanism is the best available starting point for building the ‘front-end’ of a “Payment for Environmental Services” mechanism – i.e. one that rewards better environmental management. The GEF Project adds value through the ESIA/ESMP process to improve the selection of beneficiaries and activities to fund, based on a clear analysis of the linkage to improved Protected Area management, (see Outputs 2.2, 2.3, 2.6), making stronger links to Private Sector co-investment in appropriate sustainable agriculture and livelihood activities (Output 2.5), and monitoring of the ecological and social impacts of supported livelihood activities (Output 3.2).

Question 16. Is there a clear description of: a) the socio-economic benefits, including gender dimensions, to be delivered by the project, and b) how will the delivery of such benefits support the achievement of incremental/ additional benefits?

12/20: No, this needs to be developed. Please provide some examples of the socio-economic benefits expected including gender dimension, especially with regards to the financial mechanisms that the project wants to develop. Please, explain how the benefits that will arise from this project will support the sustainability of outcomes post-project.

02/25: Preliminary information has been provided however it is expected, at CEO endorsement stage, to receive detailed and accurate information regarding the targeted communities, the economic benefits for these targeted communities, and the sustainability of this approach.

RESPONSE: Further clarity on the process for selecting potential beneficiaries is provided in Section B.2. Benefits will be delivered through Output 2.3, Deliverable 2.3.2, which will implement the Collaborative Management & Conservation Incentives program that should generate real socio-economic benefits for target groups. The CMCI program will focus on those that are most impacted by Protected Area management, and those who can potentially have impact on PAs. In the case of Tofala Hill, it is women who are most prominent ‘encroachers’ within the proposed Protected Area because they have restricted access to fertile land for food crop production outside the PA. The ESIA will accurately identify such groups in much more detail than is possible during project preparation and ensure that limited financial resources are addressed at the key socio-economic groups.

Question 17. 12/20: CSOs and indigenous people are well taken into account. Several CSOs will be the local executing partners of the project. This constitutes the strength of this project. It is noted that a stakeholder mapping will be conducted during the PPG and that a comprehensive stakeholder's involvement plan will be provided at the CEO endorsement.

RESPONSE: The Stakeholder mapping conducted during the PPG has helped to clarify stakeholders and roles. The Stakeholder involvement plan is integral to the project design. The Environmental & Social Management Plans (ESMPs) that will be developed under Output 1.4 will provide a thorough stakeholder involvement plan necessary to guide investments made under Output 2.3.

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS⁵

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: PLEASE SEE ANNEX C AS A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International consultant PA management	22,750	22,750	0
Local Consultants/data collection	17,500	17,500	0
Stakeholders consultations/meetings	21,800	21,800	0
Communication, travels to the South West Region	11,001	11,001	0
Total	73,051	73,051	0

⁵ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A