



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: NPIF

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	A bottom up approach to ABS: community level capacity development for successful engagement in ABS value chains in Cameroon (<i>Echinops giganteus</i>)		
Country(ies):	Cameroon	GEF Project ID: ¹	5796
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	5387
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development	Submission Date:	June 10, 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Project Duration (Months)	36 months
Name of parent program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	85,500
• For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>			
• For SGP <input type="checkbox"/>			
• For PPP <input type="checkbox"/>			

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK²:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) BD-4	NPIF	400,000	600,000
(select) BD-4	GEFTF	500,000	500,000
Total Project Cost		900,000	1,100,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Selected indigenous and local communities in Cameroon participate successfully in ABS-compliant value chains based on genetic resources (GRs) and associated traditional knowledge (aTK).						
Project Component	Grant Type ³	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Facilitating the engagement of ILCs in ABS value chains and strengthening their capacity on ABS	TA	1.1 Increased ILCs capacity to engage with and benefit from ABS agreements in <u>at least</u> one ABS-value chain for <i>Echinops giganteus</i> ⁴ (Baseline percentage and target values will be developed during the PPG phase as per UNDP ABS Capacity Development	1.1.1 At least 150 ILC representatives, including the individuals negotiating ABS as identified by the communities, are trained in the necessary skills to participate effectively in the sustainable value chain(s), including ⁵ : <i>inter alia</i>	NPIF	363,637	545,455

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

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

³ TA includes capacity building, and research and development.

⁴ The final ABS-value chains will be decided in the PPG phase of the project after appropriate consultations with local stakeholders. There could be more than value chain selected.

⁵ The exact nature of training modules will be finalised during the PPG phase after consultations with the communities and their supporting CBOs, appropriate government agencies and private sector partners. For example, some communities may express interest in additional training in financial management or the setting up of administrative / legal structures necessary for benefit sharing.

		Scorecard)	<p>(i) value chain stakeholder responsibility mapping, (ii) community rights in relation to genetic resources and TK, (iii) negotiations on PIC and MAT, and (iv) best conservation, sustainable use and harvesting practices, collection logistics, sample quality and traceability systems, as appropriate</p> <p>1.1.2 A minimum of three (3) practical awareness building and communication tools⁶ are developed, applied and disseminated in local languages, leading to increased understanding of ABS by ILCs (including involvement of and dissemination with selected ILC partner networks at regional and global levels)</p> <p>1.1.3 At least two (2) workshops will be organized in which key ILC representatives from participating communities share lessons learnt</p>			
		1.2 PIC and MAT models (e.g., Community Protocol, etc) articulate communities' needs, rights and concerns relating to the conservation, use and access to natural resources including GRs and TK	1.2.1 At least six (6) national-level dialogues concerning the access and use of GRs and TK between ILCs, private users, government and other stakeholders lead to better mutual understanding and common expectations			

⁶ The nature of these tools will be developed in the PPG phase of the project after consultations with the communities, their supporting CBOs as well as during a workshop held by the ABS Initiative (see partners below) in May 2014 on Capacity Building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for ILCs.

			<p>and increase of trust between the parties.</p> <p>1.2.2 GRs and aTK of communities for <i>Echinops giganteus</i> are articulated through a community protocol, where appropriate and where acknowledged, or a similar Prior Informed Consent (PIC) approach</p> <p>1.2.3 Mutually agreed terms (MAT) for at least two (2) target value chains are agreed upon with at least one (1) private sector partner and with adequate participation of ILCs through relevant governance structures</p> <p>1.3 Where <i>Echinops giganteus</i> is harvested as part of the ABS value chain, such harvesting takes place under sustainable management practices (target number of hectares of habitat will be established during the PPG)</p>			
			<p>1.3.1 Community-based management plans for <i>Echinops giganteus</i> are in place, based on best local conservation and sustainable use and harvesting practices and in line with local/national conservation practice.</p>			
2. Integrating lessons learned into national law making and/or implementation processes with the aim of harmonizing customary practices with national ABS regulation, including through the development of an appropriate system to document and protect traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources where such is desired.	TA	2.1 Customary laws and good practices of ILC engagement in target ABS-compliant value chains for <i>Echinops giganteus</i> are disseminated and inform law making and implementation processes as part of a harmonisation process between customary laws and good practices with the national ABS policy.	<p>2.1.1 ABS laws and policy proposals incorporate customary laws and good practices of ILC engagement in target ABS compliant value chains</p> <p>2.1.2 At least 50 representatives of Competent National Authorities (CNAs) and/or relevant government institutions are trained on ILCs rights to GRs, aTK and their</p>	GEFTF	454,545	454,545

		<p>2.2 As appropriate, a national system to document, maintain, protect and promote TK associated with genetic resources is developed at the national level based on the relevant lessons arising from the target value chains</p> <p>2.3 Good practices of ILC engagement in target ABS-compliant value chains are disseminated regionally and globally.</p>	<p>involvement in the ABS process</p> <p>2.2.1. Mechanisms based on engagement with relevant stakeholders are established to facilitate the documentation, maintenance, protection and promotion of aTK including through community protocols, ethical codes of conduct or guidelines for research on genetic resources, as well as confidential and non-confidential registries that protect TK.</p> <p>2.3.1. Lessons learned on ILC engagement in ABS value chains are disseminated to ILCs, nationally, regionally and globally (e.g. website, CBD and NP related meetings, etc) for further application and replication.</p> <p>2.3.2 At least two (2) regional-level dialogues concerning the access and use of GRs and TK between ILCs, private users, government, and other stakeholders leading to south-south cooperation.</p>			
Subtotal					818,182	1,000,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁷				(select)	81,818	100,000
Total Project Cost					900,000	1,100,000

⁷ To be calculated as percent of subtotal.

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Private Sector	MANE Foundation TBD	Cash	350,000
Private Sector	MANE Foundation TBD	In-kind	150,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	ABS Capacity Development Initiative (including GIZ)	In-kind	250,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	BMU Global ICCA Support Initiative (delivered through SGP)	Cash	250,000
NGO	Natural Justice	Cash	50,000
NGO	Natural Justice	In-kind	50,000
Total Cofinancing			1,100,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (\$ (a))	Agency Fee (\$ (b) ²)	Total (\$) c=a+b
UNDP	NPIF	Biodiversity	Cameroon	400,000	38,000	438,000
UNDP	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Global	500,000	47,500	547,500
Total Grant Resources				900,000	85,500	985,500

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.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁸

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)⁹</u>
• No PPG required.	-- 0--	--0--
• (upto) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	40,000	3,800

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
NPIF	UNDP	Biodiversity	Cameroon	40,000	3,800	43,800
Total PPG Amount				40,000	3,800	43,800

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION¹⁰

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROJECT, INCLUDING ; 1) THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED; 2) THE BASELINE SCENARIO AND ANY ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS, 3) THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO, WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, 4) INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE BASELINE , THE GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF AND CO-FINANCING; 5) GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEFTF, NPIF)

⁸ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁹ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

¹⁰ Part II should not be longer than 5 pages.

AND/OR ADAPTATION BENEFITS (LDCF/SCCF); 6 INNOVATIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SCALING UP

Background

193 nations have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and committed to developing a legal framework for the access to genetic resources and equitable benefit sharing. This third objective has been identified as crucial in order to implement the first and second objectives of the CBD, namely the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. After lengthy negotiations, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) was adopted in October 2010. It lays down concrete ABS principles for CBD Member States and establishes an international mechanism for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources. This should not only prevent biopiracy, i.e the illegal appropriation of genetic resources (GRs) and/or associated traditional knowledge (aTK), but also facilitate access to GRs and provide a subsequent incentive for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

CBD member states now have to decide on the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and are faced with the challenge of implementing it in their national law, as well as promoting ABS-compliant value chains addressing the specificities of genetic or biochemical compounds arising from biodiversity. In order to comply with the Nagoya protocol, the utilization of GRs corresponds with defined activities "to conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology". While some countries already had ABS regulations or policies in place before the Nagoya Protocol was adopted, the amount of good ABS practice is still limited. One of the most challenging aspects countries have to come to terms with is the role of indigenous and local communities (ILCs) in these value chains. Challenges include the development of adequate processes for the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) of ILCs, local capacities for the negotiation of Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and related ABS contracts, as well as a general awareness amongst ILCs of rights under the Nagoya Protocol and national laws.

Cameroon:

The principle ABS-value chain targeted through this project is based on *Echinops giganteus* which is an erect herb that grows at altitudes ranging from 950 - 2400m and is an endemic species of Cameroon . In the western region of Cameroon its rhizomes are used as an ingredient in different culinary preparations and as a remedy against numerous diseases¹¹. The potential value of the resource for its use in the fragrance and flavor sectors have been under investigation for several years.

The local community involved is the Magha - Bamunbu, based in the South West Region of Cameroon. The community has been receiving some support from a local NGO (ERuDef), and is being assisted by the foundation Mane & Nature in developing the sustainable production of the raw material and management of the resource. With an altitude of 2 740m, Mount Bamboutos is the third summit of Cameroon. It straddles three regions: west, south - west and north- west. It is the richest in terms of mountain biodiversity and many ecosystem services provided nationally and across the Gulf of Guinea. Its environment is hilly and its vegetation includes savannas. Magha is a village belonging to the locale of Bamumbu, located at 2400 m altitude in the sub-division Wabane, Department of Lebialem (South West Region). It has about 6,000 inhabitants, mainly composed of farmers and ranchers. The main threats to biodiversity are related to overuse of land and deforestation, which cause frequent landslides and severe erosion. The village also suffers from water shortage, partly due to an immoderate planting of Eucalyptus for construction needs. *Echinops giganteus* is very abundant in the area of the community, mostly found on pastures, and is presently not under threat. ERUDEF is working with the local community on sustainable harvesting plans, and is supporting trials for the domestication of this wild resource.

While *Echinops* is being targeted as the principle value chain in Cameroon, the final decision with regards to possible additional value chains (such as *Mondia Whitii*) will be taken after appropriate consultations with the local communities and their supporting CBOs and/or NGOs. As a result, more than one value chain may be chosen during the PPG phase.

Legal frameworks with respect to ABS:

¹¹ Tchetcha, Dany: Literature Review on *Echinops Giganteus*. ERuDeF, November 2012

In Cameroon, a national ABS strategy was developed by the government with the involvement of key stakeholders, supported by financing from a GEF-5 FSP¹² (Support for national implementation of ABS in 6 African Countries). This strategy translates the regional ABS strategy of the COMIFAC to the national level. A national, multi-stakeholder ABS committee is in place. Currently this committee is finalizing an interim decree in order to regulate ABS until a permanent legal framework can be enacted. The rights of indigenous and local communities regarding Genetic Resources, as well as the legal protection of aTK, are however not yet sufficiently clarified.

Baseline Projects :

In Cameroon, the French user company, V. Mane Fils, is researching the potential value of the resource for its use in the fragrance and flavor sectors. First trials were already conducted in 1999, but extraction and analysis, based on a first batch of samples, has been ongoing since 2012. In parallel, the local provider community (Magha - Bamunbu, South West Region) and a local supporting NGO (ERuDef) are being assisted by the foundation Mane & Nature in developing the sustainable production of the raw material and management of the resource.

A "pre-PIC" was signed in 2012 between the local community, ERuDef and V. Mane Fils. The ABS Initiative is supporting the dialogue between parties and negotiation of a first ABS agreement between the Cameroonian government and the user company to cover the research phase, with an understanding that further negotiations are needed once the commercial value of the GR has been identified. The signature of this agreement is foreseen for the second quarter of 2014. The initial negotiation of the ABS agreement was complicated by the absence of national ABS legislation in Cameroon. The dialogue and negotiations around this value chain are therefore seen as a pilot for Cameroon and are informing the development of the national ABS framework. The ABS Initiative is also supporting the consultations for an interim decree which will regulate access to GR and TK while the law is being drafted. While the ABS Initiative is supporting dialogues between actors and negotiations between the user and the Cameroonian Government, there is a lack of means and capacity to properly address the involvement of the local community beyond actual participation in meetings. ERuDef is currently supporting the community in building up the value chain (inventory, sustainable harvest and production practices) through a project by Man and Nature (a French NGO) but lacks the continued funding and capacity to address specific ABS-related issues with the community.

During the time-span of the proposed GEF investment (2015-2018), the baseline project consists of foundational initiatives estimated at \$1,100,000. These initiatives will strengthen the national capacity to enable ABS frameworks (\$300,000). Specifically, the support from GEF will facilitate the support for and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and will raise awareness about ABS access procedures, industry requirements, and monetary and non-monetary benefits that will be negotiated between the users and the providers of the genetic resources. Additionally, the baseline will enable the conservation of *Echinops giganteus* through the implementation of community protocols which will include a species sustainable use plan (\$300,000). The community protocol will have as its main objectives to: (i) conserve *Echinops giganteus* populations and their habitats in line with harvesting regimes and ethno-botanical monitoring techniques; (ii) promote the sustainable use the species in support for rural livelihoods; and (iii) raise awareness amongst all concerned stakeholders about the biological and socio-economic importance of the target species.

Bioprospecting research aimed at developing the new cosmetic product will continue in conjunction with V. Mane Fils (\$500,000). V. Mane Fils is aware that *Echinops giganteus* possess biochemical properties that are potential sources of natural ingredients for novel products in the cosmetics industry. While existing biotrade is taking place, the biodiscovery is targeting new and original products which are unrelated to the current supply chains. The baseline project activities will be to: (i) provide support for the biochemical and toxicological comparisons of *Echinops giganteus*; (ii) provide support for the implementation of the ABS partnership agreement developed in May 2014 with participating ILCs; (iii) facilitate the training of ILCs, government counter-parts, and technical staff for the development of community protocols; and (iv) support research for the evaluation of the efficacy of naturally occurring compounds in *Echinops giganteus* as ingredients in the cosmetics industry.

V. Mane Fils is also interested in exploring further value chains in Cameroon, which will equally benefit from the lessons learned through the *Echinops g.* process.

¹² UNEP/GEF project to support national implementation of ABS in six African countries, with GIZ as Lead Executing Agency

Baseline scenario: Despite the importance of these current initiatives, they are insufficient to ensure that selected indigenous and local communities in Cameroon can participate successfully in ABS-compliant value chains based on genetic resources (GRs) and/or associated traditional knowledge (TK). Also, the necessary capacities to negotiate PIC and MAT procedures is limited. Under a business as usual scenario, the existing investments in the target value chain(s) will not comprehensively address the consultation needs of indigenous and local communities in relation to the requirements of the available PIC and MAT procedures.

Long-term solution: is to facilitate the effective participation of ILCs in ABS compliant value chains and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with these communities through PIC and MAT models, good ABS practices of ILCs engagement that are incorporated into national legislation, while ensuring the sustainable use, conservation and harvesting of biological species used to develop products.

Two specific barriers prevent the fulfillment of the proposed long-term solution:

1. Limited capacity of communities to participate in ABS value chains . While some ABS activities are ongoing in Cameroon, there is a lack of resources and of expertise to genuinely integrate ILCs in existing and emerging ABS value chains. If ABS value chains are not developed with the genuine participation of and respect for the rights of the involved communities, this will remain a weakness of the value chains, and the ABS systems in place will not effectively contribute to local livelihoods and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

2. Absence of models to incorporate good ABS practices of ILC engagement into national legislation. Rights of ILCs to GRs and TK are not sufficiently clarified in Cameroon, as in many other countries. There are very few successful ABS value chains with community participation worldwide, therefore the lessons learned through the project will be of benefit at the regional and international level as well.

The GEF alternative scenario

The GEF's incremental funding and co-financing resources will be used to overcome the barriers in Cameroon mentioned previously. It will contribute to the long-term solution through two interconnected components: 1) Facilitating the engagement of ILCs in ABS value chains and strengthening their capacity on ABS; and 2) Integrating lessons learned into national law making and/or implementation processes with the aim of harmonizing customary practices with national ABS regulation, including through the development of an appropriate system to document and protect traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources where such is desired. Collectively these two components will contribute towards the effective participation of ILCs in ABS-compliant value chains and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with these communities. To this end, at least one target value chain will be selected in Cameroon. These cases will represent different realities and therefore provide a range of lessons. The insights gained will be fed into the ongoing national ABS processes in order to clarify the rights and roles of ILCs concerning GRs and TK. In addition, these lessons will be disseminated to stakeholders of other ILC value chains (nationally, regionally, and globally) in order to upscale the best practice and develop South-South exchange of experiences.

Component 1: Facilitating the engagement of ILCs in ABS value chains and strengthening their capacity on ABS

In Cameroon, the project will build the capacity of the local community engaged in the emerging value chain around *Echinops giganteus* While V. Mane Fils will continue research and development activities, and ERuDef will continue the support of the community for sustainable harvest and processing, this project will enable the community to engage with the ABS aspects of the value chain. It will enable the community to engage in negotiations with further actors along the value chain (i.e. user and the government) on the terms of the future ABS agreement for the commercial phase. It will facilitate a dialogue between the community, the user and the government in order to achieve better mutual understanding on priorities and expectations. It will strengthen local governance structures to ensure that these will be able to engage successfully with the value chain in the long term, and support dialogues on the rights and local rules of the community regarding access and use of their resources and aTK, through a community protocol or other means.

The project will also aim to strengthen and scale up at least one additional ABS value chain. The value chain will have to be made compliant with the new national ABS law, and will be identified with the help of the PPG,

involving national and local stakeholders in the identification process. In the process, local governance structures will be strengthened, awareness of ABS will be increased through adapted communication tools, and dialogues will be facilitated between the communities, users and government. In these cases, since no ABS agreements have been developed so far, the PPG would review the capacities of selected provider communities to enter into dialogue with users and to negotiate a future ABS agreement.

The contributions of the proposed project compared to the baseline scenario will include:

- Strengthened community capacity on ABS and successful engagement in target value chains in Cameroon (*Echinops giganteus*) through building ILCs capacity to engage with and benefit from ABS agreements; development of PIC and MAT models that articulate communities' needs, rights and concerns relating to the conservation, use and access to natural resources including GRs and TK; and sustainable management of habitats of *Echinops giganteus*; and establishment of community protocols that establish conservation and sustainable use, harvesting practices, collection logistics, sample quality and traceability systems, as well as mutual understanding, expectation management and trust building between relevant stakeholders in relation to the respective ABS value chains through dialogue.

Component 2: Integrating lessons learned into national law making and/or implementation processes with the aim of harmonizing customary practices with national ABS regulation, including through the development of an appropriate system to document and protect traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources where such is desired.

The *Echinops g.* value chain is currently seen as a test case in Cameroon to inform adequate institutional and legal frameworks. The results of the project will therefore be directly incorporated into the national discussions on the rights of local communities in future ABS agreements and in the development of the national system. Since there are already some experiences on the integration of ILCs in biotrade and ABS value chains, the focus of activities will be to distill lessons learned and make them available, both at the national, regional and global levels.

The contributions of the proposed project compared to the baseline scenario will include:

- Incorporation of ABS-compliant value chains and dissemination of lessons learned in national legislation and regulatory frameworks in Cameroon. Specifically good practices of ILC engagement in target ABS-compliant value chains will be documented and shared, and their incorporation into national legislation and regulations will provide regional and international best practices as well as enhancing adherence to the Nagoya Protocol.

At the end of the project, the improved participation of the concerned communities in the selected value chains will be achieved through increased capacity both at the local and national level. Activities will be necessarily innovative with the potential for scaling up the best practices tested through future ABS value chains.

Through the involvement of the ABS Capacity Building Initiative and the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme, this project will be in a strong position to enter into dialogue with national government institutions and relevant international networks and disseminate best practice regionally and internationally. Furthermore, the project will see to the development of a number of ABS communication tools that can be used and made available to ILCs beyond this project.

Global environmental benefits.

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

Cameroon has a complex mosaic of diverse habitats, with moist, tropical forest dominating in the south and covering 54% of the country (UNEP-WCMC), montane forest and alpine savannah in the highlands, and sub-Saharan savannah in the far north. These diverse habitats harbour more than 9,000 species of plants, 160 of which are endemic. In the Western Highlands of Cameroon there is however a preponderance of patches of land still preserved as sacred groves because of strong religious beliefs held by the indigenous people. These sacred groves, rich in medicinal, rare, and endemic plants, are refugia for the relic flora of the region. The groves are repositories of biodiversity and harbour many threatened floral and faunal species and are the places where the village deity resides. The project will contribute to the conservation of the Mount Bamboutos habitat consisting of tropical habitats that include *Entandrophragma angolense* and *Vepris louisii* used in the local treatment of Malaria. These and numerous endangered other species of global significance will benefit from the project.

Innovation, sustainability and scale-up potential:

Innovation: This project is not only innovative but novel as this is the first time that genetic resources of wild *Echinops giganteus* will be accessed in order to develop new and original cosmetic products. Furthermore, this project is also innovative as it is the first time that Cameroon has the opportunity to exchange models on the engagement of ILCs in ABS value chains. Further innovation comes from the project's role demonstrating the link between ILCs, government and an industry-partnership on natural ingredients (Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform, RESP), which will serve as a model for other countries regionally and globally that seek to build a bio-knowledge society for sustainable human development.

Sustainability: The outcomes will be sustainable as Cameroon is committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of *Echinops giganteus* populations through the application of community protocols and sustainable use regimes. Component 1 will be sustainable as long as *Echinops giganteus* and related value chains are developed and contribute to a sustainable flow of monetary and non-monetary benefits for the concerned ILCs. The successful negotiation of benefits may also contribute to the sustainability of the conservation outcomes. The outcomes of Component 2 will be sustainable insofar as they will be mainstreamed into national and provincial laws and policies and financial resources will be assigned to ensure the implementation of the national ABS framework.

Scale-up potential: The lessons learned from the development of an ABS framework for Cameroon will be instrumental in structuring and delivering similar ABS schemes for other countries in the region and globally. The linkages between key national stakeholders such as ILCs working on a range of value chains will surpass the duration of this project affording sustainability of efforts and providing lessons for scale-up potential between South Western Highlands and other provinces of Cameroon and related habitats/ecosystems in Nigeria and parts of Central and West Africa.

The private sector partner (MANE) is also a member of the Natural Ingredients working group of the Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP). The RESP working group brings together approximately 10 reputed international companies engaged with value chains in the cosmetics and natural ingredients industry. As one of the project partners, the RESP Secretariat has offered technical support and advice to the project, including in reviewing the experience of MANE in the R&D process in relation to experiences of other international companies engaged with similar value chains which pertain to the engagement of ILCs and relevance to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

As part of the project design preparatory activities undertaken so far, RESP has emphasized the need to effectively describe and explain the realities and complexities of R&D processes completed by the cosmetics industry to concerned ILC populations. The GEF project demonstration will be reviewed and analyzed by the RESP international working group for potential mainstreaming, replication and scaling up with other international companies. For reasons of confidentiality, the names of the other international companies taking part in the RESP working group cannot be disclosed at the stage of PIF entry. Nevertheless, if successful in developing a coherent model for ILC engagement in the value chains, the project offers considerable scope for influencing a number of other private sector partners working in the cosmetics and natural ingredients sector covered by the Nagoya Protocol.

A.2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and others as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation:

- Natural Justice is an international NGO with its headquarter in Cape Town, South Africa. Over the last 5 years Natural Justice has worked on the forefront of using community protocols in the context of ABS. Jointly with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (below), Natural Justice has contributed to numerous ABS training to African stakeholders ranging from government official to local communities and have actively supported communities in the negotiation of ABS agreements. The organization is considered a key partner in this project and its role will be: (i) supporting the facilitation of community protocol development and stakeholder dialogues processes; (ii) providing training on community rights in relation to ABS; (iii) coordinating the design of practical awareness building and communication tools; and (iv) providing its technical expertise to national regulatory processes, as appropriate.
- ABS Capacity Development Initiative (ABS Initiative) - will be in charge of oversight of the respective value chains and in charge of communicating with different stakeholders along the value chain, including government focal points and the private sector party.
- GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) – Central Programme Management Team (CPMT) coordination and technical support at the global level, combined with national level programmatic and administrative support in Cameroon, in particular for relations with ILCs.
- V. Mane Fils - French company in the aromatic products sector, which is the private sector party to the target value chains in Cameroon and elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 1871, Victor Mane started producing fragrant materials from regional flowers and plants in the South of France. Since then, the small distillery has grown to become one of the leading flavours and fragrances companies worldwide, and has continually been run by the Mane family. The stated research priority of the company is to "interpret nature to deliver our vision of natural flavours and fragrances, using both biotechnologies and new synthetic molecules, to enrich our ingredients palette and bring an extra competitive edge to MANE's products". The company employs some 3,500 people in 30 countries, with 23 manufacturing sites and 40 R&D Centres. 9% of annual revenues in the company, totaling approximately 638 Million Euros in 2012, are invested in R&D.
- GIZ Cameroon and regional programme in support of the COMIFAC- supporting the Cameroonian government in developing ABS legislation
- ERuDeF - Environment and Rural Development Foundation - a Cameroonian non-profit organization founded in 1999 dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and protection of fragile environments through research, training, education and community engagement. It is supporting the Magha Community in relation to the *Echinops g.* value chain.
- Man & Nature (L'Homme et l'Environnement) - French NGO providing technical support to ERuDeF in relation to the valorisation of *Echinops giganteus*.
- The Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform (RESP) is a Swiss member-based multi-stakeholder platform composed of companies from the cosmetics, fashion, and jewelry industries, governments and inter-governmental agencies, research institutions and civil society organizations. RESP is supporting the development of a sustainable ABS supply chain surrounding *Echinops g.* RESP will help to build the capacity of government and ILCs stakeholders in better understanding the R&D processes as an essential part of a more effective ABS system.

A.3 Risk. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design :

Scope	Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Community level	Community's lack of capacity / consensus to engage	Medium	While community protocol process aims at building positions within the communities, it is essentially a capacity building, consensus generating and empowerment process. Elements on legal empowerment and ABS training are essential elements of the process. Hence, capacity will be build along the project, thereby mitigating the identified risk.
	Overexploitation; The excessive removal of plant materials beyond the carrying capacity of the environment as a	Low	In both countries strict spatial management plans are in place that allow the communities to manage their own resources, yet with a number of caps in place to prevent overharvesting. The targeted supply chains do not affect food crops and competing usage is considerably low.

	consequence of increasing commercial activities or competing usage.		
Industry/ Value chain	Volatile market, leading to unsteady demand for resources or resources of higher quality standard.	Medium	Working with enterprises that are well integrated into value addition abroad is key to ensuring a steady demand for resources, and hence a stable business environment. The industrial partners in this project already have vast experience in the field of bio-products and R&D for molecules and genetic resources. In addition, the private sector partner is also financially invested in the project which further increases the incentive to ensure a stable business environment throughout the entire supply chain.
	Ambiguity over regulatory requirements in the countries of operation and transfer markets	High	With less than half a dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa having implemented comprehensive ABS legislation the regulatory environment for value chains continues to be somewhat ambiguous. Working with governmental actors throughout the project is hence key to ensuring that all requirements are well known, managed and complied with and that upcoming changes (i.e. development of Cameroon's ABS policy) are known. It will also be essential to monitor developments in transfer markets as these can add additional requirements. All actors involved in the project have previously worked in these countries and are familiar with, and partially involved in these events.
Project admin.	High number of project partners	Medium	The project involves a high number of project partners, especially considering its size. A clearly articulated strategy, including an overview on individual responsibilities, shared responsibilities, and timelines will help coordinating among these partners. One focal point, who is in charge of coordinating all partners in both countries will furthermore ensure that the strategy is followed. This role is going to be provided by UNDP.
	Lack of cooperation of host governments.	Low	The project has the explicit support of the Cameroon government and relevant governmental bodies are involved, which clearly mitigates this otherwise high impact risk.
	Reduced commercial viability of the project.	Medium	Changes in the global market, changes in novel product approval regulations, currency fluctuations and other macro-economic changes all impact this project due to its reliance on global markets and integrated supply chains. Not all risks can be foreseen, yet the reliance on a variety of partners, a variety of funding sources and fairly flexible supply chains all help to mitigate these risks.

A.4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives:

Cameroon will benefit from an association with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative. The ABS Capacity Development Initiative is a multi-donor initiative hosted by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by GIZ. It is co-funded by Germany, Norway, Denmark, the European Union and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Since 2005, the ABS Initiative supports negotiators of the African Group to prepare and coordinate for ABS-related negotiations under the CBD; it conducts trainings and multi-stakeholder workshops and produces studies on specific ABS topics; it offers expert advice and peer to peer exchange among countries and it offers direct support to countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol. The Initiative collaborates with bilateral GIZ projects in Cameroon as well as other ACP countries, in order to ensure coordination of activities in support of national legislation and ABS value chains. The regional GIZ programme in support of the COMIFAC is also about to launch a new component on ABS, which will provide capacity development at the sub-regional level.

The lead NGO in Cameroon (ERuDeF) is expected to be supported by a GEF SGP grant from the 5th Operational Phase (OP5) in mid-2014 in order to lay the basis for the medium-size GEF investment for the value chain in the country. Cameroon will also benefit from a regional NPIF project in support of COMIFAC countries, which is currently under development. The medium-size project is expected to contribute case materials towards other associated GEF full-size investments (i.e. global and regional) pertaining to ABS and ILCs.

Natural Justice has collaborated with partners in Sub-Saharan Africa through the ABS Capacity Development Initiative-supported project, the African Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP) Initiative since its inception in 2011. Through the BCP Initiative, Natural Justice has supported the development of community protocols with local communities with respect to traditional knowledge, land and natural resource use in Sub-Saharan Africa.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

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

Cameroon's strategy on the valorization of GRs and TK was first outlined in its NBSAP published in 2000. The Plan's Strategic Goal 2 directly speaks to implementing the CBD's ABS objective, while Strategic Goal 3 refers to strengthening the capacity of ILCs to ensure the conservation and sustainable use at the local level with the effective participation of ILCs. In 2009, Cameroon reported on the progress on implementing the National Strategy as part of its Fourth National Report to the CBD. ABS is again mentioned as a core objective, in particular on forest and agricultural genetic resources. The report, however, identifies a number of risks and challenges that have been hampering implementation. In the area of forest-based genetic resources, for instance, the report notes that a lack of educational infrastructure in rural areas has reduced the potential for ILCs to engage in valorization processes in meaningful ways. Likewise, a lack of cooperation between communities and resources users, often fuelled by misunderstanding and insufficient capacities at the community level, is identified as a main reason for not integrating ILCs in new value chains, effectively keeping them from a fair and equitable share of benefits (Objective 10.1-2, Risks). The new National report is due in the second quarter 2014. It is likely to place further emphasis on ABS, especially as first valorization is now taking place. Cameroon not only places great emphasis on strengthening its ABS system (including developing an ABS policy), but in particular on ensuring that ILCs are well integrated in emerging value chains.

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

The project fits with the GEF Biodiversity Strategies for GEF 5 (BD-4) and the Aichi Target 16 ('By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation').

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

The UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Programme has a large portfolio of biodiversity projects, with 55 projects in 45 countries globally. Since 2012, UNDP has consolidated implementation of the third objective of the CBD through GEF-funded projects that facilitate not only the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol but also access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing in about 20 countries. UNDP is working with governments and stakeholders in developing countries that already have a policy framework in place for ABS in order to assist them in accessing financing and to facilitate ABS deals such as sustainable ethical bioprospecting programs or deals between corporations interested in accessing genetic resources and organizations representing the providers of these resources.

In this context, UNDP is also supporting local and indigenous communities for the development of payment and benefit-sharing mechanisms and bio-cultural community protocols through the work of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and other relevant MSPs. The SGP has also established a partnership with the ABS Capacity

Development Initiative, a multi-donor global initiative on ABS with a special focus on the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (see Section A.4 above).

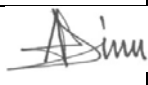
UNDP is also supporting countries with the development of National ABS frameworks in a number of countries with a Senior Technical Adviser (STA) specializing in ABS and a network of regional technical advisors in the UNDP regional centers of Panama, Bangkok, Bratislava and Addis Ababa. These regional technical advisors support a network of environmental programme officers in every single country around the world. UNDP's mandate on ABS is underscored by UNDP's Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework (2012-2020) and the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. Both policy documents emphasize UNDP's role in ABS capacity building initiatives, including the development of national ABS frameworks and support for ethical biodiscovery efforts that facilitate the sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits between users and providers of genetic resources in line with the Nagoya Protocol provisions.

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 template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Justin NANTCHOU NGOKO	GEF OFP	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	04/10/2014

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 project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu, UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator		June 10, 2014	Santiago Carrizosa - EBD Senior Technical Advisor	+507 3024510	santiago.carrizosa@undp.org