



**GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)**

**PROJECT TYPE: FULL SIZE PROJECT**

**TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND**

**PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Title:	<b>Removing barriers to biodiversity conservation, land restoration and sustainable forest management through COmmunity-BAsed Landscape Management – COBALAM</b>		
Country(ies):	Cameroon	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	9604
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01442
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon (MINEPDED) with support of Rainforest Alliance	Re-Submission Date:	October 22, 2010
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multi-focal area	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of parent program:		Agency Fee (\$)	294,977

**A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES<sup>2</sup>**

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
<b>BD-4: Program 9</b>	GEFTF	1,931,324	6,750,000
<b>LD-2 Program 3</b>	GEFTF	586,850	6,500,000
<b>LD-3 Program 4</b>	GEFTF	586,849	5,750,000
Total Project Cost		<b>3,105,023</b>	<b>19,000,000</b>

**B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

<b>Project Objective: Enable improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable landscape and forest management through participatory community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and local enterprise development</b>						
Project Components	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
<b>Component 1:</b> Community forest protection and institutional alignment for integrated landscape management	TA/Inv	Outcome 1.1. Improved protection status for 4,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest/Key Biodiversity Area (HCVF/KBA) managed by communities (i.e. Sacred Forest) in the Western Highlands of Cameroon (WHC), and clear cross-sector coordination mechanisms for integrated landscape management	Output 1.1.1 Legal and technical frameworks for attributing conservation status to identified HCVF/KBA managed by communities in the WHC developed based on stakeholder consultations submitted to designated authorities and approved  Output 1.1.2 Existing Inter-institutional landscape management bodies strengthened in two priority landscapes in WHC involving multi-sector and multi-scale stakeholder groups  Output 1.1.3 Frameworks to institutionalize participatory	GEFTF	500,000	2,794,520

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

<sup>2</sup> When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

<sup>3</sup> Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

			sustainable landscape management are developed, including mechanisms to incentivize local CBNRM enterprise submitted to designated authorities and approved			
<b>Component 2:</b> Capacity and incentives development to support HCVF/KBA management and SLM and SFM deployment	TA/Inv	Outcome 2.1 Pressures on natural resources from competing land uses on natural forests covering 25,000 ha are reduced through integrated natural resource management planning and capacity development of farmers and communities in the WHC and South Region	Output 2.1.1 Land-use and management plans in three priority landscapes covering 46,000 ha containing HCVF/KBA in the WHC and South region  Output 2.1.2 At least 10 local CSOs and 3,000 farmers and communities in the WHC and in the South of Cameroon, trained on recognized SLM and SFM practices through customized technical assistance  Output 2.1.3 Market and policy incentives identified and leveraged to motivate application of SLM and SFM practices in the WHC and in the South of Cameroon  Output 2.1.4 At least 5 exchange trips and 5 workshops among key stakeholders organized to identify best practice, share new impact insights, and improve governance and enterprise in CBRNM in Cameroon.	GEFTF	1,000,000	5,589,040
<b>Component 3:</b> Deployment of integrated SLM and SFM practices in WHC and South Region landscapes	TA/Inv	Outcome 3.1 Landscape level uptake of SLM/SFM measures avoids and reduces land degradation and biodiversity loss delivering ecosystem and development benefits over 42,000 ha in the WHC and South Regions	Output 3.1.1 SLM and SFM practices identified in the landscape management plans are implemented with local CSOs and CBOs through a small-grants approach in the WHC Region and South Region  Output 3.1.2. Gender-disaggregated indicators to assess ecological, socioeconomic impacts of HCVF/KBA protection, SLM and SFM practices are developed, and monitored with local stakeholders.	GEFTF	1,457,165	9,615,068
Subtotal					<b>2,957,165</b>	<b>17,998,628</b>
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>					<b>147,858</b>	<b>1,001,372</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>					<b>3,105,023</b>	<b>19,000,000</b>

### C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Governments	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon (MINEPDED)	In-Kind	500,000

<sup>4</sup> For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

National Governments	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon (MINEPDED)	Cash	1,500,000
National Government	North West Grass Field Development Program, North West Development Authority of Cameroon (MIDENO), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon (MINADER)	Cash	8,800,000
National Government	Program for the Improvement of Competitiveness of Family Agro-pastoral Farms (ACEFA), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon (MINADER)	Cash	5,000,000
CSO	Rainforest Alliance	In-Kind	1,400,000
CSO	African Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (ACREST)	Cash	500,000
CSO	ERuDEF	Cash	1,000,000
Private Sector	Cabinet Patoke	In-Kind	300,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>19,000,000</b>

#### D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS <sup>a)</sup>

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>b)</sup>	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Cameroon	Biodiversity		1,931,324	183,476	2,114,800
UNEP	GEFTF	Cameroon	Land Degradation		1,173,699	111,501	1,285,200
					<b>3,105,023</b>	<b>294,977</b>	<b>3,400,000</b>

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

#### E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>5</sup>

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes  No  If no, skip item E.

#### PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$91,325					PPG Agency Fee: \$8,675		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee <sup>6</sup> (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEFTF	Cameroon	Biodiversity		56,804	5,396	62,200
UNEP	GEFTF	Cameroon	Land degradation		34,521	3,279	37,800
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					<b>91,325</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>100,000</b>

#### F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS<sup>7</sup>

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes covering 300 million hectares	4,000 hectares
Sustainable land management in production	120 million hectares under sustainable land	42,000 hectares <sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

<sup>6</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

<sup>7</sup> Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	management	
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## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe:

### **a. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

#### **Global environmental and adaptation problems**

1. Cameroon's biodiversity endowment is stunning. It is home to an estimated 8,300 plant species, 335 mammal species, 913 bird species, and 542 fresh and brackish water fish species. One of the most ecologically diverse countries in the world, the country counts a high degree of endemism. Nearly half of the bird and mammal species of Africa are present in Cameroonian forests, and the country counts a full 92% of Africa's ecosystems; thus Cameroon is often referred to as "Africa in miniature."

2. The **Western Highlands of Cameroon (WHC)**<sup>9</sup> forms part of the Cameroon Highlands ecoregion (WWF Global 200 - see description in Annex 2) which runs south-west to north-east through western Cameroon and adjacent south-east Nigeria. This mountainous region extends into the Gulf of Guinea to the island of Bioko (or Fernando Po), which is part of Equatorial Guinea (see Figure 1 and 2). The WHC ecoregion includes the highest peaks in West Africa (Mt. Cameroon 4095 m; Mt. Oku 3010 m; Pico Basilé 3011 m) and comprises unique montane ecosystems, with threatened fauna and flora. The terrain of the Western Highlands agro-ecological zone consists mainly of plateaus and areas of depression ranging from 1,000 to 2,300 m above sea level. The annual rainfall varies from approximately 1,300 mm in the plains to over 3,000 mm on highland peaks (Yengoh, 2012).

3. Over 80% of the active population is involved in farming. Farms are generally small in size, approximately 0.5 to 2 hectares per family. The economy of the WHC relies heavily on agriculture, as there are relatively few alternative sources of employment. Although intensive to semi-intensive in many places, cultivation techniques are characterized by rudimentary tools, use of family labor and constantly decreasing farm sizes. The general cultivation system is spread over two annual cycles, where perennial crops (Arabica coffee, fruit) often appear in combination with annual crops. Extensive areas are also covered by tea and tobacco.

4. Cameroon's **South region** offers a stark contrast to the WHC. The South is dominated by lowland tropical rainforest. While forest cover has been largely maintained, much of the forest has been subject to commercial logging for decades. Today, unlogged forest is located only in a handful of nature reserves – most notably the Dja Biosphere Reserve (covering 5,260 km<sup>2</sup>) and the Campo Ma'an National Park (2,640 km<sup>2</sup>, on the border with Equatorial Guinea). While industrial logging concessions cover a majority of the forest area in the South region, some 50 community forests have also been recognized over the last 20 years, covering almost 300,000 ha (MINFOF, 2011). Although considerable progress has been made in the region's community forests, burdensome bureaucratic requirements, a lack of social, organizational and enterprise capacity, limited finance, and weak market pull for products issued from sustainable community forests has hindered the development of this model.



Figure 1. Cameroon and its 10 regions. The approximate spatial extent of the actual forest area is shaded in light grey. Source: Mertens, 2000

<sup>8</sup> 21,000 ha of agropastoral lands in WHC and 21,000 ha of community forests in the South

<sup>9</sup> In administrative terms, within Cameroon, the WHC covers parts of the following regions: West, South-West, North-West, and Adamawa. The present project will work only in the West and North-West regions. For simplicity, proposed interventions in potential focal landscapes are discussed under the broad term "WHC."

5. Conservation of the South region's forests is a national, regional and global priority. The tropical forests in the region support abundant wildlife, including some of Cameroon's last populations of chimpanzees, gorillas, and elephants. More numerous still are a diversity of smaller primates, bats, and birds. Other common wildlife species include pangolins, porcupines and other rodents, as well as genets. Many of these species are becoming increasingly rare due to wildlife poaching and habitat fragmentation through deforestation and forest degradation. Over the last 20 years, community forestry has been encouraged across Cameroon, and particularly in the South region, as a means to increase participation in the management of forest resources, and expand benefits from sustainable, locally-based forestry. Such increased participation has potential to improve conservation and livelihood outcomes, while increasing legal sources of timber and non-timber forest products for national and international markets. At present, the South counts about 17% of all recognized community forests in Cameroon. Yet the development of community forestry in the region, advanced as it is for the Congo Basin, is still highly incipient. If this model is to be a sustainable counterpoint to large-scale industrial logging and commercial plantations, significant support will be needed to build local capacities and leverage market and policy incentives for community-based forestry.

Key environmental threats include<sup>10</sup>:

***Unsustainable agricultural practices and soil erosion:***

6. The use of the low-lying wetlands for irrigated crops is growing, while having an impact on the hydrological regime of rivers. Cultivation on steep slopes and clearing by fire are widespread throughout the area, contributing to erosion and loss of soil fertility (PAN/LCD, 2006). Most of the agricultural activity takes place during the rainy season since the region is very poorly equipped with irrigation infrastructure. Limited water holding capacity of soils means that they cannot provide much-needed moisture during periods of drought and long dry spells that are increasingly common. In addition, low-input subsistence farming that replaces the natural vegetation has led to a rapid depletion of plant nutrients. Economic constraints limit the use of inorganic fertilizers for a majority of the small-scale farmers. The limited maintenance of soil health has led to a general stagnation of yields for most food crops over the last three decades. Cases of reasonable yield growth per hectare for most major food crops in the region are limited, notwithstanding the large yield gaps that exist between farmers' yields and optimal yields (Yengoh, 2012).

***Increased competition in land use:***

7. Traditionally, the area of the WHC had dual agricultural and pastoral functions, located in the slopes, plains and lowlands for agriculture, and peaks and volcanic zones for pastoral uses. The region still comprises 14% of the national cattle herd. However, pastoral space is shrinking in favor of agriculture: the area under cultivation has increased by nearly 40% between 1990 and 2005, while at the same time, the pasture has decreased by 37%. Overgrazing and conflicts between farmers and grazers are the most visible signs of increased competition for spaces and degradation of pastoral resources (PAN/LCD, 2006).

8. Land-use pressures are growing, sustained by strong population growth in the region. Vegetation cover is in permanent decline due to agricultural expansion. Forest reserves in the North-West region were created between 1934 and 1961. Since then, no other reserves have been established apart from the Oku Sanctuary, which today has the status of a permanent forest. Covering an area of 125,550 ha, these reserves are now severely degraded by illegal logging, agricultural expansion and livestock breeding. In the West region, there are about 34 forest reserves of an area of 20 to 7,000 ha. Small forest relics called

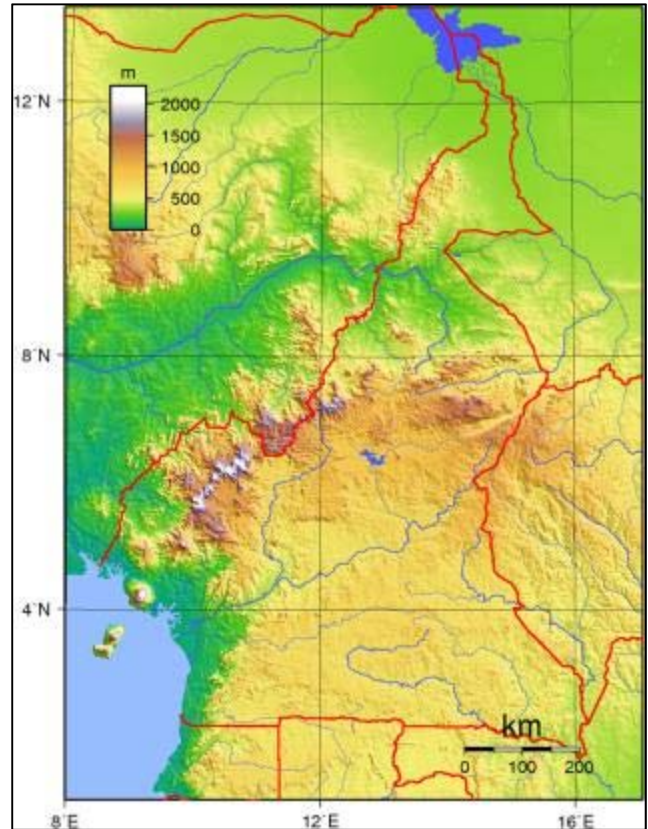


Figure 2. Topography of Cameroon. The Western Highland region represents the land above 1000 m elevation in white, purple and dark brown colouring. Source: Wikipedia.

<sup>10</sup> Even though it is indicated in Cameroon's 4th and 5th National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity dated 2009 and 2014 that Invasive Alien Species are a major threat, the best documented IAS occur in the Northern part of the country (Striga species parasitizing cereals and legumes) and in mangrove habitats (Nipa palm) as well as in the Bakossi mountains, there is no known specific inventory on IAS for the regions covered by project. However, the collection of additional data/information which will be conducted during the PPG will consider the issues of IAS in the project area.

"Sacred Forests" have so far benefited from the protection of customary law, but are severely threatened by population pressure (PAN/LCD, 2006).

9. Ecosystem degradation has taken a heavy toll in much of the WHC, and yet the region is still home to globally significant biodiversity. The Bamenda Highlands are representative. They were once covered largely with montane forest, but today hold only fragmented patches of natural forest distributed across remote hill tops and steep slopes. The loss has been great: in 1958, 37% of the North-West region was forested; in just over 40 years, by 2000, this forest cover had been reduced to 3.5%. Today, less than 10,000 ha of mountain forest survives in the whole of the Bamenda Highlands region. But such island refuges are, however, recognized as critical habitat for endemic birds, animals and plants found nowhere else in the world. For example, 15 of 28 montane birds' species endemic to Cameroon have been recorded in the Bamenda highlands, of which two are globally threatened. About 40 species of plants endemic to Cameroon have also been recorded here, as well as six species of mammals. Meanwhile, the Oku-Ijim mountain forest (approx. 20,000 ha) constitutes the most important afro-montane forest in West Africa. In other words, while most remaining forest sites in the WHC are small and fragmented, they are nonetheless large enough to provide habitat for viable populations of species of many taxa, especially insects, plants, reptiles and amphibians, small mammals and many bird species. (Some plants are known to be confined to just one or two localities on mountain tops in the North-West, for example, and some amphibians are confined to a single lake such as Lake Oku.) Furthermore, beyond their present conservation value, there is potential for protected remnants to serve as nuclei for landscape-scale restoration (BHFP, 2000).

10. The **WHC** consists of the most heavily populated regions in Cameroon. Demographic pressure exerted on a limited land area has led to intensive crop cultivation on an estimated 95% of arable land in some parts of the WHC, including marginal sloping areas. A high population growth rate over the past 35 years has exacerbated the situation (Nkembi, 2012). The annual population growth, estimated at 3.5%, is a major driver of land cover change as more forest is converted for agricultural use, typically with poor yields. Reduced farm productivity has in turn spurred further conversion of remaining natural forest areas in search of more fertile soils. This cycle has caused widespread soil erosion, resulting in landslides among other negative consequences. Underlying this cycle is a lack of integrated, participatory land-use planning and management, coupled with continuing tenure insecurity and deepening social and economic conflict over land use alternatives.

11. The Bamenda Highlands landscape is again representative. This area is one of the most densely populated parts of Cameroon, with over 300 people per km<sup>2</sup> in some parts, and an annual population growth rate of 3.2%. Pressure for land has resulted in the near disappearance of traditional long-fallow shifting cultivation systems, which in the past were largely sustainable. Since 1988, moreover, with the collapse of the Arabica coffee production in the area due to the fall of international coffee prices, which had been a major economic activity for many families, poverty levels of many rural farmers have increased. This has led to further environmental degradation as marginal farming and grazing strategies are expanded at the expense of remaining forests. While government investments have aimed to improve the agricultural potential of the region, population growth has resulted in a reduction in long-fallow swidden, and cultivation on ever steeper slopes. Most farmers do not engage sustainable practices to improve productivity and secure soil and water conservation (e.g. agroforestry techniques, animal and green manure). A continuing lack of secure tenure based on integrated, participatory land use planning at a landscape scale undermines the capacity of actors at multiple scales to reverse the cycles of degradation that have taken hold.

#### ***Increased forest degradation and deforestation:***

12. In the **South**, commercial agricultural expansion, particularly related to cocoa and rubber production, as well as oil palm, is the main driver of deforestation. While still limited in comparison to other global flashpoints for commercial plantation development (e.g. Indonesia, Liberia), in the near future, increasing global demand for these cash crops is likely to accelerate deforestation. Meanwhile, intensive industrial logging, as well as informal and illegal logging, drive forest ecosystem degradation, including biodiversity loss. Poor and unsustainable logging practices (e.g. high-grading operations and extraction that does not plan for or ensure adequate regeneration), while not typically leading to outright deforestation, often degrade forest stands and reduce biodiversity values. Regardless of ecosystem type or silvicultural regime (or the lack thereof), the key impacts on biodiversity from timber harvesting operations are mostly secondary, including most notably: increased use of flora and fauna as a result of the opening of previously inaccessible areas; increased forest conversion due to greater accessibility; and negative effects on soil and water from road construction, felling, skidding, landing operations and stream crossings. Additionally, overharvesting of a small number of commercial timber species may undermine the genetic integrity of target species populations, while altering stand structure, growth and micro-site dynamics. In general, weak capacity to enforce forestry regulations and implement SFM means that significant and widespread irregularities are encountered in existing logging concessions. More than any other country in the region, Cameroon has promoted community forestry as a way to increase benefits to local people and maximize participation in sustainable management. But in spite of 20 years of development, key barriers remain in order to fully realize the potential of community-based natural resource management (**CBNRM**).

13. While illegal and unsustainable timber harvesting practices lead to forest degradation in the South region, deforestation in the tropical forests of Cameroon is caused by two major trends: the clearing of land for rubber and oil palm plantations in concessions granted by the state, and the clearing of forests on small surfaces but on a large scale for agriculture in general and cocoa in particular. In the context of smallholders – the end beneficiaries of this project, the main threat to the forest is the demand for new farmland. Cocoa farmers, for example, had an average daily per capita income in 2011 of 1.72 USD with a large number of farmers and their families living in poverty. Apart from the need to expand their productive lands, local communities depend on biodiversity resources to sustain livelihoods such as non-timber forest products and game. The pressure on biodiversity as a result of poverty is discernible. About 40% of the population in Cameroon are classified as poor. In a vicious circle, the poor depend on biological resources for their livelihoods. Where poverty is generalized, the issue of food insecurity becomes apparent with the poor relying on overharvesting of biodiversity resources and poaching, to sustain their livelihoods. It is clear that natural ecosystems are becoming degraded in target sites where indigenous peoples and other local communities live.

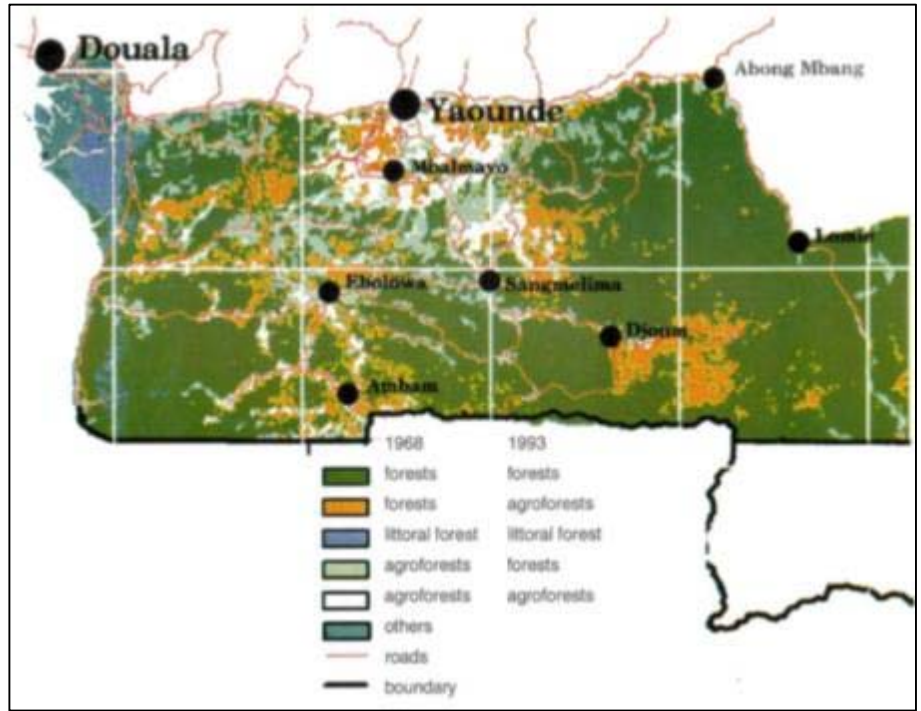


Figure 3. Land-cover changes in South Cameroon between 1968 and 1993. The map shows the significant expansion of agroforests – a trend that continues to date. Source: ASB Technical Report, 1997. Map based on remote sensing.

14. While still limited in comparison to other global flashpoints for commercial plantation development (e.g. Indonesia, Liberia), in the near future, increasing global demand for cash crops is likely to accelerate deforestation. Cameroon’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2012) highlights that the increasing demand for land over thousands of hectares for oil palm, rubber, coffee, cocoa, and tea plantations call for the clearing of vast expanse of vegetation and change local biodiversity balances with the risk of eliminating certain fauna and flora while at the same time introducing invasive species of predators. It is estimated that between 1990 and 2010, Cameroon lost 18.1% of forest cover at an average rate of 0.90% annually (thereddesk.org, 2016).

15. In all of the North, Adamawa, West and North-West regions, the conflicts related to land use have been considered as an important issue which affects sustainable natural resources management. The analysis conducted in the process of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification alignment to UNCCD 10 Years Strategy (2014), indicated the absence of the operationalization of land use management schemes and the lack of law or enforcement of law related to landscape management. Furthermore, the current natural resources management practices are not sustainable and contribute to the increase of natural resources and land degradations. Improvement of soil fertility appears to be an important factor particularly in the North, North-West and West regions. The specific objective 1.1 of the revised NAP is therefore to “ameliorate the co-management conditions of the landscape by various users and stakeholders” (Aligned NAP 2014 – 2018).

The main barriers to be overcome in achieving the project objective are:

***Absence of legal framework in favor of local and traditional forest conservation measures:***

16. From a forestry and biodiversity perspective, there is an equally limited legal framework to codify and formalize CBNRM protection measures. Despite the cultural and conservation importance of Sacred Forests in the WHC, forest regulations do not specifically recognize this class of forest, which is coming under increased threat. While traditional measures to control access and combat conversion are a critical basis for a conservation strategy, the lack of legal status for Sacred Forests has limited the financial resources available for HCVF/KBA conservation. Such remnant forests are thus subject to degradation and continued loss of area, reducing biodiversity and ecosystem services in a region where such remaining natural forest collectively play a critical role in present and future efforts to secure CBNRM and sustainability. Beyond these islands of HCVF/KBA, the overall

capacity of local actors and producers to engage best management practices in multiple sectors – livestock, subsistence farming, commodity production, and ecosystem restoration – hinders the long-range prospects for landscape restoration and sustainability. There is, moreover, a paucity of inter-institutional coordination at multiple scales needed to facilitate cross-sector collaboration and enable integrated landscape-scale planning and implementation of best practices.

17. In the South, while the legal framework has generally been supportive of greater CBNRM through community forestry concessions – the 1994 Forestry Law allowing for community forestry put Cameroon far ahead of other countries in the region – a continuing lack of capacity at multiple scales undermines the model’s ability to secure sustainability in the region. In the forest, a majority of communities lack the technical capacity to undertake sustainable forest planning and harvesting operations, placing the forest at risk of stand and species degradation, as well as the negative potential effects from poor logging practices on soils, water and wildlife. On the enterprise side, weak organizational and business administration capacity hinder the ability for community forests to maximize the benefits of forest harvesting and ensure an equitable distribution of those benefits. Such limited capacities are compounded by a complicated and expensive regulatory regime, which acts as a disincentive to legal, sustainable forestry.

***Weak market and regulatory incentives for sustainable products:***

18. At the national level, demand for legal or certified timber and other forest products from sustainably managed forests is highly limited, making it difficult to position wood from sustainably managed community forests in preferred markets. Despite the increasingly public commitment of Central African countries to sustainable forest management and legality (e.g. FLEGT/VPA processes), there are no public policies or procurement requirements regarding the origins of purchased wood. Although some regional initiatives in the community forestry sector (e.g. funded by the Congo Basin Forest Fund, DFID and the European Union) have made progress, there are few market-based initiatives to incentivize the development of community forest enterprises that can secure economic and social sustainability.

19. Outside the forestry sector, while there is increasing demand for certified internationally-traded commodities (e.g. cocoa, coffee, tea), demand in domestic markets for such products remains weak. To the extent that this project will work in agricultural value chains as part of a landscape-scale approach in the WHC and in the South, investigations during the PPG phase will define target landscapes and value chains, and will identify opportunities for marketing sustainable products in local, regional and international markets.

***Lack of integrated, participatory land-use planning and management, coupled with continuing tenure insecurity and deepening social and economic conflict over land use alternatives:***

20. In Cameroon, Decree No. 74-1 (1974) is the basis for land use planning and the issuance of legal titles. Decree No. 678 (1995) sought to simplify a highly complicated and bureaucratic process, clarifying the rules for land use zoning and complementary mapping of planned development. However, to date and in general, land use planning has not been undertaken in a systematic, participatory or integrated manner. Implementation of official land legislation has been hindered as it often contradicts with traditional land rights. Moreover, since communities and individuals are not required by law to title their land prior to usage, there is a continuing inertia around organizing to undertaking planning and titling. Ordinance-Law 94-1 establishes that people may “continue effectively and peacefully occupying” the land without a title. Individuals may also continue hunting and fishing on “vacant land” as long as it does not conflict with other uses by the State (Art. 17 of Ordinance-Law 74-1). Given the highly expensive, time-consuming and conflictive process, it is thus no surprise that titling has been largely limited to urban areas; formal legal tenure remains insecure in most of rural Cameroon. The legal exemption to occupy “vacant land” without title – while laudable in that it does not illegalize rural livelihoods – acts as a disincentive to engage formalized land-use planning. Most land is still held under customary tenure arrangements and administered by traditional rulers. As more land is acquired by the government, influential urban elites, powerful agro-industrial companies, and traditional leaders, customary tenure systems no longer provide people with security over their land (Javelle, 2013). The continuing lack of integrated, participatory land-use planning, meanwhile, undermines CBNRM efforts in increasingly marginal landscapes like the WHC under heavy pressure and social conflict.

***Weak capacity of civil society organizations to support the implementation of alternative production systems and access resources***

21. Producer’s limited access to finance to capitalize both preparation and harvest operations, as well as investments in value-added processing, conspire to act as major barriers to the development of competitive community-based enterprises. Funds used by communities to finance income-generating forestry and agricultural activities are typically produced by informal financial systems which can only provide very small amounts, or through external buyers who fix the prices and conditions in their favor. In forestry, for example, buyer advances for working capital often land community operations in a debt cycle that is difficult to escape. Finally, across the country, there is weak capacity among civil society organizations (CSOs) and local non-government organizations (NGOs) to assist processes of CBNRM planning and management. Lessons from decades of donor assistance



point to the critical role of such groups to ensure continuity and sustainability of locally-based solutions for conservation and development. Furthermore, NGO technical capacity to work hand-in-hand with local communities implementing CBNRM remains a challenge.

## **b. The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects**

22. In the WHC, a range of agricultural and rural development projects have been implemented since the 1970s. In general, there has been little focus on forest and biodiversity conservation issues in these projects, even less on undertaking integrated, participatory land use planning at a landscape scale to achieve sustainability. During 2004-2007, the government, with support from the African Development Bank, supported PAFRA (Rural Forestry and Agro-Forestry Support Project) to undertake large-scale reforestation in the Haut Plateau and Bamboutos Departments. While undertaking planting on close to 3,000 ha and establishing tree nurseries, the project's sustainability has been called into question due to the focus on eucalyptus, a species known to have failed to achieve desirable results for restoration in other parts of the world.

23. Since 2003, a range of interventions led by MINFOF and a number of national NGOs (e.g. Knowledge for All, ACREST and ERuDeF) have been implemented, attempting to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems around Mt Bamboutos. ACREST, with funding from IUCN, is supporting a small scale reforestation scheme on a section of the mountain in the Bamboutos Division. With additional funding from Co2balance, the NGO is promoting sustainable fuelwood consumption with improved cook stoves. With the support of the World Bank Cameroon Marketplace program, ACREST has also trained and established a network of producers of biochar in three villages in the areas around Mt Bamboutos. On the Lebialem side of the mountain, ERuDeF, with small-scale funding from GEF's Small Grants Program is executing a pilot program on the implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Initiative in Cameroon under the auspices of the MINEPDED. Another intervention was the the GEF project "*Community Based Conservation in the Bamenda Highlands*" (1999), which responded to the main forces driving forest loss which were: (i) *inadequate management and control of forest resources*, due to breakdown of traditional institutions and inadequate implementation of government mechanisms for forest protection and management; (ii) *inability of communities to manage natural resources sustainably*, caused by pressure of population, lack of awareness of forest values, lack of (economic) incentives for sustainable forest management and lack of capacity for alternatives to forest clearance; and (iii) *critical biodiversity areas are not being protected* due to an incomplete and incoherent protected area network, incomplete information on biodiversity and its distribution, and lack of capacity for PA management. Taking an ecosystem approach to conservation of Bamenda Highland montane forests, the project has scaled-up the pilot Kilum-Ijim Forest Project (KIFP), provided support to communities (working with 51 different communities), built capacity in a former MINEF Technical Operations Unit (TOU), and also expanded support for forest management to at least 8 other forests and their communities. The objective of the programme was to support the efforts of the GOC and people of North West Region to conserve the forest by: raising widespread awareness of forest values; supporting development of management and control systems for sustainable management of forests (capacity building); and providing communities with the capacity to manage resources sustainably (by demonstrating ways of enhancing forest values, and providing advice on ways of sustainably increasing production from land outside the forests). The lessons learn from this project will be carefully assessed during PPG and promising products will be considered for application including adapting it to the new GEF project context.

24. Small scale but highly relevant interventions in the North-West region include those of the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) and the International Circle for the Promotion of Creation (CIPCRE) that supported farmers' incomes diversification through fruit tree domestication, while encouraging the development of sustainable agroforestry practices. While ICRAF has recently terminated its operations in that region, ERuDeF is currently increasing its scale of operations with funding from the US non-profit organization Trees for the Future. Furthermore, the local branch of MINFOF in the North-West is leading efforts to create the first national park in the region.

25. In the North-West region, moreover, during the 20 year period between the 1980s and the mid-2000s, a number of international organizations (e.g. Birdlife International, Helvetas, and Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED)) have promoted biodiversity conservation. Birdlife, for instance, ran a program for the biodiversity management of the Kilum-Ijim forest for over 10 years that led to the protection of 20,000 ha and the creation of the Plant life Sanctuary in the Mt Oku area, alongside a group of community forests. Kilum-Ijim is the largest remaining afro-montane refuge in West and Central Africa, and adjoins Lake Oku, with abundant, threatened and endemic aquatic wildlife. Alongside these efforts, Birdlife also supported a region-wide program on community forestry development with a strong involvement of local civil society groups. In 2003, the project was handed over to the MINEF (which later on split into MINEPDED and MINFOF) and the related local institutions. With the departure of Birdlife, Kilum-Ijim protected area has received no effective funding to support its management since its creation. Attempts were made by a small number of CSOs to create community forests in the West region within the framework of the Western Highlands Nature Conservation Network (WHINCONET). These communities were meant to play an increasing role in protecting and conserving biodiversity, as well working on sustainable livelihoods through income from activities such as harvesting of non-timber forest products (e.g. *Prunus africana* bark, bamboo, cola nuts, honey and Eru), as well as hunting,

timber and fuel wood (WHINCONET, 2007). These attempts however quickly ended as the CSOs never had adequate funding with the departure of Birdlife in the mid-2000s.

26. A project conducted in 2011 by the NGO Millennium Ecologic Museum and funded by CARPE, the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment, has produced an inventory and cartography of Sacred Forests in Cameroon. Based on sample data, it estimates that Cameroon counts 1,361 Sacred Forests, covering about 47,000 ha. The study also evaluates the conservation system rooted in traditional beliefs and practices, identifies the major challenges they face and recommends priority areas of intervention for a national strategy for the conservation and recovery of Sacred Forests.

27. In the West region, the study identified 310 Sacred Forests (see Figure 4). The largest areas were observed in the Departments of Kung-chi and Highlands. The forests are usually forest relics and forest galleries, at times enriched with eucalyptus. Their surface area ranges of 0.1 to 91 ha with an estimated total surface area of 1,323 ha. 36% of those forests are said to be at risk of degradation.

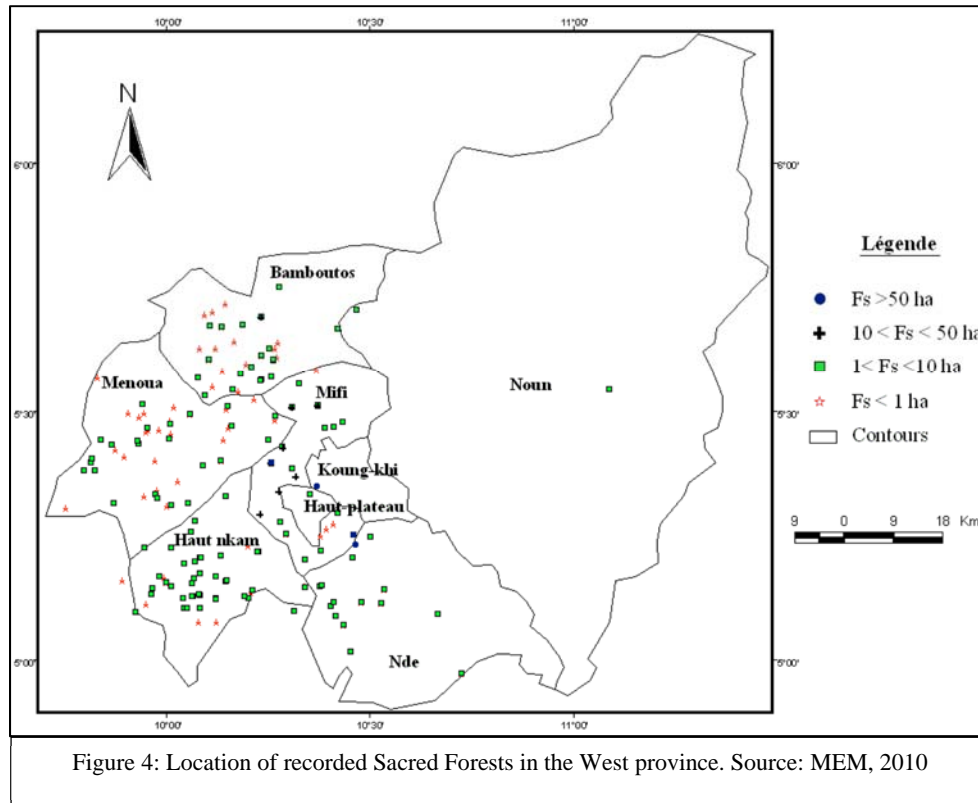


Figure 4: Location of recorded Sacred Forests in the West province. Source: MEM, 2010

28. In the North-West region, Sacred Forests are significantly larger in size reaching up to 3,000 ha for the largest ones, with a total surface area estimated at 42,668 ha (see Figure 5). The total surface area has been calculated based on 30 out of 204 *fondoms* surveyed. The largest forested areas were observed in the Mezam and the Ngo-Ketunja Department. Forests are largely Eucalyptus plantations, remains of dense Afromontane forests, gallery, swamp, montane, and relics of submontane forests. Here, 57% of forests have been evaluated to be at risk of degradation.

29. In the South region, Rainforest Alliance with funding from the Congo Basin Forest Fund implemented a project between 2010 and 2015, whose objective was to support twelve forest communities around the Campo-Ma'an National Park and the Dja Biosphere Reserve to develop sustainable management plans, increase capacity for forest harvesting, build local organizational and entrepreneurial capacity, and access markets. While much has been achieved, communities need more support to transform their burgeoning activities into viable, competitive enterprises that will deliver on the range of benefits responsible production can provide, including access to premium international markets. Communities need to ensure the equitable use of benefits from forest products sales, including improved wages for workers, the development of social projects, and reinvestment in forest enterprise. Activities foreseen by this project in the South region will be co-financed by Rainforest Alliance, while capitalizing on achievements to date to develop another example of community-based natural resource management in a representative context of lowland tropical rainforests.

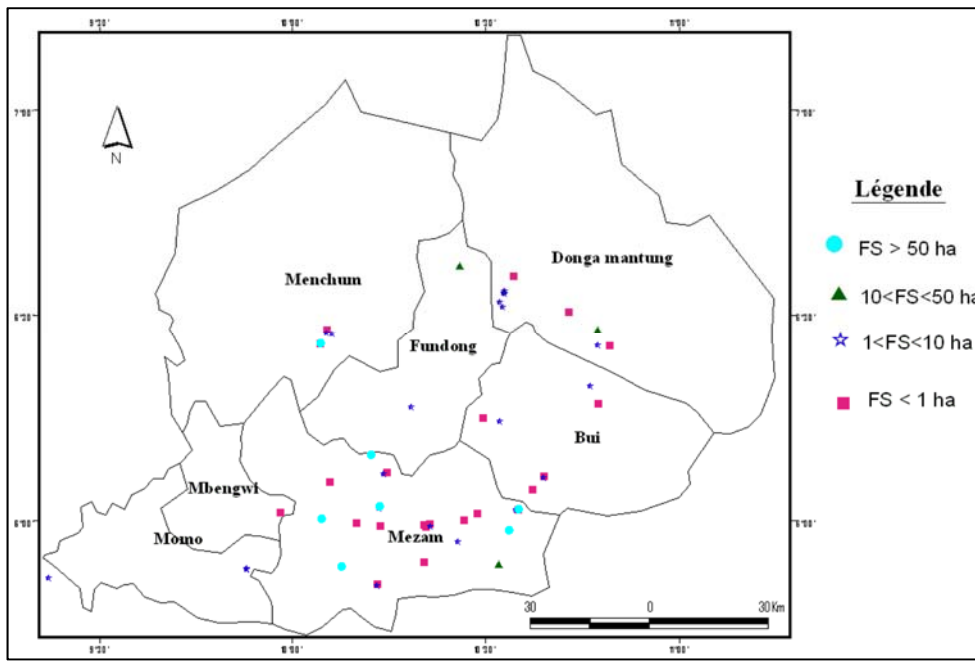


Figure 5: Location of recorded Sacred Forests in the North-West province. Source: MEM, 2010

30. Several lessons and recommendations emerge as clear from this history of past and present efforts. First is that restoration and agricultural development schemes in the WHC must proceed from a participatory, landscape perspective and integrate multiple sectors based on a CBNRM approach for long-term success. Second is that conservation projects must be connected to wider plans for land management and be tied to long-term financial support. Third is that efforts to establish community forests must also include an enterprise and market development component to ensure that such operations are able to sustain themselves once external support is unavailable. Fourth is that for sustainability to be secured, local CSOs must be strengthened to carry forward work with community partners.

31. Further, the World Bank-GEF project "*Sustainable Agro-Pastoral and Land Management Promotion under the PNDP*" generated a number of lessons that can help to inform the design of subsequent operations in Cameroon and elsewhere. The project focused on enabling communities to contribute to combating land degradation in critical areas, through the adoption of best SLM practices and the development of adequate capacity, tools and mechanisms by communities. The Project built on national sustainable land management programs to ensure that the short and medium-term objectives of increased land productivity and agricultural growth are reconciled with the long-term local, national, provincial, and global environmental objectives. The Global Environmental Objective (GEO) was to enhance the sustainable land and natural resource management by complementing the local and national benefits of SLM with key global benefits such as: (i) conservation of globally significant above and below ground biodiversity; (ii) reduction of carbon emissions via improved land management activities, rehabilitated degraded lands and increased carbon sequestration; and (iii) stabilization of riparian zones and reduction of sediment discharge into critical transboundary water bodies such as Lake Chad and the Gulf of Guinea. As main results of the project, the vegetative cover was increased at 185%; the indigenous knowledge of communities has been successfully integrated into the SLM practices in Center, West, North and Adamaoua regions, with a rate of adoption of agro-pastoral systems increased from 65% to 80 % in the North/Adamaoua regions; a total of 402 community-based organizations have gained improved knowledge of SLM and environmental issues and are able to properly implement biodiversity and environmentally-friendly SLM practices; 21 conflict resolution frameworks have been revitalized and are effectively operational at the communal level, through land tenure and land-use conflict litigation commissions. Lessons learnt include (1) the initial land use and management plans prepared under this Project have demonstrated that land use and management planning is a very powerful tool that can be used to produce consensus and limit conflicts among land users. It seems important to further institutionalize this tool to all municipalities in the country. (2) Local communities will benefit most from SLM practices when they have reliable access to markets for their products. A rapid market appraisal revealed that a significant proportion (60 percent) of the crops and livestock products produced by beneficiaries is sold to a group of intermediaries who act in concert to manipulate product prices. (3) The introduction of SLM technologies needs to be accompanied by investments in complementary infrastructure, such as storage facilities for cereals, physical market places, and access roads. (4) Measures to ensure the sustainability of SLM micro-projects need to be included in the Project design. Institutional capacity needs to be developed, for example through the creation of farmer organizations, marketing cooperatives, and trade associations. (5) Gender

considerations needs to be taken into account when selecting SLM technology. In some municipality, lack of knowledge of the division of labor between men and women led to unequal rates of participation. In this municipality, where women are predominantly involved in production of staple crops and poultry farming, the choice of raising pigs as a means of producing compost discouraged participation by women.

32. The above mentioned progress, tools and results which will support the project foundation, some baseline projects of particular relevance are currently under implementation in the project areas. These include:

**i) The Program for the Improvement of Competitiveness of Family Agro-pastoral Farms (ACEFA) is implemented in all ten regions of Cameroon, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) between 2013 and 2017.** The project's objective is to improve the economic performance of agropastoral commodities and increase the revenues of farmers. This program will benefit from the sustainable land management and sustainable forest management technologies that will be developed by the project. ACEFA will provide financial support to farmers to test the technologies and scale them. With an overall budget of \$101M, part of the Program's financing will serve as co-financing to the GEF project.

**ii) The project "Grassfield, Rural Infrastructure and Participatory Development Support Project" by the North West Development Authority of Cameroon (MIDENO) is currently in its Phase II,** which runs from 2013 to 2018 with a budget of \$39M. It is implemented in the North-West region under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon (MINADER). The project's objective is to improve agricultural production and income of beneficiary communities by creating rural infrastructure and building the actors' capacity. Activities taking place during the lifetime of the GEF project will serve as co-financing.

**iii) The project "Inventory, Mapping and Diagnostic Study of Sacred Forests in Cameroon: Contribution to Develop a National Sustainable Management Strategy"** implemented by the NGO Millennium Ecologic Museum and funded by CARPE in 2011. The study's objective was to make an inventory and cartography of Sacred Forests in Cameroon, understand the logic of their creation and the perceptions of local communities in order to sensitise the public administration on the necessity of their conservation and their inclusion in the forest policy and programs for the conservation of biodiversity.

**iv) In Cameroon, UNEP-GRASP supports the WWF for the development of a methodology to determine High Conservation Values at national and concession levels.** Identifying HCVs is a key requirements of major certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), but the indicators and criteria for the identification of HCVs vary greatly from country to country, making it difficult for companies seeking certification to prepare strong HCV assessments that withstand public scrutiny. Upon request from the Ministry of Environment, UNEP-GRASP and WWF are supporting the development of a national HCV methodology through a wide consultative process led by a firm accredited by the HCV resources network, that will provide the necessary tools for the Government to assess their HCV areas at national level to inform development plans, and provide the tools required for companies to develop strong HCV assessments in their concession in the specific context of Cameroon. The methodology is seen as a key step in preparing the ground for certification and encouraging certification, and helping the Government with decision-making tools for land-use planning

### **c. The proposed GEF alternative scenario, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

33. With the support of GEF, the proposed project will build from the above baseline scenario to address deforestation, and forest and land degradation through the promotion of integrated, participatory landscape-scale CBNRM. The focus of activities will be in demonstration sites in the WHC and to a lesser extent in the South of Cameroon. Field interventions will center around participatory land-use planning, protection of HCVF/KBA, sustainable land management in non-forested areas, and the establishment and growth of community forestry and local enterprise, supported by effective policies and links to sustainable markets. Importance will be attached to a participatory approach, involving women, young people, traditional authorities and their networks, and the regional and local councils. Equally important is the integrated nature of planning and coordination with a multi-sectoral participation of institutions. A strong focus on CSO engagement through project interventions and support to local NGO capacity building will secure the sustainability of the GEF investment beyond the life of the project. Moreover, strengthening of institutional knowledge and sharing of tools and lessons learned through project work in two differentiated and representative contexts, will ensure that the project has impact across the region and informs allied efforts.

34. Global evidence is mounting that CBNRM can outperform strict protected areas in maintaining forest cover, while providing economic development opportunities for marginalized groups. Traditional and community managed lands have shown to provide enhanced opportunities for the improvement and maintenance of carbon stocks and the conservation of

biodiversity, as well as providing livelihood opportunities for rural communities. A study of tropical forest governance models produced by World Resources Institute and Rights & Resources Initiative in 2014, for example, shows that deforestation is reduced where communities have management rights and are given adequate external support. In the Maya Biosphere Reserve of Guatemala, where Rainforest Alliance has been supporting community forests for 15 years, a recent analysis showed that community forests had deforestation rates close to zero, whereas adjacent protected areas experienced forest conversion above regional averages<sup>11</sup>. While in Cameroon the approach is still in its nascent stages, there is significant scope to build out the model for conservation and economic development. The present effort will help to do so, piloting CBNRM approaches in the varied contexts of the WHC and the South of Cameroon.

35. The specific objective of the project is to **enable improved biodiversity conservation, land restoration, and sustainable landscape and forest management through participatory, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) and local enterprise development.**

36. The project will focus field activities in the montane North-West and West regions of the Western Highlands of Cameroon (WHC), as well as to a lesser extent in the South region, which is home to lowland tropical forest. These two regions of the country are sharply differentiated – one a highland region that is heavily populated and experiencing continuing processes of land degradation, and the other a sparsely-populated lowland expanse largely covered with closed canopy natural forest which, until recently, has been under relatively limited threat of conversion.

This objective will be achieved through implementing a series of activities (to be defined in detail during the PPG) under the following components/outcomes:

**Component 1:** Community forest protection and institutional alignment for integrated landscape management

37. A critical anchor for such efforts in the WHC are remnant HCVF/KBAs. In many cases, their survival owes to the efforts of traditional cultures that protect such areas as Sacred Forest. In many of the villages of the WHC, Sacred Forests are the only remaining natural forests. Such areas are commonly defined as plots of natural forest found in villages, and which serve variable traditional, cultural, economic and ecological purposes. Tied to these Sacred Forests are the adjacent traditional palaces (*fondoms*) that also constitute centers of cultural tourism that could be developed to their full touristic potential. It is estimated that Cameroon counts 1,361 Sacred Forests located in six of the country's regions (West, North-West, South-West, Adamawa, North and Far-North), covering about 47,000 ha. 94% of this area is found in the West and North-West regions (MEM, 2010). Sacred Forests are headed by the paramount chiefs, *the Fons*, who are highly respected and play an important role in the governance of the region. Traditionally, the Fons are custodians of the forest and can allocate it for farmland. This responsibility was eroded over the years as land pressure increased and rights were taken over by central government. The vast majority of Sacred Forests are protection-oriented areas. A few cases of socio-economic value generation, however, exist through activities such as ecotourism, e.g. in Fongo Tongo and Oku in the North-West. Sacred Forests are not only of high socio-cultural importance, but they are also rich in endemic and globally significant biodiversity species. Moreover, they are of high ethnobotanical importance given the strong influence and interactions between humans and the forest. Despite these critical socio-cultural and environmental values, about 56% of the Sacred Forests in the WHC are considered to be at risk of degradation (MEM, 2010). The main drivers of degradation are agricultural expansion, conflicts between villages, weakening of traditional beliefs, bush fires, livestock pressures, and uncontrolled collection of fuelwood. Underlying these drivers are root causes including high population density, weak tenure security, poor governance and a lack of integrated, participatory land use planning at a landscape scale. The PPG phase will define the priority landscapes to focus on, based on an identification of HCVFs in KBAs (as described and illustrated in Annexes 2-4) with the highest priority for conservation, which may be used as “anchors” around which to conduct landscape-scale participatory CBNRM planning. Other selection criteria will include the surface area of the Sacred Forest, closeness to other sacred forests and other forest complexes (in order to maintain/establish connectivity and resilience in forest conservation) and the identification of landscapes with the highest potential to achieve targeted impact as defined in the project's theory of change.

38. GEF funds will support improved conservation of Sacred Forests in the WHC, specifically through the codification and formal recognition of Sacred Forests as High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF). Sacred Forests Codified laws refer to rules and regulations that have been collected, restated, and written down for the purpose of providing civil order to a society on Sacred Forest. In Cameroon, revisions to forestry law have enabled community associations and cooperatives to acquire the exclusive rights to manage and exploit up to 5,000 ha of customary forest, under a 15-year contract. According to study on “Impacts of land-use change on sacred forests at the landscape scale” published in *Global Ecology and Conservation* in January 2015, past changes in area and patch fragmentation of land cover classes and individual forest patches in the Gamo Highlands, Ethiopia, were assessed using maximum-likelihood classification of LANDSAT images. While all four individually studied

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/publications/deforestation-trends-maya-biosphere-reserve>

non-sacred forests decreased in size over a given only four of the six individual sacred forests patches showed reduction in area. Forest patches with sacred status had greater protection by local communities than non-sacred forests in the Gamo Highlands. In line with efforts under Component 2 below, landscape-scale participatory land-use and CBNRM planning will also identify other important forest areas (e.g. riparian zones, forest on steep slopes, community forests, areas in need of restoration, as well as forest reserves) in the WHC for integration with both regulatory efforts and SLM interventions. The GEF investment will be targeted towards improving the protection status of 4,000 ha of HCVPs contained within the KBAs of Northwest and West Regions. These KBAs are Mount Oku, Mbi Crater Faunal Reserve-Mbingo Forest, Njinsing-Tabenken, Bali-Ngemba Forest Reserve, Mount Lefo, Mount Mbam, Bamboutos Mountains and Mont Bana as illustrated and described in Annexes 2-4. While official recognition of HCVP/KBA protection is a critical element to anchor landscape-scale efforts, the work of participatory, integrated land-use planning and management will require inter-institutional cooperation to enable cross-sector collaboration between actors at multiple scales. The project will thus establish landscape management boards – including differentiated representatives of the traditional authorities, village and local councils – to facilitate and monitor land-use planning (component 2) and follow-on interventions (component 3). In order to address its sustainability and in line with the decentralization process in Cameroon, the project will build on existing inter-institutional platforms at the commune level to support consideration of Community Based Natural Resources Management in these platforms. GEF funds will support stakeholders consultation which will lead to the consideration of CBNRM by the platforms. Different existing platforms exist at local level: (i) Decree of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1978 require each district level to establish consultative bodies to manage conflict between farmers and pastoralists. In application of this decree, the Head of District has established in each municipality consultative frameworks chaired by the Head of District and which mandate is limited to the district; (ii) In the project area, at the level of municipality consultative frameworks exist which include different sectors (agriculture, livestock, forests, environment, representatives of livestock private sector and representatives of farmers organizations). These frameworks are in charge of the development and monitoring of communal development plans which give due consideration to natural resources management. This is supervised by the Participative National Development Programme under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Landscape Management; (iii) Under the programme of debt Swap (C2D) with the French Government, there is currently a REDD+ project which is about to be completed of which one of the key outputs is the establishment of intercommunal conflict management frameworks and which deal with natural resource management around the reserve of Bana-Bangou-Bangante (500,000 ha surface area); (iv) It is good to note that in each municipality in Bangante there is a plan in their staff organigram to establish a environment focal point position. In other communes like Coutabe an entire office has been established to deal with environmental management issues. During PPG, the various local frameworks will be evaluated and the most suitable recommended to be capacitated to form the landscape management board. A sustainable funding mechanism of the continuous operation of the platform will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders. One of this mechanism may be through budget line created within national support to the decentralization process. At the same time, legal and technical frameworks for official recognition of such bodies and landscape management plans will be generated, based on analyses of existing regulatory tools and gaps. Finally, work will be undertaken to address legal and regulatory barriers and mobilize policy incentives to support the development of local enterprises based on CBNRM.

**Outcome 1.1.** Improved protection status for 4,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest/Key Biodiversity Area (HCVP/KBA) managed by communities (i.e. Sacred Forest) in the Western Highlands of Cameroon (WHC), and clear cross-sector coordination mechanisms for integrated landscape management

Output 1.1.1 Legal and technical frameworks for attributing conservation status to identified HCVP/KBA managed by communities in the WHC developed based on stakeholder consultations and submit to designated authorities and approved

Output 1.1.2 Existing Inter-institutional landscape management bodies strengthen in two priority landscapes in WHC involving multi-sector and multi-scale stakeholder groups

Output 1.1.3 Frameworks to institutionalize participatory sustainable landscape management are developed, including mechanisms to incentivize local CBNRM enterprise submitted to designated authorities and approved

**Component 2:** Development of capacity and incentives to support HCVP/KBA management and SLM and SFM deployment

39. With baseline information collected and analyzed, the project will work through the proposed landscape management board to articulate landscape management plans outlining theories of change, zoning areas for different uses and monitoring strategies. Specifically, these plans will promote adoption of best SLM and SFM practices that are based on recognized international standards and are adapted to the local context, field tested with key stakeholders, thus aligned with the CBNRM approach. Such measures will be introduced to stop degradation in forests, begin the process of landscape restoration, and build linkages to sustainable markets for identified crops with potential for development. The landscapes in WHC will be anchored around the sacred forests/ HCVP/KBA identified under Component 1. In addition to the Sacred Forests of the WHC covered in component

1, the project will work in an agroforestry landscape that includes community forests and agricultural uses in the South region. In a similar way to the two priority landscapes in WHC, the landscape in the South will be chosen based on criteria to be defined during PPG. However, the HCVPs targeted by the project (4,000 ha in HWC, and 21,000 ha in the South Region) will form part of the KBAs as described and illustrated in Annexes 2 – 4.

40. The project will take a multi-sector approach, bringing all economic interests together to manage the landscape, rather than only one specific commodity sector. To enable SLM and SFM to take root, organization at producer group and community level will be essential. As knowledge and technical information are critical elements for the development of smallholder productive systems, the project will establish or strengthen capacity building activities to promote appropriate technologies for sustainable intensification and agroforestry practices with the objective of reducing pressure on biodiversity. In order to address the barrier of weak organizational capacity in communities, the project will provide technical assistance and support in order for communities to form CSOs that are focused on the production and marketing of sustainable produced products (both agricultural and NTFPs) and capacitate such CSOs. The training curriculum of the CSOs to be developed and used in the training of the CSOs (and farmers) will have a strong business administration component to ensure that these CSOs are run as efficient and effective businesses and best serve their constituency. Further, the capacity building of the CSOs will incorporate an Enterprise and Market Development Component, to assist the proponents in identifying viable products and market it in such a way to ensure eventual profit. The project will initially focus and assist the proponents in existing products and grow the markets, but will also during the project expand depending on market indications and needs. Existing products include, but will be further defined during PPG, small livestock (poultry, goats), bean cultivation and corn, vegetables, bee keeping, bush mango harvesting, raffia palm, Njansan<sup>12</sup> and medicinal plant products e.g. Bitter kola<sup>13</sup> production. The demand in local markets of raffia wine, use of tree bark to prevent and treat disease and the commercialization of certain food products like Eru<sup>14</sup> has increased the exploitation of some NTFPs, e.g. raffia palm and medicinal plants collected in the forests. These businesses and their contributions to family incomes have increased the number of producers and commercial intermediaries who derive significant income from the emergence of ‘raffia wine, medicinal plants and wild food’ sectors. This is illustrated by the emergent economies around Mount Oku, in North-west Region of Cameroon. Agriculture and forest products operations have for long been the main activities around Mount Oku. With the abandonment of coffee production since the late 1980s, beekeeping appeared as an alternative to reduce rural poverty. It is estimated, based on data collected from producers in 2012, that 44,255 kg of honey was produced from this area (a KBA, refer to Annex 4), more than half of the honey produced in the whole of west and north-west regions of Cameroon. These estimates do not take into account domestic consumption. There has also been an increase in the value of land containing raffia palm due the market demand for raffia wine. A plot of 100 m<sup>2</sup> which used to be less than USD 70 in the 1980s is now sold for USD 800. The commercialization of raffia wine is also provided significant incomes throughout the value chain. The analysis of field data revealed that a salesperson can sell an average 100 litres/day with a gross margin of around USD 14 – 16 a day. With this core business, the salesperson earn a monthly income estimated at around USD 450 (USD 5400 a year). Thus, marketing of agricultural and NTFP products generate significant

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<sup>12</sup> The term Njansan refers to an oily seeds tree, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, found in tropical West Africa. It is a rain forest seed, picked on its stem, dark brown in color and very rich in vitamins. The seeds are usually dried and used as flavouring agent in West and Central African food dishes. Known as Munguella (Angola), Essessang (Cameroon), Bofeko (DRC), Wama (Ghana), Okhuen (Nigeria), Kishongo (Uganda), Akpi (Cote d’Ivoire), Djansang, Essang, Ezezang and Njansang in several West African countries. The paste of the ground kernels is used to thicken soups and stews, for example pepper soup.

<sup>13</sup> *Garcinia kola* (bitter kila) is a species of flowering plant in the Clusiaceae or Guttiferae family. It is found in Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest. The fruit, seeds, nuts and bark of the plants have been used for centuries in folk medicine to treat ailments from coughs to fever. *Garcinia kola* is traditionally used by African medicine men who believe that it has purgative antiparasitic, and antimicrobial properties. The seeds are used for bronchitis, throat infections, colic, head or chest colds, and cough. It is also used for liver disorders and a chewing stick. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garcinia\\_kola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garcinia_kola)

<sup>14</sup> *Gnetum africanum* (eru or African Jointfir) is a vine gymnosperm species found natively throughout native tropical Africa. Through bearing leaves the Genus *Gnetum* are gymnosperms, related to pine and other conifers. Eru has numerous common names and is grown in various countries across Africa, including Cameroon (Eru), Angola (KoKo), Nigeria (ukase or afang), Gabon (KoKo), Central African Republic (KoKo), Congo (KoKo) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (mfumbua or fumbua). Eru has also been referred to as a form of ‘wild spinach’ in English. Cultivation: Since Eru grows best in shaded areas it could be used as a complimentary crop on tree farms. Sustainable cultivation practices, such as harvesting the leaves regularly rather than uprooting the whole vine, allows for a more viable supplementary income throughout the year. Uses: Subsistence agriculturalists in Cameroon may be able to improve their nutritional, environmental, social, and economic situations by growing this vine. Nutrition can be improved by using the plant for medicinal purposes as well as through edible consumption. Primarily, Eru leaves are used as a vegetable for soups and stews or eaten raw. The leaves may further be used as a remedy for nausea, sore throats, or as a dressing for warts. The stem of the plant may also be eaten for medicinal purposes, including the reduction of pain during childbirth. Furthermore, Eru produces a root tuber that may be used as a source of “famine food”, and is similar to that of a yam. Finally, the seeds of the vine may also be eaten cooked. Economically, Eru can be used as a means to maintain a supplemental income as it is available throughout the year, and may be used as a form of supplementary income for rural farmers in Cameroon. Healthy leaves with a thick wax-like texture are preferred in markets and will receive the highest value, Eru remains untaxed in local markets. Since the leaves may be consumed as a vegetable and the root tuber as a famine food, it may also increase overall food security of rural households. Eru is most significantly cultivated by rural women farmers, constituting approximately 80% of the overall trade of this crop. While Eru is still largely considered a wild vegetable, if cultivated as a domesticated crop, it may save time for women who previously would search for it in the forests. Verbatim from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnetum\\_africanum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gnetum_africanum)

income for producers and traders. In both west and northwest regions of Cameroon, it is estimated that NTFP result in average earnings per producer/day from USD 2 for the small farmer to USD 15 for the larger farmer. The capitals of the regions and other semi-urban areas are important centers for marketing of agricultural and NTFP products. The demand is also increasing in these centres as a result of increase in populations. The supply chain of the city markets is maintained by a network of wholesalers, middlemen and retailers that rely of complex marketing channels for the collection and redistribution of garden and agricultural products. The project will support the capacity development of communities to become more structured and able to address the challenges related to the production and marketing of agricultural and NTFP as a means of reducing impacts on biodiversity. During the PPg, the project will endeavour to develop a partnership with CHEDE Cooperative Union<sup>15</sup> active in Cameroon in order to strengthen the capacity of producers and organize different production chains.

41. Additionally, the project will facilitate knowledge sharing and learning within Cameroon to strengthen CBNRM approaches. Given the broad representativeness of the two focal sites of work under this project (WHC and South of Cameroon), and considering the varying level of advancement among different CBNRM models, knowledge sharing will facilitate maximized impact of project results through replication. Exchanges of best practices among stakeholders will be promoted through exchange trips and workshops. This component will be implemented in partnership with community representatives, traditional authorities, CSOs, and government actors in order to share experiences and lessons learned with other jurisdictions and encourage replication.

Outcome 2.1 Pressures on natural resources from competing land uses on natural forests covering 25,000 ha<sup>16</sup> are reduced through integrated natural resource management planning and capacity development of farmers and communities in the WHC and South Region

Output 2.1.1 Land-use and management plans in three priority landscapes covering 46,000 ha containing HCVF/KBA developed in the WHC and South region

Output 2.1.2 At least 10 local CSOs and 3,000 farmers and communities in the WHC and in the South of Cameroon, trained on recognized SLM and SFM practices through customized technical assistance necessary to mobilise resources to benefit and execute small grants.

Output 2.1.3 Market and policy incentives identified and leveraged to motivate market pull for products from sustainable community forests and SLM practices and emergence of small holder rural enterprises in the WHC and in the South of Cameroon

Output 2.1.4 At least 5 exchange trips and 5 workshops among key stakeholders organized to identify best practice, share new impact insights, and improve governance and enterprise in CBRNM in Cameroon.

### **Component 3: Deployment of integrated SLM and SFM practices in WHC and South Region landscapes**

42. The bulk of concrete activities on the ground will take place under this component in the three priority landscapes as defined in component 1 and 2. The project will work with CSOs and CBOs to partner with communities and implement concrete SLM and SFM measures through an integrated landscape approach using the small grants approach. These small grants will be tied to interventions aiming at the implementation of landscape management plans developed in component 2 and with due consideration to HCVF/KBA identified in component 1. The small grant should at the same time address ecological impacts and socioeconomic impacts related to improving local livelihood while emphasizing the needs of women. The grants will serve as incentives to adopt SLM and SFM practices but also remove barriers of financial constraints to small scale farmers and rural enterprises in producing sustainable commodities which can access premium markets at national and international levels.

43. Evidence suggests the consolidation of sustainable community-based natural resource and enterprise management can take at least a decade, and certainly more than one project cycle. A fundamental gap in many technical assistance projects is the failure to build permanent capacities not just among target communities but also among partner CSOs whose support over the long term is critical to success. Work under this component will rely on the training of pre-selected CSOs and CBOs to build their organizational capacities to support SLM and SFM practice deployment at local level to allow these CSO to provide

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<sup>15</sup> CHEDE Cooperative Union's main objectives/activities: (i) Organise village-based farmers into structured groups such as cooperatives and common initiative groups, (ii) Provide the farmer groups so organized with comprehensive support services especially in capacity building, provision of new production technologies, credit schemes, inputs, etc.; (iii) Promote food processing adapted to the local context; (iv) Provide marketing services for the primary and processed products of network members; and (v) Advocate for village-sensitive development approaches in Africa. <http://chede.org/international-network/chede-cooperative-union/>

<sup>16</sup> Includes the 4,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest/Key Biodiversity Areas in WHC and 21,000 ha of community forests in South Province



necessary technical assistance to CBO and individual beneficiary of the small grant. The targeted capacity building is directly linked with the Output 2.1.2 above. Furthermore, the project will work through subcontracting, with the national SGP programme to support implementation of the small grants that the project will be providing.

44. In order to track progress and ensure that activities on the ground are effectively contributing to ecological, socioeconomic and gender equity objectives of the project, disaggregated indicators to track the impacts will be developed and monitored. Necessary capacity building in collecting and analyzing data to feed these indicators will be delivered for key local stakeholders including CSOs, CBOs and local administration staff in charge of environmental and forest management.

Outcome 3.1 Landscape level uptake of SLM/SFM measures avoids and reduces land degradation and biodiversity loss delivering ecosystem and development benefits over 46,000 ha in the WHC and South Regions

Output 3.1.1 SLM and SFM practices identified in the landscape management plans are implemented with local CSOs and CBOs through a small-grants approach in the WHC Region and South Region

Output 3.1.2. Gender-disaggregated indicators to assess ecological, socioeconomic impacts of HCVF/KBA protection, SLM and SFM practices are developed, and monitored with local stakeholders based.

45. In summary, the project activities in the three components build upon each other starting with the establishment of landscape management boards through strengthening/capacitating existing frameworks (component 1) which will be facilitating and monitoring of land-use planning (component 2), and field implementation of SLM and SFM activities (component 3) identified in component 2 and supported by the Boards (component 1). Activities foreseen in each component will take place in each one of the three priority landscapes, of which two will be located in the WHC and one in the South.

**d. Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCE, SCCF, and co-financing;**

46. **Without the GEF**, despite ongoing projects and investments of government, NGOs and local communities in Cameroon, the situation is likely to deteriorate, with increased biodiversity loss and livelihood insecurity in multiple regions. The absence of any intervention will lead to the following: (a) continued degradation, fragmentation and loss of globally-important HCVF/KBA ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots across the WHC; (b) increased forest conversion in the South; (c) extinction of rare and endangered species; (d) exacerbation of social conflict and land disputes; (e) increase in illegal logging to supply national and regional markets; (f) reduced productivity and consequent impact on food security, and (g) significant climate change impacts especially on the rural poor who depend on agriculture as their main livelihood strategy.

47. **The GEF alternative** will help to address key issues including deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, livelihood insecurity and social conflict. GEF-funded interventions will consolidate ongoing projects and government investments by supporting regulatory framework development, inter-institutional coordination, landscape-scale planning, local capacity building, SLM and SFM training and implementation, and support for local enterprise development, as well as a strong focus on CSO engagement and capacity building. The GEF value addition will be consolidated through i) the protection of high conservation value forests and landscapes where biodiversity and cultural values are sustained ii) building the capacity of local communities and producers to understand and apply sustainable practices that improve livelihood security for themselves and future generations and iii) strengthening CSOs in implementing innovative and catalytic conservation projects.

48. Furthermore, the GEF support will allow identification and promotion of good SLM and SFM practices including agroforestry and other agricultural value chains (to be identified during the PPG), which will help boost soil quality and land productivity, while conserving and enhancing carbon stocks. Access to preferred markets for sustainable products and value-added processing of forest products will improve revenue for local communities with a special focus on women.

Alignment with GEF-6 Strategic Objectives

*Biodiversity Focal Area Objective – BD 4: mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into production landscapes; Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface;*

49. Cameroon's fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) lists habitat loss through destruction of vegetation, land conversion to agriculture and logging as the three top direct threats to biodiversity conservation. The project deals with biodiversity mainstreaming in community based landscapes through a focus on developing incentives and building capacity for sustainable forest and land management. Examples of incentives could be agricultural certification and access and benefit sharing agreements. Also, by supporting the development of land use and management plans, the project will contribute to spatial and land-use planning to ensure that land and resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without

undermining or degrading biodiversity. The project is also contributing to Key Biodiversity Areas conservation by conserving Sacred Forest and community forests which form part of the globally agreed KBA in the the three regions (see Annexes 2-4).

*Land Degradation Focal Area Objective– LD 2: Generate sustainable flows of ecosystem services from forests, including in dryland; Program 3: Landscape Management and Restoration*

50. The project will provide technical assistance to farmers in land management options that increase and maintain agricultural productivity and deliver multiple environment benefits at landscape scale. Sustainable agricultural intensification will be promoted in the WHC and in the South through improvement of agricultural practices, application of better business management and quality control measures, adoption of improved post-harvest handling practices, planting of shade tree species and diversification to ensure sustainable livelihoods and food security.

*Land Degradation Focal Area Objective– LD-3: Reduce pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes; Program 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach*

51. The project will address the pressures on natural resources from competing land uses across landscapes by reducing the extension of the agricultural frontier into natural forest lands. To achieve this, the project will improve sustainable agricultural practices and land management around HCVF/KBA by promoting access to sustainable agricultural practices for major commodities in the WHC and forest area such as cocoa and coffee. The project will also facilitate integrated land use planning and land management approaches to avoid deforestation and forest degradation.

52. Even though, Sustainable Forest Management is no more a central project objective, the project will contribute to Sustainable Forest Management objective 1 (SFM – 1): Maintained Forest Resources: Reduce the pressure on High Conservation Value forests by addressing the drivers of deforestation and the Program 1: Integrated Land Use Planning; and Program 2: Identification and maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

53. The project will take an integrated approach, bringing all economic interests together to manage agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes in the WHC and mixed forest uses in the South, rather than only one specific group of stakeholders or commodity sector. It will work through the proposed landscape management boards to articulate landscape management plans outlining zoning areas for different uses and monitoring strategies. These plans will be introduced to stop degradation in High Conservation Value forests and begin the process of landscape restoration.

**e. Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

Summary of the GEB by component:

<b>Project Components</b>	<b>Global Environmental Benefits</b>
Component 1	4,000 ha of HCVF under increased protection, including the conservation of endemic and globally threatened species that occur in the Cameroon Highlands Forest Ecoregion and in the globally agreed KBAs (see Annex 1 - 4 of possible indicator species to be selected during PPG) Legal and institutional frameworks in favor of HCVF/KBA applicable to all of Sacred Forests in WHC 3 multi-stakeholder platforms which integrate biodiversity and landscape management established
Component 2	Land use and management plans developed on 46,000 ha of priority landscapes resulting in the conservation of 25,000 ha of forests landscape including 4,000 ha of HCVFs, in the WHC and 21,000 ha of community forests in the South Region CSO, CBO, local forest enterprise representatives and local administration, trained on SLM and SFM practices Lessons learned and shared between stakeholders on SLM and SFM
Component 3	21,000 ha of landscape under SLM in the WHC 21,000 ha of landscape under SLM and of significant biodiversity conserved in the South 10 Local CSOs and 3,000 farmers and communities in the WHC and in the South of Cameroon, trained on SLM and biodiversity conservation and livelihood options

54. In partnership with communities, government and CSOs, the project will protect forests and their surrounding landscapes in one of the world’s most biologically diverse countries – Cameroon. The project will address priorities of the biodiversity, land degradation and sustainable forest management focal areas to help conserve globally significant biodiversity on some 25,000 hectares and put some 46,000 hectares in production systems under sustainable land management.

55. In the WHC, the project envisions to work in landscapes anchored by globally-significant Sacred Forests. Sacred Forests are generally small in size, with a majority of forests no larger than 10 hectares, which is particularly the case in the West province. The project envisions to directly protect some 10% of a total of 44,000 hectares covered by Sacred Forests, hence some 4,000 hectares. Yet the project's focus is on implementing SLM activities in the landscapes around the Sacred Forests, while creating sustainable land use alternatives for farmers, reducing the need for further forest encroachment, and reverse land degradation on larger territories. It is planned that the project will work on three priority landscapes that each encompass 3,000 hectares of forest and 7,000 hectare of agro-pastoral lands.

56. In the South, the project will work with up to six communities grouped in one or two second-tier enterprises. Although the legally defined maximum size of community forests in Cameroon is 5,000 ha, the average size is somewhat smaller with some 3,500 ha. The project therefore aims at implementing sustainable land management in production systems within the boundaries of managed forests and landscapes covering 21,000 ha. On that same area, the project will work towards maintaining globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society.

57. Specific focus will be given to High Conservation Value Forests that are of critical socioeconomic and cultural importance to traditional authorities and villages. The project will build capacity of local people, CSOs and government extension workers for the sustainable use of natural resources in productive landscapes according to internationally recognized standards and criteria (e.g. Forest Stewardship Council, Rainforest Alliance/Sustainable Agriculture Network Standards). In both the WHC and the South, it will support community enterprises and producer groups in their entrepreneurial development. The project will directly enhance livelihoods of some 5,000 people through improved productivity of agricultural practices, creation of new sources of income, and benefits from employment. An estimated total of 50,000 people will benefit indirectly as members of the communities and priority landscapes where project activities will take place. They will benefit from social projects derived from equitable sharing of income, newly created social capital and improved governance within the community.

58. At a national scale, through the dissemination of best practices and by informing national policy processes, the project will improve resource management and use practices, thereby reducing the current deterioration of forest ecosystems. Increasing the total value extracted from forests under sustainable and integrated management plans will decrease the opportunities for forest conversion, and make forest management more competitive with alternative land uses. Increased productivity on existing farming and pastoral land will equally reduce the need for expansion into forested area. Support to regulatory strengthening, inter-institutional collaboration and CSO capacity building for CBNRM will also yield national-level benefits for biodiversity conservation.

#### **f. Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

59. Innovation: The project is not addressing innovation in the angle of things that were not done elsewhere, but it will take an approach which will consist of taking stock of the experiences on CBNRM in different parts of the world, recognize difficulties and constraints and learn lessons to allow embarking in the CBNRM with great chance of success by innovating through consideration of success stories and avoidance of difficulties faced by previous experiences. The assessment of past experiences and consideration of lessons learn will be fine-tuned to consider specific conditions in the project areas.

#### ***What are past experiences?***

60. In the publication titled "Community management of natural resources in Africa: Impacts, experiences and future directions" edited in 2009 by International Institute for Environment and Development - IIED (UK); Dilys Roe, Fred Nelson and Chris Sandbrook, presented a pan-African review of the impacts, challenges, and future directions of CBNRM. The review highlights the diverse range of forms of community involvement in natural resource management that have emerged across the continent during the past twenty years. They indicated that CBNRM means different things to different actors in different places across sub-Saharan Africa. In much of western and central Africa, CBNRM is interpreted by government authorities, donor agencies, and NGOs as benefit-sharing or outreach between national parks and adjacent communities. In such instances communities are not empowered as authorized local resource managers but are involved principally as passive recipients of benefits controlled elsewhere. This form of outreach and benefit-sharing is also a characteristic of some protected area management in East African countries. In Southern Africa, CBNRM is most clearly defined in terms of the devolution of rights to make management decisions, and capture benefits, in relation to resources located on communal lands. In all instances CBNRM involves some degree of co-management of resources between central authorities, local government, and local communities which share rights and responsibilities through diverse institutional arrangements. The various forms of CBNRM and their many locally-specific adaptations have greatly diversified approaches to natural resource governance in sub-Saharan Africa. Some notable ecological, economic, and institutional achievements have been documented. These include:

- In Namibia communal land conservancies have proliferated, and now cover more than 14% of the country, involve over 200,000 people and earn US\$ 2.5 million per annum. Key wildlife resources have recovered and illegal use of wildlife has fallen.
- In Zimbabwe, CAMPFIRE generated \$20 million in revenues for local communities and district governments from 1989 to 2001, and also resulted in over 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> of communal land being managed for wildlife production. More importantly, some stakeholders have adapted to the current economic and political crises by forming new types of relationships to maintain wildlife production systems on communal land.
- In Tanzania, more than 3.6 million hectares of forests and woodlands are now managed as Village Land Forest Reserves, entirely under the control of locally elected village governments, or as co-managed forests between villages and either local or central government.
- In Kenya the development of community-level wildlife-based tourism ventures on communal and private land is making a major contribution to the total national conservation estate.
- In Cameroon, revisions to forestry law have enabled community associations and cooperatives to acquire the exclusive rights to manage and exploit up to 5,000 ha of customary forest, under a 15-year contract, resulting in the creation of over 100 new Community Forests.
- In Ghana, 200,000 hectares of forest have been demarcated under the Community Resource Management Area Policy of 2000. This gives participating communities full authority to control access and harvesting of resources within their management area. These changes are reducing the illegal activities in the areas under this type of management.

#### ***What are still challenges for a successful CBNRM?***

61. Despite these notable local and national achievements, fundamental challenges to CBNRM remain. Overall, there remain relatively few cases of communities obtaining formal authority over lands and the natural resources found on those lands. Centralized control over natural resources persists despite the ubiquitous change in the rhetoric over land and resource management. In some cases, trends point more towards central consolidation of the right to use and allocate valuable resources such as wildlife and timber.

62. Conflicts between local groups and other more powerful actors, including both state agencies and private sector investors, remain widespread across the sub-continent and are often intensifying. There are strong political economic incentives for political elites and central bureaucracies to consolidate their control over natural resources. Foreign donors and international NGOs spearheading CBNRM efforts are often poorly positioned, in a political sense, to address these challenges. Further conflicts arise from differences in perceived priority management objective – the most appropriate scale at which to manage from an ecological perspective rarely tallies with the most appropriate scale from a social or economic perspective. Similar challenges apply at the local level, when local governance institutions are not downwardly accountable to the community and benefits are disproportionately captured by local elites. Tensions exist in some places between the development of locally accountable governance and traditional authorities. Often, CBNRM interventions are not accompanied by the type of long term investments in capacity-building required to ensure broader participation and the accountability of local leaders to their community.

63. The distribution of local benefits of CBNRM can also be influenced by the nature of benefits generated and how individuals are able to gain access to them. In some cases the principles that govern the distribution of benefits are built into CBNRM systems, as in Namibia. In different programmes, benefits are variously channeled through: employment; the sale of products; and through community construction projects in which the opportunities are more likely to be accessible to the well-skilled, wealthy and politically connected. Where CBNRM results in growing wildlife populations, it can be a victim of its own success by creating increased levels of human-wildlife conflict.

#### ***What are the learnt lessons to guide CBNRM to be adopted by the project?***

64. Lucile Gingembre (UNEP) highlighted in “Haiti: Lessons learned and way Forward in natural resource management projects” edited in 2012 by Environmental Law Institute and UNEP, some key lessons learnt from experience in Haiti and

which are applicable in many places in the world. The project will capitalize on these to build the CBNRM in the project area. These lessons learned include:

- (i) **Natural resource management and environmental rehabilitation:** The need for a comprehensive approach: It is important to integrate natural resource management interventions into comprehensive cross sectoral strategies that take land use planning into consideration. Similarly, promoting cooperation among partners to scale up efforts and tackle issues at the microwatershed and watershed levels is necessary for the success and sustainability of natural resource management projects. Finally, increasing donor coordination and improving information-sharing mechanisms are crucial for ensuring efficient use of funds and for preventing duplication and overlap of efforts.
- (ii) **Local empowerment and community participation:** The need to involve communities in all stages of the project cycle. Entrusting the facilitation process to Haitians who are familiar with the local context and experienced in running participatory processes is an effective way to ensure community participation. Drawing up partnership agreements with community members prior to the start of activities to clarify their roles in and responsibilities for project implementation and follow-up can promote the long-term sustainability of these efforts. It is also important to integrate the environment and natural resources into participatory local development frameworks and watershed-management plans. Finally, setting up and reinforcing local permanent participatory structures with capacity to lead in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of sustainable local development projects is an especially effective way to encourage long-term community involvement. In particular, capitalizing on and reinforcing the work of existing organizations prevents overlap of efforts and can contribute significantly to long term success.
- (iii) **Natural resource management and income generation:** Offering people cost-effective solutions that provide an incentive for preserving natural resources is crucial to the success and sustainability of any natural resource management project. This can be achieved through a variety of different mechanisms, depending on the circumstances. One way to create incentives for preserving natural resources is to encourage farmers to develop high-value products from sustainable forestry and agroforestry. Similarly, promotion of soil-conservation structures that not only prevent erosion but replenish the soil's nutrients and provide rural families with food and wood have proved successful. Carrying out cash-for-work projects related to natural resource management is another option. Local communities will be able to maintain these projects if they are integrated into longer-term, comprehensive development interventions. Likewise, for reforestation
- (iv) **National ownership and institutional capacity building:** First, prior to project implementation, it is important to realistically assess the capacity of governmental structures. This assessment should be followed by efforts to reinforce both national and local capacity, which involves supporting the government in developing and updating enabling legal and policy frameworks for natural resource management and environmental protection, including frameworks for energy, protected areas, and waste management. Encouraging cooperative relationships between government agencies with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for project management is also important. This can be accomplished with the establishment of clear partnership agreements prior to implementation. Finally, in order to ensure sustainability, it is important to establish project monitoring or steering committees to build ownership and improve follow-up.
- (v) **Long-term intervention and follow-up:** Interventions need to follow appropriate timelines. Long-term projects that build ownership and capacity are often necessary, and they should be designed to address deeply rooted problems. It is essential to allocate sufficient time to conduct a preliminary analysis of existing information and studies on relevant themes and geographic areas. Finally, achieving longterm financial stability through strong managerial partnerships is crucial to the development and implementation of successful and effective natural resource management projects.

65. Nevertheless, the project is bringing a certain level of innovation in the sense that it bringing in the conservation of Sacred Forests with KBA conservation 'toolbox'. In the project area, we have 10 sites which respond to KBA criteria and already included in KBA global data base. The conservation these Sacred Forest will therefore combine cultural conservation benefits and ecological benefits of conservation which is innovative particularly in the country

66. Sustainability is core to the project design, for three principal reasons: First, the project is dedicated to institutionalizing CBNRM approaches for biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement, by ensuring actions that address regulatory weaknesses, and by convening multi-stakeholder bodies to ensure that project interventions are both participatory and woven

into local, provincial and national-level agency plans and investments. Along with the decentralization process in Cameroon, the project will build on and strengthen the existing inter-institutional platforms at the commune level integrate in their mandate CBNRM. Projects' funds will be used for building the capacity of the platform to include CBNRM, and reduce progressively in order to ensure a complete handover by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the project. A mechanism of self-financing will be established anticipatively and based on budgets supporting the decentralization process. Second, the project logic places an emphasis on technical training at the local level in both planning and implementation, as well as enterprise, to ensure that the CBNRM systems can be sustained through private enterprise and links to responsible markets. Third, a focus on building CSO capacity will ensure that local support for efforts launched with the GEF investment will be sustained.

67. Scaling up is also a key aim of the project. Work planned for the WHC will focus in priority landscapes only, but it is known that conditions over a much broader area are similar. The efforts of the project to ensure that there are specific proposals for regulatory change to both officially recognize HCVF/KBA and expand CBNRM at the landscape scale will have relevance across the WHC, and beyond. In the South, project work with production community forests will focus on key bottlenecks faced by community forests throughout Cameroon (and in fact, the global tropics). Thus lessons and tools generated by the project will have broad applicability. Given the tremendous potential for CBNRM broadly to reverse degradation and enable conservation and equitable development in Cameroon, across the Congo Basin and indeed across the global South, lessons learned with CBNRM models in two representative sites for the protection of forests as well as their productive use will inform the development of similar CBNRM initiatives globally. Acting as the project Executing Agency and considering its mandate in natural resources management, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development will ensure the scaling up of the project successes. The scaling up will not only be integrated in the MINEPDED planning but also in new processes currentling ongoing in the country. These include the REDD+ and PES under piloting in various landscape. Furthermore, the CSO which will be working with the project to support the small grant implementation will be additional vehicles of the project achievement. Furthermore, the Rainforest Alliance and multiple international and local partners across the tropics have placed CBNRM enterprise at the heart their approach to stemming deforestation and improving local livelihoods. Critically, the investments of major bi and multilateral agencies – USAID, NORAD, DfID, EU, World Bank, IDB, ADB, AfDB to name a few – increasingly recognize the efficacy of both the landscape-scale and enterprise-based CBNRM approach to achieve multiple positive outcomes, and are making investments under REDD+ and FLEGT-VPA mechanisms to promote such models. The experiences, lessons and tools of this project will thus have broad replicability

68. The project will also inform national policy development processes related to FLEGT/VPA through its support for forest governance reform, legal forest product marketing from community forests, and growth of competitive local forest enterprises. Additionally, the project will engage with relevant government and CSO counterparts involved with the REDD+ activities in the country, particularly those outlined in the country's R-PP and funded by either FCPF and/or UN-REDD+ focused on piloting PES for biodiversity conservation at the landscape scale.

2. **Stakeholders.** Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society](#) and [indigenous people](#)? (yes  /no  ) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/preparation.

69. During the PPG phase, a broad stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy will be undertaken. Firstly, stakeholders from CSOs will be engaged through project design workshops, to be held at multiple scales to validate assumptions, risks and goals for project intervention. Such groups may make up a part of the body of consultants contracted to assist with PPG analyses and strategy recommendations. A group of CSOs will also be pre-selected during the PPG to participate in project execution through capacity building and small grants. Secondly, at the field level, the PPG will undertake at least two local-scale events to solicit input from community stakeholders in project design. Thirdly, a specific focus will be brought to PPG design efforts in identifying indigenous groups to be engaged and soliciting specific input from such stakeholders to ensure that the project strategy adequately reflects challenges faced and aspirations held by indigenous peoples. While it is not known exactly which indigenous groups will be engaged in the WHC as that will depend on the location of the priority landscapes, the area has a relatively high number of indigenous Bantu (including Bamileke, Bamun and smaller Tikar groups) that collectively account for more than a third of the WHC population. In the South, moreover, a majority of the community forests to be engaged by the project are home to indigenous groups like the Beti-Pahuin, Bulu, Fang, Maka, Njem and Baka pygmies. The local scale consultations during the PPG will ensure specific input from indigenous peoples, women, youth and stakeholders from CSOs.

3. **Gender Considerations.** Are [gender considerations](#) taken into account? (yes  /no  ). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

70. In Cameroon, over 80% of the local community is dependent on natural and forest resources for their farming activities and for the collection of energy wood. These local communities can both manage forest resources sustainably, e.g. through community forestry, or increase the pressure on them through the adoption of agricultural practices that are not resource-friendly, such as slash and burn farming in forest areas.

71. This dependence on the use of resources is even more important for women. Due to the structure of the local society, they only rarely have access to jobs. Women play an important role in cultivating the family parcels and collecting non-timber forest products in order to improve the well-being of the household. Women are thus highly dependent on the state of the natural resources located there. Despite this fact, women still have less access to resources and land and have less voice in decision making. If the resources dwindle and become scarce due to various pressures and, more recently, changes in climatic conditions and therefore the disruption of the cycle of seasons, local communities and primarily women are impacted the most (R-PP, 2012).

72. This project’s approach to gender recognizes the importance of involving women in natural resource management due to their dependence on the use of natural resources, and further believes that greater gender equity will result in benefits for all. The balances allocation of resources, involvement and decision-making will result in greater incomes and overall well-being for all members of the household – women, men, girls and boys – and better conservation results. Achieving gender equity requires an integrated approach geared toward changing behavior and practice at multiple levels. As such, the project will incorporate the following project components:

**i) Context assessment and gender mainstreaming:** Because gender relations, aspirations, and opportunities can vary greatly, the project will begin with a closer look at the social constructs that define the roles, burdens, access to and control of resources for men and women locally. In addition to gender, the assessment will look at household economy and livelihood contexts more broadly, including differences between socio-economic groups and ethnicities. The results of the context assessment will inform refinement of capacity building strategies. Furthermore, it will be used to guide dialogue and facilitate operational and behavioral changes within producer organizations and communities.

**ii) Gender-balanced management in producer organizations:** Behavior change and gender-balanced management at the level of CSOs, producer organizations and landscape management boards is key to opening spaces that empower women. In the case of producer organizations, women and men will be trained and assisted for those activities that they have a role or interest in. Women will be adequately represented as group administrators and trainers. Trainers will be taught in how to be aware of, responsive to and advocate for gender issues in their training context and community, and equipped to counter negative gender stereotypes.

**iii) Technical and financial capacity building:** Targeted, gender-balanced capacity building and technical assistance packages will be refined based on the results of the context assessment. The timing and structure of workshops will take care not to overburden participants, particularly women, who tend to shoulder more of the household and caregiving responsibilities. In addition to the core training activities, specialized technical assistance may be provided in support of other crops or activities, especially those that are of primary importance to women’s livelihoods. Technical assistance will also include financial management skills, which can greatly improve return on a families’ monetary and personal investments and, in some cases, help family’s access credit. Women in particular have shown significant interest in such tools that help build their entrepreneurial skills.

**iv) Gender-disaggregated performance indicators:** Monitoring and evaluation will include gender-specific indicators (e.g. management positions held by women in rural organizations; access to credit for women) and indicators of the presumed result of greater gender equity (e.g. increased family income, improved household wellbeing, more efficient businesses, and improved natural resource management). Results will be disaggregated so as to demonstrate distribution of results across the different genders, socio-economic and ethnical groups.

4. **Risks.** 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 (table format acceptable).

Risks	Level (Low, Moderate, High)	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized? How the mitigation measures will be minimized or eliminated with the project planned activities)
Environmental risks: Climate change affects adversely productivity of farmland as dry seasons become longer	Moderate	Training in SLM and SFM will incorporate assessment of climate change risk and design and application of practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in particular promoting land-use standards

and rainfall less frequent		that do not allow deforesting land for planting and focus attention on improving performance on available land through promoting agriculture and agroforestry concepts that enable beneficiaries to become more productive and diversified economically, leading to more resilient livelihoods.
Political risks: Changes in political circumstances and government priorities	Low	Broad stakeholder engagement throughout the project preparation and the continuation of this engagement during the implementation will ensure continued political support for the project.
Social risks: Women may continue not to be granted access to land and a role in making decisions about spending, which may reinforce household poverty and inequity	Moderate	Gender equity will be structured into project's approach through incorporation of gender-specific activities, along with strengthening local community bodies and producer organizations. The legal and institutional framework will ensure gender equity and the small-grants which the project will be providing to local communities through CSO or CBO will only be approved if gender equity is reflected in the proposals.
Economic and financial risks: Markets may not provide incentives for sustainable production if quality or service are not sufficiently attractive	High	Project will strengthen management structures so that community and producer organizations understand and can respond to market requirements. CSO partners involved in the project (e.g. Rain Forest Alliance) have proven experiences in helping to mitigate this risk.

5. **Coordination.** Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives

The project will learn from, build synergy and establish cooperation through consultation with the following initiatives:

73. In Cameroon, UNEP-GRASP supports the WWF for the development of a methodology to determine High Conservation Values at national and concession levels. Identifying HCVs is a key requirements of major certification schemes such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), but the indicators and criteria for the identification of HCVs vary greatly from country to country. Upon request from MINEPDED, UNEP-GRASP and WWF are supporting the development of a national HCV methodology through a wide consultative process that will provide the necessary tools for the Government to assess their HCV areas at national level to inform development plans, and provide the tools required for companies to develop strong HCV assessments in their concession in the specific context of Cameroon. The methodology is seen as a key step in preparing the ground for certification and encouraging certification, and helping the Government with decision-making tools for land-use planning.

74. MINEPDED in partnership with Fauna and Flora International, University of Dschang, and the Environment and Rural Development Foundation are implementing a GEF project that promote biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming in production landscape at Bakossi Banyang Mbo area, in the South-West province of Cameroon, through sustainable farming practices that improve community livelihood options and commercial opportunities. The SUFACHAC project is another representative example of CBNRM in Cameroon, in the context of communities that are operating in proximity to large scale palm oil plantation and can inform this project with best practices from another specific context.

75. ICRAF is implementing the DRYAD project. DRYAD will support community forests by providing payment-for-performance based on a set of indicators showing environmental, social and economic outcomes. This is yet another project contributing to the development of new models for CBNRM, where access to project financing depends on the performance of individual communities. Activities taking place during the lifetime of the GEF project can serve as co-financing.

76. The project "Grassfield, Rural Infrastructure and Participatory Development Support Project" by the North West Development Authority of Cameroon (MIDENO) is currently in its Phase II, which runs from 2013 to 2018 with a budget of \$39M. It is implemented in the North-West province under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Cameroon (MINADER). The project's objective is to improve agricultural production and income of beneficiary communities by creating rural infrastructure and building the actors' capacity. Activities taking place during the lifetime of the GEF project can serve as co-financing. The stakeholders' platform to ensure landscape management under component 2, will be the avenue to ensure coordination of initiatives and stakeholders.

77. The Program for the Improvement of Competitiveness of Family Agro-pastoral Farms (ACEFA) is implemented in West, North-West and Adamawa Regions, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) between 2013 and 2017. The project's objective is to improve the economic performance of agropastoral commodities and increase revenue for farmers. ACEFA will benefit from the sustainable land management and sustainable forest management technologies that will be developed by this project. ACEFA will provide financial support to farmers to test the technologies



and scale them. The Program is investing some \$30 million in the various project areas and part of this financing will serve as co-financing to the GEF project.

78. At the end of 2013, German Cooperation committed substantial additional funds to support: a) the preparation of a Management Plan for Banyang Mbo WS; b) livelihood activities in communities around Banyang Mbo WS; and c) land use planning in the area between Banyang Mbo WS, Korup NP, Bakossi NP and Rumpi. Almost after 3 years of intervention, the German Cooperation project has generated results and lessons which will be capitalised by this project. Furthermore, during the PPG phase intense discussion will be conducted with the Program for Sustainable Natural Resources Management in SW Region (PSMNR-SWR) to agree on possible collaboration, cofinancing and co-sharing if the case may be.

79. Program for Sustainable Natural Resources Management in SW Region (PSMNR-SWR), whose objective is to contribute to the preservation of high-value ecosystems in the SW Region of Cameroon, and thereby contribute to improved livelihoods of the surrounding communities in a sustainable manner. It aims to promote sustainable forest and wildlife management by affected stakeholders for their own benefit. PSMNR is implemented by MINFOF through its regional Delegation in the SW Region, and is co-financed by the German Development Bank (KfW – EUR 10 million from 2011) and German Technical Cooperation (GIZ – EUR 3 million from 2011), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The German Cooperation has committed another EUR 10 million to the PSMNR-SWR from 2014 until the funds are exhausted. The PSMNR work on land use planning will be of interest for this project and can be the entry point for collaboration.

80. During GEF 4, 13 projects have been approved by GEF Council in Congo Basin under the Congo Basin Strategic Programme (CBSP) led by FAO and the World Bank. Among those of particular importance to this project include, the CBSP Sustainable Community Based Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem in Cameroon (FAO) which objective is to have in place planning, managing and monitoring capacities, institutional frameworks and consultative mechanisms for the long-term sustainability of the mangrove forest ecosystems and their biodiversity through participatory and inclusive participation of communities and other key stakeholders. Also of particular importance are the GEF/WB CBSP Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Ngoyla-Mintom Forest whose objective is to improve the conservation and management of core areas within the Ngoyla Mintom project forest massif and improve access to income-generating activities for local communities, through an approach based on land use planning and, fostering public-private partnerships and as mentioned early, the project on Sustainable Agro-Pastoral and Land Management Promotion under the National Community Development Program Support Program (PNDP). The project development objective is to reduce poverty and promote sustainable rural development in Cameroon by strengthening local governance and empowering communities in rural areas, including marginalized groups. The blended project activities will contribute to ensuring the productivity of the natural resource base and to preserving the country's globally significant biodiversity. The Ngoyla-Mintom Forest which aims to achieve its objectives through 3 components: 1. Strengthening government and civil society capacity for participatory planning and management of the core areas; 2. Design and implement a Livelihood Support Mechanism; and 3. Design and implement a long term Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Ngoyla-Mintom Forest Massif; and Project Management.

81. During GEF 5, two main projects among others, have been approved by the GEF council: The UNEP-GEF Participative Integrated Ecosystem Services Management Plans for Bakassi Post Conflict Ecosystem (PINESMAP-BPCE) Project focuses on supporting MINEPDED to perform its role in feeding the Land Use Planning process with relevant information about biodiversity, social impacts, and identifying and promoting sustainable land use and livelihood options. Finally, in addition to coordinating with GEF-funded projects, the PINESMAP-BPCE project will build and compliment the on-going regional projects such the preservation of high value ecosystems in the South West region by GIZ/KfW, WWF, WCS and GFA, nature conservation to secure the habitat range of the cross river gorilla and other endangered species by WCS; and the conservation of the cross river gorilla and its habitat while ensuring the livelihoods of local population by ERUDEF, FFI and the University of Dschang.

82. As an institutional program of the GEF, SGP aligns its strategies with those operational phase of GEF funds and demonstration projects for possible scaling, replication and integration. The local action of civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities is considered an essential component of the GEF Strategy 2020 (for example, Collecting stakeholder alliances to provide global environmental benefits and contribute to the UNDP strategic Plan, and emphasize sustainable development). Globally, the overall objective of the SGP for the GEF-6 is to *"effectively help to generate global environmental benefits and preserve the global environmental community and providing local solutions that complement and reinforce actions to national and global levels."* For that, SGP will use a three-pronged approach that focuses on the ecosystems of vital importance recognized worldwide, sets up mechanisms of institutional and financial support, and systematically building the capacity of local actors and national civil society. Cameroon has been part of the GEF Small Grants Programme since 1993 during the pilot phase of the program. With the support of the Government of Cameroon, organizations of civil society and UNDP Cameroon, GEF SGP Cameroon was relaunched in March 2007 and awarded the first microfinance support in June 2007. To date, the program has already funded the implementation of over 102 projects. Since it was launched, national SGP

strategies for GEF 4 and GEF 5 were elaborated and adopted by the national steering committee, which combines representatives from the government (3), private sector (1), academia (1), GEF Implementing Agencies (2), and civil society (5). Within that framework, projects focused on community-based management of coastal and arid ecosystems, Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem, Biodiversity Conservation and Management; and the reforestation in the Lake Chad .GEF 6 National strategy include funding landscape management. The funding allocation is partly consistent with the UNDP country program of support to the government to support early recovery of populations affected by the security crises regions of the Far North and East Regions. It is also in connection with the consideration of the need to support indigenous people in the country and need for capacity building of communities and CSOs in particular in the new multifocal initiatives of the GEF SGP. It comprises three components: Component 1: Resilience and early recovery - Funding will target projects that strengthen production systems, support the production of ecosystem services, or improve the preparedness of communities and ecosystems to natural disasters or to fight against their effects. Component 2: Support to indigenous peoples and conservation Aires Aboriginal and Community Heritage (APAC) - Funding will primarily target the regions of Eastern and Central to support conservation projects owned resources or space-managed by indigenous peoples, diversification and promotion of sustainable livelihoods, and improving the sustainability of APAC. Component 3: Capacity Building-Funded initiatives will focus on stakeholder workshop organization at national level to capacity building and knowledge on the threats caused by chemical products (for example Mercury) on human health and the environment, sharing best practices, advocacy and lobbying. Further, the funding landscape aspect of the SGP GEF 6 national strategy is focusing on the Cameroon Estuary. In that landscape, the block consisting of the Douala-Edea Reserve, the Lokoundjé (including 23 Pygmies camps and more villages Bantu), the areas of Dizangue Mouanko was selected as a priority for the granting of microfinance. The diagnosis of that landscape has highlighted various problems which the most important are: (a) Mangrove destruction that threatens the survival of a wide variety of wildlife, it shelters naturally, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds species threatened with extinction; (b) The pressure on wildlife from poaching to supply the major cities (Douala, Edea) and consumer issues / marketing on the road from Douala - Yaoundé. The Douala Edea wildlife reserves, and Lake Ossa are under great pressure because of human activities are increasing and the forest cover loss by degradation and deforestation is also increasing. The artisanal and industrial fishing activity is clearly growing and increasingly outside the regulations with the use of some environmentally friendly practices. Three strategic initiatives considered as priority and type of projects to be funded are: (1) Community Conservation of landscape or seascape (Promotion of alternatives to resource degradation and the use of wood energy mangroves, Conservation of habitats and/or endangered species, Restoration of degraded ecosystems, Promoting good practice in the use of the environment and resources). Key stakeholders will CSOs, grassroots communities, conservation services, regional and local authorities, private sector, etc. Projects in this strategic initiative will be implemented throughout the duration of OP6. (2) Co-benefits of access to sources of energy low carbon (Promotion of alternative energy wood, Promotion of green energy technologies: biogas, ....). Key stakeholders will CSOs, grassroots communities, decentralized local communities, industries that develop green energy technologies, etc. Projects in this strategic initiative will be implemented between the 2nd and 4th year of OP6. (3) Climate Agriculture and innovative environmentally agro-ecology (Promoting new forms of efficient agriculture on the economy and environment, Promoting the domestication of non-timber forest products of interest for conservation). Key stakeholders will CSOs, grassroots communities, the Regional and Local Authorities (CTD), the agribusiness companies, MINADER the MINEPDED, etc. Projects in this strategic initiative will be implemented in years 1 and 3 of OP6. The project will coordinate with the Cameroon SGP programme, in particular under the output 3.1.1. in which small grant approach will be applied.

**6. Consistency with National Priorities.** Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes  /no  ). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

83. The concern of the government of Cameroon at the current degradation of montane forests, and the determination to stop the loss of montane species through community-based resource management, is demonstrated in the objectives of *Cameroon's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action*, whose 2<sup>nd</sup> version was published in 2012. The Strategic Goals of the NBSAP 2012 provide the four major areas for intervention. These areas are aiming at redressing the drivers of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss (Strategic Goal A); the consequences of the drivers on the physical and ecological environment (Strategic Goal B); the consequences on the socio-economic environment (Strategic Goal C); and strengthening the capacity measures to managing biodiversity loss (Strategic Goal D). The action plan also identifies disasters of landslides and overharvesting of biodiversity as significant threats to biodiversity in the montane ecosystem. In response to that, it has opted for a community based conservation approach with the involvement of local communities. These “on-the-spot stakeholders” provide guarantee for ensuring sustainable management and providing early responses to manage landslide disasters.

84. The project also contributes to the implementation of all four priority intervention areas to stop land degradation in the West and North-West of Cameroon as laid out in the *National Action Plan for the Fight against Desertification 2014-2015*. They are identified as i) the promotion of sustainable management and use of land; ii) improvement and maintenance of vegetation cover; iii) integration of income generating activities to the protection of the environment; and iv) capacity building of all stakeholders. The *National Action Plan for the Fight against Desertification 2014-2018* suggests solutions to stop land degradation in the

West and North-West of Cameroon. In response to the plan's first priority intervention area, the promotion of sustainable management and use of land, the project will provide guidance and facilitate the operationalization of a permanent and sustainable landscape management system. The restoration of degraded land through agroforestry techniques will contribute to the second priority intervention area: the improvement and maintenance of the vegetation cover. The project will further contribute directly to the two remaining priority intervention areas by building capacity of stakeholders at all levels, and promoting the equitable sharing of benefits as well as alternative forms of livelihoods.

85. Given that agricultural yields represent a key element of any strategy to boost rural sector growth, land degradation is increasingly viewed as an issue of vital importance. The *Poverty Reduction and Strategic Paper (PRSP)* of the government of Cameroon, drafted in 2009, identifies food insecurity, poor market integration, and unsustainable utilization of natural resources as major challenges to rural sector growth and underlines that changes in ecosystems and declining soil fertility, among other factors, deteriorate the productive environment. Land degradation thus represents a fundamental challenge to bolstering economic growth, sustaining rural livelihoods, and reducing the incidence and severity of poverty as well as biodiversity loss. It is at this critical point that a comprehensive land management policy embodying all the sectoral Ministries is urgently needed if the government intends to address this problem. The intervention of GEF at this point will be a substantial incremental value to solving the issues of land use, land management, poverty and long term biodiversity management in Cameroon.

86. As per *Cameroon's Vision 2035*, and its *Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP)* as well as the *Cameroon Rural Development Strategy*, there is a need for multi-sector approaches to sustainable development that target high value and export crops and value-added production and processing. This project will build local capacity and expertise in sustainable agriculture and forestry practices, both on-farm and post-harvest, to sustain impacts over the long term, addressing goals of the Cameroon Vision 2035 plan and Cameroon's R-PP. The project will help restore degraded land through agroforestry techniques, conserving soil and water resources, and help build resiliency to climate change, in line with strategic priorities for sustainable agriculture.

87. The existing Rural Development Strategy prioritizes food security, green agriculture, improving management of protected areas, and implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) for integrated ecosystem management. The Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP) focuses on biodiversity promotion and conservation as one of the targets to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular the *Goal 1* relating to the ending of poverty in all its forms everywhere, and *Goal 5* relating to gender equality an empowerment of women and girls. The National Protected Areas and Wildlife Strategy and the Biodiversity Vision for Cameroon both put emphasis on the protection of mountain, coastal and marine ecosystems that are insufficiently represented in the protected areas network. The National Plan for Environmental Management (PNGE) seeks to develop policies, strategies and actions for environmental protection and rational management of resources to contribute to sustainable development, and identifies five priority areas: Participatory Land use Management, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Restoration of Degraded Land and Improvement of Soil Fertility, Capacity Building, and Concerted Management of Shared Resources at the sub-regional level. Cameroon has produced its 5th Report to the CBD and its 2nd Report to the UNCCD. With the support of UNEP and GEF..

88. The new "Plan de Convergence" of COMIFAC 2015-2025, which has been adopted by Cameroon, promotes sustainable and consultative management of forest resources and the establishment of a network of representative protected area systems and ecosystems for livelihood and global environment conservation. The proposed project will contribute to several priority areas of the COMIFAC plan, including Axis 3 relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; Axis 5 relating to socio-economic development and multi-actor participation; Axis 6 relating to sustainable financing; and to Cross-Cutting Axis 1 on training and capacity building and Cross-Cutting Axis relating to communication, awareness raising, information and education.

89. The *United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2013–2017* mentions under Outcome 1, Output 1.7 that national institution are able to facilitate sustainable management of forest ecosystems. All the project components will contribute directly to this UNDAF output and therefore the project will contribute to the achievement of the framework in Cameroon.

90. The proposed project will contribute to a number of Aichi targets, as presented in the table below:

Strategic goal	Indicators	Baseline	Project Target
<b>Goal A: Address the underlying causes of Biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</b>			
Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	<i>Trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity and ecosystem services (C)</i>  <i>Trends in public</i>	Limited knowledge of socio-economic and environmental values within the WCH ecosystems.	By the end of the project, information management and sharing system is established, and at least 5 knowledge products (reports, lesson

Strategic goal	Indicators	Baseline	Project Target
	<i>engagement with biodiversity (C)</i>		learned, policy briefs, etc.) developed and disseminated  By the end of the second year of the project, biological and socio-economic indicators and monitoring methods are developed and applied within 3 landscape management plans
Target 2: "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems"	<i>Trends in integration of Biodiversity and ecosystem service values into sectoral and development policies (C)</i>	No sectoral plans which integrate conservation and sustainable land use	By the third year of the project, at least five communal development plans and programmes have been strengthened to reflect ecosystem services / biodiversity priorities  By the end of the second year of the project, at least five communities natural resources management protocols have been elaborated
Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	<i>Trends in identification, assessment and establishment and strengthening of incentives that reward positive contribution to biodiversity and ecosystem services and penalize adverse impacts (C)</i>	Incentives for conservation of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes are not effective in the project area	HCVF/KBA Conservation policies and frameworks developed  By the end of the project, at least 10 farmers' organisations are certified and benefit from SAN/RA or UTZ or any other certification premiums
<b>Strategic Goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on Biodiversity and promote sustainable use</b>			
Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced	<i>Trends in condition and vulnerability of ecosystems (C)</i>  <i>Trends in the proportion of natural habitats converted (C)</i>	Overexploitation of Highlands forests for energy and food production; Agricultural expansion into the forests in the South, and unsustainable timber harvesting practices	Land use plans integrate conservation of HVCF  By the end of the project, the rate of encroachment of agriculture in Sacred Forests and other HCVF/KBA in the project area is halved as compared to the baseline value.
<b>Strategic Goal C. To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, with particular relevance to and</b>			
Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Trends in abundance of selected species	No updated information on species lost	Inventory of natural resources of the WCH and integraton of threatened species in the land use plan
<b>Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</b>			

Strategic goal	Indicators	Baseline	Project Target
<b>Target 14</b> - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	<p><i>Trends in benefits that humans derive from selected ecosystem services (A)</i></p> <p><i>Trends in delivery of multiple ecosystem services (B)</i></p> <p><i>Trends in health and wellbeing of communities who depend directly on local ecosystem goods and services (B)</i></p> <p><i>Trends in the condition of selected ecosystem services (C)</i></p>	No specific guidelines for preparation of IESMP in context of preparing ecosystem management plans	IESMP developed and implemented in a participatory manner in 2 landscapes for sustainable management of natural resources and enhanced livelihoods
<b>Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building</b>			
<b>Target 18</b> - By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities (B)	Existence of traditional modes of conflict resolution, but not adapted to the context of multi- use of natural resources management	By the end of the project, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities in the WHC relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources in the Sacred Forests are documented and intergrated in two land use and management plans
<b>Target 19</b> - By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.	Trends in coverage of comprehensive policy-relevant sub-global assessments including related capacity-building and knowledge transfer, plus trends in uptake into policy (B)	Limited knowledge of the ecosystem services and environmental values within the WCH ecosystems	By the end of the project, one IEC (Information, Education and Communication) plan document is prepared, validated and implemented

**7. Knowledge Management.** Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

91. The GEF Knowledge Management strategy will guide the project KM approach. The project will include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation component, which will be informed by the results of the context assessment and refined project theory of change. The project's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plan will, first and foremost, provide reliable evidence to track progress, facilitate management decisions, and inform adaptive management throughout the life of the project. Creation of impacts will form the basis for knowledge management and dissemination of best practices. Whereas monitoring data is collected on a quarterly and annual basis to answer questions about trends in the project's performance, impact creation uses more rigorous methods, including control groups when possible, to more empirically test assumptions in the project's theory of change and provide evidence on the attributable impacts of a project or intervention. This approach will be used to evaluate the effects of best SLM and SFM practices implementation on livelihoods, including household income and poverty levels, and relationships between these social and economic outcomes and changes in conservation value within the farms and the landscape as outlined in Output 3.1.2. The project will facilitate knowledge sharing and learning within Cameroon to strengthen CBNRM approaches as per Output 2.1.4.

92. The project will include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation component, which will be informed by the results of the context assessment and refined project theory of change. Lessons learned from the project will be shared amongst agricultural producers, community forest managers, political decision-makers and civil society organizations through organization of exchange visits, and participation to national, regional and international conferences on sustainable forest and land management.

93. Knowledge transfer will come as a result of project's components 2 and 3, which build upon a multi-layered train-the-trainer structure that benefits local CSOs, landscape management boards, producer organizations and producers themselves. While technical assistance enables change towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices, the project will dedicate time and resources to strengthen CSOs in their organizational capabilities. Organizational strengthening will provide continuity well beyond the lifetime of the project and allow CSOs to grow their impact within their field of expertise. Modules developed by the project will be handed over to CSOs to widen the reach of these activities, as well as shared within foras and policy makers for a potential replication more broadly in Cameroon.

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

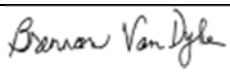
**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT<sup>17</sup> OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):**

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Justin Nantchou Ngoko	Director GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development	08/26/2016

**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

**This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies<sup>18</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.**

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Brennan Van Dyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		October 22, 2016	Adamou Bouhari, UNEP Task Manager	+254719867657	<a href="mailto:adamou.bouhari@unep.org">adamou.bouhari@unep.org</a>

**C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)**

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

<sup>17</sup> For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

<sup>18</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

## Annex 1: Cameroon Highlands Forests Ecoregion<sup>19</sup>

Size: 39,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Habitat Type: Tropical and Subtropical Moist Broadleaf Forests

Geographic Location: Western Africa: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria

Conservation Status: Critical/Endangered

This ecoregion encompasses the mountains and highland areas of this border region between Nigeria and Cameroon. Most of the ecoregion lies within a narrow rectangle of 180 km by 625km, oriented southwest to northwest and originating about 50 km inland of Mount Cameroon. It covers the Rumpi Hills, the Bakossi Mountains, Mount Nlonako, Mount Kupe and Mount Manengouba.

### Local Species:

The Cameroonian Highlands Forests ecoregion occurs in patches at various altitudes on mountaintops and ridges. Hence, even the native plants and animal species are distributed in certain habitats or between narrow altitudinal bands with more endemic species inhabiting the larger, more isolated patches.

At least 50 species and 3 families of plants are strictly endemic and 50 more are near endemic to Mt. Cameroon and associated lowland forests. In Mount Kupe is present a wild coffee plant which believed to be of more value than the robusta and arabica coffee species common in Cameroon.

Among the numerous endemic species are birds such as Green longtail (*Urolais epichlora*), White-tailed warbler (*Poliolais lopezi*), Mount Cameroon francolin (*Francolinus camerunensis*), Fernando Po speirops (*Batis poensis*), Bannerman's turaco (*Tauraco bannermani*), reptiles such as *Chamaeleo montium*, *Chamaeleo quadricornis*, *Hydraethiops laevis*, *Leptosiaphos ianthinxantha*, and mammals such as Preus's monkey (*Cercopithecus preussi*), and Northern needle-clawed bushbaby (*Euoticus pallidus*).

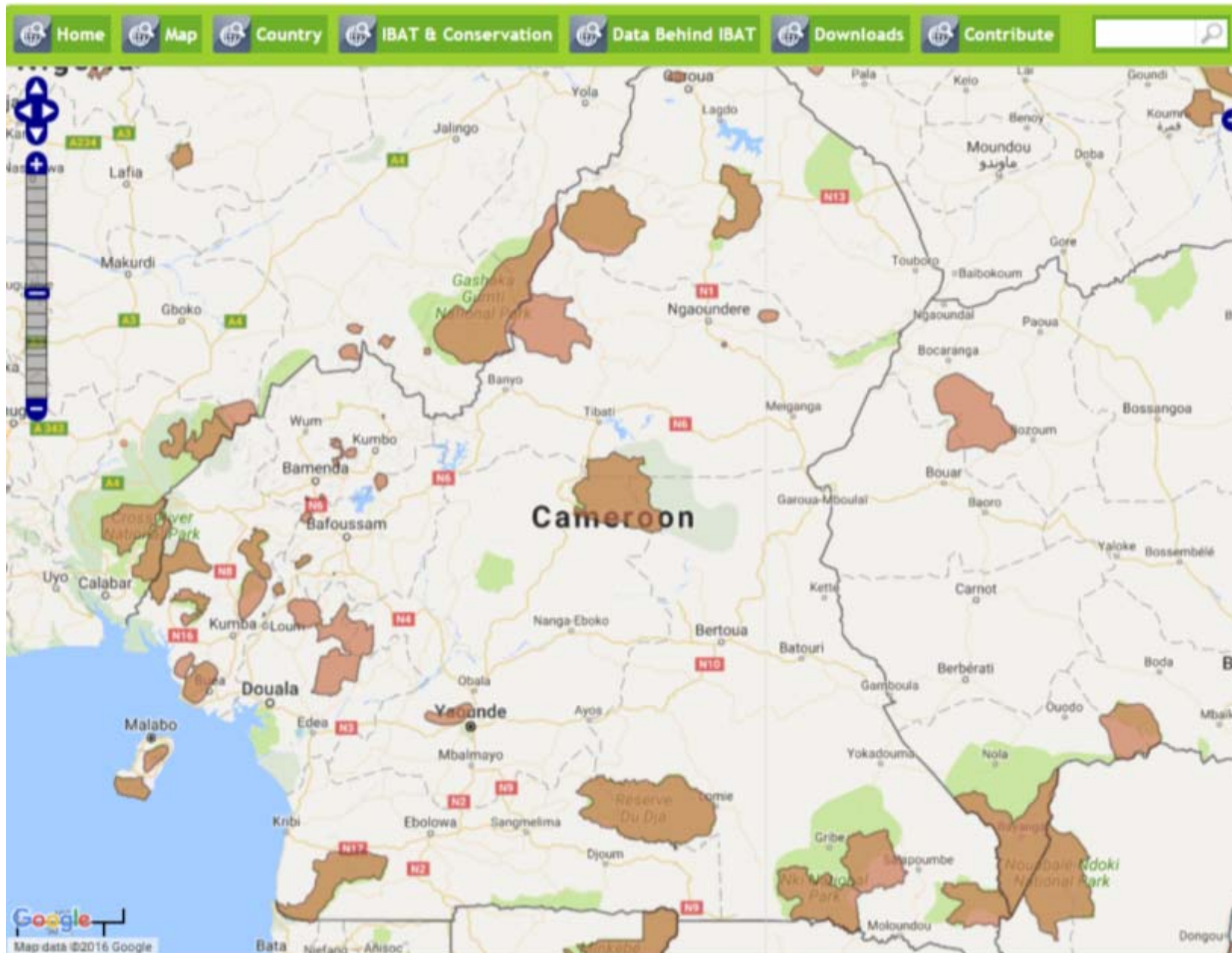
Eleven small mammals species are considered strictly endemic to this region. This region is also home to some larger mammals like the drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*, EN), Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), and the African elephants (*Loxodonta africana* spp.). In addition, there is also an isolated population of an endemic subspecies of lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*, EN).

Note: The area of focus of the project is on the West and North-West provinces only, while the Cameroon Highlands Forests Ecoregion also includes a small part of the South-West and North provinces.

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<sup>19</sup> Verbatim from [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/ecoregions/cameroon\\_highlands\\_forests.cfm](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/cameroon_highlands_forests.cfm)

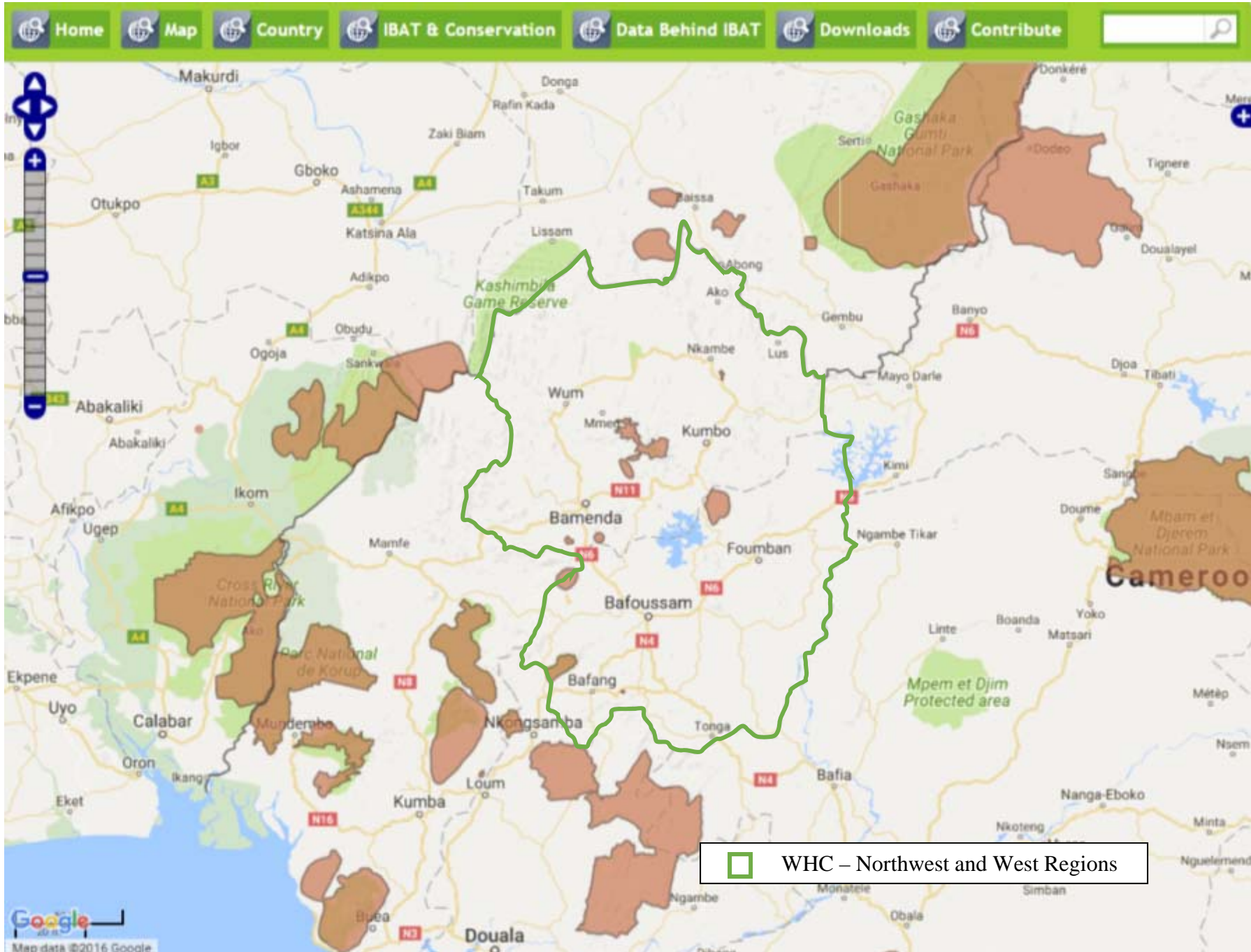
## Annex 2: Map of the Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in Cameroon<sup>20</sup>



<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>



Annex 3: Key Biodiversity Areas in the North-west and West Regions of Cameroon



## Annex 4: Key Biodiversity Areas in the South, Northwest and West Regions of Cameroon

<p><b>South Region</b></p> <p><u>International Name:</u> Campo Ma'an complex</p> <p><u>Area:</u> 500,000 ha</p> <p><u>Protection Status:</u> 54% of site under protected area status</p> <p><u>KBA Criteria</u><sup>21</sup>: This site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> <li>• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species</li> </ul> <p><u>Site Description:</u> Campo Ma'an National Park (270,000 ha) lies in the south-western corner of the country against the international border with Equatorial Guinea and the Atlantic ocean. The western part of the park, which reaches the coast, is generally flat, with altitudes ranging between 0 – 300 m; more to the east the topography is more varied, with altitudes ranging between 400 – 1,097 m. The vegetation is comprised largely of coastal evergreen rainforest. There are, however, areas of intact and secondary mixed evergreen and semi-evergreen rainforest in the Ntem valley in the southern part of the park, which surround extensive <i>Raphia</i>-dominated marshes. The National Park is surrounded by a buffer zone of several UTOs (Unites Techniques Operationelles), where much commercial logging has taken place. Average rainfall is 2,820 mm.</p> <p><u>Key biodiversity:</u> The site holds several species of plants discovered recently that may be endemic. Of mammals, <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (EN) is common in the south-west of the park, while 20 species of primate occur, including <i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>, <i>Colobus satanas</i> (VU) and <i>Gorilla gorilla</i> (EN) which is not uncommon throughout. <i>Trichechus senegalensis</i> (VU) also occurs in the western part of the park. More than 165 species of fish are known, of which four are endemic to the site. The area is exceptionally rich in reptiles; 122 species have been recorded. Of these, <i>Agama mehelyi</i> and <i>Hydraethiops laevis</i> are only known from the type-material and three others are known from fewer than five specimens. Up to three recently collected specimens might prove to be of new species<sup>22</sup>.</p>
<p><u>International Name:</u> Dja Faunal Reserve</p> <p><u>Area:</u> 526,000 ha</p> <p><u>Protection Status:</u> 100% of site under protected area status</p> <p><u>KBA Criteria</u><sup>23</sup>: The site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant population of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> <li>• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and for significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species.</li> </ul> <p><u>Site Description:</u> Located in the south-central part of the country, east of the town of Sangmelima, this is the largest protected area in Cameroon. The terrain is generally flat and the vegetation comprises lowland evergreen and semi-evergreen rainforest and some riparian and swamp-forest, the latter dominated by <i>Uapaca</i> and <i>Raphia</i> spp. There are a number of inselbergs and small enclosed edaphic savannas, either on rocky substrate or in swamps. Average rainfall is c. 1,600 mm.</p> <p><u>Key biodiversity:</u> The avifauna remains poorly documented (with about 310 species claimed, but only 250 detailed in a preliminary report). In addition, there are historical records of a number of other species collected by G.L. Bates in lowland forest and swamps to the west of the reserve near Bitye, which should be looked for in Dja. These include some species of conservation concern or restricted range such as <i>Bradypterus grandis</i> and <i>Batis minima</i>. <i>Ploceaus batesi</i> was also collected near Bitye in the past and seen more recently in a village near the reserve's entrance. The possible occurrence of these and other species in the reserve requires further surveys. Dja is known to hold some of the largest breeding colonies of <i>Picathartes oreas</i> (VU) in the country (with at least 50 nests known, and much habitat not yet prospected). <i>Gallinage media</i> has also been recorded, but its local status is not documented.</p> <p><u>Non-bird biodiversity:</u> Among important primates are populations of <i>Gorilla gorilla</i> (EN), <i>Pan troglodytes</i> (EN), <i>Colobus satanus</i> (VU) and <i>Arctocebus aureaus</i> (LR/nt). Also present were <i>Loxodonta africana</i> (EN).<sup>24</sup></p>
<p><b>North-west Region</b></p> <p><u>International name:</u> Mount Oku</p> <p><u>Area:</u> 20,000 ha</p>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6134>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6132>

**Protection Status:** 37% of site under protected area status

**KBA Criteria**<sup>25</sup>: This site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) based on the presence of:

- Significant populations of globally threatened species
- Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area
- Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species.

This site has also been identified as an Alliance for Zero Extinction Site based upon the presence of the one remaining population of at least one species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessed as either Critically Endangered or Endangered.

**Site Description:** At 3,011 m Oku is, after Mount Cameroon, the highest mountain in West Africa. The site, also known Kilum-Ijim, is a proposed Community Forest Reserve, the boundaries of which were largely agreed in 1988 and mostly follow the 2,200 m contour but come down to 1,600 m at their lowest point. They enclose an area of c. 20,000 ha, about half of which is montane forest, now the only extensive area of forest left anywhere in the Bamenda highlands. Important trees throughout include *Carapa procera*, *Scheffera abyssinica*, *S. manni* and *Syzygium guineense bamendae*; *Podocarpus latifolius* is locally dominant at high altitudes and there are extensive shrubberies of Acanthaceae in the understorey. Habitats also include montane *Sporobolus* grassland, *Gnidia* woodland and montane *Hypericum-Adenocarpus* shrubland together with a few swamps (the main one is Afua at 2,100 m); Lake Oku (at 2,200 m and with a diameter of c. 2,000 m) is in a cuvette entirely surrounded by forest. Average annual rainfall is over 2,000 mm. The slopes below the reserve (which were also forested in the past) are now almost entirely under cultivation.

**Key biodiversity:** Some 170 species have been recorded from the reserve area. The forest holds the last major populations of *Tauraco bannermani* and *Platysteira laticincta*. The former is common throughout (to 2,950 m), and may number up to 2,600 m and there are perhaps some 1,500 pairs. Several other Afromontane species endemic to the Cameroon-Nigeria chain occur in good numbers including *Andopadus montanus* (widespread in open understorey and at edges up to 2,500 m), *Bradypterus bangwaensis* (widespread up to 2,900 m), *Ploceus bannermani* (common at edges and in open understorey up to 2,900 m). On the other hand *Malaconotus gladiator* is very scarce (2,220 m), as the altitude is rather too high for this species. In addition to other species of global conservation concern *Circus macrourus* has been recorded and is perhaps regular.

**Threatened bird species:**

Bannerman's turaco *Tauraco bannermani* (EN)

Banded Wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta* (EN)

Green-breasted Bush-Shrike *Malaconotus gladiator* (VU)

Bannerman's Weaver *Ploceus bannermani* (VU)

**Non-bird biodiversity:** Oku is very important for small mammals. The rodent *Lamottemys oduensis* (EN) represents a species and indeed a genus, known only from Oku and a golden mole and three other rodents apparently endemic are *Chrysochloris balsaci*, *Lemniscomys mittendorfi* (EN), *Hylomyscus grandis* and *Lophuromys dicterleni*. Three other Cameroon endemics, all of limited distribution in the country, also occur: the shrew *Myosorex okuensis* (VU) (common) and rat *Hybomys eisentreati* (EN). Other mammals of note include *Galagoides thomasi*. Almost all large mammals have been hunted to extinction, although a few *Cercopithecus preussi* (EN) remain. **Amphibians:** several species of montane frogs have their centre of distribution in the Bamenda highlands; at least two *Phrynobatrachus* spp. Tape-recorded at Oku appear to be unmatched vocally, but the taxonomy of this genus is confusing. A toad *Wolterstoffsina chiroi* is apparently endemic. **Butterflies:** *Charaxes tectonis* and *Bicyclus anisops* are amongst the Cameroon-Nigerian forest endemics present. **Plants:** some 10 species new to science, including three trees, have been found recently in the Oku area. Several other plants are known only from Oku and one or two other sites<sup>26</sup>.

**AZE species:**

*Wolterstoffsina chiroi*<sup>27</sup>

**Red List Category:** Critically Endangered

**Justification:** This species is listed as Critically Endangered, its extent of occurrence and area of occupancy are both 2 km<sup>2</sup>, the entire population is known from a single location at which the quality and extent of its habitat is declining and the potential effects of climate change on its habitat may cause rapid decline in the population.

**Range description:** this species was described in 2001 and is known only from one site on the summit of Mount Oku (at 3,000 m asl), in the Bamenda Highlands in western Cameroon (Boistel and Amiet 2001). Due to the absence of suitable vegetation at other localities in Cameroon, this species is probably endemic to this area and specifically the summit of Mount Oku. Its extent of occurrence (EDO) and area of occupancy (AOO) are both estimated at 2 km<sup>2</sup> and the entire site is considered a single threat-defined location.

*Xenopus longipes*<sup>28</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6115>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/54897/0>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/58176/0>

<p><b>Red List Category:</b> Critically Endangered</p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Listed as Critically Endangered because its Extent of Occurrence is less than 100 km<sup>2</sup> and its Area of Occupancy is less than 10 km<sup>2</sup>, all individuals are in a single location, and there is a projected decline in the numbers of mature individuals, due to the high likelihood of a fish introduction into Lake Oku.</p> <p><b>Range Description:</b> This species is endemic to Lake Oru at 2,200 m asl on Mount Oky, western Cameroon. It might occur elsewhere in the Cameroon Highland.</p>
<p><b>International Name:</b> Mbi Crater Faunal Reserve – Mbingo forest</p> <p><b>Area:</b> 1,000 ha</p> <p><b>Protection Status:</b> 37% of site under protected area status</p> <p><b>KBA Criteria<sup>29</sup>:</b> The site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> <li>• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Description<sup>30</sup>:</b> Mbi Crater is a Faunal Reserve of 400 ha: the crater itself is c. 1 km across and lies at 2,060 m. It consists mostly of grassland, probably seasonally flooded and there is also a smaller permanent swamp. The rims are covered with a mosaic of montane forest Gnidia woodland, montane grassland and rocky ridges and much the same range of habitats occurs at nearby Mbingo. The main section of forest here flanks the escarpment (c. 1,900 -2,100 m), just beyond the north-western rim of the crater, and lies outside the reserve.</p> <p><b>Key biodiversity:</b> From brief visits, some 120 species have been recorded. The two Bamenda highlands endemics, <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> and <i>Platysteira laticincta</i> are both widespread as are other restricted range species.</p> <p><b>Threatened Bird Species:</b></p> <p>Bannerman's Turaco <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> EN</p> <p>Banded Wattle-eye <i>Platysteira laticincta</i> EN</p> <p>Bannerman's Weaver <i>Ploceus bannermani</i> VU</p>
<p><b>International Name:</b> Njinsing-Tabenken</p> <p><b>Area:</b> 200 ha</p> <p><b>Status:</b> 0% of site under protected area status</p> <p><b>KBA Criteria<sup>31</sup>:</b> The site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> <li>• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Description<sup>32</sup>:</b> This montane forest, known as Njinsing, is located west of the road between Kumbo and Nkambe, north-east of Mount Oku. This site comprises a small stand of submontane and montane forest mostly between 1,800 and 2,200 m, but which descends to Tabenken village at 1,600 m. It is completely surrounded by farmland or degraded savanna among montane pastures of <i>Sporobolus africanus</i>. The vegetation is typically montane with emergent species including <i>Croton macrostachys</i>, <i>Podocarpus latifolius</i>, <i>Polyscias fulva</i>, <i>Albizia gummifera</i>, <i>Schefflera abyssinica</i> and <i>Prunus Africana</i>. The forest is greatly disturbed as it is the main source of fuelwood for the surrounding villages.</p> <p><b>Key biodiversity:</b> A total of 80 species have so far been recorded, the result of a single day's visit. The site is particularly important for <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> and <i>Platysteira laticincta</i>, for both of which this is the northernmost site known.</p> <p><b>Threatened Bird Species:</b></p> <p>Bannerman's Turaco <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> EN</p> <p>Banded Wattle-eye <i>Platysteira laticincta</i> EN</p> <p>Bannerman's Weaver <i>Ploceus bannermani</i> VU</p>
<p><b>International Name:</b> Bali-Ngemba Forest Reserve</p> <p><b>Area:</b> 1,200 ha</p>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6116>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6114>

<p><u>Status:</u> 0% of site under protected area status</p> <p><u>KBA Criteria</u><sup>33</sup>: This site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA)(Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> <li>• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species</li> </ul> <p><u>Site Description:</u> Bali-Ngamba Forest Reserve is located in the valley of the Alatening stream, south-west of Bamenda. The vegetatin comprises a continuous band of submontane and montane forest, much of it degraded to varying degrees. There are large Eucalyptus plantations between c. 1,350 – 1,600 m which are exploited for timber and fuelwood. Above 1,600 m there is a patchwork of natural forests and farms. Although the understorey of the forest is much cleared for the growing of coco-yams, maize, plantains and potatoes, it retains a continuous canopy. Patches of intact forests are found mainly on the higher northern edge of the reserve. The reserve is completely surrounded and, except on the most inaccessible slopes, encroached by farmland, particularly for the cultivation of Arabica coffee.</p> <p><u>Key biodiversity:</u> to date, 185 species have been recorded. <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> is common above 1,800 m, but has been recorded down to 1,600 m and breeds in shade trees above cocoyam plantations. However, the relatively high density of <i>T. bannermani</i> may be due to immigration of birds displaced by forest clearance elsewhere. <i>Platysteira laticincta</i> and <i>Malaconotus gladiator</i> also occur and, as most of the forest lies between 1,400 and 1,800 m, the population of the latter may be healthy. <i>Phylloscopus herberti</i> has been recorded recently.</p> <p><u>Threatened Bird Species:</u>  Bannerman’s Turaco <i>Tauraco bannermani</i> EN  Banded Wattle-eye <i>Platysteira laticinita</i> EN  Green-breasted Bush-Shrike <i>Malaconotus gladiator</i> (VU)</p>
<p><u>International Name:</u> Mount Lefo</p> <p><u>Area:</u> 1,600 ha</p> <p><u>Status:</u> 0% of site under protected area status</p> <p><u>KBA Criteria</u><sup>34</sup>: The site has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area.</li> </ul> <p>This site has also been identified as an <i>Alliance for Zero Extinction Site</i> based upon the presence of the one remaining population of at least one species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessed as either Critically Endangered or Endangered.</p> <p><u>AZE species:</u>  <i>Lopuromys eisentrauti</i><sup>35</sup></p> <p><u>Red List Category:</u> Endangered</p> <p><u>Justification:</u> Listed as Endangered because its extent of occurrence because while it is currently known only from the type locality, it is expected to possibly be distributed more widely, but it is likely to be less than 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>, all individuals are presumed to be in fewer than five locations, and there is continuing decline in the extent and quality of its habitat on Mount Lefo and surrounding areas.</p> <p><u>Range Description:</u> This little-known species is known only from the type locality of Mount Lefo in the Bamileke Plateau area of western Cameroon, where it has been recorded at 2,550 m asl.</p>
<p><b>West Region</b></p> <p>International Name: Mount Mbam</p> <p>Area: 12,000 ha</p> <p><u>Status:</u> 0% of site under protected area status</p> <p><u>KBA Criteria</u><sup>36</sup>: The site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) (Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant populations of globally threatened species</li> <li>• Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area</li> </ul>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/136619/0>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

• Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species.

**Site Description**<sup>37</sup>: Mount Mbam, also known as the Mbam Hill Forest, is a massif between the towns of Foumban and Jakiri and includes about 2,000 ha of montane forest, mainly on the plateau at about 2,000 m. The massif is an abrupt, isolated mountain with montane savanna grassland mixed with large patches of gallery forest on the plateau and the slopes, where they line the numerous streams, some of which are seasonal and some permanent. Many large forest patches extend down to about 1,400 m. The numerous galleries on the plateau range between 5 m and 100 m in width and 500 – 1000 m or more in length. The forest is dominated by *Albizia gummifera*, *Polyscias fulva* and *Schefflera mannii* while other common species include *Syzygium guineense*, *Carapa procera*, *Ficus* spp., *Nuxia congesta*, *Olea capensis*, *Croton macrostachyus* and *Eugenia gilgii*. Emergent shrubs in the *Sporobolus africanus* grassland include *Hypericum revolutum*, *H. riparium* and *Aguaria salicifolia*. The hills are dotted with small settlements of mainly Fulani cattle grazers. Population densities at lower altitudes are higher, with at least 10 villages at the foot of the hills.

**Key biodiversity**<sup>38</sup>: A total of 137 species have so far been recorded. The mountain holds important numbers of *Tauraco bannermani*, probably the second-largest population after Mount Oku. *Apalis bamendae* is not uncommon and occurs at 2,050 m in company with *Apalis cinerea*, *A. pulchra* and *A. jacksoni*.

**Threatened Species:**

Bannerman's Turaco *Tauraco bannermani* EN

**International name:** Bamboutos Mountains

**Area:** 7,400 ha

**Status:** 0% of site under protected area status

**KBA Criteria**<sup>39</sup>: This site has been identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) based on the presence of:

- Significant populations of globally threatened species
- Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area

This site has also been identified as an *Alliance for Zero Extinction Site* based upon the presence of the one remaining population of at least one species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species assessed as either Critically Endangered or Endangered.

**AZE species:**

*Leptodactylodon axillaris*

**Red List Category:** Critically Endangered

**Justification:** Listed as Critically Endangered because its extent of occurrence (EOO) is estimated at 74 km<sup>2</sup>, it is known from only one threat-defined location (its type locality), and the quality and extent of its habitat in the Bamboutos Mountains is declining continuously.

**Range Description:** This species was described from the Bamboutos Mountains in the Bamenda Highlands of western Cameroon, between the altitudes of 2,300-2,700 m asl. It may also occur on Mount Oku in the Bamenda Highlands. However, despite ongoing surveys at Mount Oku, it has not yet been found there (N. Gonwouo pers. comm. May 2012). The species range is based on its type locality which is herein considered to be one threat-defined location. Thus, using its range as a proxy, its extent of occurrence (EOO) has been calculated as 74 km<sup>2</sup>.

**International name:** Mont Bana

**Area:** 200 ha

**Status:** 0% of site under protected area status

**KBA Criteria**<sup>40</sup>: This site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA)(Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:

- Significant populations of endemic species known only to be found in a limited area
- Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species

**Site description**<sup>41</sup>: Situated some 50 km north-east of Mont Manengouba (CM021), to the south of the Bafang–Bangangté road, the site comprises an area of remnant forest, isolated in a cuvette near the summit Mont Bana, at about 2,000 m. The vegetation includes submontane forest surrounded by *Sporobolus africanus* grassland and *Eucalyptus* plantations. There are also a number of gallery forests along drainage lines.

**Key Biodiversity:** A short survey of the area revealed about 70 species, including a number of montane endemics.

**International name:** Santchou Faunal Reserve

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6117>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6117>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6123>

Area: 4,000 ha

Status: 0% of site under protected area status

KBA Criteria<sup>42</sup>: This site has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA)(Key Biodiversity Area for Birds) based on the presence of:

- Significant populations of species known only to be found in a particular biome and/or significant regional/sub-regional populations of trigger species

Site description<sup>43</sup>: Located south of the town of Dschang, the site is surrounded by four rivers, the Alouno to the north, the Nkam river to the west, to the south by the Metché river and to the east by the Alouo river. The vegetation is a mixture of Sterculiaceae- and Ulmaceae-dominated semi-deciduous forest, shrubby savanna, submontane forest, periodically inundated swamp-forest and grassland. Forest species include *Mitragyna ciliata*, *Lophira alata*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Milicia (Chlorophora) excelsa*, *Mansonia altissima*, *Terminaliaspp.*, *Klainedoxa gabonensis*, *Prunus africana* and a few emergent *Polyscias fulva*. The grasslands comprise *Pennisetum*, *Eleusine*, *Andropogon spp.* and *Imperata cylindrica*. About nine villages are found within the reserve.

Key Biodiversity<sup>44</sup>: Some 161 species have so far been recorded from the reserve, including the restricted-range *Hirundo fuliginosa*. This is one of only two IBAs in Cameroon at which the Guinea–Congo Forests biome species *Phyllanthus atripennis* occurs.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://www.ibat-alliance.org>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=6121>

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