



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)¹

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Sustainable management of forest under the authority of cameroonian councils		
Country(ies):	Cameroon	GEF Project ID: ²	4800
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	615536
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP), Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF), Technical Center for Council forest (CTFC)	Submission Date:	2012-04-11
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	48
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Agency Fee (\$):	357,333

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
(select) BD-2	BD Outcome 2.1: Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation. (Indicator: Landscapes and seascapes certified by internationally or nationally recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations (e.g. FSC, MSC) measured in hectares and recorded by GEF tracking tool).	2.1- One national and 20 sub-national land-use plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation.	GEFTF	1,383,883	4,888,000
(select) BD-1	BD Outcome 1.1 Improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas. (Indicator: Management effectiveness tracking tool).	1.1 20 new protected areas covering 40,000 ha of unprotected ecosystems.	GEFTF	1,039,800	4,482,500
CCM-5 (select)	CCM Outcome 5.2: Restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks in forests and non-forest lands, including peatland (Indicator 5.2: Hectares restored)	5.2: Forests and non-forest lands under good management practices	GEFTF	179,812	3,506,406
(select) SFM/REDD-1	SFM/REDD Outcome 1.2 Good management practices applied in existing forests. (Indicator: Hectares of forests under sustainable	1.2 400,000 ha of council forests (20 council forests) under sustainable management.	GEFTF	849,000	2,770,438

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

	forest management)				
(select)	(select)			(select)	
(select)	(select)			(select)	
(select)	(select)			(select)	
(select)	(select)			(select)	
(select)	(select)	Others		(select)	
Sub-Total					
Project Management Cost ⁴				(select)	
Total Project Cost					
				3,452,495	15,647,344
				120,838	547,656
				3,573,333	16,195,000

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To reverse deforestation and forest degradation in forests under the authority of local councils in order to improve biodiversity conservation, reduce emissions and enhance carbon stocks						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
1. Creation of council forests for SFM and BD conservation	TA	<p>1.1 Increased forest area managed for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. (Indicator: 400,000 ha of forests managed sustainably).</p> <p>1.2 Enhanced biodiversity conservation through expansion of coverage (40,000 ha) of unprotected ecological zones within council forests (Indicator: Hectares of council forests formally designated under the new system).</p>	<p>1.1.1 National planning framework for council forests.</p> <p>1.1.2. Twenty council forests created (400,000 ha), each with a functional technical unit (CFC) and 200 stakeholders (10 per council forest) trained in land use and forest management planning.</p> <p>1.1.3 Land use and forest management plans, integrating biodiversity conservation, developed and approved in twenty council forests.</p> <p>1.2.1 40,000ha of conservation areas formally designated within the council forests.</p>	GEFTF	1,369,625	4,752,500
2 Capacity building to strengthen biodiversity conservation and SFM in council forests.	TA	2.1 Strengthened capacity of 20 councils to manage council forests and protected areas, and implement SFM and biodiversity conservation.	<p>2.1.1 Eighty (80) local forest protection committees created and trained in forest protection, forest biodiversity monitoring and conservation.</p> <p>2.1.2 Technical guidance and standards for SFM and biodiversity conservation in protected areas developed and disseminated in 20</p>	GEFTF	1,768,965	3,950,000

⁴ GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

		2.2 Reduced threats to forests and biodiversity through promotion and adoption of SFM practices (Indicator: Proportion of local people adopting SFM practices).	council forests. 2.2.1 Practical techniques for forest resources inventories and sustainable use developed, tested and applied in the council forests. 2.2.2- Database on biodiversity in protected areas developed and updated. 2.2.3 Hundred (100) local stakeholders trained and implement SFM practices and forest income generating activities.			
3. Capacity building for the management of forest carbon	TA	3.1 Council forest staff have the tools and skills necessary to monitor and manage carbon stocks in the council forests. (Indicator: Carbon monitoring reports produced and peer-reviewed).	3.1.1 Existing accounting and carbon monitoring systems adapted to council forests and tested. 3.1.2 Fifty (50) council forest staff trained in methods to control deforestation, forest degradation and carbon measuring and monitoring.	GEFTF	179,818	2,177,658
4. Ecosystem restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks.	Inv	4.1 Restoration of degraded ecosystems in council forests (Indicator: 50,000 ha of degraded forests restored and 500 ha of fallow and arid lands converted into agroforests, 1000ha of savannah zones enriched).	4.1.1 50,000 ha of degraded forests restored and a minimum of 500 ha of fallow land within the council forests converted into agroforest and 10000ha of savannah zones enriched	GEFTF	0	4,393,092
5. Monitoring and evaluation and information dissemination.	TA	5.1 Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated .	5.1.1 Project monitoring system operating providing information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets. 5.1.2 Midterm and final evaluation conducted, project best practices and lessons learned published and disseminated.	GEFTF	134,087	374,094
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		

	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Sub-Total					3,452,495	15,647,344
Project Management Cost ⁵				(select)	120,838	547,656
Total Project Costs					3,573,333	16,195,000

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Government of Cameroon	In-kind	4,280,000
Local Government	FEICOM/PNDP	In-kind	3,000,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	400,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	1,050,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	French Global Env. Fund (FFEM)	Grant	1,365,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	(GIZ-ProPSFE)	Grant	1,500,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	CBFF	Grant	600,000
Local Government	Councils	In-kind	2,500,000
Local Government	PNDP	In-kind	1,500,000
(select)		(select)	
Total Cofinancing			16,195,000

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF 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
FAO	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Cameroon	2,500,000	250,000	2,750,000
FAO	GEFTF	Climate Change	Cameroon	180,000	18,000	198,000
FAO	GEFTF	Multi-focal Areas	Cameroon	893,333	89,333	982,666
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)(select)	(select)				0
Total Grant Resources				3,573,333	357,333	3,930,666

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

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

⁵ Same as footnote #3.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

A.1.1 the [GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF](#) strategies /[NPIF](#) Initiative:

This projects aims to improve the sustainable management of 400 000ha of council forests in a number of ecological zones. This includes the creation and management of 40 000ha of strictly protected areas within the council forests as well as the restoration of 50 000ha of degraded forests.

BD Outcome 2.1 (SFM and biodiversity conservation). The project will develop a national and sub-national forest land use plans for council forests taking into account the need for biodiversity conservation in production areas and complying with Cameroon's Forest Law requirements on protected areas and SFM. The land use plans to be developed will detail methods for forest allotment integrating biodiversity conservation and production goals. In addition to the land use plans, detailed forest management plans will be developed and implemented in 20 council forests covering key ecological zones.

BD Outcome 1.1 (Management effectiveness of protected areas). The forest management plans developed (see above) will include areas set-aside for biodiversity conservation in each council forest and the project will develop operational tools to facilitate the implementation and the management of the protected areas. These tools will be developed in accordance with the requirements of existing legal framework (Forest Law) as well as with the national strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation in Cameroon. In addition, the project will provide support to council forest staff on techniques to select sites for protection as well as on methods for biodiversity inventories, management, monitoring and reporting.

CCM Outcomes 5.3 (Management for conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks). The project will adapt, test and implement a system for accounting and monitoring carbon in the council forests. Priority areas identified for reforestation will be enriched (with a focus on savannah fallow, degraded forests, forest lands threatened by drought). While the GEF funding will also be used to support capacity building activities for council forest staff to strengthen their technical skills for forest carbon measuring and monitoring, the co-financing will support activities to control forest degradation, forest restoration and enrichment.

SFM/REDD Outcome 1.2 (Good management practices in council forests). The project will support existing policies, strategies and plans related to sustainable forest management, protected areas and biodiversity conservation, namely the Forest law of 1994 (currently in use), the national plan for environmental management in Cameroon (1996) and the national strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The project will build upon these documents to provide specific and operational tools and good practices that can be used in the council forests to improve their sustainability.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

Not applicable.

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

Not applicable.

A.2. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Cameroon was adopted in 2002 and a number of identified strategic goals and actions have already been implemented. This project will build upon existing efforts and support the implementation of the following NBSAP's strategic goals:

- **Strategic goal 1:** refers to the reduction of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in the short

and medium term and reversal of this trend in long term. Components 2, 3 and 4 of the project will provide tools to address these issues in the council forests;

- Strategic goal 3: refers to the development and strengthening of capacity for planning, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity programmes and projects. Components 2 of the project will address these issues.

The proposed project is also in line with the objectives 192, 204 and 206 of the National Strategy for the Development of the Rural Sector (SDSR), part of the National Strategy for Growth and Employment (DSCE). The latter envisages ensuring among others (i) a better use and sustainable management of natural resources; (ii) a good management and regeneration of forest and wildlife resources. The four components of the project will contribute to address these needs (though focusing mainly on council forests).

Furthermore, the project is in line with the objectives of the National Forestry and Environment Program (FEP) of Cameroon. In fact, the project will address key issues stressed in Objective 2 and 3 of the FEP, namely sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

By strengthening the technical capacity of councils to implement SFM and by conducting field activities to restore degraded forests and enhance carbon stocks in the council forests, the project is contributing to the efforts made by Cameroon towards the reduction of carbon emissions from forests and from land use changes. Therefore, the project is consistent with the national communication of Cameroon under UNFCCC especially with two objectives of the national strategy developed for GHG (reduction of the emission of green house gases, increase of carbon sequestration).

Finally, the project will support other relevant national plans and programmes aiming to ensure sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation in Cameroon. These plans and programmes include the National Plan to combat desertification (PAN/LCD), the National Program for environmental management (PNGE), the National Forestry Action Plan (PAFN) and the PAF2C/ACFCAM Program in support to the development of council forests in Cameroon.

B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

Background: Cameroon encompasses various types of vegetation including tropical rainforests, mountain forests, humid savannah and dry forests. Forest land in Cameroon is gazetted into three main categories, namely permanent forests (for the preservation of animals and plants), production forests (for sustainable production of timber and non timber forest products) and non-permanent forests (for other uses). Out of the 22 million ha of forests of Cameroon, 14 million ha are permanent forests which include state forests and council forests.

In Africa, Cameroon is ranked fourth with reference to biodiversity richness after the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Madagascar. Although precise figures on biodiversity richness of Cameroon are still not known, the following data on flora and fauna reflects what is commonly admitted by scholars. The flora of Cameroon has 9,000 plant species of which 156 are endemic. Regarding timber production, about 630 species of actual or potential commercial value have been identified and grouped into five categories, depending on their commercial value and their availability (26 species of high commercial value, 14 timber species currently found in local and international markets, 49 timber species found in the forest and produced mainly for local market closed to logging zones, 522 timber species of potential commercial value and 30 introduced timber species). The mangroves spread over 243km² with 350 species of lianas, 15 species of mosses and 8 species of ferns. The humid forests of the littoral zones and mountains (Southwestern regions of Cameroon) rank among the world's top 100 areas for endemic bird species, amphibians, reptiles and plants.

As for the fauna, Cameroon has 354 species of freshwater fish of which 115 are endemic; more than 300 species of fungi and bacteria; 1,000 species of mammals of which 11 are endemic and 27 threatened; 183 species of birds of which 25 are endemic and 47 threatened; 1,110 species of insects; 85 species of snakes; above 15,000 butterfly species and 165 reptile species of the 275 found in Africa.

The Government of Cameroon embarked on the process of decentralizing forest management through the 1994 Forest Law which transferred forest management responsibilities to local actors. This law has provided a legal framework for the establishment of council forests. Councils are recognized as administrative units responsible to manage the forests, according to land use and forest management plans approved by the ministry in charge of forests (MINFOF). The main goal of the establishment of council forests is to contribute to the sustainable management of forest and to poverty reduction and improvement of livelihoods.

The “Association des Communes Forestières du Cameroun” (ACFCAM) was created by the Cameroonian councils in 2005 to assist their members (local councils) on administrative and technical issues related to the creation and management of council forests. A technical unit of ACFCAM termed “Centre Technique de la Forêt Communale” (CTFC) was created in 2008 to provide technical assistance to guide councils in the classification of their council forests, development and implementation of management plans, training of council officials on sustainable forest management and governance, valuation and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products and other areas.

With regard to REDD Cameroon is in the process of preparing its national REDD+ strategy. A number of REDD related activities have been carried out in the field. These include completed projects such as: REDD-ALERT (2009-2011) supported by ASB, IITA, IRAD and EU which aimed to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation and to measure carbon from the conversion of forest to agriculture; the pilot project REDD-Cameroon (2007-2010) supported by GIZ and European spatial Agency with the goal to develop a carbon accounting system in support of the preparation of Cameroon REDD readiness. An initiative REDD+ for council forests was also launched in 2010 by PAF2C to establish practical basis for REDD+ adapted to council forests and this initiative ended at the feasibility study phase. Other ongoing initiatives the proposed project will build upon include: the COMIFAC/GIZ project to support six countries of the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo) in the monitoring of forest carbon and preparation for REDD readiness; the project “Multipurpose reforestation on degraded wet savannah zones carried in Meiganga” supported by UNEP, Cascade Africa and FFEM; the GEO Forest Carbon Tracking worked on the mapping of biomass changes in the dense forests of Cameroon (2007,2010) and on the development of a method for direct biomass assessment in the Adamaoua region of Cameroon (2011) with the support of the Group on earth observations; and the project “Architecture of REALU: Reducing Emissions from All Land Uses” which is a collaborative research project involving ICRAF, IITA, IRAD and ASB aiming to develop and implement effective strategies for the reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation in Cameroon. The REALU project is also piloting methodologies for carbon stock monitoring at farm and village scale.

The above initiatives both completed and ongoing are important for the development of a carbon monitoring system at council forest level, which in turn will provide a basis for the development of a national forest carbon monitoring system.

Threats: Despite the richness of Cameroon’s biodiversity previously highlighted and the Government’s efforts, the forest ecosystems are under increasing pressures resulting from various demands of a growing population (conversion of forests into agricultural lands and fuel wood extraction) as well as increasing domestic and international demands for timber. Illegal logging and unsustainable practices contribute to the destruction of forest habitats and forest degradation resulting in the loss of biodiversity and other ecosystem services provided by these forests.

Between 1990 and 2010, significant changes in forest cover in Cameroon have been reported. Forest cover loss is estimated at 220,000 ha or 0.9% per year. As for carbon storage in the forest of Cameroon, the estimate is about 2,696 million metric tons of carbon in living biomass. At present, carbon stocks in these forests are degraded because of weak governance (e.g. illegal logging), poor harvesting practices, no land-use planning (e.g. uncontrolled forest clearance) and no areas set-aside for conservation. In most cases, this occurs because of a lack of technical capacity and resources from the councils (to create councils forests, implement SFM and biodiversity conservation practices, implement system for carbon

accounting and monitoring, better control of illegal logging) rather than communities deliberately degrading forests for their own personal benefit. Though the link between loss of forest and carbon emission is known scientifically, there are still no reliable data established for council forests on the quantity of carbon loss due to deforestation or land use changes.

Barriers to SFM, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in council forests: While the decentralization of forest management is an important step towards sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and improvement of livelihoods of local communities, there are a number of barriers to the achievement of these objectives. The main barrier is the **weak technical and financial capacity of councils** to implement SFM and to mainstream biodiversity conservation into SFM practices. Although existing legal and policy documents propose guidelines to ensure SFM, their field implementation is still limited due to weak technical skills and financial resources required for the establishment and sustainable management of council forests (land gazettement and registration, environmental impact assessment, forest management plan development and implementation).

Another important barrier is the **lack of scientific knowledge and reliable data** on forest resources and the status of biodiversity in the council forests. There is very limited information about forest cover and forest resources at a scale suitable to understand local forest cover dynamics in particular in relation to logging and small scale farming in the forest zone. In connection to this, while there are few reforestation and forest restoration activities carried in Cameroon, reliable carbon estimates are also lacking.

Weakness of the forest governance system. The national institutions responsible for biodiversity conservation and SFM in Cameroon suffer from poor governance system, which in turn affect implementation of SFM on the ground. The responsibilities on forest and biodiversity management are scattered across different ministries and agencies. While there is a need for more collaboration among these ministries and agencies to better address cross-cutting issues of biodiversity conservation and SFM, they mostly work without collaboration and their capacity of action is weak, scattered and limited. This situation negatively affects the performance of projects to promote biodiversity conservation and SFM in Cameroon in general and consequently in the council forests. The proposed project will focus on strengthening the capacity of councils to implement SFM and conserve biodiversity at council level and therefore will not directly address this barrier.

Baseline project(s): The main baseline program that the GEF-funded activities will build on is the “Programme d’appui aux Forêts communales du Cameroun” (PAF2C) – support program for council forests in Cameroon. This program which is implemented by “Centre Technique de la Forêt Communale” (CTFC) aims to promote decentralization and sustainable management of natural resources. The programme has specific objectives or components:

- (i) to provide institutional support to the process of creation of council forests - to be achieved through establishing within MINFOF, an effective structure for processing requests for classification and validation of council forest management plans; simplification of classification procedures; provision of training on project management to municipal officials, and others;
- (ii) to establish and sustainably manage council forests – through development, approval and implementation of management plans in each council forest;
- (iii) to reduce environmental impacts of forest management and contribute to climate change mitigation – through implementation of environmental management plans in council forests and implementing activities that promote carbon sequestration;
- (iv) to ensure the sustainability of CTFC and council forest committees and
- (v) to improve the standard of living of local populations through development and implementation of local development strategies and business strategies.

The program has been funded by beneficiary councils (members of ACFCAM) and a number of partners including the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), CIDA, GIZ, FAO-European Commission (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific

countries - ACP-FLEGT program). A brief summary of which part of the programme each of the baseline funding focuses on is provided in the table below:

Co-financing sources from baseline project	Name of Co-financier	Brief Description of Co-funded Baseline Project Activities	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Bi-lateral Agency	French Global Env. Fund (FFEM)	Under PAF2C, FFEM supports most of the objectives and results highlighted above, with a special focus on sustainable management of council forests through the development and implementation of management plans. The first phase of FFEM-PAF2C partnership ends in December 2012 and will be followed by a second phase in the pipeline (2013-2017).	Grant	1,365,000
Bi-lateral Agency	GIZ-ProPSFE	Provides institutional support to councils and MINFOF in the process of creating council forests. GIZ-ProPSFE supports the process of classification and management of council forests; the creation of functional technical units; and the valuation of non timber forest products (NTFPs), among other activities. This programme ends in December 2015.	Grant	1,500,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Provides technical assistance to Cameroon to implement sustainable forest management by providing policy advice and technical knowledge; contribute to the sustainable management of forests and poverty alleviation through operational projects / programmes (e.g. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme ACP-FLEGT), (details on dates, see p.17).	In-kind	400,000
			Grant	1050,000
Local Government	FEICOM	Support to all PAF2C objectives including, <i>inter alia</i> , training of council forest staff in SFM, preparation and implementation of management plans (started in 2010 and renewable yearly).	In-kind	3,000,000
Local Government	Councils	Contributes to the financing of activities to support the implementation of SFM practices and the improvement of the livelihoods of the communities.	In-kind	2,500,000
Local Government	PNDP	Provides support to councils in the implementation of local development plans related to territorial land planning and management for sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystems.	In-kind	1,500,000
National Government	Forest and environment program(PSFE)	Support to all PAF2C objectives through MINFOF and MINEP. These two ministers play a key role as technical partners of the project by facilitating the implementation of operational activities relevant to the project falling under the national forest programme "Programme Sectoriel Forêt Environnement" (PSFE). The Cameroon	In-kind	4,280,000

		council forest association has signed a partnership convention with these ministers for the implementation of the project's activities (2009-2013) and an extension is being negotiated.		
Other Multilateral	CBFF	Support to reduction of deforestation, reduction of poverty, improvement of the livelihoods of local populations (2009-2013).	Grant	600,000
Total				16,195,000

A decade after the Forest Law of Cameroon offering the possibility to the councils to create and manage council forests, and despite the assistance of CTFC/ACFCAM and other partners towards improving forest governance at local level (see table above), only 15 council forests have been created and are functional. This means that there is a vast area of forests at council level not under proper management and facing illegal logging, poaching and overexploitation of forest resources leading to deforestation, forest degradation and loss of biodiversity. This is because the barriers highlighted earlier have not been fully/effectively addressed.

Finally, CTFC/ACFCAM's focus has tended to be on dense forest zones of Cameroon, which leaves out other key ecological zones (arid zone, dry and humid savannah, degraded forest zones). Moreover, biodiversity conservation, even in the established council forests, is not properly integrated into SFM planning and practices.

- C. [2. incremental /Additional cost reasoning](#): describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated [global environmental benefits](#) (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

Without GEF Scenario: The main baseline program described above (PAF2C) – support program for council forests in Cameroon, funded by the Government (MINFOF/PSFE), the Councils and other organizations (GIZ, FFEM, FEICOM) has achieved important results. These include the creation of 15 council forests covering 400,000ha, development and implementation of forest management plans in 4 councils, forest inventories in 7 council forests, training of council forest staff in the management of council forests including the control of illegal logging, and valorization of non wood forest products. These have mainly contributed to the delivery of local benefits including the improvement of livelihoods and poverty reduction. Without the GEF support, there are two main barriers already stated that would be unaddressed:

1. Weak capacity and tools for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into SFM practices. None of the baseline projects is putting enough emphasis on capacity development for biodiversity conservation. Even in established forests, biodiversity conservation is not properly integrated into forest management planning and practices.
2. Weak capacity to expand/scale-up sustainable forest management and to restore degraded forests. As mentioned, a decade after the Forest Law of Cameroon offering the possibility to the councils to create and manage council forests, and despite the assistance of CTFC/ACFCAM and other partners only 15 council forests have been created and are functional. This means that there is a vast area of forests at council level not under proper management and facing illegal logging, poaching and overexploitation of forest resources.

Without addressing these, there will be progressive disappearance of residual natural forests and irreversible invasion of the forest reserves in wet savannahs (Western regions of Cameroon); increase of desertification, disappearance of forest reserves in dry savannah (North, Far North regions); and progressive disappearance of the coastal mangrove swamps. Biodiversity conservation in the 15 established council forests is likely to stay at the same unsatisfactory level, and deforestation in the 70

remaining councils where council forests have not been formally created will continue unabated leading to the loss of global environmental benefits.

As for carbon stock management and monitoring, though few projects described previously (COMIFAC/GIZ project on carbon monitoring, REDD-ALERT on carbon accounting, Pilot project REDD-Cameroon on biomass measuring, Project “Architecture of REALU: Reducing Emissions from All Land Uses” and the project “Multipurpose reforestation on degraded wet savannah zones in the council of Meiganga”), they have been developed and applied at national scale. The GEF project will improve the existing national level initiatives with more detailed ground level monitoring in the council forests where carbon related land use is more diverse and difficult to assess (degraded forest, dense forest, savannah, restored zones) in order to collect reliable data for carbon estimation and monitoring in these forests.

With GEF: The GEF funding will help tackle the capacity constraints and barriers described previously in order to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SFM into forest management practices at council level. The principal goal of the GEF funded alternative is to reverse deforestation and degradation of forests under the authority of the councils in order to secure global biodiversity and climate change benefits, and to strengthen local benefits for communities. GEF funding will support: the establishment of council forests and conservation sites within these to guarantee biodiversity conservation; capacity development for the sustainable management of council forests and for monitoring and management of carbon stocks in the council forests.

Concretely, while the PAF2C program has contributed to the creation and technical support of 15 council forests, the GEF funding will help expand the area of forests under proper management to through the creation of 20 new council forests covering 400,000ha as well as 40,000ha of protected areas within the council forests (see component 1). The creation of protected areas in 20 new council forests represents a new concept as the former 15 council forests created by the PAF2C did not specifically allocated space for protected areas. The GEF funding will also support capacity building activities in order to strengthen sustainable forest management practices and biodiversity conservation in the council forests (see component 2). The GEF project will build upon the scattered contribution of previous projects in support to Cameroon’s preparation for REDD readiness (presented in project description) in order to adapt existing techniques to council forests and moreover provide technical training to council forest staff in methods of carbon accounting and monitoring for the new 20 councils targeted. While the baseline projects have used techniques of Landsat images (eg. pilot project REDD Cameroon), the GEF project will train local staff in techniques they could master easily and reproduce for the sustainability of the project beyond investment (ground-based forest inventory for carbon accounting, ‘stock-difference’ method for carbon monitoring). (see component 3).

Proposed project components and activities are described below:

Component 1: Creation of council forests for SFM and BD conservation

This component will develop a comprehensive land use plan for the council forests, taking into account their multifunctionality and the necessity to ensure biodiversity conservation and forest sustainability. To help address technical issues related to forest land planning and delimitation as well as the implementation of forest management plans in council forests, 20 technical units (CFCs) will be established. Detailed forest management plans will be developed and implemented in 20 council forests covering a total of 400,000ha. Ten participants (10) per council forest (total of 200 expected) will be selected from the local populations and trained in land use planning and 40,000ha of forests will be formally designated for protected areas within the council forests.

Component 2 Capacity building to strengthen biodiversity conservation and SFM in the council forests. This component will focus on capacity building activities for SFM and biodiversity conservation in the council forests. 80 local forest protection committees will be created and trained on techniques and methods for forest protection, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity monitoring and reporting. In addition, 100 local stakeholders will be trained in operational tasks for the implementation of SFM and

forest income generating activities. The capacity building and training modules to be developed will use flexible and simple approaches to reflect the resources available. This can be considered as a pilot exercise to evaluate and monitor biodiversity in areas of the council forests not covered by the protected areas. The trainings will complement other technical capacity building activities carried on field (learning by doing) in order to prepare the council forest staff to respond effectively to the challenges of biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management.

Component 3 Capacity building for the management of forest carbon

Although Cameroon has signed climate change convention and is in the preparation of its REDD+ strategy, the current capacity of the country in carbon management is weak. This component will focus on the development of specific capacity building and training modules for the council forest staff to improve their skills in carbon measuring and management as well as in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This component will build upon past and ongoing initiatives on carbon accounting and monitoring (as mentioned in the background). In order to pave the way to further larger carbon stocks accounting and monitoring relying on local expertise, 50 council forest staff will be trained on methods to estimate and monitor forest carbon stocks focusing on ground-based forest inventory data (measurements of DHB in combination with tree height and conversion techniques to estimate carbon stocks using allometric equations, ‘stock-difference’ method to monitor carbon stocks). While the existing national accounting and monitoring system is relevant to generate a broad picture and information on forest carbon at the national scale, the field measurement of carbon stocks and monitoring in the council forests will generate more accurate data on carbon accounting and monitoring taking into account the variability and diversity of ecological zones within the council forests (dense forests, savannah, degraded forests, restored lands). The results of this component will be important for REDD+ strategy implementation, especially the development of a national MRV system.

Component 4: Ecosystem restoration and enhancement of carbon stocks

While contributing to the improvement of carbon stocks in 20 councils forests (400 000ha), activities under this component will mainly focus on reforestation, forest restoration, carbon measurement and monitoring carbon stocks in the enriched and restored ecosystem as well as in whole council forests. This will help to establish an initial reference of carbon stocks to build upon and monitor. As for ecosystem restoration and enrichment, the project will support the restoration of 50,000 ha of degraded forests, the conversion of 500 ha of fallow land of the council forests into agroforests and the enrichment of 10,000ha of savannah zones. For the measurement of carbon stocks in the degraded forests (50,000ha), the fallow(500ha) and in the savannah (10,000ha), key stakeholders from the community in the fringe of council forest will be associated in the trainings to gain skills in carrying carbon measurement and monitoring . This will help make technical skills available locally for the sustainability of the project beyond project investment.

The proposed project will generate significant global environmental benefits highlighted in the table below:

Current situation	Alternatives to be put in place by the project	Benefits expected
<p>Illegal logging, overharvesting of forest products and unsustainable practices leading to disappearance and degradation of natural forests and forest reserves, and loss of important ecosystem services. Lack of technical skills and resources to implement SFM and to mainstream biodiversity into SFM practices within council forests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanding the forest area under proper management by local councils and establishing a network of conservation areas within the council forests. - Restoration of degraded forests - Capacity development of councils for forest management planning, and implementation of SFM and biodiversity conservation practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved SFM and biodiversity conservation in 20 council forests (400,000 ha). - 20 new protected areas covering 40,000 ha of unprotected ecosystems with improved management effectiveness. - Improved protection of endemic species.

<p>Inadequate/lack of tools for monitoring and enforcement (includes lack of reliable data on forest resources and biodiversity). Lack of technical skills and coherent approach to measure and monitor carbon stock and lack of reliable data on carbon stocks in council forests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of tools for effective monitoring of forest resources and biodiversity – establishment of reliable information system. - Capacity building on carbon management and monitoring. - Adaptation of the existing carbon accounting approach to council forests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced deforestation and forest degradation in council forests (400,000 ha). - 60,000tCO₂ equivalent emissions avoided from REDD. - 50,500 ha of degraded forests restored . - Enhancement of carbon stocks measurement and management of carbon in 40 council forests serving as initial stock to monitor and build upon.
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The carbon benefit has been estimated based on these assumptions: taking the average level of deforestation in Cameroon (one percent per year with the baseline but without GEF), assuming carbon stock of 150 tC/ha (very conservative as IPCC (2006) estimated carbon stock in tropical equatorial forest to 200tC/ha) and supposing the project was able to reduce deforestation by 10 percent (above the baseline with GEF contribution) in the council forests, the estimate of the project's CO₂ benefits in terms of emission avoided from REDD is 60,000 tC (220200 tons of CO₂ equivalent). These calculations and assumptions are made for the total area of the 20 council forests targeted by the project (400, 000ha). An accurate figure will be calculated during project preparation taking into account the existing diversity and variability of the vegetation within the councils forests (degraded zones, restored zones, savannah).

Project sustainability

The sustainability of the project outcomes is quite high, for several reasons. First, a specific activity of the project will be to develop a participatory council forests delimitation process taking into account existing traditional and customary rights of the local populations and the training of local stakeholders in operational tasks for the implementation of SFM and biodiversity conservation. The local populations will also be involved in forest income generating activities (Non timber forest products valorization).

Related to this, the project will contribute to the implementation of the decentralization of forest management process to help the councils effectively manage their forests with more responsibility as the income generated by the council forests will contribute to the development of the councils and the improvement of the livelihoods of the local populations. Therefore, the disappearance of the council forests means no income and resources for both the councils and the populations. Moreover, by putting emphasis on the capacity building and technical trainings for council forest staff and local populations, the project aims to guarantee the availability and sustainability of local technical skills to conduct operational activities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management.

Furthermore, the development and implementation of sound tools and practices such as biodiversity information system and forest management plans for protected areas will provide rigorous and accurate basis for SFM and biodiversity conservation as well as carbon stocks management. Also, being part of a bigger long-term PAF2C program supported by the councils themselves, and which is linked to the national "Programme Sectoriel Forêt Environnement" will contribute to the sustainability of the proposed project.

In terms of financial sustainability of the GEF project, and in line with Cameroon's forest law for council forests, once council forests are formally set-up and SFM practices implemented, 70 % of the income from these council forests (timber, non timber forest products) will be used to support the cost of SFM (operational activities in the forests: biodiversity monitoring, restoration, enrichment, carbon accounting, monitoring, control of illegal logging) and the cost of investments for local development

to improve the livelihood of the populations of the councils. 30% of the income will be used to fund specific development activities proposed by the communities surrounding the council forests (water supply, health, education). For the 70%, a specific committee set at the council will be in charge of the monitor of the use of these revenues income as planned and for the 30% another committee set at villages level will be in charge of the monitoring of the uses allocated to projects proposed by the communities. As forest income are considered to be public income, the Mayors of the councils as well as the presidents of the two committees described above as responsible to produce a report on the use of the revenues incomes every six Months and an independent control by public service assess the validity of these progress reports. While the development projects funded with the 70% will target all villages of the councils, the 30% supports only projects proposed by the villages surrounding the council forest as an additional incentive for them to protect the council forests and to continue benefiting from its income. This incentive coupled with the opportunities given to these communities to be involved in income generating activities in the council forests (NTFP valorization) contribute to reinforce their interest to protect these forests and continue benefiting from their sustainable management.

Finally, the Mayors of the 20 councils members of ACFCAM targeted with this GEF project (where no council forests are yet created) are very interested in this GEF project. They have strong political commitment to ensure sustainable forest management of the council forests but they do not have financial and technical means to create and manage the councils forests. However, once the council forests are created, income will be generated to ensure their its sustainability without external funding as descibed above.

- B.3. 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). As a background information, read [Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF.](#)":

This project is mostly focused on the delivery of environmental benefits (biodiversity conservation) and also some economic benefits deriving from the sustainable use of council forests. The socioeconomic benefits of the project are likely to be modest and essentially indirect. Some examples of where such benefits might occur are given below:

Local employment:The project will create new opportunities of employment for the populations either for field work activities in the council forests (forest inventories, protected areas setting, collection of NTFP, restoration of degraded forests, implementation of forest management plans, valorisation of NTFP) or for administrative or technical duties. By participating to these activities, the populations will earn income and carbon sequestration in council forests will increase as result of the implementation of SFM good pratcices. In addition, by allowing the participation of the populations, the project will generate income especially to women who are more involved in the commercialization of NTFP. The local NGOs will also be associated to activities in the council forests according to their expertise.

Empowerment: Capacity building and training activities to be developed by the project will contribute to the empowerment of the local institutions (councils) and populations. For example, capacity building in agro-forestry practices, especially for minorities; women and youth will contribute to generate income and improve livelihoods of the populations in the councils. A total of 80 forest user groups will be created, trained by the project to participate efficiently in SFM activities (gazements, implementation of management plans). In addition, the income generated by the good management of the council forests will be invested in supporting local development.

With regard to socio-economic benefits to support achievement of carbon benefits, the project will empower local communities to become involved in planning and managing these forests (addressing the governance and planning problems). It will also build their capacity to continue with their livelihoods but in a more sustainable way (addressing the harvesting, clearance and set-aside issues). Although there will, no doubt, be situations where their livelihoods and CC benefits are in conflict, the

project will aim to identify and minimise the impact of such situations and suggest alternatives where feasible. Thus, the overall aim is to find and promote activities where their interests are aligned with good carbon management.

Off-site benefits: Improved conservation outcomes within the protected areas of the council forests and activities to control illegal logging in the forests will result in off-site benefits to the local populations. For example, high density biodiversity areas of the council forests are likely to be selected as pilot protection sites, along with sites that are important for watershed protection. In both cases, enhanced protection of these areas will result in local economic benefits from the maintenance of fisheries and soil productivity as well as increasing of carbon sequestration.

Public participation: capacity building and training delivered by the project will contribute spread information on biodiversity conservation to the local populations to increase public awareness on the relevance of sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. Public education and awareness will inform the populations about the benefits of biodiversity conservation and the reasons to protect these areas and how they could contribute to this effort.

Gender dimensions

The main way that gender issues will be incorporated into the project is through the adoption and use of participatory approaches by the councils in all important decisions and activities to conduct in the council forests. The project will ensure that adequate representation of both genders is achieved in all activities to be carried within the council forests. In addition, the local project partners (council forest staff, local populations) will be given appropriate training in this respect. Reporting on project activities, outputs and outcomes will also be disaggregated by gender (where applicable). Finally, by fostering the multifunctionality of forest and the valorization of NTFP, the project is indirectly supporting women as NTFP activities are mainly carried by women to generate income.

Support for the achievement of global environmental benefits:

Support for the project's objectives will be generated by demonstrating to the local populations how biodiversity conservation, SFM, protection and enhancement of carbon stocks can produce socio-economic benefits (such as those listed above). The project will deliberately focus on sites where these linkages are more easily demonstrated and explained, so that lessons learned can be applied elsewhere. There will no doubt be situations where the project activities will have a negative impact on some people (e.g. from strengthened law enforcement). In such cases, appropriate support will be provided by analyzing who benefits and who loses from such measures, explaining the situation to people and attempting to find a resolution to the problem on case by case basis.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change 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:

Risk	Rating	Mitigation measures
Non recognition of CF boundaries by the local populations	Medium	Participatory land planning and delimitation of council forests with local populations
Non recognition of customary rights during council forest delimitation	Medium	Forest management plans take into account customary rights of the local populations and sound investment of returns from council forests in local development project to improve the livelihoods of the populations
Reluctance of the local populations to support the project	Medium	Awareness activities and education materials on the relevance of SFM and biodiversity conservation in the council forests will be carried. Detailed information materials highlighting concrete benefits the populations could expected from well managed council forests.
Changes in land use	Medium	There is a potential temptation for the councils to divert part of the forests to other uses for better income returns. The management plans of

		the council forests should be set up prior to the use of forest resources and appropriate control of the respect of management plans should be carried-out on a regular basis.
Delay in the transfer of funds from co-financing partners	Medium	A coordinating committee will be in charge of monitoring the project and reporting to the co-financing partners on how the funds are used and also remind them to transfer their contribution timely.
Poor co-ordination between ministries (MINEP, MINFOF) and agencies (CTFC/ACFCAM) and other stakeholders	Low	Organize regular meetings between ministries and agencies concerned by the project to avoid misunderstanding or lack of information on the project. A committee with representatives from the ministries and agencies will be set up to assume the coordination work.
Resistance to law enforcement in council forests	Low	Law enforcement activities will be preceded by awareness-raising in the councils. Improvements in record-keeping and regular reporting on law enforcement activities in the council forests will be used to remind people about what is happening. Participatory approaches will be used where appropriate to generate support for strengthened law enforcement.

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

Stakeholders	Roles
<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) - Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) - FEICOM - PNDP <p>Municipalities (Councils)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACFCAM/CTFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy and legal support and assistance with the implementation of decentralization of forest management (through council forests) - Facility for field implementation of activities. - MINEP and MINFOF will provide technical advice and facility to the project. - FEICOM will provide financial support to the councils. - PNDP will assist councils in the protection of biodiversity and reduction of deforestation - Recipients of some training activities.
<p>Local Forest Protection Committees (expected to include representatives of forest user groups, indigeneous people, and CSO/NGOs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity development (as trainees) - Participate in planning and management of council forests - Implementation of SFM and sustainable income generating activities.
<p>International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FAO - GIZ/FFEM - CBFF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance to ensure that the project activities benefit from experiences elsewhere and meet current best practices. - Co-financing partners. - Co-financing partner.

In addition to the above institutional stakeholders, other stakeholders will be involved: stakeholders from 20 councils representing different ecological zones covered by the project. 10 of the stakeholders will be selected from the councils implementing sustainable forest management activities, as part of activities supervised by PAF2C and 20 stakeholders from 20 council forests targeted by the project. Other stakeholders to be involved include representatives of NGOs, local associations and forest users groups (Preference will be given to representatives of women and youth groups). For the institutional support of the project, the decentralized services of MINFOF, MINEP, MINEPAT and MINATD as well as traditional authorities will also be involved. Finally, other specialised partners (ICRAF, IRAD, ANAFOR) as well as organisation with experience in carbon mapping, accounting and management in Cameroon (Pilot project REDD-Cameroon COMIFAC/GIZ project ,GEO Forest Carbon Tracking, the project “Architecture of REALU, REDD-ALERT) will be contacted to collaborate and contribute to some activities of the project on the basis of their expertise.

Project implementation/execution arrangements

The project will be implemented by FAO and executed MINEP and MINFOF. General oversight of the project will be the responsibility of a national multi-stakeholder committee meeting regularly in the country. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO with a minimum of two missions per year, with back-up from a multi-disciplinary Project Task Force. Implementation and execution arrangements will be evaluated for cost-effectiveness during project preparation and will be fully elaborated in the final FAO-GEF Project Document.

B.6. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

Donor projects: EU, PNUE and UNDP all have projects on environment, forestry and climate change in Cameroon. Some of these projects involve MINEP while others involve MINFOF. These two ministries are concerned with the present project, therefore the co-ordination of this project with the other ongoing projects in Cameroon will be facilitated as MINFOF and MINEP are both executing partners. Co-ordination with other existing initiatives will be achieved through regular meetings, workshop and, wherever possible, joint activities.

GEF projects: Other major GEF project related to this project, with FAO as the GEF agency, is the project on Sustainable community based management and conservation of mangrove ecosystem which is approved and will be implemented.

FAO Projects: FAO activities in Cameroon are mostly a part of larger sub-regional or global technical activities carried in Central Africa (e.g. Forest Law enforcement, forest assessment, sustainable forest industries development, forest biodiversity conservation in forest concessions, forest financing, etc.). Co-ordination with these activities will be achieved as part of the FAO backstopping and FAO cofinancing contributions to this project during the implementation.

National initiatives: The project will coordinate and harmonize its activities with other national initiatives similar or complementary carried out by different ministries and agencies. For instance, the project will coordinate its activities with MINEP regarding activities conducted by this ministry on desertification through the Programme “Operation Sahel Vert”; with MINFOF concerning complementarities with the activities carried out by the National forestry and environment programme and also to joint effort with MINFOF in supporting the transfer of forest reserves to councils as well as the gazettement of council forests; with MINEPAT regarding issues of land use planning, and with the civil society organizations, local populations and local authorities regarding the planning and implementation of the project activities on the field. The project will also build upon activities carried on the field to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation described in the background section.

C. DESCRIBE THE GEF AGENCY’S COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROJECT:

FAO is the United Nations institution with the mandate to work on forestry, wildlife and natural resource management and conservation. It is also already identified by the GEF as the agency with comparative advantage in this area. The mandate of the Forestry Department of FAO is to support member countries to implement sustainable forest management by providing policy advice, technical knowledge and reliable information to help forests and trees better contribute to sustainable livelihoods.

FAO’s technical expertise and experience relevant to this project has been gained through a number of global projects and regular programme activities implemented over the last decade. These include the following:

- Experience in assisting countries with Forest Law enforcement through the current FAO-EU FLEGT Partnership Programme for ACP Countries. This includes a major component currently being implemented in Cameroon.
- Expertise in monitoring, reporting and verification of forest carbon sinks as one of FAO’s major contributions to the UN-REDD Programme.
- Global leadership on SFM and the development and implementation of integrated fire management guidelines (relevant to controlling forest degradation).

In addition, within the region, FAO’s expertise and experience is demonstrated by its sub-regional

forestry programme, which has included the following in recent years:

- Monitoring and evaluation of compliance in West Africa with the international non-legally binding instrument on forests.
- Implementation of the FAO-German forestry project on sustainable use of non-wood forest products in West and Central Africa (based in Cameroon).
- GEF forestry projects currently being developed/implemented on mangroves in Cameroon and the Republic of Congo.

C.1 Indicate the co-financing amount the GEF agency is bringing to the project:

FAO will bring the following cofinancing to the project:

- USD 400,000 in kind: This will include the provision of technical assistance and expertise from FAO Rome and from the Sub-regional Office for Central Africa.
- USD 1050,000 grant: This cofinancing will be provided through FAO's Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) and global projects with activities in Cameroon. The details of FAO's grant are given below.

Titles	Dates	Contribution (USD)
FLEGT support programme phase II	2013-2016	400,000
Forest and Farms Facility	2013-2017	350,000
TCP facility for Cameroon	2013-2017	300,000
Total		1,050,000

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

This project fits very well into FAO Forestry Department's regular programme activities to support sustainable forest management. At the broad level, key departmental programmes at the moment include Forest Law enforcement and governance, forest monitoring and evaluation to support SFM as well as development and dissemination of technical manuals, guidelines and best practices on SFM and biodiversity conservation. The Forestry Department's assistance to countries is country-driven and the technical assistance likely to be required for this project can be built into 2012-2013 work-programme. FAO has a Representation in Cameroon with eleven full-time staff. The office currently manages a portfolio of projects amounting to about USD 8.5 million. In addition to the operational aspects of project implementation, technical backstopping will be provided by the sub-regional forestry officer in Libreville (Gabon) and FAO staff in Rome.

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 Focal Point	MINEP	08/29/2011

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	Telepho ne	Email Address
Charles Riemenschneider Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153, Rome, Italy Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: Barbara.Cooney@fao.org Tel: +3906 570 55478		04/11/2012	Jeremie Mbairamadji Forestry Officer, Forestry Department, FAO	+ 3906 57053603	Jeremie.mbairamadji@fao.org