



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

**Naoko Ishii**  
CEO and Chairperson

May 03, 2018

Ms Sendashonga Cyrie  
Global Director  
International Union for Conservation of Nature  
Switzerland

Dear Ms Cyrie:

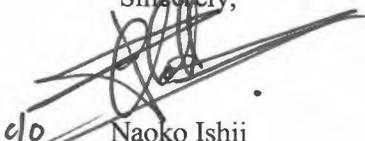
I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project detailed below:

Decision Sought:	Medium-sized Project (MSP) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	9519
Agency(ies):	IUCN
Focal Area:	Multi Focal Area
Project Type:	Medium-Sized Project
Country(ies):	Cameroon
Name of Project:	Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of Local Plant Species and Tree Products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon
Parent Program:	Global: TRI The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$1,326,146
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$119,354
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

Break-down of Indicative Agency Fee				
Agency	Trust Fund	Fees committed at Council Approval of PFD	Fees to be committed at CEO Approval	Total (US\$)
IUCN	GET	\$47,742	\$71,612	\$119,354

This approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

  
c/o Naoko Ishii  
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document  
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



# GEF-6 REQUEST FOR ONE-STEP MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT APPROVAL

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

For more information about GEF, visit [TheGEF.org](http://TheGEF.org)

## PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa ssp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon		
Country(ies):	Cameroon	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	9519
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	PO2468
Other Executing Partner(s):	INBAR	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	60 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		
Name of Parent Program:	The Restoration Initiative	Agency Fee (\$)	119,354

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM<sup>2</sup>:

Focal Area Objectives/programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-4 Program 9	Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management. Sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations.	GEFTF	822,211	1,322,393
CCM-2 Program 4	Accelerated adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration; Policy, planning and regulatory frameworks foster accelerated low GHG development and emissions mitigation.	GEFTF	26,523	2,213,714
LD-2 Program 3	Support mechanisms for forest landscape management and restoration established; Improved forest management and/or restoration; Increased investments in SFM and restoration.	GEFTF	39,784	2,150,612
SFM-3	Integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services are implemented at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men.	GEFTF	437,628	3,436,008
<b>Total project costs</b>			1,326,146	9,122,727

<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](#) and [CBIT programming directions](#).

## B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<b>Project Objective:</b> To support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Policy Development and Integration	TA	Outcome 1. Strengthened policy commitment and improved legislative and regulatory framework supporting forest landscape restoration and sustainable land and forest management	Output 1.1: High-priority restoration opportunities and interventions identified in 4 pilot landscapes through facilitated participatory ROAM processes.  Output 1.2. Policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp and Ricinodendron heudelotii, etc. reviewed and compiled in a report  Output 1.3 Uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments, published report on use of indigenous plants to support restoration, and other briefs and case studies facilitated	GEFTF	255,000	1,171,932
Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives	Inv	Outcome 2. Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using Bambusa spp and other indigenous NTFP like Irvingia spp, Ricinodendron heudelotii, etc, and ensure the development of value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction	Output 2.1. Degraded landscapes under restoration with collaboration of stakeholders  Output 2.2. Value chains development and enhancement of priority NTFPs like Bamboo Irvingia spp and Ricinodendron heudelotii, etc is supported in the various sites to facilitate Forest Landscape Restoration  Output 2.3. Promote the production of sustainable	GEFTF	732,000	4,771,932

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

			charcoal (from Bambusa spp), especially in sites near Protected Areas to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration.				
Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Up scaling	TA	Outcome 3. Strengthened Institutional capacities and Financing arrangements in place to facilitate large-scale Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management in Project sites in Cameroon	Output 3.1. Beneficiaries Trained on Management, Financial and Technical aspects of Landscape Restoration and NTFPs Value Chain Development  Output 3.2. New financing mechanisms for restoration investments and/or NTFP value chain identified, developed and mainstreamed at national and local level	GEFTF	119,000	1,271,932	
Component 4 : Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment	TA	Outcome 4. Improved knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration, SFM, SLM, Monitoring and Evaluation amongst Stakeholders	Output 4.1. System to monitor and evaluate progress with landscape restoration and SLM developed and is operational (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and global TRI Initiative)  Output 4.2. Development of FLR knowledge products  Output 4.3. Development and participation in knowledge sharing events to share Project experiences and knowledge products and learn from other TRI projects and initiatives	GEFTF	99,587	994,658	
Subtotal						1,205,587	8,210,455
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>					(select)	120,559	912,273
<b>Total GEF Project Financing</b>						<b>1,326,146</b>	<b>9,122,727</b>

<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.

**C. SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE**

Please include confirmed co-financing letters for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	4,548,021
CSO	FODER (NGO)	In-kind	82,774
Others	INBAR	In-kind	1,991,932
CSO	CEW & NGOs of the Cameroon Members Network	In-kind	1,000,000
CSO	CWCS & NGOs of the Cameroon Mangroves Network	In-kind	1,500,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			9,122,727

**D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee <sup>a)</sup> (b)	Total (c)=a+b
IUCN	GEF TF	Cameroon	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	822,211	73,999	896,210
IUCN	GEF TF	Cameroon	Climate Change	(select as applicable)	26,523	2,387	28,910
IUCN	GEF TF	Cameroon	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	39,784	3,581	43,365
IUCN	GEF TF	Cameroon	Multi-focal Areas	(select as applicable)	437,628	39,387	477,015
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>					1,326,146	119,354	1,445,500

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

**E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS<sup>5</sup>**

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	5000 hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	6000 hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO <sub>2e</sub> mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	3,092,458 metric tons mitigated (Direct and Indirect: see EXACT Calculations)

<sup>5</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, SCCF and/or CBIT.

5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

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

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

**G. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)<sup>6</sup>**

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

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee <sup>7</sup> (b)	Total c = a + b
IUCN	GEF TF	Cameroon	Multi-focal Areas	(select as applicable)	50,000	4,500	54,500
<b>Total PPG Amount</b>					<b>50,000</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>54,500</b>

**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; b) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, c) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area<sup>8</sup> strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, d) [incremental/ additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF/SCCF, CBIT and [co-financing](#); e) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF), and [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Forest cover in Cameroon covers about 20 million hectares, although independent studies put it at around 22.5 million hectares or 48% of the national territory<sup>9</sup>, with the dense forests making the majority (17 million ha) while the rest are other types of forests<sup>10</sup>. According to the University of California, the forests of Cameroon are very important because they harbour some of the richest biological diversity in Africa: they are home to more than 900 species of birds and 300 species of mammals (including more than 29 primate species), with many of the country's rare plant and animal species not found nowhere else in Africa<sup>11</sup>. However, between 1990 and 2010 the country lost almost 4,400,000 ha, i.e. 20% of the area<sup>12</sup>. Unfortunately, this trend is still evolving for the worse, because loss and degradation of forests and land is negatively impacting ecosystems services that are globally important to mankind

<sup>6</sup> PPG of up to \$50,000 is reimbursable to the country upon approval of the MSP.

<sup>7</sup> PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

<sup>8</sup> For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

<sup>9</sup> DE WASSEIGE, C., et al. 2009. Les forêts du Bassin du Congo: état des forêts 2008. EU Publications Office;

<sup>10</sup> <https://theredddesk.org/countries/cameroon/statistics>

<sup>11</sup> <http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/preserving-camaroon-s-treasures-248074>

<sup>12</sup> REDD Desk <http://theredddesk.org/countries/cameroon/statistics>

like climate mitigation through carbon sequestration from the forests and maintenance of biodiversity and their habitats, just as they also provide products to sustain the livelihoods of communities like food, fuelwood, building materials, etc. Also, being natural habitats for important biodiversity, the loss of forest and land degradation will surely negatively impact the survival of some flagship species.

This is why degradation of land and forest ecosystems in Cameroon, which is also a global environmental challenge, has been a serious problem for the Cameroon Government and solving it has been at the top of its priority lists. This is why the Government has liaised with the international community to support the implementation of the Bonn Challenge and The United Nations New York Declaration on Forest which are global Environmental targets to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. To support the above global efforts, the Cameroon Government recently pledged to restore 12.06 million hectares as its contribution to the implementation of the above targets. Following a series of assessments carried out prior to the development of the National REDD+ Strategy (in 2017), the Government of Cameroon, through the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), is working hard to restore its diverse humid and coastal forests, humid Savannas zones, its degraded Northern and far northern dry savannah, its deciduous forests and Sudano-Sahelian Savannah zones.

The root causes that of global environmental and/or adaptation problems are outlined below:

- a. **Land cover change:** Land cover change, forest loss and overall human-induced degradation accelerate the destruction of the habitats of indigenous biodiversity and NTFPs, hampers natural regeneration processes and enhances spread and colonisation by non indigenous, invasive species;
- b. **Population pressure:** Population growth, density and migration are putting enormous pressures on the environment because of the need for more land, water and agricultural land for food, etc. This often leads to unsustainable harvesting of resources, threats to species and their habitats and conflict over scarce resources mainly because most people scramble for the most fertile lands and resources in and around the vicinities of villages and towns as in the case of densely populated zones like the coastal zones (Douala Edea Landscape) and Far North (Waza Logon Landscapes) are experiencing this pressure in and around the Forests Reserves and National Parks.
- c. **Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources:** Unsustainable exploitation of forests and minerals, notably by the private sector and other stakeholders leads to land degradation, loss of biodiversity and conflict over resource use.
- d. **Inequitable land and resource tenure systems** send underprivileged local populations further afield in search for farm lands and habitats unfortunately in highly rich biodiversity areas. The ultimate pressure facilitate unsustainable harvesting of natural resources for food, building and for commercial purposes to support their basic needs. Also, current land tenure arrangements favour rich elites who either grab fertile lands or dominate community managed lands for personal purposes.
- e. **Climate Change:** The impact of climate change is negatively affecting the lives of millions of Cameroonians, both at the coastal and dry northern parts of the country. It results to seasonal droughts and flooding that facilitate the degradation of agricultural lands, reduced harvests and loss of biodiversity, particularly in and around the project sites in the Waza Longon and Douala Edea landscapes.
- f. **Extreme poverty:** Because most rural populations are extremely poor, they are forced to look for livelihoods options and food from the forests since they cannot own or manage moderate agricultural lands. Since they also have enormous socio-economic pressures, they are forced to harvest natural resources and NTFPs in the forests and protected areas to sell for cash. Some of them are even forced to live either in Protected Areas or around the buffer zones

### **Possible Barriers to Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation**

#### ***Policy and implementation readiness gaps***

As seen earlier, The Republic of Cameroon has pledged to restore 12.06 Million hectares of degraded landscapes under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 initiatives. Given that this pledges were made in early 2017, there is yet

not enough clarity on how Cameroon's existing forest and biodiversity conservation policy developed 23 years ago (1994) will support the implementation of this commitment. Luckily, the new Forestry and Wildlife laws are currently being updated and it is our wish that policy recommendations of this project will help integrate Forest landscape restoration in the laws or at least in its Implementation Decree after the vetting of the Law by Parliament and the Presidency.

### ***Uncertain financial environment for private sector commitment***

Transitioning from restoration pledges to on-the-ground actions through Landscape Restoration approaches is now increasingly urgent for Cameroon. However, although the Cameroonian Government is financing some of the activities, they are currently looking for the necessary funds from partners to fund activities on the ground. According to IUCN's ROAM, this transition may involve significant investments from other actors like the private sector and the donors to bridge the gap from "restoration opportunities" to "restoration investments". This project will also explore incentive measures in the form of knowledge and techniques to enhance private sector engagement, including small-scale community entrepreneurs.

### ***State of Degradation and Opportunities for restoration***

Intervention sites for this project, though well understood and strategically selected, covers vast areas. The Far northern regions, coastal mangroves, and central forest margins – the priorities for restoration under this project are densely settled regions where land ownership and tenure is highly contested. Bearing in mind that some restoration interventions are likely to last years, the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) will be used since it is a flexible and cost-effective analytic process for identifying restoration opportunities at national or sub-national levels, as well as describing how those opportunities relate to food, water and energy security as well as biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.. It will 1) identify priority areas for restoration; 2) prioritise relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites; 3) quantify costs and benefits of each intervention type; 4) analyse the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites; 5) estimate the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and 6) come up with a diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.

### ***Poor Governance and insufficient Community Tenure***

The 1994 Forest and Wildlife Laws of the Republic of Cameroon created Permanent Forest Estates (State properties) and Non-Permanent Forest Estates. Of these, two Community forests, privately owned forests and Protected Areas are of particular relevance to this project. Significant bodies of forests under community spheres used for NTFPs also exist. As a result confusion can occur as to the origins of even sustainably extracted NTFPs like *Bamboo (Bambusa spp)*, *Irvingia spp*, etc. that are important to this project. Unfortunately, the decentralisation process has not been finalized and issues related to power devolution, conflicts over management of natural resources, power transfer are key barriers. This project has been designed to tackle some of these huddles and come out with some policy recommendations to solve them.

### ***Rights of Women, Girls and of Indigenous People***

In Cameroon like in much of West and Central Africa, small holder land uses like agriculture and fuelwood extraction are two important drivers of landscape degradation, with women constituting approximately, 50-70% of the active farming and fuelwood workforce. Paradoxically, due to prevailing socio-economic and cultural conditions of women like high poverty rates, low levels of formal education and restrictive inheritances systems, women's direct participation, especially in leadership roles in restoration of the lands is low and if not well manage may be systematically be excluded from activities. This project will systematically target and empower women and indigenous groups to strengthen social acceptability of the project, overcome barriers of participation in natural resource management and to seek opportunities for securing tangible benefits through the value chain.

## **1. BASELINE SCENARIO AND ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS.**

This project is in line with the 2035 economic vision for the Republic of Cameroon that is built on a reference framework anchored on three pillars to: (1). Eradicate poverty (2.) Envision Cameroon becoming a middle income country and (3) Pursue industrialization by mainstreaming the countries's economy within the global marketplace.

A number of baseline situations in policy, implementation and knowledge generation and management, supporting Cameroon's development vision, as well as all relevant GEF focal areas for this project will be considered and built upon. These include;

*National Environment Management Plan (1996)*; specifically seeks through a landscape or ecosystem management approach to promote a network of protected areas, representing all the major biomes of Cameroon.

*The Forest and Environment Sector Program - FESP, (1996)*: The FESP is set up to coherently, in a sectoral manner, ensure participatory interventions to facilitate restoration and biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources and look for the necessary attract co-funding through a "basket fund" mechanism.

*The National Reforestation Plans*: Sets ambitious site-specific restoration targets across the country. It is especially a platform on which restoration interventions can and will be fine-tuned according to local needs and priorities; promote private and community tree planting initiatives to support conservation through use, sustainable management of natural resources and support the livelihoods of local populations.

*The National Program on Desertification*: This framework will support restoration and biodiversity conservation initiatives in the Far northern Sudano-sahelian project intervention sites. The Cameroon Government has also conducted numerous state-of-the-art studies on land degradation in the Sudano-sahelian and coastal zones of the country. These results will help establish more credible baselines for this project.

*REDD+ Process*: The Government of Cameroon is piloting a national REDD+ process since 2013 with the elaboration and adoption of the RPP Document which is critical for the on-going development process of the National REDD+ Strategy.

*National Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2021)*: The Government of Cameroon (GoC) via the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of External Relations has joined the Network of International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and have signed an MoU with INBAR on 25.11.2013 that aims to develop the bamboo and rattan sector in Cameroon for poverty alleviation, landscape restoration, environmental protection and job creation.

*Bonn Challenge Pledge*: The 2016 national Pledge to the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 restoration initiatives is a most recent addition to an arsenal of policy tools promoting restoration activities and which this project will refer.

A number of past and ongoing programs and initiatives in the country and project zone further solidifies the foundation of this project and include:

*The Chari-Logon (PDRI-CL)*; Integrated Rural Development Project that is funded by the Islamic Development Bank; Lessons here will help identify and validated capacity building and knowledge generation lessons in integrated water and land management to support restoration and sustainable land management;

*The Project on the Resilience of populations to climate change funded by UNDP*; will serve as foundation on which landscape level benefits, spatial analyses (sub national ROAM) and carbon accounting resulting from restoration interventions will be built;

*The Support Program on Securing the Integrated Management of Agro pastoral Resources (PASGIRAP funded by AfD)*; Will serve as baseline on which lessons for promoting sustainable lands use by managing agriculture-livestock conflicts, in support of restoration and biodiversity conservation will be built;

*The Program on the Rehabilitation and Resilience of Socio-ecological Systems in the Lake Chad Basin (PRESIBALT funded by AfDB)*: Will serve as sound basis for developing indicators for linking restoration with livelihoods benefits.

*The Project on the Development of Cattle Rearing (PRODEL) funded by the Cameroon Government and the World Bank*; will contribute towards understanding of the relationships between livestock systems, farmer-grazer conflicts and restoration. This project will also contribute towards developing progress indicators on strategies to control bush-fires – a major driver of degradation in the Far North.

*The Support Project on the Improvement of Productivity of Animal Rearing (PAPE) implemented by CADEPI,*

*CNEBCAM and IUCN*; This project funded by the European Union, has specific components on natural resource management and community consultation/participation, whose lessons on mobilization, adoption and benefits sharing are critical to monitoring for success in this project.

*The Dryad - TMP Systems Initiative implemented in the Bambusa spp intervention zones of this project has the World Agroforestry Center leading a pilot of the TMP systems in Cameroon.* The project running from 2015 -2020 provides capital, equipment and technical assistance to locally designed, launched and operated Community Forests enterprises, and is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) at a total cost of £5.7 million

## **2. PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO, GEF FOCAL AREA STRATEGIES, WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT**

The Republic of Cameroon has a diverse ecological landscape, earning her the title “Africa in Miniature”. The southern portions of Cameroon’s forests are a part of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem, the second largest remaining contiguous block of rainforest on Earth, after the Amazon. In addition to extensive Mangrove belts in the coast, notably along the Douala-Edea Forest Reserve, Cameroon also holds significant portions of the Lower Guinea Forest Ecosystems and zones of endemism extending into densely settled portions of the Western Highlands and Montagne forests. The North of the country comprising the Dry Sudano-Sahelian Savannah Zones is rich in wildlife, and home to dense human and livestock populations. Much of the population residing in these areas lives in extreme poverty. This diversity in biomes makes Cameroon one of the most important and unique hotspots for biodiversity in Africa.

However, human population growth, migrations, livelihoods strategies, rudimentary technologies and unsustainable land use for agriculture or small-scale forestry, energy and livestock, are contributing to biodiversity loss and landscape degradation in Cameroon.

Indigenous NTFPs species like bamboo, Irvingia, etc. are very important for the subsistence and livelihoods of most communities in Cameroon. In fact, they account for respectively 35% and 39% of non-cash income and, 21% and 14% of cash income in the IP and Bantu households in Cameroon<sup>13</sup>. Unfortunately, unsustainable harvesting in rural areas for commercialization purpose in urban areas for food is gradually endangering some of these species and the Government and other stakeholders are currently looking for strategies to promote their sustainable use and this project is one of those opportunities. Also, the full value and usefulness of some key indigenous species like bamboo has not been fully known. Without this GEF Project, unsustainable use of these species will continue as usual, thus precipitating biodiversity loss, land degradation and deforestation. While using the above baseline as our yardstick, the proposed alternative approach of this project is to assess, pilot the application of, and disseminate knowledge on, the role that bamboo and other priority indigenous species can play in supporting restoration efforts to yield multiple benefits, notably to 1) Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity since it grows fast over a short period of time; 2) Generate household revenues of rural communities through value chain analysis of bamboo and other priority NTFPs; 3) showcase how bamboo and other NTFPs can sequester carbon from the atmosphere to fight climate change; and 4) Understand the possibility of replicating experiences in India where bamboo has contributed to raising water table in degraded landscapes to boost agricultural yields and restoration- this is will notably be capitalised in the Waza Logon and Mbalmayo landscapes of the project. Also, since policy support and capacity development are important components of this project, stakeholders will be supported to ensure uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM and NTFP assessments. This will be done by supporting the work of the Cross-Sectoral Inter-ministerial Forest Landscape Restoration Working Group and engaging with policy and decision makers. The project has also been designed to strengthen the institutional and individual capacities and innovative financial mechanism to ensure large scale forest landscape restoration.

Below are the four components of the Project:

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<sup>13</sup> D. ENDAMANA<sup>1</sup>, K.A. ANGU<sup>1</sup>, G.N AKWAH<sup>2</sup>, G. SHEPHERD<sup>3</sup> and B.C. NTUMWEL 2016: Contribution of non-timber forest products to cash and non-cash income of remote forest communities in Central Africa, International Forestry Review Vol.XX(X), 2016 1

## **Component 1. Policy Development and Integration**

Component 1 of the Project will work to strengthen national commitment to FLR and improve the policy and regulatory framework governing FLR in Cameroon so that it is more supportive of FLR and incentivizes investment in FLR. This will occur through a set of linked interventions that include: (1) sub-national ROAM<sup>14</sup> assessments of FLR opportunities and priority interventions at the Project's four pilot sites; (2) development and publication of a report on policies and plans in Cameroon that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands through the use of bamboo and other indigenous plants; and (3) facilitating the uptake of FLR-supportive policies through dissemination of the findings from the ROAM assessments, the report on bamboo, and support for a national Cross-Sectoral working group on FLR

The Project will provide support for four sub-national ROAM assessments – one at each of the pilot sites – to be completed during the early stage of the Project, to generate key data to facilitate informed decision making by policy makers. Outputs of the ROAM process will include:

- Identified priority areas for restoration;
- Prioritised relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites;
- Quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type;
- Assessment of the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites;
- Estimation of the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and

Diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks. (More details on the ROAM process is described in Annex XIV)

The results of the four sub-national ROAM assessments and other lessons learned will be presented to policy makers and other stakeholders to ensure that they are integrated into on-going FLR policy and legislative practices and discussions. This will be done through workshops organized at the sub-national and national level, policy-briefs, radio programs, etc. The Project will also support the activities of the cross-sectoral National Working Group to Coordinate, Monitor, Implement and Promote Forest Landscape Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands that was jointly set up by the Cameroon Ministers of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development in June 2017, and that include members from other sectoral Ministries like Mining, Agriculture, Commerce, Land Planning, Lands, Energy and Water, Scientific Research, Higher Education, Energy and Water, Civil Society Organisations, International Organisation (IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, WRI, GIZ, KFW, etc), Parliament, local Councils, etc). This component will also support a study on policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants like bambusa, Irvingia, just as it will facilitate the finalization and implementation of the Cameroon Bamboo Management Plans for 2017-2020. These activities will help ensure that the ROAM findings are used to inform development and integration of innovative policies, legislation and regulatory reforms and frameworks that support Forest Landscape Restoration activities on the ground and create incentives for FLR as an approach to conserve biodiversity, sustain livelihoods and promote carbon sequestration in the different project sites.

## **Component 2. Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives**

The outcome of this component seeks to pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using Bambusa spp and other indigenous NTFP and to support the development of NTFP value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction. It will also support the production of sustainable charcoal (from Bambusa spp), especially in sites near protected areas and other conservation sites to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration.

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<sup>14</sup> The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), developed by IUCN and the World Resources Institute (WRI), provides a flexible and affordable framework for countries to rapidly identify and analyze areas that are primed for forest landscape restoration (FLR) and to identify specific priority areas at a national or sub-national level.

The component has been designed to promote restoration in pilot sites and the national level, encourage and support replication, mainstreaming and up-scaling of results and lessons learned. Also, successful restoration results will be highlighted, shared and used to strengthen restoration activities in other part of the country. Choice of priority species for restoration will be based on experience with existing species and local priorities- they will be prioritized during sub national ROAM exercises at the relevant community levels. Our experience in Burundi with a World Bank funded Project entitled "Supporting ROAM Piloting in Burundi" enabled IUCN and the Burundian Government to use the ROAM approach to generate socio-economic and spatial data during the first semester of 2017 to inform policy/decision makers on restoration opportunities, estimated costs and funding opportunities in Burundi. The data gathered also facilitated the elaboration of a USD 50 Million Restoration Project by the World Bank to support the Burundian Government's restoration efforts on the field. The implementation phase of the Restoration Project will start this year.

The project will support restoration activities like the cultivation and use of NTFPs and priority indigenous species like *Bambus spp*, *Irvingia spp* and *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc, in degraded lands since this will sustain some basic local needs and take pressures off non-degraded lands and forests. It is expected that this would significantly support sustainable management of Community Forests and generate revenue for communities since they will support off-forest and off-farm investments. The project will support communities in developing income generating activities along the NTFP value chain.

### **Component 3. Institutions, Finance and Up scaling**

The outcomes of this component is institutional and technical capacities strengthened and financing arrangements developed and in place for effective landscape restoration for biodiversity and CO2 emissions impacts, and conservational and innovative use and management of underutilized species in relevant forests in Cameroon.

This component will deliver information, communications and knowledge management products to build and strengthen the capacities of decision-making, high-level technical personnel and extension personnel of MINFOP and MINEPDED so they become champions of Cameroon's Bonn Challenge commitments. The component will further, use appropriate information, communications and knowledge management tools to strengthen the capacity of representatives of NGOs, CBOs, Women and Youth Associations in intervention sites so that they are capable of understanding the dimensions and needs of restoration to allow them innovate. Innovation is expected in domains like assessing how best to generate and present restoration opportunities, so that they are attractive to donors, private sector investors and technical partners with ongoing projects. Using site-specific opportunities, this component will aim to facilitate development of small to medium-sized funding proposals using predetermined funding criteria developed by FEICOM (the Local Council Support Fund) to first facilitate direct investment through State budgetary allocations for restoration; and or take advantage of opportunities existing within the Jurisdiction of project Stakeholders. Opportunities can also be explored through the National Agency for Participatory Local Development (PNDP). The component will also facilitate capacity building of stakeholders relevant to strengthening the value chains of priority NTFPs such as *Bambusa spp*. The component will explore how the expected tCO2eq., to be saved through development of renewable energy using *Bambusa spp* promotion and development, can serve as basis for developing project ideas for compensatory Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES), conserved as a results of wood energy savings from natural forests, and substitution with *Bambusa spp* energy products. An important part of capacity building in the domain of market value chain support for NTFPs would be oriented towards generation and communicating knowledge useful in recognizing certain NTFPs as emerging commodities worthy of private sector considerations.

### **Component 4. Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment**

Component 4 will provide support for the development and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to assess the effectiveness of the Project's interventions in achieving desired restoration outcomes. The M&E system will be designed so as to capture high quality and sufficient data from the Project's pilot sites to assess the effectiveness of using bamboo to:

- Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity over a short period of time;
- Enhance the household incomes of rural communities through development of bamboo value chains and where necessary other priority NTFPs;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere; and

- Assess the degree to which bamboo can contribute in raising water table in degraded landscapes (e.g. in the Waza Logon) to boost agricultural yields and restoration, as experienced in India. ]

Under this Component, the Project will provides support for developing Project contributions to, and stakeholder participation in, TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing events, the TRI Restoration Finance event, and TRI-sponsored South-South exchanges. It is anticipated that the Project will generate knowledge on the following thematic areas relevant to FLR: potential of NTFPs species like *Bambusa* spp., *Pongamia pinnata* in restoration, as well as agroforestry techniques and germplasm production, adoption and distribution networks for these species.

In addition, under this Component, the Project will create a publically-accessible knowledge sharing platform for sharing of information on FLR within Cameroon and with external stakeholders.

The table below gives a summary of the Components, Outcomes and Outputs

Components	Outcomes	Outputs
<b>Component 1:</b> Policy Development and Integration	<b>Outcome 1.</b> Strengthened policy commitment and improved legislative and regulatory framework supporting forest landscape restoration and sustainable land and forest management	<b>Output 1.1:</b> High-priority restoration opportunities and interventions identified in 4 pilot landscapes through facilitated participatory ROAM processes
		<b>Output 1.2.</b> Policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants <i>Bambusa</i> spp, <i>Irvingia</i> spp and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> , etc. reviewed and compiled in a report
		<b>Output 1.3</b> Uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments, published report on use of indigenous plants to support restoration, and other briefs and case studies facilitated
<b>Component 2:</b> Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives	<b>Outcome 2:</b> Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using <i>Bambusa</i> spp and other indigenous NTFP like <i>Irvingia</i> spp, <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> , etc, and ensure the development of value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction	<b>Output 2.1.</b> Degraded landscapes under restoration with collaboration of stakeholders
		<b>Output 2.2.</b> Value chains development and enhancement of priority NTFPs like Bamboo <i>Irvingia</i> spp and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> , etc is supported in the various sites to facilitate Forest Landscape Restoration
		<b>Output 2.3.</b> Promote the production of sustainable charcoal (from <i>Bambusa</i> spp), especially in sites near Protected Areas to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration.
<b>Component 3:</b> Institutions, Finance and Up scaling	<b>Outcome 3.</b> Strengthened Institutional capacities and Financing arrangements in place to facilitate large-scale Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management in Project sites in Cameroon	<b>Output 3.1.</b> Beneficiaries Trained on Management, Financial and Technical aspects of Landscape Restoration and NTFPs Value Chain Development
		<b>Output 3.2.</b> New financing mechanisms for restoration investments and/or NTFP value chain identified, developed and mainstreamed at national and local level
<b>Component 4 :</b> Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment	<b>Outcome 4.</b> Improved knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration, SFM, SLM, Monitoring and Evaluation amongst Stakeholders	<b>Output 4.1.</b> System to monitor and evaluate progress with landscape restoration and SLM developed and is operational (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and global TRI Initiative)
		<b>Output 4.2.</b> Development of FLR knowledge products
		<b>Output 4.3.</b> Development and participation in knowledge sharing events to share Project experiences and knowledge products and learn from other TRI projects and initiatives

Relevant GEF-6 Focal Area Objectives: Cross-cutting

### **3. INCREMENTAL OR ADDITIONAL COST REASONING, GEF TF AND CO-FINANCING**

Currently, most stakeholders at the local and national levels lack the necessary skills, knowledge and information concerning the value and use of indigenous species like bamboo, Irvingia, etc for restoration purposes. Most of these products are unsustainably harvested in key biodiversity areas such as protected areas, forest concessions, etc. Judging the importance of these species, this Project will support stakeholders in the 4 project sites, notably local and indigenous populations, to engage in restoration efforts to attain multiple benefits like biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, food security and alternative livelihoods for local communities. Also, stakeholders will be supported to ensure uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM and NTFP assessments. The project has also been designed to strengthen the institutional and individual capacities and innovative financial mechanism to ensure large scale forest landscape restoration.

The following points below shows how this project will be incremental to the baseline mentioned above;

- 1) By applying the ROAM methodology and carrying out the NTFP assessments, the project will fill in critical knowledge and policy gaps regarding the effectiveness of the use of important indigenous NTFPs like Bamboo, Irvingia, etc in restoring landscapes to support biodiversity conservation, food security, local livelihood and climate change mitigation. As we have mentioned, information that will be generated by ROAM will include priority intervention types, quantified costs and benefits of each intervention types, analysis of innovative finance and investment options, estimated value of carbon sequestration and strategies to address major policy and institutional barriers. It will only be a major contribution in promoting the use of indigenous NTFPs like Bamboo, Irvingia etc for landscape restoration. In addition, the results, lessons learned and policy recommendations will be replicated in other parts of Cameroon and in other countries in the region and beyond. This project will also give the Cameroon Government the first opportunity to move from the 12,06 Million theoretical pledge to effective implementation of restoration activities on the ground, just as it will link Cameroon stakeholders to other TRI Global partners through capacity-building sessions as in the case of the ROAM training with the Yale University and numerous workshops. It will also facilitate the exchange of experiences with other 11 Child Projects of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) and leverage with on-going Projects in the country to reinforce the implement of the Bonn Challenge targets.
- 2) Unlike other restoration projects where the Government and private sector are the main actors, this project is very special because most of the activities will be piloted by local and indigenous populations in the various project sites and the project has been designed to enable these communities reap tangible benefits (cash, labor, food, etc.) for their restoration efforts. Also, since most of the sites are located near key biodiversity Protected Areas (Waza National Park, Douala-Edea Reserve, Bakossi National Park, and the Bayang-Mbo Wildlife sanctuary), it is highly expected that their restoration activities will reduce the current pressure on this Protected Areas. For example, training the population to produce, use and commercialise fuelwood from bamboo will surely reduce deforestation for fuelwood by local communities in neighbouring Protected Areas;
- 3) One of the key expectation of this project is to bring together all stakeholders to pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using *Bambusa spp* and other indigenous NTFP like *Irvingia spp*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc and to ensure the development of their value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction. We hope to use the results and activities of the project to advocate for more interests and strategic partnership for the implementation of the Cameroon piece of the Bonn Challenge restoration targets.

### **4. GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEF TF)**

The global environmental benefits from this project is that it will facilitate the conservation of biodiversity in the various landscapes that harbour protected areas, flagship species and their habitats (see section 3.4), key biodiversity areas and corridors. For example, the following Protected areas are found in the following 3 landscapes: Waza

National Park in the Far North, the Bakossi National Park and the Bayang Mbo Wildlife reserve in the South West and the Douala-Edea Forest Reserve in the Coastal mangrove landscape of Cameroon. Since most communities live adjacent to these protected areas, the activities of this project have been designed to take pressure off the protected areas and biodiversity hotspots by developing and promoting alternative livelihood activities that will help the sustainable management of the protected areas. For example, the use of bamboo for fuelwood by community will take off pressure from these protected areas and key biodiversity areas because it will reduce deforestation for fuelwood in the above protected areas and biodiversity hotspots. It should be noted that this fuelwood is not only meant for domestic consumption in the landscapes but also for commercial purposes, something that is detrimental to the environment because of the large-scale exploitation. The project will also improve the planning and management of new agricultural expansion techniques like agroforestry to avoid deforestation and loss of biodiversity due to the current unsustainable agricultural practices that are prevalent in the site. This is important because agriculture is the number one cause of forest loss and degradation in Cameroon, with most communities and private sector even encroaching on protected areas and buffer zones.

This project is envisaged to generate global environmental benefits by supporting the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration, facilitating biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ensuring climate resilience and improved community livelihoods and food security. This will be done by improving policy commitment to forest landscape restoration, piloting application of restoration using *Bambusa spp* and other indigenous NTFPs, enhancing institutional capacities and financing arrangements to facilitate large-scale and small-scale forest landscape restoration, and improve knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration.

It will also identify and address specific questions regarding the suitability of NTFPs like bamboo for restoration in Cameroon, notably the effectiveness of integrating them in restoration strategies to achieve multiple objectives, including biodiversity conservation, livelihood development, and carbon sequestration. This is why the Project will assess, replicate and upscale strategies to use bamboo to;

- Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and agricultural lands to ensure food and water security;
- Conserve biodiversity and habitats of threatened and endangered species;
- Generate household incomes of rural communities through value chain analysis of bamboo and other priority NTFPs;
- Assess and highlight how bamboo and other can effectively sequester carbon from the atmosphere to fight the negative effect of climate change.

## **5. INNOVATIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SCALING UP.**

### ***Innovativeness***

The Cameroon Child Project is innovative in using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to bring together different conservation, land management and restoration interventions within one project framework. Developed by IUCN and WRI. The ROAM methodology is credible, innovative, flexible, affordable and rapid. It also enables stakeholders to identify and assess landscape restoration potentials, including barriers and enabling conditions (e.g., policies, finance) for successful restoration. It also presents a cost-benefit analysis of each restoration interventions in particular landscapes and sites. The data that will be generated will be used to formulate some policy recommendations to advocate for policy reforms in favour of forest landscape restoration.

The project provides a strong opportunity for the GEF to demonstrate within a single country context, a full toolbox of available interventions; for drylands, humid savannahs, Montagne forests, Mangroves and forest margins. For the first time, restoration interventions will experiment with new species like Bamboo (*Bambusa spp*). Interventions involving Bamboo will also explore not only the restoration properties of Bamboo, but will also evaluate the renewable energy and climate mitigation properties of this indigenous species, and its potential for attracting private sector investments in restoration. Besides bamboo, the project will also experiment the effectiveness of the use of other priority indigenous species like *Irvingia spp*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc for restoration practices.

With support from the Global TRI Program and through the use of the ROOT (Restoration Opportunities Optimization Tool) another innovation is found in their envisaged support for analyses that recognize and attempt to

estimate the value of ecosystem services provided by spatially explicit restoration interventions; and integrate them into processes to develop proposals for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Furthermore, in view of diverse types of expected potential restoration interventions the project is innovative in its work to catalyze parastatal entities, private sector actors and individuals to assess possibilities for, for-profit engagements in restoration of degraded landscapes using species with commodity Crop potentials like *Bambusa spp.* and *Pongamia pinnata* through development of joint proposals under co-funding arrangements.

## **Sustainability**

Long-term sustainability of Project results is supported by the following Project design features and approaches:

- *Alignment with national objectives and global goals* – As noted in Section 3.5, this project has been designed to align with national and global goals like the Cameroon Economic Emergence Plan or Vision 2035, the Forest and Environment Sector Program, the National Reforestation Plan, the Operation GREEN Sahel, the REDD+ R-PP, the CBD and it's Aichi targets, etc.
- *Improving the policy environment for investment in FLR*: As mentioned in Component 1, there is dire need to strengthen the current policy environment to support investments in FLR by all actors, especially the private sector.
- *Building in-country capacity to plan, manage and implement FLR*: As highlighted in Outcome 3, this project will build the capacity of Cameroon actors in planning, management and implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration, notably by training and putting in place institutional capacities and financing arrangements to facilitate large-scale landscape restoration and sustainable forest management in the various project sites.
- *Enhancing the resiliency of natural resources* - The overriding objective of TRI and this child project is to facilitate and support the restoration of deforested and degraded landscapes, thereby enhancing the resilience of natural resources upon which livelihoods depend. In this way, Project efforts to develop restoration value chains and other productive investments are underpinned by restorative processes that should, if properly implemented and managed, strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of these same investments.

Specifically, we will focus on the following:

### **4.1.1 Financial and Economic Sustainability**

While restoration interventions are short-term, the direct and indirect benefits are medium to long-term and can occur many km away from actual intervention sites. Furthermore, this project will in the short-term identify and support ongoing and viable restoration initiatives within and across the project intervention sites and to the extent possible capitalize on lessons and experiences. As a result of these characteristics, restoration involves diverse types of interventions; corrective, conservational, protective and productive; for profit, social, economic or financial. Furthermore, restoration in the project intervention sites will involve supporting the activities of numerous stakeholders; women, youths, indigenous populations; innovators, private and public sector. Interventions in the North, Western Highlands, Montagne forests and Forest margins, will evaluate a variety of techniques, approaches, individual species and investments pathways. It is therefore, likely that successful experience with agroforestry (home gardens) providing economic sustainability to women-led households on the forest margins will be replicated in other intervention sites. Evaluation of the contribution of species like *Pongamia pinnata* towards restoring degraded lands holds potentials for financial sustainability and interest to private sector investors as this multipurpose tree species (feedstock, biofuels, etc.) has potentials to become and commodity-crop. The production and distribution of tree seedlings at cost across the restoration sites is also likely to generate important cash flows for the nursery resources centres. Based on the results of the sub national ROAM, identifying appropriate socio-economic opportunities for Agroforestry home gardens, commodity crop development and small nursery business; even where wide-scale restoration for ecosystem services and resilience would become easier.

Under the sustainable forest management work stream, although no sub national ROAM is envisaged, Community Forests already constitute small community enterprises. By supporting the value chains and sustainable management of promising NTFPs, (*Bambusa spp.*, etc) this project will strengthen financial and economic aspects of Community Forest Management. Sustainability would then depend on the extent to which these support packages are successful.

Finally, the project intervention logic is both participatory and catalytic. The project aims to deliver at least two financing viable financing/investment models for post-project sustainability involving other partners; and based on shared goals and aspiration. This means the ultimate success in financial and economic sustainability depends to some extent on external factors.

#### **4.1.2 Institutional Sustainability**

The restoration outcomes of this project are wholly based on supporting the Pledge of the Government of Cameroon to restore 12 Million hectares by 2030. On the other hand, sustainable management and conservation of NTFPs through use, especially within Community Forests is part of official SFM policy. Community Forest management conventions between the State and local Associations have a duration of 5 years, renewable. While this project will operate within these two institutional frameworks, it will also build on the institutional sustainability of ongoing projects, being executed by other institutions; local, regional and national; CBOs, NGOs and State Ministries. Furthermore, this project will invest resources in strengthening the understanding by these stakeholders of the full dimensions of landscape restoration, SFM and commercialization of potentially high value, but underutilized species in Community forests. This aspect of the project will ensure that institutions whose mandate remains indefinite, also possess the relevant knowledge and skills to not only support project activities beyond the lifespan of the project, but to scale up the project and out to new sites, well after the project comes to an end.

#### **4.2 Replication**

One of the key objectives of this project is to generate, capture and disseminate results, lessons learned, experiences and scope of the policy and legislative changes to support policy and behavioral change that will support the use of indigenous species to effectively restore degraded landscapes over a long-term in Cameroon with the participation of key stakeholders (local communities, government, private sector, international organizations, etc.).

Replication and dissemination of the lessons learned in the project will be supported through Component 4 work. More generally, each project output across the sites includes documentation of lessons learned from execution of activities, delivery of results, outcomes, and lessons on the use of restoration and SFM tools and approaches. These will render replication and feedback from these experiences to evaluate how successful each replication attempt has been. Such lessons will be consolidated by the Project Coordinator, ensuring that such synthesis are made accessible to different stakeholder groups, including through the use of social media and other outreach methods. The participatory M&E system of the project will also facilitate the lesson-learning process by involving multiple stakeholders at national and at international levels.

## **2. Child Project?** If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

The project is one of 12 child projects of The Restoration Initiative (TRI), a GEF-supported program to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge. TRI is designed and led by three GEF Agencies – IUCN (lead agency), FAO and UN Environment – in partnership with TRI countries.

The TRI program is comprised of 11 national child projects in 10 Asian and African countries, and is supported by a Global Learning, Finance, and Partnerships project (Global Child). The Global Child project will be responsible for facilitating overall coordination, monitoring, and adaptive management of the TRI Program, while at the same time providing key support along each of the four program components.

The design of the “Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa spp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon” Child Project of TRI in Cameroon includes mechanisms to ensure cross-fertilization between the Project, other TRI child projects, and the overall TRI program. Mechanisms include:

- Participation in annual TRI knowledge sharing workshops;
- Exchange and study visits with other TRI countries;
- Project anticipates receiving and integrating support from the Global Child project. This includes benefiting from provision of:
  - o international experts and trainings on FLR- and TRI-relevant topics;
  - o establishment and participation in TRI Community of Practice groups (via online and other groups) facilitated by the Global Child project;

- support for identification and integration of policies that are supportive of FLR, including through partnership with the Global Child project in developing and utilizing relevant and high-value case studies and policy briefs;
- support for mobilization of FLR finance, including help in developing bankable FLR investment proposals;
- enrolment of Project stakeholders in a TRI course on FLR Finance to be developed by the Global Child project in partnership with Yale University, and made available beginning in 2018;
- The Project will develop knowledge products on in-country FLR practices, experiences, and achievements, for sharing with other TRI child projects, including through annual TRI knowledge sharing workshops;
- Project team member(s) will take part in regular monthly calls with the TRI Program Coordinator, to facilitate coordination and integration of efforts, and benefit from emerging opportunities;
- The Project will be responsive to any guidance received from the TRI Program Advisory Committee and the TRI Global Coordination Unit of the Global Child (see TRI Program institutional structure below);
- The Project will make use of Global Child provided standardized means (including standardized templates, and processes) for capturing and documenting lessons learned;
- The Project will make use of the Harmonized TRI Tracking Tool for reporting to the GEF, to facilitate comparability and utility of aggregated M&E data.

#### TRI Cameroon Child Project Alignment with TRI Program

Criteria	Child project design features aligned with criteria
Project interventions are designed/informed by forest landscape restoration best practices and are in line with support for the Bonn Challenge	The Project has been designed to support the Cameroon Government's pledge to restore 12.06 million hectares under the Bonn Challenge. This project will utilize the best practice ROAM methodology to 1) identify priority areas for restoration; 2) prioritise relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites; 3) quantify costs and benefits of each intervention type; 4) analyse the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites; 5) estimate the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and 6) come up with a diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.
Project strategy employs TRI strategic approach, and includes work under each of the four TRI Programmatic components	Project results framework is aligned with the 4 TRI programmatic components and includes outcome, outputs and indicators under the four components
Project anticipates making use of supports from TRI Global Learning, Finance, and Partnership project (the Global Child project)	The Project has been designed to capitalize on support and expertise of the TRI Global Learning, Finance and Partnership Project. For example, stakeholders in the project will benefit from training workshops and ELTI courses organized by the Global Child Project and the University of Yale to support field activities and stakeholders
Project anticipates making contributions to the capture and dissemination of knowledge, for the benefit of all TRI child projects	Knowledge products and lessons learned from project activities will be up-scaled at the national, regional and global level to ensure that all TRI Child projects benefit.
Project design recognizes institutional linkages with the Global Child project, including with TRI Program Advisory Committee, for adaptive management.	Institutional linkages with the Global Child Project and the TRI Program Advisory Committee to facilitate adaptive management are highlighted in the Project document.
Project includes a planned activity and dedicated funding for participation in Annual TRI Knowledge-Sharing workshops	Project includes activities and dedicated funding for managers and key stakeholders to participate in Annual TRI Knowledge-Sharing Workshops
Project funding and anticipated global environmental benefits are in-line with estimates made at the time of PFD submission/approval	Project funding and anticipated global environmental benefits are in-line with estimates made at the time of PFD submission/approval

Other (including any additional support for partnership and knowledge sharing activities with TRI partners)	The Project will rely upon support from the Global TRI to facilitate partnership and knowledge sharing with all TRI partners.
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3. *Stakeholders*. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society organizations](#) (yes  /no ) and [indigenous peoples](#) (yes  /no )? If yes, elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

A stakeholder analysis was undertaken to identify key project actors and assess their strengths and their interests in the projects as well as to understand any potential impact the project might have on them (see chapter 3.4 of project document). The analysis was instrumental to plan the participation of stakeholders in the project design process in order to allow for a good understanding of stakeholder views, knowledge and concerns at various levels and to build stakeholders commitment and ownership of processes or components of the project.

A preliminary stakeholder engagement plan has been drafted (see chapter 6) based on the stakeholder analysis and the consultations held during the PPG phase; the plan describes stakeholders’ prospective roles and responsibilities in the context of the proposed project. Civil society organisations and local communities have a central role to play in the implementation of the forest restoration and value chain interventions. It is important to note, however, that the final plan for engaging stakeholders in the restoration interventions will only be established during the participatory ROAM process when the restoration sites will be narrowed down and respective interventions are identified and agreed with all relevant stakeholders. It is during the situation analysis, part of ROAM, where the presence of indigenous communities will be confirmed and respective safeguard instruments applied following the guidance of the ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework presented in Annex XVI of the project document.

Below is an outline of the key stakeholders by category, providing a summary of the high-level roles of each of the stakeholder group during the project implementation.

The global, regional and national actors: these comprise *IUCN Global Forest and Climate Change Program – (GFCCP)*; the *Regional Forest Program*, and the *Cameroon Country program of the IUCN*, assuring strategic directions, high level partnership and on-the ground monitoring.

The *Government of Cameroon* through its Ministries and Parastatals; MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINREX, MINADER and ANAFOR, ensure anchorage, alignment scaling-up through Government policies, Programs; as well as post project sustainability.

INBAR, is the Executing Agency of the project and is responsible for project execution in the field, relationship with National NGOs, CBOs, directly involved with execution of Activities and ensures relationships with IUCN offices are maintained.

*Donors* (AfDB, GEF Focal point, etc.); will strengthen possibilities and options for co-financing and technical synergies with ongoing projects in the field.

*International Actors* (FAO, SNV, UNDP, IFAD,); will collaborate in joint project proposal development, promotion of project activities; and technical synergies.

*The Regional Actors*, (e.g., COMIFAC); will assist with sharing lessons learned and upscaling of project results within the wider region.

*Central and Decentralized Government services* of MINFOF, MINEPDED, ANAFOR and MINADER, will benefit from capacity building and collaborate with project implementation.

*Non-governmental organizations – Networks/NGOs*; e.g., Cameroon Mangroves Network, Cameroon Members’ National Committee, CEFDHAC and his organs (Network of African Women for Sustainable Development (REFADD-Cameroon), and the Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa- REPALAC Cameroon)In.), FODER, PEW,RERAC, Community Based Organizations (MIFACIG, CADEPI, SAILD, Community Forest Management Committees, local farmers/tree growers MBOSCUA and CAD); will be at the forefront of implementation and will be first beneficiaries of training and capacity building.

*The private forestry sector* represented by the Forestry Products Syndicate; will collaborate in assessing possibilities for investing in restoration and help analyse policies which enable investments in restoration. Finally, grassroots stakeholders, especially civil society organisations and local and/or indigenous communities that will be represented through CBOs, Community Representatives, Community forests Associations, Community Cooperatives, Women's and Youths Associations and Traditional Chiefs or their Regents will be key actors of the actual forest restoration interventions.

Existing evidence indicates that, the level of participation of local NGOs in restoration efforts in Cameroon is very promising with existing practices on the ground that could be up-scaled with this project intervention. Working closely with Government supported agencies such as ANAFOR, who is in charge of implementing the National Programme for the development of private and community forestry plantations, will provide opportunities for bringing-in the private sector in a facilitated network, for the provision of necessary planting materials (germplasm), where necessary to local associations and farmers across the restoration sites, and for training and other forms of capacity building.

4. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Are [gender equality and women's empowerment](#) taken into account (yes  /no )? If yes, elaborate how it will be mainstreamed into project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

With guidance from the IUCN GGO, this GEF project will engage women to seek restoration impacts within intervention sites, based on current knowledge on women's situation vis-à-vis their access and control of natural resources, and based on the evidence gathered in the Gender and Restoration diagnostics undertaken during the ROAM situation analysis. Proposed mainstreaming of gender in this project will benefit from IUCN's GGO guidance through a two-pronged approach.

In the first instance and at the level of the project components, capacity building of relevant actors, provision of logistical support to NGOs, CBOs and farmers will be executed normally, targeting all stakeholders and groups, including women, based on priorities identified through the sub national ROAM, and based on priorities of ongoing initiatives supported by the project. Through strategic partnerships, information, knowledge management, M&E and identification of co-funding, women's groups will also be engaged. Similarly, the project will make value chain support accessible to men, women and indigenous groups through Community Forests Management Committees as they have been set-up to function.

In the second instance, this project will work at national level with REFADD, the African Women's Network for Sustainable Development to provide direct support to eligible women's associations and women's common initiative groups active in both the restoration sites and the SFM intervention sites. The existing information on active women's associations involved in landscape restoration and additional information arising from the sub national ROAM will be used. REFADD working with the Global TRI, in collaboration with the IUCN-GGO and the IUCN-GFCCP will be expected and supported, preferably through co-funding to conduct own analyses of eligible and viable women's groups within the project sites and to recommend appropriate types and levels of support..

Existing women-led restoration and value change development activities within the project sites will be given preference by REFADD in parallel, but in coordination with regular capacity building layed-out for local level actors under the different project components.

5. *Benefits.* Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. Do any of these benefits support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) and/or adaptation to climate change?

The project will deliver policy, social, economic, capacity and knowledge benefits through all four levels of project Outcomes and Components: specifically, these are organized as follows;

- Policy Benefits: Mainly through project's Component 1 – restoration and value chain development of Bamboo,

will become further strengthened through policy gaps analyses, identification and development of more specific policy recommendations to strengthen effectiveness and sustainability of restoration and sustainable natural resources management activities (Bamboo and other NTFPs). Through this project Cameroon’s Bonn challenge pledge would be more systematically monitored in a way which aligns well with National policies of managing landscapes and ecosystems services.

- **Social and Economic Benefits:** The Social and Economic benefits of this project will be achieved through its support for restoration of production systems and value chain development of Bamboo and other NTFPs. Tree-based system diversification through integration of new tree species into Agroforests; and logistical support to ongoing and new restoration initiatives will build community productive assets (trees and soil fertility), and strengthen permanent self-employment; and create temporary employment for some community members (in tree propagation and cultivation), benefitting communities, especially women. In the case of value chain development of Bamboo, activities will directly raise revenue accruing to participating community forests associations, local enterprises and traders. Value Chain development under this project will help build Community enterprise organization and performance skills (negotiation skills and market penetration), of benefit to the wider NTFPs enterprise development sector. Strengthened community forests management will render them more profitable; help bring the communities together through better cohesion, collaboration and shared prosperity.

Indirect benefits will also accrue from the restoration initiatives through protection of ecosystems services, protection of biodiversity, avoided deforestation and GHG emissions reduction; similar indirect benefits will accrue from sustainable management of Community Forests. To promote equitable sharing of benefits at community levels furthermore, policies, institutional capacity, financing arrangements, knowledge management and partnerships, will be used specifically to address issues pertaining to natural resource access and control by vulnerable groups; women, youths and indigenous groups.

- **Knowledge and Capacity Benefits:** By strengthening institutional and technical capacity on restoration through Component 3, this project will facilitate skills-based innovations in restoration and facilitate scaling up and out of the restoration activities and the benefits. Increased mastery of the different types of restoration interventions and their added value to productivity will motivate private sector investors to take an interest in long term investments by restoring low-cost degraded lands in view of long term benefits and profitability given Government and donor support of the processes. Such long-term view will attract even greater investment finance benefits and strengthen sustainability, as opportunities for profitability become more obvious. As restoration projects expand, demand will increase for more and diverse planting materials – more economic activities and new revenue streams for nurseries.

Furthermore, the knowledge and monitoring aspects of Component 4 will create longstanding aptitudes in restoration, Bamboo transformation and management. These will provide immediate local benefits, while wider dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned will be of benefits beyond the project sites, to other Child projects and to the wider external audience.

6. *Risks.* Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental future risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks:

TABLE 1 RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX OF THE CAMEROON GEF TRI PROJECT

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Mitigation measure(s)</b>
<b>1. Political, technical or operational risks</b>		

Poor governance and corruption	Low	In achieving the direct (6,000 ha) of restoration targets this project will build on the achievements of restorations efforts presented in the baseline scenario for this project and other priorities to be identified following sub national ROAM exercises, involving specific, prior-identified stakeholders. The restoration interventions support State conservation and restoration policies and therefore is outside the realm of ambiguity where corrupt practices thrive. Support will be logistical, knowledge and information product (training), facilitation, monitoring and evaluation. Minor procurements through credible partners is outside the realm of corrupt practices as these would be mediated through full participation of NGOs and CBOs. The Sustainable Forest Management Component of the project will not deal with actual movements of products, where corruption is possible and will focus on Community Forests with duly approved management plans and exploitation conventions; and restoration will focus on facilitated logistical support, knowledge and information product (training), monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, project activities will be outside the possibility of corruption.
Low capacity to implement FLR among Project stakeholders and limited data on FLR in Cameroon	Medium	The lack of qualified human resources and sufficient data on FLR in Cameroon is one of the constraints this project sets out to resolve. Sub national ROAM, Spatial and Socio-Economic Analyses; Value Chains support, Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management are key Project means for addressing these constraints. The project is also designed to facilitate cross-fertilization between national sites and across Global Projects through the Coordination team
Private investors and others are reluctant to invest in FLR in Cameroon.	Medium	This risk can happen when the donors or investors either lack the necessary information on functional restoration activities on the ground or lack of capacities and partners to design bankable proposals to submit to them for funding. The project will build partnership with key restoration partners to train stakeholders on the conception and elaboration of bankable restoration projects to be submitted to donors for funding. The project will also encourage private sector-Government partnership to invest in restoration project at the local level, particularly to support the use of indigenous species like bamboo and other NTFPs for restoration.
<b>2. Social and environmental risks caused by the project</b>		
Promotion of NTFP and value chain development leads to unsustainable harvest rates	Low	The project will work with communities and other stakeholders to establish conservation agreements that include the establishment of sustainable harvest rates. Compliance with these rates will be monitored. By working with Government agencies at local and national levels, the project will promote the uptake of similar agreements by communities outside the project's area of influence in order to prevent that individuals or groups from communities which have not signed agreements take advantage of the new market and increase pressure on resources.
Increased environment deterioration (floods, droughts) due to impacts from climate change	Low/ Medium	The sub national ROAM assessments will highlight zones of feasibility, even if such zones are subject to extreme weather-events. Species used to address degradation would be a mix of well-known indigenous species combined with, where necessary, high performing exotics ones. As such, although restoration benefits are medium to long term, a combination of good local knowledge, conservative site selection, species selection for performance and stability will help strengthening system resilience and maturity of restoration solutions.
Risk of exotic species developing invasive behavior	Medium	A protocol will be established that regulates the selection of species and provides risk management measures. Selection of species will be based on prior research confirming that selected species do not develop invasive behavior.

Negative impacts on the livelihoods of indigeneous people and local communities	Low	Under component 2 concrete restoration and value chain development activities will be implemented that are expected to provide tangible benefits for local and in particular indigenous communities. The concrete activities will be decided during the ROAM planning process in a participative manner together with the communities from the respective project sites. The ROAM process will be guided by a Process Framework that ensures that the principles and standards of the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) are adhered to and negative social impacts are avoided or, if avoidance is not possible, mitigated in a culturally appropriate way as agreed with affected groups. This ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework is attached in Annex XVI.
Emissions from charcoal production cause respiratory illness of people exposed to the fumes	Low	The training on bamboo charcoal production will demonstrate practices to avoid exposure to fumes; the project will also promote the use of clean technology that avoids or significantly reduces air emissions causing respiratory health issues. The project will link communities with institutions and schemes who provide support on and/or access to clean technology.

7. *Cost Effectiveness*. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

Cost effectiveness has always been one of our main focus during the elaboration process of this proposal since the project requirements, outcomes, outputs and activities were identified and confirmed by stakeholders based on: available budget that was approved by GEF; field experiences and realities; and lessons learned in the implementation of previous and on-going projects. Analysis were made to make sure that we do not take unnecessary risks to overspend, underspend or over costs the various activities. We also made sure that we reduce operational costs, while making sure that we work in synergy with partners to deliver in a cost-effective way. Also, value judgment will be made to compare alternative goods and services.

Specifically, cost effectiveness is reflected in the project in the following ways:

- 1) **Partnership:** The project has been designed to include partners that will contribute part of their staff, resources, office equipment and services to facilitate the implementation of the project. For example, the choice of our field executing partners like CEW, FODER, CWCS and the Government of Cameroon was done in a cost-effective way because most of them already have available project resources, staff and equipment in the sites (vehicles, office space, etc.) as well as the necessary experience in the implementation of projects on the field. This is cost effective since bringing in new executing partners that will spend money and unnecessary time to set up the project, especially in the beginning of the project in the various sites.
- 2) **Operational and maintenance costs:** We have limited the operational and maintenance cost of the project to a strict minimum as discussed in 1 above. Working through field executing partners means that a contract will be signed between the National Executing Agency (INBAR) and Field Executing Agencies (CEW, CWCS, FODER) who already have the necessary resources in the sites.
- 3) **Personnel:** We have reduced the core personnel of the project to a strict minimum while at that same time making sure that they deliver in a cost-effective way. For example, unlike other projects, we have 1 Project Coordinator, 1 Administrative and Financial Officer, a Driver and 1 part-time M&E and Knowledge Management Officer. Most specialized deliverables will be implemented by highly qualified consultants in a short period of time, rather than recruiting full-time personnel that will cost us far more than expected.
- 4) **Procurement:** Our procurement plan highlights a rigorous competitive selection process that

prioritizes the least bidder in terms of quality of services/goods rendered and price.

8. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives [not mentioned in 1]:

The project will coordinate with other ongoing or planned GEF-financed projects, notably by facilitating communication, generation and disseminating lessons learned, building on strengths and avoiding duplication. The relevant projects are summarized in the table below.

GEF ID	Project Title	Existing Project Objectives	Status of project and possibility for collaboration with this project
3821	CBSP Sustainable Community Based Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems in Cameroon	To strengthen biodiversity conservation and reduce degradation in mangrove ecosystems	Finalization by the end of July 2017. Due to its focus on coastal forests direct collaboration will be relatively minimal. However, lessons learned in germplasm distribution and sustainable forest management can be useful
9470	LCB-NREE Cameroon child project: Improving Agro-Pastoral Systems in the Far North Region of Cameroon	To improve agro-ecosystem productivity and livelihoods in Cameroon’s Far North Region by rehabilitating land and maintaining ecosystem services	In progress. Collaboration here will be active and complementary as similar goals are sought for similar intervention sites in the degraded Far North of Cameroon.
5210	GEF / UNEP supported ( 1,716,895 \$), Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to Achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon SUFACHAC	To strengthen and expand the PA network of, and mainstream biodiversity conservation in, the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape, specifically: (i) improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas; (ii) Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management; (iii) increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation	In progress. One of the intervention sites of this project are the degraded Montagne forests and watershed of the Bakossi Landscape. Close collaboration is envisaged here; even the possibility of co-funding.
5796	A Bottom Up Approach to ABS: Community Level Capacity Development for Successful Engagement in ABS Value Chains in Cameroon ( <i>Echinops giganteus</i> )	To ensure that the local community participates successfully in ABS-compliant value chains (related to <i>Echinops giganteus</i> and <i>Mondia whiteii</i> ).	In progress. Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current GEF project. These will be in the domain of ABS with local communities emanating from value chain development; and lessons learned from managing plant species applicable to the envisaged experience with <i>Bamboo (Bambusa spp)</i> and other NTFP resource species likely to be used under the Sustainable Land and Forest Management aspects (Component 2) of this current project.
	Integrated and Transboundary Conservation in the TRIDOM landscape	The objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species with a key focus on the portion of TRIDOM landscape	Will start soon: Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current TRI project
	Improving Lake Chad management through building climate change resilience and reducing ecosystem	The objective is to achieve climate resilient, integrated ecosystem-based management of Lake Chad Basin. In Cameroon, one of the pilot site is the Waza Logone floodplain	Will start soon: Some of the IUCN co-funding comes from this project, especially at the Waza site, as the two projects are complementary.
	Promoting Young Entrepreneurship	The overall objective is the sustainable improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the populations around the national parks and the protection of the biodiversity of the parks The development objective is to increase the incomes of rural youth, women and men, from the periphery of protected areas, in a sustainable and resilient manner to climate	Will start soon: Some of the IUCN and FIDA co-funding comes from this project, especially at the Waza site, as the two projects are complementary.

9. *Institutional Arrangement*. Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation:

The major institutional roles and responsibilities within the Cameroon TRI Child project are organized as follows:  
Implementing Agency: **IUCN is the Implementing Agency** and will assume overall responsibility for supervising the project, through its Regional Forest Programme. It will be responsible for providing strategic and technical direction to the project; and for overseeing the achievement of Project outcomes and objectives. The IUCN PACO Forest Programme will work in close technical and strategic relationship with IUCN's Cameroon Program and with the Project Steering Committee to monitor work on the ground. IUCN will support the INBAR and the Project Management Unit, in key technical, strategic and scientific domains and orientations. IUCN will also work in collaboration with other TRI Project partners like FAO in DRC, CAR and Sao Tomé to ensure that the implementation of all national projects in West and Central Africa not only align with national and regional priorities, but also with the objectives of the Global TRI Project (managed by IUCN Headquarters). IUCN PACO will also ensure that the results of the Project are up scaled at the regional and Global levels.

**The Project Steering Committee (PSC):** The project will set up a National Project Steering Committee - task force to assist in facilitating the project execution in the selected intervention sites in Cameroon. The NPSC will serve in an advisor capacity to guide execution of project activities. Proposed Project Steering Committee members will include high level government representatives (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINREX), key project executing partners INBAR, National Networks (Cameroon Mangrove Network, REDD+ and CC network, Gender Task Force on REDD+ and CC issues), and on an ad-hoc basis other (major) projects intervening in the selected sites. IUCN will participate as an observer. The Project Steering Committee will meet annually to monitor past progress in project execution, and to review and approve annual work plans and budgets. Some of the tasks of the PSC will include, but not limited to:

- Aligning the Project with national policies;
- Monitoring Project progress and take timely actions to resolve implementation constraints;
- Liaising with different national Project coordination units within the project intervention sites to ensure interventions occur in harmony;
- Receive and review annual substantive and financial reports on project activities;
- Review and approve annual work plans;
- Ensure assessment of monitoring and evaluation reports of project activities.

The PSC will execute its tasks through technical and strategic backstopping from IUCN, charged with overall project implementation. The PSC which will be managed through a Chairperson and a Rapporteur, will achieve its mission by directly supervising and overseeing the work of the National Executing Agency – INBAR and the project management unit.

At the operational level, and in order to benefit from existing field experiences already well aligned with IUCN core values and priorities, the Project Management Unit will be supervised by the National Executing Agency – INBAR that is under the technical and management guidance of the PSC. INBAR will also benefit from constant and operational backstopping from IUCN, notably the Cameroon Program at field site level working closely with IUCN field teams at those sites. Where collaboration and scaling up is likely to be of benefit from knowledge products and lessons learnt from the field, IUCN will work together with those stakeholders to decide on the best approach for consolidating incremental project results including lessons learnt. The outcomes from such knowledge and information sharing mechanisms will be shared these with relevant national stakeholders including Government. This will be presented during PSC sessions and could be in the form of seminars and workshops.

**National Executing Agency – INBAR**, is charged with execution of the project at the national level. To this end a contract will be signed between IUCN and INBAR, the National Executing Agency – INBAR will receive direct guidance from the PSC and regular operational backstopping from the Implementing Agency (IUCN). As a follow up to the contract with IUCN, INBAR will sign a contract with the other field executing partners who will work in their respective area of expertise and intervention site, in consultation with INBAR (who will also work in all sites where bamboo is prioritized) and the Project Management Unit. These other executing partners on the ground are: CWCS (who is leading the Cameroon Mangroves Network), CEW (who is leading the IUCN Cameroon National Committee Members) and FODER. These organization and networks are providing co-financing for this project.

The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will report to Executing Agency and PSC. It will be in charge of daily operations of the project and effectively coordinate project implementation following approved work plans. This unit will work in close collaboration with MINFOF, MINEPDED, and other executing partners. The PMU is managed by a National Project Coordinator who coordinates a project team recruited and set up (jointly by IUCN<sub>24</sub>

and INBAR). The PMU is also responsible of leveraging site experiences relevant to project outputs through flexible activities; learning lessons on which to capitalize, spotting funding opportunities and other co-financing options; development of periodic work plans and making reports available to INBAR and to the NPSC on time. It will ensure close coordination and harmonization with other on-going projects, especially ensuring information exchange and coordination within the context of the development activities. In order to ensure appropriate implementation and monitoring of the project; especially alignment with the GEF Focal Areas of the project.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) is recruited and supervised by the INBAR, with non-objection from the Implementing Agency (IUCN), will consist of at most three (04) staff working. These comprise; 01 National Project Coordinator, 01 Administrative Assistant, 01 part-time Monitoring and Evaluation/Knowledge Management Officer and 01 driver. The immediate technical responsibilities of the PMU will consist of:

- Management of technical backstopping inputs by IUCN and other staff
- Ensure systematic collection of data for monitoring of relevant activities as required by the global Program
- Develop and ensure production of national level communication of the project achievements;
- Implementation of the ESMS review and risk management tasks outlined in the ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework
- Ensure regular reporting of the project activities;
- Ensure fluid internal communications between the field executing entities;
- Consolidation of national work plans and budget from relevant partners and entities across intervention sites
- Preparation of the annual (if required quarterly) work plan and budgets;

Administrative, accounting, financial responsibilities arrangements will be finalized with IUCN prior to any disbursement. These will include, though not limited to:

- Assessment of the financial management system with a timetable for any improvements required;
- Agreement with Project on financial and accounting standards;  
Recruitment of project staff;
- Control and management of project budget and expenditures;
- Management of sub-contracts to NGOs and CSOs;
- Procurement of equipment as IUCN's procedures required;
- Periodic financial reporting to IUCN as required;
- Audit arrangements, to ensure independent audits will be undertaken on an annual basis according to standard Implementing Agency requirements;
- Approvals of procurement Plans, submission and reception of No Objection requests based on standard disbursement procedures and best practices;
- Fulfilment of all administrative reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures as required by the implementing agencies;
- In case of services required, preparation of bid document according to IUCN procedures;
- Administration of local contracts

*10. 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.

The strength of this project rests on facilitating scaling up/out, leveraging the results and facilitating alignment of ongoing restoration-type projects (Component 2). Given that the policy aspects of this project are aimed at mainstreaming restoration initiatives with Cameroon's Bonn Challenge pledge; and being a first in valuing hitherto underutilized plant species like *Bambusa* spp., systematic knowledge generation, management and dissemination is of very high priority in the project.

Lessons to be learned, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for restoration, will be generated and disseminated. The project will work with the Global Program Component of the TRI to package and disseminate such knowledge using a variety of tools; at national and at international levels. The Network of Community

Radios (RERAC) will be use at this end.

The Cameroon Child project is designed to invest in adapting some existing information management and communications tools, first to the needs of the monitoring systems developed for the national project; then to those of Stakeholders to generate, compile and make information available in an iterative, user-friendly format to all participating stakeholders and even countries. To facilitate use and contribution to this information databases linking all project Components, the project will provide training and other forms of capacity building in the use and application of tools to relevant actors, to ensure consistent data quality, analyses, reporting and dissemination of information and lessons learned. Finally, the project by design, is aligned with the Global TRI project and will contribute to the latter's harmonized M&E systems requiring data inputs from all Child Projects to facilitate coherent and consistent aggregation of results and reporting.

11. *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, NBSAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NCs, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

This project is consistent with national priorities and framework policies on forest, environmental management and overall climate resilient economic emergence and social development of Cameroon. However this alignment is more specific in a number of strategies and frameworks more enabling of restoration and sustainable management of natural resources. This project will benefit and align well with the following:

1. The National level **Pledge to restore 12 Million hectares of degraded landscapes** in Cameroon through the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 initiatives, co-signed by MINFOF and MINEPDED on behalf of the Cameroon Government, sets the stage and establishes a solid foundation on which this project is built in Cameroon.
2. **The current definition of forests** as stipulated in the draft of the National REDD+ strategy (2017), which includes all relevant woodlands (0.5 ha and above with 10% canopy cover) thus reaching across all five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon, especially those in regions of high degradation; high degradation hazard and restoration opportunity (Far north, Western highlands and Forest Margins), but which are not traditionally considered forested areas. The REDD+ strategy also stipulates a clear need for restoration as an instrument for carbon storage and Climate Change Mitigation; requiring the full participation of local Communities, private sector and Civil Society Organizations.
3. **The National Environmental Management Plan** (1996) which by promoting a national landscape or ecosystems approach, aims to secure and protect a national network of protected biomes (represented by protected Areas), and including biodiversity in protected Area buffer zones and in unclassified national domains and in non-permanent forests (such as Community Forests) ;
4. **The National Forestry Action Plan**, (1995) which promotes opportunities for conservational use of forests, requiring that all forests and tree systems serve a societal purpose, to alleviate poverty in nearby communities such as by promoting the development of underutilized plants and tree species (or NTFPs) through sustainable management; e.g., development of the value chain of underutilized NTFPs (e.g., *Bambusa spp*, etc.) through sustainable management
5. Cameroon's **1<sup>st</sup> National Communication covering Carbon Sequestration by the Forestry Sector**, launched in 2005, identifying reforestation of degraded lands as an important mitigation response action for the energy sector.
6. Cameroon's **Economic Emergence Vision 2035** pointing to a development challenge involving environmental protection and having as actions (2010 - 2019):
  - Drafting and start of implementation of major policy for environmental protection and climate change mitigation actions (2020-27);
  - Protecting and ensuring sustainable management of forest ecosystems;
  - Combatting Desertification and Desert advancement.

The **National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAP)**, launched in 2012, and supports the CBD's Aichi Targets and Objectives, which specifically includes in Targets 11 and 15, the restoration by 2020 of degraded ecosystems in particular, protected areas.

*12. M & E Plan.* Describe the budgeted monitoring and evaluation plan.

The following brief narrative supports the Monitoring and Evaluating Framework developed more fully in the Project Document. It describes steps taken during the development of the Project Documents building-in monitoring activities throughout the life of the project until its completion.

*7.1. Project inception an launching*

An inception workshop will be organized by INBAR and IUCN to ensure that all stakeholders take ownership of the project.

The Project Coordinator will prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop; and the report will be cleared by IUCN and the GEF, and will be approved by the Project Steering Committee.

*7.2. Every three months (Quarterly)*

- a) Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in IUCN information system. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of value chain actors are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- b) Based on the information recorded in IUCN information system, a Project Progress Report can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.

**7.3. Every Year (Annually)**

**The Annual Project Review (APR):** This key report will be prepared to monitor progress made from project start-up and in particular, to cover the previous reporting period. The APR combines both IUCN and GEF reporting requirements and will use data collected using the project M&E and GEF Tracking Tools.

*7.4. Mid-Term period*

An independent mid-term review process will begin after the second PIR has been submitted to the GEF, and the MTR report will be submitted to the GEF in the same year as the 3<sup>rd</sup> APR. The MTR findings and responses outlined in the management response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's duration.

*7.5. End of the project*

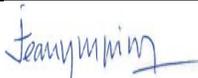
An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terminal evaluation process will begin three months before operational closure of the project allowing the evaluation mission to proceed while the project team is still in place, yet ensuring the project is close enough to completion for the evaluation team to reach conclusions on key aspects such as project sustainability.

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

**A. Record of Endorsement<sup>15</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)
Dr Unusa Haman	Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	11/29/2017

**B. GEF Agency(ies) Certification**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies <sup>16</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for a medium-sized project approval under GEF-6.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Jean-Yves Pirot		12/19/2017	Kenneth Angu		kenneth.angu@iucn.org

<sup>15</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>16</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and CBIT

**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 this project template.

Date: 19 December 2017

To: The GEF Secretariat  
Washington, DC 20433

**Subject:** *GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information*

Per Council requirement for GEF Project Agencies, I am pleased to inform you that:

- (a) the value of the largest project implemented (or executed) by IUCN to date is USD 50.1 million<sup>17</sup>; and
- (b) the total value of all projects under implementation by IUCN, as of September 2017 is USD 411.0 million.<sup>18</sup>

I certify that the GEF financing currently being requested by IUCN for the project, “*Supporting landscapes restoration and sustainable use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, et.) for biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction*” in the amount of \$1,326,146 USD, is lower than the largest project that IUCN has implemented (or executed) to date.

I further certify that the total amount of GEF financing currently under implementation by IUCN plus the requested GEF financing for the above mentioned project does not exceed 20 percent of the total amount of all projects that IUCN had under implementation as of September 2017.

Sincerely,



Jean-Yves Pirot  
Director  
GEF Coordination Unit  
IUCN

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<sup>17</sup> This amount excludes co-financing.

<sup>18</sup> In support of these statements, a copy of (a) the signed loan/grant agreement for the largest project implemented (or executed), and (b) a list of all projects (together with their amounts in US dollars) need to be sent via email, under a separate cover, to the GEF Secretariat at [Project\\_Agency@theGEF.org](mailto:Project_Agency@theGEF.org). These supporting documents will be treated as confidential and will not be shared with any parties external to the Secretariat. The PIF will not be approved in the absence of these supporting documents<sup>29</sup>

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

Please refer to the project document.

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

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

NA

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

TRI implementing partners and child project development teams appreciate the guidance and comments received from STAP and the GEF Council at the time of TRI PFD approval, in June 2016. The comments recognize and reflect the significant challenges of designing and implementing a well-integrated and well-coordinated program spanning two continents, including countries with large differences in their capacity to implement FLR, and that that delivers on the overarching vision for a GEF program as “... a series of interconnected projects under a common objective, and whose anticipated results are more than the sum of its components.”<sup>19</sup>

In the development of TRI child projects during the PPG phase, to address the concerns raised by GEF STAP and Council members and that are shared by TRI Implementing partners and stakeholders, the following measures, described in the table below, were undertaken.

Table C1. TRI Agency Responses to GEF STAP and Council member comments.

Council member and/or STAP comment	TRI Agencies response
<p><b>GEF STAP review, para. 2</b> – “The Program will need to set a clear Theory of Change and develop uptake pathways that will involve stakeholders at all levels, creating the right incentives and institutional structures to overcome the many barriers to forestland restoration. This STAP screen of the PFD on The Restoration Initiative (TRI) is mainly concerned with whether the Program sets the appropriate scientific and technical guidance to develop innovative, integrative and effective projects in the various partners countries. With such a wide mandate, TRI could, without the necessary program framework, revert to a collection of standard conservation forest projects.”</p> <p><b>GEF STAP review, para. 3</b> – “STAP supports the intended structure of this Program, consisting of a set of national projects that are collectively linked via Component 4 and its provision of lessons, learning, assessment and monitoring. There is, however, a danger that national projects may be formulated locally with only superficial guidance from South-South exchanges, program monitoring systems, best-practice databases and other provisions on Component 4. The ten countries involved have very different approaches to science, project development and project implementation.</p>	<p><b><i>TRI Theory of Change</i></b> A clear Theory of Change for TRI, based on extensive literature review and partner experience in FLR, was further developed during the PPG stage, and is presented in Section 3.1 of the TRI Global Child project document (page 35-38).</p> <p><b><i>To support the integrated design of child projects:</i></b> Building upon early consultations with all TRI countries and continuing throughout the PPG phase, TRI Implementing partners have worked to strengthen understanding and ownership of the TRI Program among child project development teams and key partners. Activities included training events and workshops beginning with the <i>TRI Global Launch Workshop</i> held in Douala, Cameroon, October 31-Nov 2, 2016, which was attended by representatives from all 12 TRI child projects, as well as bilateral meetings and follow-up activities conducted by all Implementing partners with their respective TRI national child project development teams. The TRI theory of change, Program design, M&amp;E systems, and key elements of TRI, particularly those focused on enhanced learning and collaboration, were a key part of the agenda of these meetings and activities. Through these efforts, stakeholder understanding of TRI and their ability to design child projects well-aligned with the TRI PFD was enhanced.</p> <p>While the TRI PFD provides sufficient flexibility to allow countries to tailor interventions to meet their specific challenges and needs, a high degree of overlap exists among TRI countries in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, the overall four-component thematic structure of TRI has been prioritized and adopted by all child projects, and will provide a firm basis for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects that, upon initial reading, may appear unrelated to one another.</p>

<sup>19</sup> GEF (2014). *Improving the GEF Project Cycle*. Page 8. GEF/C.47/07/Rev.01.

<p>Some have good scientific support; others are weak. Some have top-down approaches to project design; others have embraced participation by local stakeholder groups.”</p> <p><b>GEF STAP review</b>, para. 7 – “It is difficult to see how the list of projects and potential global benefits represents anything more than a set of individual projects unrelated to each other and not deriving any inputs from the Program Framework. How do the components in the PFD inform these projects?”</p> <p><b>GEF STAP review</b>, para. 9 – “In conclusion, STAP believes that this PFD represents a good starting point for a coordinated effort at FLR. However, there remains the significant concern of how the Program Framework will provide the necessary guidance for child projects, other than in broadly general rhetorical terms? This includes the following elements for a truly innovative and integrative Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project design and development</li> <li>▪ Analysis of costs and benefits of different restoration approaches [see related Council comment and Agency response below]</li> <li>▪ Intended use of tools across child projects [See STAP comment and Agency response below]</li> <li>▪ Contributions to a learning platform, and</li> <li>▪ Exchange of lessons and project experience”</li> </ul> <p><b>Germany</b> – “Child projects appear to stand alone with no conceptual input from the program. It is difficult to derive how the program framework will guide the child projects in core issues of institutional and operational sustainability, such as extension and service systems, technical education, land tenure and incentives.”</p>	<p>The design of the TRI Global Child, through which integrated support will be provided to national child projects along each of the four TRI PFD components, was informed by extensive stakeholder surveying, consultation and analysis of the highest-value support best provided from the Global child project in partnership with national projects (see Annex 6 of the TRI Global Child project document for more detailed information on findings from PPG-stage surveying of TRI national child project teams).</p> <p><b><i>To support enhanced learning, collaboration, and partnership</i></b> To facilitate the enhanced learning, collaboration and partnership among TRI program partners and relevant external partners and initiatives that is essential to realization of enhanced programmatic benefits, all TRI child projects include the following design elements and features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dedicated funding and support for annual participation of at least 2 child project team members in all <i>TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>.</li> <li>▪ Support for participation of project stakeholders in <i>TRI FLR Communities of Practice</i>, to be established, coordinated and supported in large part by the TRI Global Child project under Component 2 of the Global Child.</li> </ul> <p>The TRI Global Child will support the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information; development of case studies and policy briefs and other informational materials; enhancement of the existing body of FLR knowledge to make these resources more useful and widely accessible; and sharing of experiences via facilitated online Communities of Practice, the <i>Annual TRI Global Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>, other events, workshops and trainings, as well as through Program and Agency partner web platforms.</p> <p><b><i>To support coordination and adaptive management of TRI</i></b> The TRI Global Child project will play a principal role in overall Program coordination, monitoring, and facilitation of adaptive management. Key functions and services provided by the Global Child in this capacity include support for a Program Advisory Committee, Global Coordinating Unit, Program portal, harmonized TRI GEF tracking tool, and midterm Program review and terminal evaluation.</p> <p>All TRI child projects, in their respective project documents, have clearly defined institutional linkages to key TRI Program partners. These include operational and reporting linkages between all national child project and the TRI Global Child project and its Global Coordination Unit, the TRI Program Advisory Committee, and between TRI child projects themselves.</p>
<p><b>Germany</b> – “Germany suggests further clarification, how the program is meant to encourage political will for governance reform and investment into restoration approaches. Political will appears as an assumption rather than a purpose of the program.”</p>	<p><b><i>To support strengthening of political will for FLR-related policy and governance reform</i></b> All TRI national child projects have developed tailored interventions aligned with Component 1 of the TRI PFD, <i>Policy Development and Integration</i>, and that are intended to strengthen political will and support for governance reforms supporting FLR. Examples of these efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessments of national and sub-national policy and</li> </ul>

	<p>regulatory frameworks and how they may be enhanced and/or strengthened to further support FLR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support for identification and uptake of FLR supportive policies through filling in of knowledge gaps, awareness and outreach campaigns, and through support for robust cost benefit analysis of FLR benefits and costs through use of ROAM or other similar methodologies (8 of 11 TRI national child projects include support for use of ROAM).</li> <li>▪ Support for generation of a Bonn Challenge pledge in several TRI countries that have not yet made a pledge: Guinea Bissau, Myanmar, and Tanzania.</li> </ul> <p>The Global child project will work in tandem with national projects to support in-country efforts to enhance the enabling in-country policy environment for FLR. Work will include development of relevant case studies and policy briefs, high-level workshops, and an awareness-raising campaign featuring restoration champions from within and outside TRI countries.</p>
<p><b>Germany</b> – “Economic models on costs and benefits of landscape restoration need to be exemplified in order to underpin the plans for private investment generation.”</p>	<p><b><i>To support scaled-up investment in FLR, including from the private-sector</i></b></p> <p>TRI partners have encouraged the incorporation and use of robust methodologies for estimating the cost and benefits of proposed restoration interventions. This includes support for use of ROAM, that will be utilized by 8 of 11 TRI child projects.</p> <p>The need for cost-benefit analysis to facilitate private-sector investment in FLR is acknowledged by all TRI partners and is a key part of the programs of work of all three partner Agencies. Relevant analyses and findings that will be shared with and disseminated to TRI partners over the course of TRI include IUCN’s work with the Coalition on Private Sector Investment in Conservation (CPIC) (supported in-part by GEF Project ID 9914). Under component 2 on Knowledge Sharing &amp; Capacity Building, the thematic of cost benefit analysis has been designated as a key interest by the national TRI teams. It will certainly be one of the topic to receive support from the Global Child. Several national TRI teams have included activities on this thematic in their respective Project Documents.</p> <p>In addition, Component 4 (Output 4.1.1) of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the generation of case studies examining relevant FLR interventions, and that will include assessment of the associated cost and benefits.</p>
<p><b>Germany</b> – “Germany recommends incorporating coordination and networking with existing initiatives and programs in the field of landscape restoration at international as well as national levels more systematically.”</p>	<p><b><i>To support coordination and networking with relevant external initiatives</i></b></p> <p>A number of relevant national and international GEF and non-GEF interventions have been identified by the national child projects, for which the projects will take full account of and/or with which the projects will develop appropriate links. This will ensure that the national child projects benefit from collaboration with other relevant initiatives and build on lessons learnt in other projects. It also ensures that the child projects can provide a platform for bringing together a wide range of different initiatives and partners in each country around a common sustainable land management and landscape restoration agenda. For details on the most relevant initiatives please refer to the respective sections of the project documents describing linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions.</p>

	<p>The Global Child project, through its Global Coordinating Unit, will work to capture synergies among and between national child projects and relevant external initiatives, and capitalize on emerging opportunities presented over the course of TRI implementation. Work will include development and implementation of a <i>TRI Communications strategy</i> and <i>TRI Partnership strategy</i> for effective engagement and partnership with external programs, projects, institutions, and potential donors/investors, that help foster achievement of TRI objectives. This will include the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Global Restoration Council as well as regional initiatives such as AFR100.</p> <p>The Global child will present a <i>Restoration Finance Workshop</i> in year 3 to connect potentially interested donors and investors with in-country FLR investment opportunities. All TRI national projects have dedicated funding and support for participation of at least 2 child project team members in this event that will take place in tandem with the year three TRI Knowledge Sharing workshop.</p>
<p><b>GEF STAP review</b>, para. 9 – <i>Comment from above regarding PFD and how Program will provide guidance for “...intended use of tools across child projects”</i></p>	<p><b><i>How Program will provide guidance and support for use of FLR tools</i></b></p> <p>The Global Child project, together with the larger project support teams of the TRI Implementing Agencies, will provide a number of key FLR-related support services to child projects, including support for the use of FLR-relevant tools. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical support for implementation of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), to be provided by IUCN’s Global Forest Programme and Regional FLR hubs.</li> <li>▪ Technical support to all national child project teams in the development of bankable proposals and other mechanisms to mobilize increased funding for FLR, to be provided by UN Environment’s Finance Initiative. Support for mobilization of finance will also include development and delivery of an online course on FLR finance in partnership with Yale University (Output 3.1.2).</li> <li>▪ The FLR Communities of Practice will be supported from within Component 2 of the Global Child project, under management by FAO.</li> <li>▪ As noted above, Component 2 of the TRI Global Child will also include support for the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1).</li> <li>▪ Component 1 of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the development of a <i>TRI Global Communications and Outreach strategy</i>, with substantive inputs and participation from TRI country project teams. The strategy will codify objectives and approaches in communicating about the TRI program with internal and external audiences. The strategy will be accompanied by a ‘TRI Communications Toolbox,’ to include templates and flyers and other communication tools, regularly updated by the Global Child GCU, to help facilitate consistent and coordinated communication on TRI by all national child project. The Global Child project will provide continual support to all national child projects in the use of these communication resources.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Component 3 of the TRI Global Child includes support for development of an <i>Enabling Investments Rapid Diagnostic Tool</i> (Output 3.1.1). The Tool will allow actors in each TRI country (and others) to identify key in-country policy, regulatory, institutional, and/or financial obstacles that currently stand in the way of investing in restoration activities. It will likewise provide suggested measures for reform, depending on the bottlenecks identified.</li> <li>▪ Component 4 of the TRI Global Child includes support for the development, refinement, and use of a tool for assessing impacts to biodiversity from FLR (Outputs 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3) . Guidance and support will be provided to all national teams on the use of this tool.</li> <li>▪ Other targeted assistance, including support for the design and establishment of effective and harmonized FLR monitoring systems, will also be provided through the Global Child project to all national child project teams.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, TRI Agencies will support the sharing of independent evaluation teams (using same evaluation team for 2 or more TRI child projects) and methods in the undertaking of mid-term and terminal evaluations, to facilitate cost savings and increase cross-compatibility of evaluations (further information on this is provided in Section 5.5 of the Global Child project document).</p>
<p><b>Japan</b> – “When considering a target country in GEF projects, it is important to take into consideration the impact of externalities and scale of economy (GDP, foreign currency reserves etc.) of each country, with a view to effective utilization of limited GEF resources.</p> <p>In general, while we acknowledge that the GEF allocates fund along with the STAR system, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), lower income countries and less developed region in these countries should be prioritized in allocating GEF resources.</p> <p>Accordingly, the funding for the projects that take place in countries with larger economic scale should be covered by co-financing of related institutions instead of GEF resources.</p> <p>From these points of view, GEF secretariat may wish to reconsider whether the target countries and regions.”</p>	<p><b><i>On the selection and composition of countries in TRI</i></b></p> <p>TRI implementing partners acknowledge the comments from Japan regarding the composition of TRI countries. When the TRI program was being developed through the work of TRI countries, TRI Implementing Partners, and the GEF Secretariat, extensive efforts were made to notify countries with potential restoration opportunities about the emerging GEF-6 TRI program, and whether participation in the Program might be of interest. This occurred largely through the extensive networks of the three TRI Implementing Partners, and also via communications between GEF-eligible countries themselves. The selection process for TRI was largely a country-driven process, and entirely voluntary. As noted above, despite significant differences among TRI countries, a high degree of overlap exists in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, a firm basis exists for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects.</p>
<p><b>France</b> – “The initiative targets 9 countries, from which 5 in Africa (CAR, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Tanzania) and 3 in Asia (China, Myanmar and Pakistan). These countries have very different economic</p>	<p><b><i>On the benefits of country diversity to TRI and the importance of learning from and sharing what works, including contextual factors and other country/project-specific variables</i></b></p> <p>TRI partners agree that the diversity of countries participating in TRI, while presenting certain technical challenges, also affords a significant opportunity to test, refine, and share findings from</p>

<p>and political situations. The program consists mainly in 9 national projects put together. The national experiences could be useful for the 3 GEF agencies to benefit from the diversity of national contexts in order to promote same approaches in other countries and to feed general approaches and goal setting in the general monitoring of the Bonn Challenge. It would be therefore useful to apply participative approaches and not only international top down approaches of “best practices” or “monitoring tools.”</p> <p>“The implementation of concrete actions (for land management and restoration) represents 48% of the GEF contribution. The methodology for these actions is not presented (the monitoring tools, type of projects, “best practices” are described instead). A list of national resources requests is provided with about 40 projects. The approaches of how to improve land management and restore degraded land on each of these 40 individual projects will probably be the key issue of success of the initiative and, if successful, it will be the most useful lesson to be learned and shared. It would be then useful to understand how the actions will be implemented and with what kind of support (local structures, capacity building).”</p> <p>“On the public policy level, it will be important that (i) the intended use of 4 tools are not replacing national approaches and policies, and that (ii) they will be used to the extent that there are considered by countries as appropriate to the countries’ policies and at the right institutional level.”</p>	<p>country experiences on FLR that will, if successfully supported, benefit both TRI countries and other FLR initiatives. Related support would necessarily include support for robust knowledge capture of TRI experiences, thorough analysis of findings including contextual factors and other country- and project-specific variables that may be at play, and South-South knowledge sharing. As noted above, these are key components of TRI, integrated in the design of all TRI national child projects, and supported through dedicated work of the TRI Global Child project – particularly Global Child Components 2-4.</p> <p>In particular, all TRI child projects include the following design elements and features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dedicated funding and support for annual participation of at least 2 child project team members in all <i>TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>.</li> <li>▪ Support for participation of project stakeholders in <i>TRI FLR Communities of Practice</i>, to be established, coordinated and supported in large part by the TRI Global Child project under Component 2 of the Global Child.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the TRI Global Child will support the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information; development of detailed case studies and policy briefs and other informational materials with robust analysis of contextual factors; enhancement of the existing body of FLR knowledge to make these resources more useful and widely accessible; and sharing of experiences via facilitated online Communities of Practice, the <i>Annual TRI Global Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>, other events, workshops and trainings, as well as through Program and Agency partner web platforms.</p> <p><b><i>On the importance of ensuring that support provided (tools, approaches, capacity building, etc.) is not replacing national approaches and that support provided is demand-driven and appropriate to country context and involving participatory approaches</i></b></p> <p>TRI partners agree that, both from an efficiency standpoint and also in terms of supporting uptake and sustainability, successful achievement of TRI country FLR objectives will depend in large part on ensuring that supported work does not duplicate or replace existing country efforts and approaches on FLR that are working, and that the kinds of support provided from TRI are appropriate to country context and targeted at the right institutional level(s). For this reason, as noted above, the TRI PFD affords country partners the flexibility to tailor interventions to meet their specific challenges and needs. This flexibility is in turn reflected in the diversity of projects, approaches, and targeted stakeholders of the 11 TRI national child projects. Moreover, the design of child project interventions is informed by robust stakeholder analysis to ensure that interventions are targeted at, and include the participation of stakeholders at the appropriate intentional level and department, including relevant external stakeholders.</p> <p>Examples of this diversity of context-specific TRI interventions and support, including participatory approaches, include:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Guinea Bissau, where TRI will support community-led participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of restoration of degraded mangrove habitat and degraded rice fields.</li><li>▪ China, where experiences from TRI-supported restoration of pilot sites will directly inform ongoing policy reform processes concerning the management of State Forest Farms.</li><li>▪ Sao Tome, where a national system for FLR monitoring will be developed through TRI, supporting country efforts towards FLR</li><li>▪ Pakistan, where Sustainable Forest Management Plans will be developed and implemented in a participatory manner following local demand.</li></ul> <p>As noted above, the design of the TRI Global Child, through which integrated support will be provided to national child projects along each of the four TRI PFD components, was informed by extensive stakeholder surveying, consultation and analysis of the highest-value support best provided from the Global child project in partnership with national projects (see Annex 6 of the TRI Global Child project document for more detailed information on findings from PPG-stage surveying of TRI national child project teams).</p>
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## International Union for the Conservation of Nature

### Country: Cameroon

#### PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project Title: Supporting Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa spp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The Republic of Cameroon has a diverse ecological landscape, earning her the title “Africa in Miniature”. The southern portions of Cameroon’s forests are part of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem, the second largest remaining contiguous block of rainforest on Earth, after the Amazon. In addition to extensive Mangrove belts, Cameroon also holds significant portions of the Lower Guinea Forest Ecosystems and zones of endemism extending into densely settled portions of the Western Highlands and Montagne forests. The North of the country comprising the Dry Sudano-Sahelian Savannah Zones is rich in wildlife, and home to dense human and livestock populations. Much of the population residing in these areas lives in extreme poverty. This diversity in biomes makes Cameroon one of the most important and unique hotspots for biodiversity in Africa.

However, human population growth, migrations, livelihoods strategies, rudimentary technologies and unsustainable land use for agriculture and small-scale forestry, energy and livestock, are contributing to biodiversity loss and landscape degradation in Cameroon. Despite strong institutional frameworks, forest and environmental policies/legislation, and a human resource capital, Cameroon’s network of biomes that include all types of forests, tree-systems, savannahs, agricultural mosaics, drylands, etc., are progressively confronted by various forms of degradation. Degradation, which is progressive loss of ecosystem functions (food sources, water quality and availability, biodiversity, soil fertility, etc), now threatens the livelihoods of millions of Cameroonians, especially vulnerable groups like women, children and indigenous populations. This is further aggravated by continuous decline in soil fertility and loss or modification of animal and plant species habitats and species declines. It should also be noted that loss and degradation of land cover also result in high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reduce the ability of these landscapes to sequester carbon. In the long term, this landscape degradation and loss diminishes the overall capacity of these landscapes to support the growing needs of human and livestock populations.

This project, one of the twelve Child Projects of The Restoration Initiative (TRI) has been developed to contribute towards global efforts in support of the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests, the AFR100 Initiative, and the restoration priorities of the Republic of Cameroon (GoC).

The overall objective of the Cameroon TRI project is to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon.

Specifically, the project will:

- Improve Cameroon Government policy commitment to forest landscape restoration and sustainable land management.
- Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using *Bambusa spp* and other indigenous NTFP like *Irvingia spp*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc, and ensure the development of their value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction.
- Enhance institutional capacities and financing arrangements for large-scale forest landscape restoration in Project sites in Cameroon.

- Improve knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration and Monitoring and Evaluation among Project stakeholders.

A specific focus of the Project will be to support efforts to further assess, pilot the application of, and disseminate knowledge on, the role that bamboo and other indigenous species can play in supporting restoration efforts in Cameroon. The Project will assess, replicate and upscale strategies to highlight how bamboo and, where appropriate, other priority indigenous NTFP species can be used to 1) Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity since it grows fast over a short period of time; 2) generate household revenues for rural communities through development and enhancement of bamboo and other priority NTFP value chain; 3) sequester carbon from the atmosphere to fight climate change; and 4) assess the degree to which bamboo can contribute in raising water table in degraded landscapes (e.g. in the Waza Logon) to boost agricultural yields and restoration, as experienced in India. Since policy support and capacity development are important components of this project, stakeholders will be supported to ensure uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM and NTFP assessments. This will be done by supporting the work of the Cross-Sectoral Inter-ministerial Forest Landscape Restoration Working Group and engaging with policy and decision makers. The project has also been designed to strengthen the institutional and individual capacities to ensure large scale forest landscape restoration.

To achieve the above objectives, the activities of this project will: address key barriers to restoration in Cameroon, notably in key pilot sites, and support replication, mainstreaming and up-scaling of results and lessons learned by demonstrating and disseminating successful restoration results through knowledge generation and outreach. The project will pilot on-the-ground restoration planning and activities in 4 selected sites: the Waza landscape in the Far North, the Bakossi segment of the Bakossi-Bayang-Mbo landscape in the South West Regions; and the degraded Mangroves of the littoral and the degraded forests of the Center region.

Lessons learned from piloting of these indigenous trees, including bamboo, in degraded sites will be captured and presented to wider group of stakeholders and policy makers to understand and inform restoration planning.

The total estimated cost of the project investment is 9 122 727 USD, with 1,326,146 USD in support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
CBO	Community Based Organization
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COMIFAC	<i>Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale</i>
DFNP	Non-Permanent Forest Estate ( <i>Domaine Forestier Non-Permanent</i> )
DFP	Permanent Forest Estate ( <i>Domaine Forestier Permanent</i> )
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoC	Government of Cameroon
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INBAR	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MINATD	Ministry of Regional Development and Decentralization ( <i>Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de la Décentralisation</i> )
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy and Regional Planning ( <i>Ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire</i> )
MINPROFF	Ministry for the Promotion of Women and Family ( <i>Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Famille</i> )
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Sustainable Development ( <i>Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Durable</i> )
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development ( <i>Ministère de l'Environnement, Protection de la Nature et Développement Durable</i> )
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife ( <i>Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune</i> )
MINIMIDT	Ministry of Mining, and Technological Development ( <i>Ministère des Mines et du Développement Technologique</i> )
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
PES	Payment for Ecosystems Services
PFD	Program Framework Document
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RBM	Results-Based Management
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	(UN) Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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## 1- PROJECT PROFILE

Project title: Supporting Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa ssp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon

Project Numbers GEF ID: 9519  
IUCN ID: P02468

Project type (FSP or MSP): MSP  
Trust Fund: GEF Trust Fund  
GEF strategic objectives and focal areas: BD – 4 Program 9: Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management; Sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations.

CCM – 2 Program 4: Accelerated adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration; Policy, planning and regulatory frameworks foster accelerated low GHG development and emissions mitigation.

LD- 2 Program 3: Support mechanisms for forest landscape management and restoration established; Improved forest management and/or restoration; Increased investments in SFM and restoration.

SFM – 3 Outcome 5: Integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services are implemented at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men.

IUCN Programme priorities: Programme Area 2: Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources  
Programme Area 3: Deploying nature-based solution to address societal challenges including climate change, food security

Geographical scope: Cameroon

Implementing Agency: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Executing Agency: International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

Duration of project: Commencement: January 1, 2018  
Completion: December 31, 2022

Project cost (Summary):

Item	USD
A. GEF financing	<b>1,326,146</b>
B. Co-financing	
➤ IUCN	4,548,021
➤ INBAR	1,991,932
➤ FODER	82,774
➤ CEW and IUCN – Cameroon national committee	1,000,000
➤ CWCS and Cameroon Mangroves Network	1,500,000
C. Sub-total co-financing	<b>9,122,727</b>
<b>D. Total (A+C)</b>	<b>10,448,873</b>

## 2. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<p><b>Project Title:</b> Supporting Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (<i>Bambusa spp</i>, <i>Irvingia spp</i>, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon</p> <p><b>Project objective:</b> To support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods</p>	
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### Component 1: Policy Development and Integration

Outcome	Output and Activity Indicators	Baseline	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumptions, Risks and Adaptation measures
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Strengthened policy commitment and improved legislative and regulatory framework supporting forest landscape restoration and sustainable land and forest management</p>	<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> High-priority restoration opportunities and interventions identified in 4 pilot landscapes through facilitated participatory ROAM processes.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> 4 sub-national ROAM assessments in pilot landscapes</p>	0	4 adopted sub-national ROAM assessments; 4 new policies and regulatory framework influenced by the ROAM assessments	ROAM assessments; Project monitoring reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumptions / Risks                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The resources expected by Cameroon to mobilize and implement commitments in the framework of AF100 and Bonn challenge are not available in time</li> <li>Lack of evidence of commitment by local government technical services in sharing results and lessons learned from restoration efforts with national decision-making authorities</li> <li>Unwillingness or reluctance of Regional Delegations to own policy recommendations and transmit to Ministerial level</li> </ul> </li> <li>Adaptation measures                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Builds on Cameroon's declaration to restore 12 Million hectares by 2030.</li> <li>Work with Government at all levels during the project to develop tools to systematically include support for Restoration in the Ministry's Annual Work Plans and Programme Budget.</li> <li>Support the creation of a Roundtable of stakeholders to monitor the implementation of the envisaged restoration action plans.</li> <li>The project will be based on the national working group AF100 created by MINFOF / MINEPDED joint decision for the promotion, coordination and monitoring and evaluation of the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 1.2:</b> Policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants <i>Bambusa spp</i>, <i>Irvingia spp</i> and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>, etc. reviewed and compiled in a report</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b> Published report on Cameroonian policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants <i>Bambusa spp</i>, <i>Irvingia spp</i> and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>, etc</p> <p><b>Output 1.3:</b> Uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments, published report on use of indigenous plants to support restoration, and other briefs and case studies facilitated</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Number of cross sectoral policies, plans and actions initiated by the project and vetted by policy makers to promote FLR</p>	<p>(i) a draft of the AFR100 action plan is available; (ii) a joint AFR100 working group established to promote, coordinate, and monitor and evaluate existing restoration initiatives; (iii) The Inter-sectoral FLR Working Group set up by the Government</p>	<p>At least two policies and Plans reviewed and findings used to support restoration on the ground; 5 national and sub-national policies, regulatory framework and plans integrate FLR approaches</p>	<p>Final evaluation</p> <p>Adopted Policy, recommendations or plans for Sustainable Land Management and Value Chain Development; Activity Reports of the FLR Working Group</p>	

Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives					
Outcome	Output and Activity Indicators	Baseline	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumptions, Risks and Adaptation measures
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using <i>Bambusa spp</i> and other indigenous NTFP like <i>Irvingia spp</i>, <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>, etc. and support the development of NTFP value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1:</b> Degraded landscapes under restoration with collaboration of stakeholders</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Surface area of deforested and degraded landscapes that integrates FLR approach; Number of Community groups benefiting from FLR activities in all 4 sites (training sessions, nurseries)</p>	<p>at least 5000 ha already restored by existing initiatives in the targeted sites</p>	<p>Support given to at least 3 community groups in each of the 4 project sites (nurseries, land, training workshops and exchange visits etc.) for FLR</p> <p>At least 6,000 ha of deforested and degraded landscape restored or rehabilitated</p>	<p>Project monitoring reports</p> <p>Final evaluation</p> <p>Respective GEF Tracking Tools</p> <p>Survey among participants</p> <p>collection of data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumptions / Risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitments from other partners in terms of funding for restoration available and on time</li> <li>Current trends due to global warming intensify Adaptation measures</li> </ul> </li> <li>IUCN and Management Unit will maintain dialogue, consultation and lobbying for the real-time mobilization of co-financing</li> <li>Species used for reforestation / restoration will be those most adapted and resistant to climate change</li> <li>Restoration will occur in mosaic landscape corresponding to 6,000 Ha and connected to Bonn Challenge target area where enhancement of ecosystem functions are expected to occur.</li> <li>The project will need to scale up existing techniques on propagation and cultivation of underutilized species such as indigenous species of Bamboo (<i>Bambusa spp</i>), restoration using other species including co-funded restoration activities such as in Mangrove restoration zones.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Output 2.2:</b> Value chains development and enhancement of priority NTFPs like Bamboo <i>Irvingia spp</i> and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>, etc is supported in the various sites to facilitate Forest Landscape Restoration</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> At least 1 publication on value chain development of priority NTFPs; Amount of NTFP products (processed and unprocessed) sold by communities in available markets</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>Value chains of priority NTFPs developed in 4 landscapes and used to promote FLR</p>		
	<p><b>Output 2.3:</b> Promote the production of sustainable charcoal (from <i>Bambusa spp</i>), especially in sites near Protected Areas to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Number of community groups near PA and conservation sites producing and selling charcoal from Bamboo</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>9 community groups trained in 4 sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumptions / Risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of appropriate tools and techniques for measuring carbon stocks</li> </ul> </li> <li>Adaptation measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of having the techniques adapted to the areas targeted by the project, the standard approaches will be used; the project will also explore the possibility of supporting the development of appropriate tools and techniques for carbon stock measurement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Upscaling					
Outcome	Output and Activity Indicators	Baseline	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumptions, Risks and Adaptation measures
<b>Outcome 3:</b> Strengthened Institutional capacities and Financing arrangements in place to facilitate large-scale Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management in Project sites in Cameroon	<b>Output 3.1:</b> Beneficiaries Trained on Management, Financial and Technical aspects of Landscape Restoration and NTFPs Value Chain Development  <b>Indicator:</b> Number of actors trained on management, financial and technical aspects of FLR and NTFP Value chain development	0	2,000 persons	Monitoring and evaluation reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumptions / Risks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible limitation of direct funding for training sessions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Adaptation measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-financing for training will be sought from partner institutions to cover at least 25% of education and training costs. Support will also be sought from global TRI programs through south-south lessons learned for better tailoring of education and training packages to local needs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Output 3.2:</b> New financing mechanisms for restoration investments and/or NTFP value chain identified, developed and mainstreamed at national and local level  <b>Indicator:</b> Number of restoration investments as a result of the activities of the project	0	2 Mechanisms		

Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment					
Outcome	Output and Activity Indicators	Baseline	End of Project Target	Source of verification	Assumptions, Risks and Adaptation measures
<b>Outcome 4:</b> Improved knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration, SFM, SLM, Monitoring and Evaluation amongst Stakeholders	<b>Output 4.1:</b> System to monitor and evaluate progress with landscape restoration and SLM developed and is operational (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and global TRI Initiative)  <b>Indicator:</b> Effective Project M&E system established and operational	0	Reports and evaluations published on schedule; Biannual review meetings monitor and guide Program performance.	Monitoring reports  Final evaluation  Field survey reports of uptake of knowledge products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assumptions / Risks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners are unwilling to share information.</li> <li>Internal learning and lessons sharing events can have great value. However, project funds may be unable to meet demands.</li> <li>Except for Publications and tangible media products, target attainment on Social Media is difficult to predict as technology is changing fast.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Adaptation measures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global TRI program will be requested to provide guidance and where necessary identify additional resources</li> <li>Project will adjust quickly to new technologies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<b>Output 4.2:</b> Development of FLR knowledge products  <b>Indicator:</b> Number of knowledge product produced and disseminated	0	15 Knowledge Products	Online data outreach	

	<p><b>Output 4.3:</b> Development and participation in knowledge sharing events to share Project experiences and knowledge products and learn from other TRI projects and initiatives</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> Number of knowledge sharing events organized and attended by Project stakeholders and partners</p>	0	10 events		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Project results will be incorporated on common platform with other TRI projects.</li> </ul>
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### 3. CAMEROON BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Background and Context

In 2016 the Republic of Cameroon pledged to restore 12 Million hectares of degraded and degrading landscape across the national territory. This comes against a backdrop of a 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy that has framed forest, environmental management and land use policies over the past two decades. Cameroon has a growing population, diversified land uses, expanding mining and agricultural sectors, and a socio-economic vision of resilience and emergence by 2035. The current background and situation analyses will frame this project and point to a country, fully ready and in need of extensive landscape restoration and other sustainable forest and land management innovations for livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and use of forests, woodlands, other trees and plant resources.

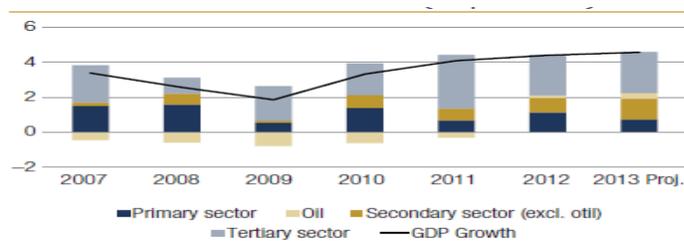
##### 3.1.1 Economic and Social Context

###### (a) The Economy

According to the World Bank, Cameroon’s population reached 23.3 million people in 2015<sup>1</sup>, with a density of 49.9 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>. The percentage of urban population is 54.4 (2015)<sup>2</sup>, while that of the rural population represents 45.6<sup>3</sup> or 10,649,381 people<sup>4</sup>. The annual population growth in 2015 was 2.5%<sup>5</sup>. In 2014, 5.5 million people were living on less than 1.90 USD a day, which means that 24% of the population was below the poverty line<sup>6</sup>. Two regions of the country are English-speaking (the northwest and southwest regions that border Nigeria), while the rest of the country is French-speaking.

Cameroon is a lower-middle income country with a GNI per capita of USD 1,330<sup>7</sup>. The country’s Human Development Index is 0.512, which ranks it on the 153<sup>th</sup> position in the UNDP HDI List<sup>8</sup>. The life expectancy at birth is 55.5 years<sup>9</sup>, the sex ratio at birth (male to female births) is 1.03<sup>10</sup>, and the economically active population (from age 15 to 64) reached 54.3% in 2015<sup>11</sup>. The country is endowed with significant natural resources, including high value timber species, minerals, oil and gas, and agricultural products such as coffee, cotton, cocoa, maize, and cassava, etc. In terms of dynamics, the services sector with telecommunications, financial services and transport have seen considerable growth over the past decade.

In the agricultural sector, industrial and export-oriented agriculture are the main sources of GDP, while the manufacturing sector has not experienced the same growth, partly due to the lack of infrastructure<sup>12</sup>. The contributions from each sector can be seen in the figure below (Fig. 4). In terms of share in employment, agriculture employed 53.3% of the population in 2012, while services were responsible for 34.1% of the employment<sup>13</sup>.



Sources: INS and WB staff calculations.

Figure 1 Sectoral Contributions to GDP Growth, 2007-2013

1 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=CM>

2 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=CM>

3 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?locations=CM>

4 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL?locations=CM>

5 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW?locations=CM>

6 <http://povertydata.worldbank.org/poverty/country/CMR>

7 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=CM>

8 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR>

9 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR>

10 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR>

11 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.1564.TO.ZS?locations=CM>

12 <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Africa/Cameroon/Report/cameroon-economic-update-vol7.pdf>

13 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/CMR>

Since 2015, GDP growth has been stabilizing around 4% on average; in 2015, it was 6.15%<sup>14</sup>. Yet this was still too low to significantly support poverty reduction in the country. Oil production – which has experienced a 28% increase between 2014 and 2015 – has been a driver of growth for the past two years, and several non-oil sectors also continued to benefit from progress in the implementation of the “Vision 2035” program which aims to make the country an upper-middle income economy by 2035.

However, the stock of public debt has been increasing substantially between 2014 and 2015 from 22.9% to 26.7% of GDP, mainly due to large-scale infrastructure projects that required external financing<sup>15</sup>. The 2015 joint International Monetary Fund - World Bank Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) revealed that Cameroon’s risk of external debt distress moved from moderate risk in 2014 to high risk in 2015<sup>16</sup>, meaning there is still much work to do for Cameroon to truly be in track to meet its 2035 economic emergence vision.

Table 1 below is a 2016 summary of Cameroon’s economic profile (CIA Fact book, 2016).

Table 1 Economic Profile of Cameroon

	<b>Components</b>	<b>Values/ Description</b>
1	Population	23.3 million (2015 <sup>17</sup> )
	Gross Domestic Product	77.24 Billion USD
2	GNI per capita	1,330 <sup>18</sup> . USD
3	Labour Force	9.612 Million
4	Unemployment rate	4.3% (2014 Estimate)
5	Expenditure budget	6.49 Billion USD
7	Inflation rate	2.5%
8	Agriculture products	coffee, cocoa, cotton, rubber, bananas, oilseed, grains, cassava (manioc, tapioca); livestock; timber
9	Export commodities	crude oil and petroleum products, lumber, cocoa beans, aluminum, coffee, cotton
10	Import commodities	machinery, electrical equipment, transport equipment, fuel, food
11	Main Import partners	China 27.9%, Nigeria 13.9%, France 10.9%, Belgium 4.1% (2015)
12	External debt	7.375 Billion USD

Source: CIA Fact book, 2016

Cameroon’s economy remains market-based, and quite diversified with an expanding mining sector, and despite falling Petroleum prices, exports still accounts for nearly 40% of exports. Cameroon’s economy however suffers from factors that often impact developing countries, such as relatively stagnant per capita income, income distribution inequalities, a large civil service, governance challenges, and continuing efforts to better manage a large parastatal sector. The country is nevertheless making extensive efforts to address these challenges. Cameroon’s economy remains the biggest in the central Africa sub region, and the country is eager to learn from the examples of West African economies like Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire and Nigeria. In particular Cameroon is determined to build resilience by simultaneously protecting ecosystem services such as through landscape restoration (e.g., 2016 Pledge of 12 Million restoration target), conserving biological diversity (NEMP, 1996) and promoting sustainable use of renewable natural resources (REDD+ Strategy, (NFAP 1995; NPACD 2007, etc.)

*(b) Social Context: population density, migrations and distribution*

With 230 ethnic groups, the population of Cameroon is estimated at 23,344,179 inhabitants. Cameroon’s demographic data from the third General Population and Housing Census of 2005 (Reported in 2010), are presented by region in Annex I and II. Cameroon is divided into 10 administrative regions with smaller administrative subdivisions: regions, divisions, and districts.

According World Bank Figures, the number of people living in poverty in Cameroon increased by 12% between 2007 and 2014<sup>19</sup>. In 2014, there were 8.1 million poor people in the country. Poverty is more concentrated in the northern and Far Northern regions of the country, and it is estimated that 56% of Cameroon’s poor live in the Northern and Far-

14 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=CM>

15 World Bank Country Overview - Cameroon, accessed on July 5, 2016

16 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/pdf/2015/dsacr15331.pdf>

17 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=CM>

18 <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GNP.PCAP.CD?locations=CM>

19 <http://www.banque mondiale.org/fr/country/cameroon/overview>

North regions; and as a consequence, suffer most in loss of agricultural productivity, water stress and human-induced catastrophes such as floods and localized droughts, from a degraded and degrading natural environment.

Economic activity was reported to have slowed down in 2016<sup>20</sup>, with the country's growth expected to be 5.6% at the end of December 2016, decreasing to 0.2 percentage points from 2015. This was explained by the slowdown in overall domestic production (+3% in 2016, compared to +3.7% of GDP in 2015) in 2016. This slowdown was aggravated by the avian flu epidemic of 2016, during which the Western Highlands, accounting for two thirds of national poultry production took a serious hit, impacting employment and the local agricultural economic outlook in those regions. However, continued implementation of the State's ambitious interventions to boost agriculture, forestry and strengthen domestic markets, have largely contributed to maintaining some stability in rural employment in these densely populated areas of the Far North, Western Highlands and Forest Margins.

These instabilities in economic outlooks, dissimilar rates of population growth, and livelihoods opportunities elsewhere, especially in biodiversity rich areas, is a significant driver of migration and of land use change; and movement of youths (main labour force) from rural to urban areas in search for economic opportunities. Thus, although three of the most densely settled areas of the country; the Far North, Western Highlands of North West, and West are also, incidentally important areas of out-migration (source areas of population movements). Finally, in addition to migrations of populations, especially of livestock from the far North and Western Highlands regions of Cameroon, population pressures on biodiversity and on habitats, and some sedentary agricultural practices, such as shorter fallow, reduction in tree densities, soil organic matter and increase chemical fertilizer use, can also have a significant impact on land degradation hazards.

### 3.1.2 Environmental Context

#### *Vegetation types and indigenous biodiversity*

Cameroon's major vegetation types, include the humid high forest of the northern tips of the Congo Basin forest ecosystem; Eastern portions of the Upper and Lower Guinea forests occurring within Montagne regions; Humid and dry Savannas and the Sudano-sahelian scrublands to the extreme north. Annex III is a Land Cover Map of Cameroon.

Cameroon is endowed with a rich heritage of biodiversity and biological resources. The volcanic soils of the South West and Littoral regions and the maritime influence account for luxuriant vegetation which harbour highly diversified flora and fauna and support considerable agricultural, forestry and fishing activities. The beauty of the wild life and landscape of the north and extreme north regions are of high touristic value. The rich fauna and flora of the aquatic and tropical forests of the Centre, South and East plateau is an intact large mass for carbon sink and attracts the wood industry. From its rich natural heritage, Cameroon ranks fourth in floral diversity and fifth in faunal diversity within the African continent. The nation's biological and genetic resources constitute a bedrock for food security and health. In rural production for food and nutrition about 80% of the rural populations are engaged in biodiversity driven activities on which their livelihoods depend. The medicinal properties of diverse plant and animal species provide enormous health benefits. It is estimated that 80% of the rural population in Cameroon depend on traditional medicine, a practice that has lasted for over a century and quite common to the Central and West African region. Inhabitants of biodiversity rich areas are endowed with indigenous knowledge associated with plants and animals<sup>21</sup>.

A considerable portion of the country's biodiversity is located in forests of the lower and Upper Guinean types. The lower Guinea forests are for instance renowned for their high numbers of endemic plant and animal species, making them some of the country's key biodiversity hotspots. Available data indicates that the state of Cameroon flora as found in the Tropical Humid Forests ecosystems are some of the most diverse and accounting for over 60% of the total biodiversity.

Of the identified and named trees there are about 235 Families, 1179 Genera, 8500 – 10000 species, 411 Exotics, 808 Endemics, 3000 are Useful, 176 Endangered according to IUCN Red list<sup>22</sup>, and 11 Invasive species. In the forests ecosystem there are 650 trees, 850 shrubs, 750 Liana, 15 Ferns, 400 Orchids, and no information on Lichens. A checklist of eighty-six key species representing 35 plant families with their conservation status following the IUCN Redlist categories. Close to 47 species, new to science have been discovered and described within this ecosystem in the last years following intensive botanical research. Cameroon is a zoological treasure trove and the diverse habitat hosts all the major species to be found throughout Africa and those that are reserved for the equatorial regions. The

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.stat.cm/downloads/2016/Rapport\\_tendances\\_profil\\_determinants\\_pauvrete\\_2001\\_2014.pdf](http://www.stat.cm/downloads/2016/Rapport_tendances_profil_determinants_pauvrete_2001_2014.pdf), p. 42.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cm/cm-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

tropical Humid forest extraordinary habitat diversity supports 340 species of mammals, 920 species of birds and 274 reptiles (Reptile Atlas). Reptiles are well represented with a collection of snakes, lizards and the rivers are home to populations of crocodiles. Most notable of forest inhabitants are the lowland and Cross River gorillas, chimpanzees, forest elephants, buffalos, and bongos with the following species considered endangered: Pohle’s fruit bat, Black Rhinoceros, Pennat’s red colobus, Preuss’s guenon, Gorilla, drill, chimpanzee<sup>23</sup>.

### *Climate and land use*

Cameroon’s climate is determined by the equatorial and tropical air masses. It offers an almost complete range of inter-tropical climatic conditions which are influenced by the Harmattan and the Atlantic Monsoon winds. The varied relief and the coastal setting also introduce climate gradations, due to interactions between coastal mountains and the sea. Located on the Gulf of Guinea, Cameroon comprises 2 principal climatic zones: the equatorial zone and the tropical zone.<sup>24</sup>

Climate variabilities have been recorded in Cameroon. For instance, the mean annual temperature in Cameroon has been observed to increase by 0.7°C since 1960; an average rate of 0.15°C per decade, while the annual rainfall appears to have decreased by around 2.9 mm (2.2%) per decade since 1960. These climate variations have been linked to some extreme weather events across the country. Cameroon experienced particularly low rainfalls in 2003 and 2005; and future projections suggest that the mean annual temperature is likely to increase by 1.0°C to 2.9°C by the 2060s, and 1.5°C to 4.7°C by the 2090s, given current trends. On the other hand, the Southwest coastal and rainforest regions, including the humid savannahs, have experienced increased periods of prolonged rainfall leading in some cases to flooding. In fact, Debuncha, (near Limbe, South West region)) is considered as one of the wettest places on earth.

The Northern Sudano-Sahelian region for instance is experiencing increased incidences of drought and desertification resulting in scorched lands and hardening of the soil over extensive areas. Despite low annual rainfall in far northern zones, shifts in weather manifesting through intense precipitation over very short periods of time, can act in combination with slopes and land use factors, such as removal of trees and other vegetation cover, crusting and hardening of soil through human and livestock activity, diminishing infiltration, facilitating run-offs, soil erosion and accelerated land degradation.

For instance, the northern and extreme northern regions experienced one of such disasters-causing floods in 2012, during which, 60,000 human lives were lost; including livestock, and thousands of hectares of farmlands destroyed, with many remaining heavily degraded to-date. Although such extreme weather events have also been experienced in other regions; water discharges and resulting devastations have been more widely felt in higher elevations in the extreme north, western highlands and in areas where deforestation has occurred; thereby driving further degradation and loss of functionality of agricultural landscape mosaics.

The climatic variabilities, relief differences and vegetation types also tends to make the effects of these differences more pronounced<sup>25</sup>; especially in terms of their impact on land uses, within ecosystems, such as micro-watersheds and agricultural mosaics. Agricultural production for instance is predominantly rain-fed, and the semi-extensive farming systems are particularly sensitive to small changes in climatic conditions.

Cameroon has five agro-ecological zones with climate as the dominant variable (Annex VI). These are; high forest zones with a mono-modal rainfall regime; the high forest zone with a bi-modal rainfall regime; the western high plateau; the high savannah and the Sudano-sahelian savannah. A combination of vegetation types, elevation/slope and bedrock formations create various levels of degradation hazards. Table 2 below is a summary of the climatic and land use characteristics of the main agro-ecological zones of Cameroon, with both direct and indirect influence on landscape degradation.

Table 2 Climate, physical and utilitarian characteristics of Cameroon’s agro-ecological zones

	<b>Agro-ecological Zones</b>	<b>Regions of the Country</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
1	Mono-modal high forest (coastal areas)	South west, Littoral, South regions	Rainfall: 2500 - 4000 mm/yr.; Soils: volcanic slopes; coastal sandy, rocky sediments. Crops: cocoa, bananas, coffee, plantains, Oil Palm, ginger, <i>piper guinensis</i>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cm/cm-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Climatic\_trends\_in\_Cameroon\_Implications\_for\_agricultural\_management [accessed Jun 22, 2017].

<sup>25</sup> Climate Change Financing and Aid Effectiveness Cameroon Case Study. 2011.

2	Bi-modal high forest	Centre, South, East regions	Rainfall: 1500 – 2000 mm/yr.; 2 distinct seasons; Soils: feralitic, acidic, clayey, low water and nutrient retention. Crops: cocoa, coffee, manioc, plantains, maize, Oil Palm, pine apple
3	High plateau	West, North West, Adamaoua regions	Rainfall: 1500 – 2000 mm/yr; fertile soils, young soils on steep slopes; deeper on old plateaus: Crops: cocoa, coffee, mais, beans, Irish Potatoes; market gardened crops; Livestock
4	High savannah	Adamaoua, North, Centre regions	Rainfall: 1500 mm/yr; permeable soils; average water holding capacity; brown/red feralitic soils; swamps: Crops: maize, cotton, yams, millet, Sorghum, Irish potatoes. Livestock
5	Sudano Sahel	North, Far North Regions	400 – 1200 mm/yr. Soils: a wide diversity of types: leached, feralitic, swampy, alluvial, lithosols and vertisols: Crops: cotton, millet, Sorghum, Soja, onions, sesame. Livestock

Source: Agro-ecological Zones of Cameroon, IRAD, *Anonymous*

### 3.1.3 Institutional, Sectoral and Policy Context

#### *Forest and Environmental Management Policies Supporting Conservation and Landscape Restoration*

Against some external pressures and internal calls for change, after Rio 1992, the Republic of Cameroon enshrined its local Agenda 21 within its forest policy reform process ushered in by the Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 laying down regulations for the Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries for the Republic of Cameroon. This was later on supported by 96/12 of August 5, 1996, on the Framework Law on the Environmental Management. Furthermore, and according to the very recent National REDD+ Strategy of Cameroon (2017) ‘forests’ are today defined “from a wooded threshold of 0.5 ha and canopy cover of 10%”, corresponding to woodlands and tree systems in all five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon.

The 1994 Forestry Law however, had framed Cameroon’s forest management activities to this day: ownership, use and access rights to forests with respect to State’s timber, and conservation interests as well as community access to forests for timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Modalities for Forest Management, the official euphemism for timber concession forestry are contained in the 1995 National Forestry Action Plan; while the forest conservation strategy modelled along the lines of the exclusive model (West & Brechin, 1991) are contained in the 1996 National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP, 1996). Both policy implementation instruments however, have as intent, to contribute to social and economic development of neighboring populations, either indirectly through their contributions to the State’s investment budget or directly, through local entrepreneurial activities, comprising activities like the collection and marketing of diverse forest products, or NTFPs.

Other forest policy instruments exist, building off from the initial 1994 law, such as the Yaoundé Declaration (March, 1999), which strives for better commercialization of wood products, sustainable partnerships, trans-boundary environmental protection, and Trust Fund establishment. In 2002, Cameroon also developed a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). There are other laws, ordinances and official texts dealing with specific issues in the forestry sector, but all are invariably linked to, and based on the 1994 framework laws.

To facilitate both industrial aspects of forestry (timber concession forestry), conservational aspects (creation of a protected areas network), community empowerment and benefits sharing strategies (legal community access and use of forest resources), the 1994 laws, separates all forests into two broad regimes or estates: the Permanent Forest Estate (or PFE) and non-permanent forest estates (or NPFE).

#### ➤ *The permanent forest estates*

These comprise

- **State forests** (private property of the State), comprising of national parks and reserves for the conservation of biological diversity; their buffer zones, which can assume the same level of protection; and logging concessions. Logging ‘concessions’ are also referred-to as ‘forest management units’ (FMU or <sup>26</sup>UFAs in French). Lately forest ‘licenses’ which should be considered as *de jure* timber concessions have been phased out.
- **Council forests** are forests under the legal jurisdiction of the State but managed by local councils according to a duly approved management plan.

<sup>26</sup> Unités Forestière d’Aménagement

➤ *The non-permanent forest estates*

These comprise

- **State domains** - (national forest domains or all other forests for which no licenses are held or which are not under any official management plan – community, council or otherwise),
- **Community forests** - (community forests), forests managed by duly constituted and legalized community associations according to a duly approved management plan.
- **Private forests** - (private forest plantations) forests owned by private companies or individuals
- **Recoveries** (forest patches earmarked for roads, mines or other development which necessitates the cutting down of trees)
- **Sale by standing volume** - (these often occur in “national forest domains”) but would require a temporary license. This could involve from a single tree to a specified surface area).

Although like the *licenses* this category has also been phased out, the results- often of degraded forest patches of such insufficiently regulated forest exploitation, persists until today and constitutes a part of Cameroon’s stock of degraded forests.

The institutional framework governing the management of forests in Cameroon is characterized by a multitude of institutions, organizations and various actors intervening at different spatial scales and on various sectors. Since 2004, two ministries have been responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of the state policy on biodiversity, ecosystem conservation and management: these are, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) and MINFOF, in accordance with Decree 2004/320 of 8 December 2004.

The MINEPDED is responsible for environmental policy and sustainable development, and is in charge of national priorities in the field, including implementation of the National Programme for Environmental Management (PNGE), the programmatic framework integrating aspects on PA management, sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, promotion of alternative sources of energy and the Sectoral Programme on Forest and Environment (PSFE). The need to develop alternatives to illegal harvesting of natural resource and illegal logging around protected areas has incentivized the engagement of other departments (MINADER, MINEPIA, MINATD, MINRESI, MINTOUR, MINIMIDT, MINJUSTICE, etc.). These institutions all act centrally for strategic planning, resource mobilization, coordination of actions, and monitoring and evaluation of illegal and unsustainable resources management activities in their respective sectors. Article 10(2) of the 1996 Law empowers the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Environment and the National Consultative Commission on the Environment and Sustainable Development to assist in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of environmental policies. However, needs for better coordination of environmental policy implementation at local levels exist.

Despite the central roles of MINFOF and MINEPDED the institutional landscape supporting conservation of biodiversity and landscape restoration is more vast and the extent of the project’s compatibility with National priorities, plans and programmes can be appreciated under the section “Consistency with national priorities and plans”.

Concerning some indigenous priority NTFP, the government of Cameroon (GoC) via the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF), in its strategy of sustainable forest management, has decided to develop NTFP including bamboo. This strong political will to develop the bamboo sector in Cameroon has been translated by the fact that Cameroon join the International bamboo and rattan Organisation (INBAR) and subsequently, on 25.11.2013 signed an MoU with INBAR aiming developing the bamboo and rattan sector in Cameroon for poverty alleviation, environmental protection and job creation. Following the signing of this MoU, the GoC has undertaken a series of initiatives to development bamboo sector in Cameroon including capacity development, regional cooperation and resource mobilization. MINFOF has set aside funds and has conducted a bamboo resource assessment in four regions in Cameroon.

In 2016, MINFOF had developed a draft 5-year National Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2021) that includes bamboo in all restoration projects in Cameroon, mainly due to the importance of Bamboo in restoration projects in India and Ghana: reclamation of degraded lands, stabilization of steep slopes and soil, carbon sequestration, management of water catchments, conversion of degraded lands into restored agricultural productivity. For example, as highlighted earlier, bambusa is known to have sequesters over 22 tons of carbon per hectare per year and have converted over 106 hectares of degraded lands into a green landscape with restored agricultural productivity and helped raise the water table from 40 meters in 1996 to 15-18 meters in 2014 in India, raised household revenues in rural Cameroon (Endamena 2016) and used as substitute for fuelwood to take off pressure from high-value conservation and protected areas near the sites of the projects. This project will finalise the document and have it vetted by the appropriate Cameroon authorities.

### 3.1.4 Project Intervention Sites

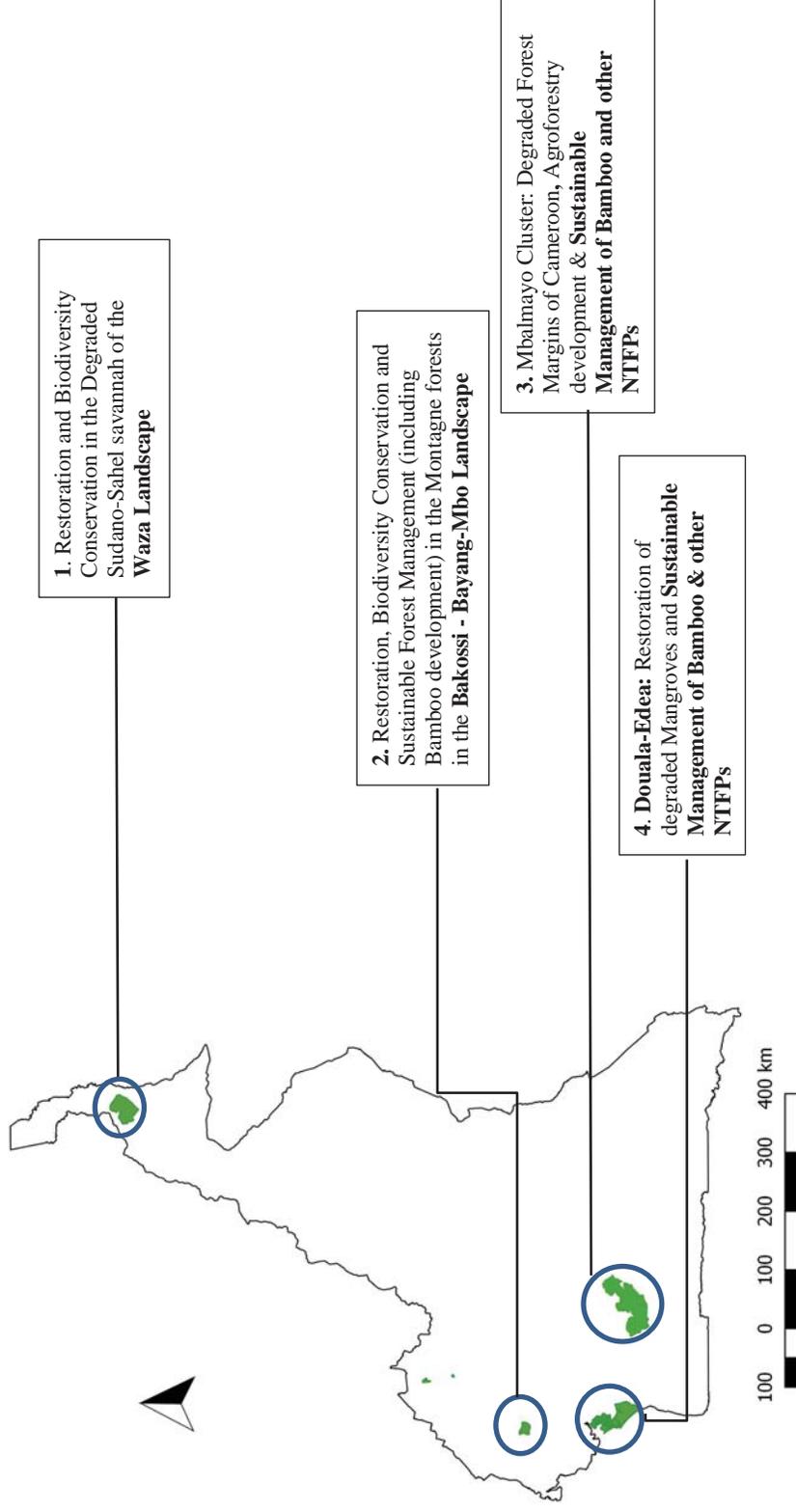


Figure 2 Project Intervention Sites

Created by Peter Mbile in QGIS with Data from WRI/MINIOF, 2015 Electronic Atlas Datasets. Generated CRS, UTM, Zone 32

The Project Intervention sites were selected with the participation of the interest of all project stakeholders (GEF Focal Areas, Government of Cameroon, INBAR, IUCN, NGOs and Communities). The following considerations factored into the selection of these sites:

- i. **Government of Cameroon Policies and Priorities:** The Government of Cameroon pledged in 2017 to restore 12, 06 million hectares of degraded landscapes through the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 restoration initiatives. Following an exploratory restoration opportunities assessment conducted by GIZ (2016), the far North, Western Highlands and Centre regions were identified as regions experiencing the most extensive and rapid rates of degradation. Two of the learning sites selected as intervention sites for this TRI: the Waza-landscape and Forest Margins are located in these sites of high degradation.
- ii. **Building on IUCN Priority Programs and to leverage achievements:** IUCN has long-standing collaborative experience on community-based restoration activities in Cameroon. A number of ongoing activities will be capitalized and their current results used as baseline for this TRI. Needs in Monitoring and Evaluation of these existing projects, in so far as they are contributing towards Cameroon's Bonn Challenge and other restoration targets, will be low hanging fruits for this project. Some of the sites considered as intervention/learning sites in the TRI are the Waza landscape; synergizing with the Lake Chad Basin project, the Douala-Edea Mangroves project, with existing IUCN Cameroon and partners restoration initiatives (see details in Table XX). IUCN's restoration initiatives and its partners are focused: in the far north (including Waza landscape) and in mangroves through the National Committee of Members. From 2019, all the sites of the TRI project will also be concerned by the project under development for the Green Climate Fund. The TRI project will seek complementarities with these initiatives, but will also build on the lessons learned and learned from these interventions.
- iii. **Potential for Project Partner's Engagement and Co-Funding Priorities:** In addition to sites where IUCN is already active, a goal of this project is to bring new Technical and Financial Partners into the landscape restoration process. (i) INBAR is a major Technical and Financial Partners coming on-board to evaluate in the first instance, the livelihoods and sustainable forest management credentials of Bamboo, across the South West, Littoral Centre and South-East sites. (ii) FODER, another project partner, has extensive experience in the Centre and other regions, has an existing Memorandum with FEICOM (Local Council Support Fund), and therefore will help with co-funding and in identification of new funding. NGOs of the IUCN National Committee (CWCS, CEW, CAMECO, OPED, etc.) have been working for years on mangroves within the framework of the Cameroonian Mangrove Network; they have an important capacity of co-founding of the project. (iii) In the Northern Savanah, CADEPI have been working on restoration for years with funding's from many donors. (iv) In the highlands, SAILD and MIFACIG are present for years with their activities focusing on agroforestry and afforestation
- iv. **National Stakeholder Priorities, Location and Opportunities for Synergies:** As per existing initiatives within sites, priorities of Technical and Financial partners, including capacities already developed and existing within sites, Stakeholder were consulted and the appropriateness for attaining GEF Goals and IUCN core objectives were assessed. Stakeholders already consulted are all matched to different project deliverables, some of them beyond the immediate Project sites. CADEPI has extensive drylands experience, beyond the administrative unit of MORA and based on synergies and needs would contribute knowledge and experience in support of restoration in the North and Far North. SAILD, with extensive tree propagation, training and germplasm distribution experience in the Western highlands and the Northern Cameroon. PEW and ERUDEF are Knowledge Management Civil Society Organization with capabilities to support national efforts in Knowledge generation beyond the Bakossi Bayang-Mbo landscape and the South West region. FODER, although intervening within the Centre region will share partnership experiences through working with the national institution FEICOM; and which will be beneficial to other Stakeholders, across different national sites.
- v. **Synergy with on-going Initiatives, projects and partners in selected sites:** The project has been designed to capitalize on the results of on-going or up-coming initiatives and projects in selected sites notably to increase match funds, reduce operational and investment costs and foster a programmatic approach to ensure sustainability. For example, we will work in partnership with GEF/FIDA project (already approved and expected to start during the first quarter of 2018) in Waza Landscape. It is expected that this project will work with partners like FIDA, ERUDEF, GCF and IUCN to mobilize about 70% of the total estimated budget over the next 4 years. Also, the Coastal Mangrove site that covers about 80,000 ha along the Atlantic coast will mobilize about \$6million GEF funds mainly from partners' contributions such

as Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society and Mangroves Network (\$1.5 million), CEW (\$1.5M), FAO (\$1million), PNDP/AFD, etc. Active international conservation organizations on this site include WWF, FAO, UNEP, PNDP, AFD and IUCN, while national field partners comprise IUCN Members like CWCS, Cameroon Ecology and OPED etc. The Waza landscape will secure match funds from GEF/FIDA (\$2million) and IUCN (\$1million). Other partners are expected to mobilize some funds in the future: GIZ (\$2million), Lake Chad Basin Commission & AFDB (\$4million), and UNESCO (\$ 2million). IUCN Commission Members will be involved through meetings, elaboration of the ROAM and NTFPs studies, policy uptake and stakeholders engagement.

These sites comprise; the Sudano-Sahel, Highland Plateau, Montane forests, Mangroves, Agro-ecosystems of the Tree Savannas (Forest Margins) and high humid lowlands forest biodiversity. All these ecosystems face degradation and correspondingly, learning sites for this TRI program have been selected to represent them. The Waza landscape, the Bakossi Segment of the Bakossi- Bayang Mbo National Park and the Douala-Edea Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems are some of the sites whose biodiversity is important to Cameroon's NEMP. For example, the following threatened or endangered species are found in the Waza Logone Landscape: Fauna- elephant (*Loxodonta Africana*), spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and leopard (*Panthera pardus*), and more than 300 bird species, including the Nubian bustard (*Neotis nuba*), great white pelican (*Pelicanus onocrotalus*), marabou (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*), Korrigum (*Damaliscus korrigum korrigum*), pale fox (*Vulpes pallida*) and the last population of Kordofan giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum*). Flora-comprises open combretaceous shrub savanna, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* woodland on sandy soil, *Lannea humilis* open grass savanna and *Acacia seyal* tree savanna on black clay soils<sup>27</sup>.

The Bakossi-Bayang-Mbo Landscape that harbors flagship species like: Faunal; Forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), the Nigerian-Cameroon Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus*), Drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*) and habitat to seven known guenons (White-collared Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), Red-eared monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrotis*), Putty-nosed monkey (*Cerpithecus nictitans*), Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), Crowned Monkey (*Cercopithecus pogonias*) and the Preuss's Red Colobus (*Procolobus pennanti preussi*)

Douala-Edea Wildlife Reserve's forests are home to several threatened primates including the Central Chimpanzee and Gabon Black Colobus Monkey, while also serving as a refuge for a small population of African Forest Elephants. The reserve's labyrinth wetlands and marine habitats are a haven for birdlife and threatened marine species such as the West African Manatee and Atlantic Humpback Dolphin. It is a haven for birdlife, with over 70 water birds documented. Rare species such as the Lesser Flamingo and Black-winged Pratincole have been observed, in addition to many migrants such as the African Openbill that uses the rich wetlands as an important stop on its annual migrations. Source: Rainforest Trust: <https://www.rainforesttrust.org/project/strengthened-protection-camerouns-atlantic-rainforest/>

The Northern Savannah (North), Western Highlands (North West), Montage Forests (South West), Coastal Forests (Littoral) and Forest Margins (Centre) – are zones of Restoration for Biodiversity protection and livelihoods support. The approaches here will be at landscape scale targeting local actors involved in restoration and biodiversity conservation activities in the; Waza Landscape, the Bakossi segment of the Bakossi – Banyang Mbo landscape and the Mbalmayo cluster of Forest Margins of Centre of Cameroon (Figure 3). The logic of the project's intervention will leverage the potentials of ongoing restoration activities in ways which directly support protection of high value biodiversity, ecosystems services and supports livelihoods. Interventions will involve; mobilizing information and knowledge products; strategic partnerships; basic logistics and co/fund raising. Restoration of Degraded Landscapes approach adopted in this TRI target sites within these biomes will use an ecosystem approach. Restoration knowledge products and existing initiatives, including new ones through co-funding will be encouraged to provide maximum support to degraded portions of high value biodiversity sites through sustainability policies, legislation and strategies to mitigate their degradation. The Waza landscape, the Bakossi Segment of the Bakossi-Bayang Mbo Landscape, and the Douala Edea Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems will be approached as landscapes and appropriate sub national ROAM assessments will generate credible data and create opportunities for tactical restoration, land use change needs, cost-benefits and investments need will be fine-tuned.

Although the 4 project landscape or sites (i.e 1: the Waza landscape in the Far North, 2: the Bakossi segment of the Bakossi-Bayang-Mbo landscape in the South West Regions, 3: the degraded Mangroves of the littoral and 4) were selected by stakeholders through a robust multi-stakeholders consultation process, the Restoration Opportunity

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<sup>27</sup> Source: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/africa/cameroon/waza/>

Assessment Methodology process (ROAM) will further define exact geographical project locations or specific priority sites within each of the 4 landscapes through participatory spatial, socio-cultural and economic analysis etc. that will be validated by key stakeholders during the early phase of project implementation. We will also include their coordinates in the ROAM report to ensure that future impact evaluations by project stakeholders and GEF IEO have geographical reference data.

As apart of the monitoring and evaluation of the project direct and indirect linkages will be established between the restoration interventions and protection of biodiversity; and between restoration and sustainable land use; emission reductions and carbon sequestration in tCO<sub>2</sub>eq.

Table 3. Project Intervention sites

Intervention sites/ Ecosystem	Local Actors	Criteria for Selection	Complementary, significant Learning Opportunity	Partners, synergies & local stakeholders (other than IUCN)
1. Sudano-Sahel savannah of the <b>Waza Landscape</b>		Community-managed degraded peripheral zones of Waza National Park; National restoration priority. Knowledge: Restoration of Drylands (Sudano-Sahel) extending across the Sahel Deserts of Africa	Restoration of degraded hard pans for agricultural productivity, energy value chain development, restoration of soil fertility and protection of water sources. Opportunity also exist for collaboration with LCBC/PNUD, LCBC/BAD, IUCN and GGWISS transboundary initiatives. These initiatives are expected to invest at least \$3M within the 5 next years.	MINFOF, MINEPDEP, GIZ, LCBC-AFDB, PRODEBALT/PRESIBALT, SNV, GGWISS, Women's Associations
3. <b>Bakossi segment of the Bakossi - Bayang Mbo Landscape</b> ; Humid Montagne forest	NGOs; Community Forest Associations (CIG), Farmer's Associations Indigenous & Local Communities; Women's Associations; and Youth groups	Active ongoing restoration initiated by the State, providing opportunity for short-term Success. Important remnant of Upper Guinea Montagne Forest and Watershed, including High Value Conservation site (National Park)	Ecosystem is currently under evaluation by GEF/UNEP as site for Landscape Management of Natural resources, under Cameroon's Technical Operation Units learning Opportunity. INBAR /MINFOF priority zones for Bamboo Cottage Industry. And value chain development with accessibility through Littoral into the Douala market.	MINFOF restoration activities, Women's Associations involved in restoration. WWF, GEF/UNEP project assessment sites as part of the PSMNR in the South West Region. Strong synergies with planned INBAR/FAO/GEF Bamboo and Rattan initiative.
3. <b>Mbalmayo Cluster</b> : Degraded Forest Margins for <b>Sustainable Management of Bamboo and other NTFPs</b>		A small representation of a more extensive restoration priority of the Government of Cameroon. Degradation caused by combination of agriculture, logging and <i>savannization</i> . A priority zone for INBAR/MINFOF piloting of Sustainable Management of Bamboo in Cameroon.	The Mbalmayo Cluster also has seven Community Managed Forests to facilitate Sustainable Management of Bamboo without need for new texts. Opportunities exist here for value chain development for Bamboo to serve the Yaoundé and Ebolowa, even Equatorial Guinea markets.	NGO FODER, INBAR/MINFOF Bamboo development potential; Important ICRAF intervention zones, opportunity for engaging with Private sector for Cocoa-Agroforestry and Bamboo transformation and sustainable management.
4. <b>Douala-Edea</b> : Restoration of degraded Mangroves and <b>Sustainable Management of Bamboo &amp; other NTFPs</b>		Unique coastal zone of degradation of Mangrove biodiversity, priority Restoration zone of Cameroon as part of management of Marine resources. Active, innovative local Women's groups involved in restoration: (CIG MANOKA, CIG LONDIJ); Existence of an active Network: Cameroon Mangroves Network	Coastal forests and Mangroves are experiencing extensive degradation across west and central Africa, but lessons learned from restoration are not widely available. More so the role of women in restoration needs to be highlighted. Significant GEF funding (\$US 19 M) to develop Integrated Ecosystem Management Plan (IESMP) for managing Mangroves and Marine resources.	The Douala-Edea Coastal forest is managed by CWCS (National NGO and IUCN Member) in Collaboration with MINFOF. Other GEF Partners and existing experienced consortium of actors operating in the area includes WWF, FAO, GIZ, CEW, etc.

### 3.2 GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Cameroon's forests are experiencing high rates of degradation. For example, forest to non-forest conversion rates for the periods 1990–2000 and 2000–2005<sup>28</sup> is estimated at 0.086% and 0.07% respectively<sup>29</sup> (in humid high forests) and higher (1%) in other non humid forest categories<sup>30</sup>. Cameroon ranked second in the Congo Basin after the Democratic Republic of Congo in terms of conversion from forest to non forest . About 80% of all losses in forests and woodlands is attributed to small holder agricultural practices and to expansion of commodity-crop plantations; cocoa, oil palm in particular.

Cameroon is situated in the Congo Basin Forest that harbours the second largest continuous stretch of moist forest ecosystems in the World after the Amazon. It covers about 2000 million ha (FAO, (2011) and provides ecosystem services that are important at the global and local scales like climate mitigation through sequestration and the provision of essential products to sustain community livelihoods like food, fuel, medicinal plants, building materials, etc (CEPF 2015) to the 60 million people living within or near them (SoF 2013), just as they indirectly feed an additional 40 million people who inhabit regional urban centers (Nasi et al 2011). Because these forests are public international goods, this are central to multilateral and environmental agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), etc (Baudouin et al 2013). However, according to FAO, the Congo Basin has suffered a net loss of forests of about 700, 000 ha per year between 2000 and 2010 (FAO 2011). The main causes of forest loss are unsustainable agriculture and mining, deforestation due to unsustainable harvesting a, climate change etc, poverty, lack of land tenure security, poor governance, etc. Details of the above causes will be highlighted below

About 80% of all losses in forests and woodlands is attributed to small holder agricultural practices and to expansion of commodity-crop plantations; cocoa, oil palm in particular. These cycles have sometimes been triggered by macro-economic events. For instance, in 1994, the devaluation of the CFA franc stimulated higher exports of wood products, and expansion of food crop farms; and driving degradation of woodlands; while 14 years later, the 2008/2009 global financial, economic, food and fuel crises resulted in a strong shift from commodity-crops (mainly tree crops) to food crop production<sup>31</sup> in Cameroon.

Illegal and other forms of unsustainable wood extraction; fuel wood, lumber, etc are responsible for an estimated annual loss of 540,000 cubic meters of wood resources. Off-takes of biodiversity due to poaching and trade in wildlife, also contributes to loss of functionalities of ecosystems due the relationships between fauna and reproductive parts of plant species. The expansion of Cameroon's mining sector, which will require development of extensive infrastructure in terms of its effects on water flow, forest fragmentation, soil poisoning and movements, etc, unless carefully managed, is also expected to have a significantly negative impact on different types of environmental services and on working landscapes. Large-scale exploitation of land-based natural resources; wood, minerals and soils, in addition to industrial pressures on natural resources, also creates conditions for social conflicts, often impacting the rights of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, like women and youths.<sup>32</sup>

Following a series of assessments carried out prior to the development of the National REDD+ Strategy (in 2017), the Government of Cameroon, through its Ministries; MINFOF (*Ministère de la Forêt de la Faune – Ministry of Forest and Wildlife*) and MINEPDED (*Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature, et du Développement Durable – Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development*) estimated that approximately 18 Million ha needed to be restored in the diverse humid, coastal forests and humid Savannas zones; and that over 8 million ha of degraded landscapes was seriously degraded in the Northern and far northern , dry savannah and deciduous forests; and Sudano-Sahelian Savannah zones.

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<sup>28</sup> Ernst C. et al. (2013) National forest cover change in Congo Basin: deforestation, reforestation, degradation and regeneration for the years 1990, 2000 and 2005. *Global Change Biol.*, 19 (4), 1173 – 1187.

<sup>29</sup>COMIFAC, 2013. *The Forests of the Congo Basin 2013: State of the Forest 2013.* de Wasseige, C., Flynn, J., Louppe, D., Hiol, F., Mayaux, Ph. (Eds.) – 2014. Weyrich, Belgium. 328 pp COMIFAC, 2013. *The Forests of the Congo Basin 2013: State of the Forest 2013.* De Wasseige, C., Flynn, J., Louppe, D., Hiol, F., Mayaux, Ph. (Eds.) – 2014. Weyrich, Belgium. 328 pp

<sup>30</sup>FAO, « Forest resources assessment. State of the world forests », *dans* Weissege, C., Devers, D., De Marck, P., Eba'a Atyi, R., Nasi, R. et Mayaux, Ph., 2009 *Etat des forêts du Bassin du Congo 2008*, Office des publications de l'Union européenne, Luxembourg.

<sup>31</sup> Sunderlin, W.D., Ndoye, O., Bikie, H., Laporte, N., Mertens, B., Pokam, J., 2000. Economic crisis, small-scale agriculture and forest cover change in southern Cameroon. *Environ. Conserv.* 27, 284–290

<sup>32</sup>USAID Country profile, Cameroon. Property rights and resource governance.

### 3.3 THREATS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS

#### 3.3.1 THREATS TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND LIVELIHOODS

The major threats to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management come from anthropogenic sources; livelihoods strategies adopted by local people; and practices by State officials and the private sector to meet their social, economic and financial needs. Threats to restoration on the other are more likely to be linked to natural factors like climate change, social factors of culture, poverty, tenure, knowledge; and institutional ones like overlapping jurisdictions to land use, control and ownership.

The anthropogenic impacts include natural habitat conversion to agriculture, unsustainable and illegal use of forests and woodlands, human-wildlife conflicts, mining, road construction and settlement expansion; and industrial pollution.

Overall threats to biodiversity through illegal activities such as illegal wildlife trade continue to be a major threat. Large numbers of endangered species, including critically endangered highland gorillas in Cameroon's Guinea forests, the endangered drill, threatened savannah elephants and the giant pangolins, have experienced population declines to critical levels due to habitat destruction and or direct wildlife off-take.<sup>33</sup> It should be noted that a direct relationship exists between animal and bird species, with restoration strategies such as regeneration of forest trees and plants. For instance, the regenerative cycle of species like *Baillonella toxisperma* (Moabi), with an average fruiting cycle of once every three (3) years benefits from gut parasites of ruminants like the forest elephant to diminish dormancy and stimulate germination.

Challenges with enforcing existing forest and environmental policies, especially in the humid high forest zones of Cameroon, represents the major threats to sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. For instance, although the Government of Cameroon commits to manage forests sustainably by licensing large industrial logging concessions<sup>34</sup> (over 300,000 Ha), this practice has not always been successful, as these large enterprises haven't always complied with all standard operating procedures of sustainable forest management and Environmental and Social due diligence. Large foreign logging companies face few penalties if they violate logging regulations despite the efforts of ongoing law enforcement. Licenses are only temporarily suspended, as was shown in August 2016 during the suspension cases for four companies (SITAF, SCDC, South & FILS, and SOFIE). The Head of the National Control Brigade for Control Operations stated (*pers. Comm.*) that, the suspensions would be lifted if the logging companies paid fines levied on them<sup>35</sup>. So, while 8% of Cameroon's forests are protected on paper<sup>36</sup>, the government continues to have limited capacity on her own (without active participation of local communities) to enforce their protection and sustainable management. There is also growing evidence that, the expanding Oil Palm sector will continue to pose significant threats to maintenance of forest cover in in the country<sup>37</sup>.

In the northern zones, severe threats to restoration comes through farmer – grazer conflicts, insufficient technical knowledge and resources to manage human-induced fires, often caused by grazers. Furthermore, unless managed carefully, insufficient understanding and mastery of the social and cultural dynamics around land use in degraded, highly populated and socially complex zones like the far north, can present considerable threats to restoration.

For instance, in the northern Sudano-Sahelian savanna, socio-cultural beliefs have great influence on livelihoods. The case of the Pulaar and the Kirdi can serve to illustrate these complexities. While the Pulaar, who are mostly Muslim, are livestock breeders, the Kirdi people are mostly farmers. For that reason, Kirdi women who live in the plains are involved in farming and gardening; except in villages alongside Logone and Chari Rivers, where women are involved in fishing activities. Kirdi women who live in hilly areas where the soil is rocky and of poor fertility most often come down to the plains to rent land for farming. The cost of fertile land renting (CFA 120,000 FCFA or 200 USD per season) is not affordable to the women. Instead they go for degraded lands costing CFA 20,000 FCFA (35 USD) per year. To get substantial crop production, the women who rent degraded lands are obliged to negotiate a 2 to 3 years land lease. So they spend the first year for land restoration processes; soil amending and soil biological nitrogen fixation techniques, using leguminous plants. Meanwhile in mountains, while waiting for fertility restoration, the women engage in off-farm occupations like cracking and selling gravel with their children to earn a living. The women are

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<sup>33</sup> <http://www.unep.org/vitalforest/Report/VFG-13-Forest-animals-threatened-by-habitat-loss-and-poaching.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> See Annex 16 « policy and legislative context” for more details

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.flegt.org/news/content/viewItem/cameroon-publishes-data-on-illegal-logging-cases-and-fines/08-08-2016/22>

<sup>36</sup> See Annex 16. Legislative and institutional context (sub-section 3.7)

<sup>37</sup> [http://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_news/?206114/Cameroon-biodiversity-hotspot-in-grave-danger-as-palm-oil-conglomerate-quits-sustainability-group](http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?206114/Cameroon-biodiversity-hotspot-in-grave-danger-as-palm-oil-conglomerate-quits-sustainability-group)

also involved in pottery, gardening, bovine fattening, small ruminant production, fruits gathering and selling; fabrication of improved stoves and NTFP extraction and sale across these northern Sudano-Sahelian zone.

Opportunities therefore exist to strengthen restoration in the degraded northern regions, by capitalizing such understanding and off-farm activities with direct linkages to gender, equity and social responsibility

### 3.3.2 ROOT CAUSES

#### 3.3.2.1 Land Use and land Cover Change

##### *Habitat destruction, hampered regeneration and species loss*

Several underlying (root) factors are driving forest loss and environmental degradation processes across Cameroon's ecosystems – some direct and others indirect. Land cover change, forest loss and overall human-induced degradation; destroy habitats of indigenous biodiversity, hampers natural regeneration processes and enhances spread and colonisation by non indigenous, invasive species. From 2000 to 2010 in Cameroon, 2,200,000 ha<sup>38</sup> of forests and woodlands were lost. Some studies even suggest that during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 80% of Cameroon's forests and woodlands were converted to agriculture landscape mosaics<sup>39</sup>.

Amid the main causes, are community strategies to fight poverty. These are at the root of land use, land use change and degradation. Community actions come about mainly as they seek to meet pressing needs, such as housing or food needs, leading poor people for instance, to unsustainably extract products from woodlands and forests for energy. Most small scale farmers who cut down trees or set-fire to forests for artisanal hunting do these to meet pressing household needs of food and income, and not necessarily to invest in economic ventures to develop or improve management of land and forest resources.

Forest clearance and destruction for agricultural expansion, Hydro Electricity dams, mining or urbanisation/housing purposes are also important causes of environmental degradation. For instance, after the economic crises of 2008/2009, the country experienced an increased rate of forest loss and degradation. This economic shock, and the response and survival strategies, were facilitated by increased collusion between local people – forest and other natural resources exploitation companies<sup>40</sup>.

Among some of the unsustainable land use practices widespread in the humid forest, lowlands of Cameroon is the controversial farmland preparation practice referred-to as “slash and burn”<sup>41</sup>. Historically, this practice has been able to sustain sparse, nomadic populations and have in some cases been in equilibrium with natural regenerative capacity of soils and vegetation. However with increased sedentarization, market forces and population increase, the “slash and burn” practice has become increasingly unsustainable.

Depending on land availability and population density, these fire-cleared fields are cultivated for a relatively short period (3 to 5 years). After this period, the fertility is exhausted and the plot is abandoned to fallow for extended periods, of 3-5 years (even shorter) in densely settled areas; and 5-7 years (even longer) in very sparsely settled ones.

The vision of such use of forest is often shorter term. This type of land use accounts for 70-80% of degradation of forests and woodlands in Cameroon. While much of the degradation caused by small holder farmers is for food crop, energy, immediate cash income, more extensive cultivation of commercial tree-crops within agroforests; cocoa, coffee, oil palm etc, is another important form of natural forests and woodlands conversion. However this type of land use change does not completely eliminate the original vegetation cover, as useful trees are left behind for shade, fuel, medicines, fruits and other purposes. This latter type of land uses has been estimated to represent nearly 0.91 million hectares of land in Cameroon. In some extreme cases – deforestation, where land use is completely changed from forest to another use, such as expansion of agro-industries (Rubber, Oil Palm, etc), no possibility exists for recovery and return to the original land use. It has been estimated that, large scale agro-industries account today for almost 30% of land cover change<sup>42</sup> in Cameroon.

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<sup>38</sup> FAO, State of the world's forest, 2011

<sup>39</sup>Norris, Ken, and Alex Asase. "Biodiversity in a Forest-agriculture Mosaic – The Changing Face of West African Rainforests." *Biological Conservation* 143.10 (2010): 2341-350. ScienceDirect. Web. 20 Apr. 2013

<sup>40</sup> Development: What Now? Past, Present and Future Challenges in International. Talesco, C., NG, F., IP, D. 2016.

<sup>41</sup> Adeleke Wale (1998) "Underlying Causes of Deforestation in Africa" Paper presented at the First African conference on Indigenous and Forest Dependent Peoples, Traditional Knowledge and Biodiversity.

<sup>42</sup>Kengoum, F. et Tiani, A.M. 2013. *Politiques d'adaptation et d'atténuation au Cameroun: Pistes de synergies*. Document occasionnel 96. Bogor, Indonésie: CIFOR.

### 3.3.2.2 Population dynamics

#### *Expansion of the built environment and migration*

Another root cause of permanent land use change, land degradation, and a diminishing space for indigenous biodiversity is growth (3% per year), and expansion of populations requiring more food and habitats. Out-migration is often an indicator of land carrying capacity under current technology and land use, being exceeded; or at least under extreme pressure. Annex VIII is a map of Cameroon depicting the main migration sources and destinations for migratory populations in Cameroon. It shows the densely populated zones of the Western Highlands and Far North to be two of the main out-migration areas. This is consistent with the more pronounced and widely reported levels of degradation in these out-migration zones.

On the other hand, unplanned increases of population in the in-migration zones is also linked to degradation in the receiving environments; or at least of nearby resources. While urban sprawl drives peri-urban deforestation: the need to provide energy, food and construction materials for growing urban centers, is a major driver of land cover change, forest loss and degradation. Indeed, rural-urban migrations are increasing, meaning that built up areas are directly encroaching on surrounding forests (deforestation), while the up-keep of these expanding population centers has direct impacts on natural forests much further afield.

The increasing populations need continuous and increasing wood energy supply, especially for cooking and roasting; often through wood energy; firewood and charcoal. The over exploitation of wood products (especially in the Northern and far Northern zones) of Cameroon is thus a major driver of degradation of the surrounding woodlands. While charcoal production also goes on in the southern forests, the availability of more wood biomass in moist forests; in addition to the higher regeneration capacity of these forests, tempers the environmental consequences of energy-driven degradation in the southern zones.

Estimates of annual firewood collection differ depending on the source and can vary; but are found to be, from 9.5 million (FAO) to 12 million m<sup>3</sup> (MINFOF)<sup>43</sup>. This is particularly true in the Far-North Region of Cameroon. Indeed, about 80% of the population of Maroua centre (Far-North Region) use fuelwood equivalent to about 400 ha/year of forests and woodlands<sup>44</sup>. Preference for wood energy is also cultural as local populations here, believe portable household coking gas can hazardous, even dangerous.

### 3.3.2.3 Exploitation of natural resources

#### *Forests, mines and damages to biodiversity and property rights*

Another root cause of loss of ecosystem function; habitat destruction, hampered natural regeneration and non-optimal use of biodiversity in Cameroon is associated with forest exploitation practices themselves; especially within the domestic wood and lumber sector. In Cameroon, the domestic timber sector (excluding fuelwood) accounts for nearly 2.1 million m<sup>3</sup> equivalent of Round Wood (ERW), with informal production, equivalent, or even exceeding formal production levels<sup>45</sup>. From 2002 to 2010, quantities of lumber extracted from the non-permanent forest estate (NPFE) doubled to 662,000 m<sup>3</sup><sup>46</sup>. This informal, unregulated sector does not normally respect rules of sustainable forestry practices. Furthermore, even industrial logging (formal sector), does not always respect prescribed volumes and species quotas, recommended felling locations and techniques; and infrastructure development guidelines, critical for sustainable, regenerative use of natural forests. These unsustainable practices are often favored by collusion between local forestry officials and license holders<sup>47</sup>, and in non-compliance with approved management plans or operating procedures<sup>48</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup>Essama-Nssah, B. et Gockowski, J.J., 2000, Op. Cit.

<sup>44</sup> Juilius Chupezi Thieugyong (June 2017); *Field Mission Report for the TRI Child Project in Cameroon*

<sup>45</sup>Cerutti et Tacconi., 2010 The challenges of redistributing forest-related monetary benefits to local government: a decade of logging area fees in Cameroon. *International Forestry Review* 12 (2) : 2010

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup>Cerutti, P. O., Omar, R., Nasi, R. et Tacconi, L., 2008 Gestion durable des forêts au Cameroun : Au-delà des plans d'aménagement forestier approuvés. Sustainable forest management in Cameroon needs more than approved forest management plans. *Ecology and Society*, 13 (2): 36.

<sup>48</sup>Nasi, R., Nguingui, J.-C., Ezzine de Blas, D., Éditeurs scientifiques Karsenty, A., 2006

L'impact des réformes dans le secteur forestier en Afrique centrale. Le Harmattan, Paris, Publié dans *Exploitation et gestion durable des forêts en Afrique centrale* : 25-60.

In addition to unsustainable forestry practices, the 1994 Forests and Wildlife laws creating permanent and non permanent estates; and today extensive mining permits, have resulted in extensive overlaps of jurisdictions; local versus forestry and mining license holders; and even between forestry and mining; resulting in yet to be resolved property rights conflicts. Although PFEs directly administered by the State generates important fiscal revenues and foreign exchanges<sup>49</sup> earnings for the state, despite clear institutional arrangements, benefits going to local councils and communities do not consistently follow the clearly pre-defined routes. This causes local compensatory responses often culminating to even less respect for forest monitoring procedures, use and eventually resources degradation. Furthermore, conflicting land uses with resulting stakeholders' conflicts, weak governance and a dis-enabling, top-down institutional environment does not sufficiently promote co-management and benefit sharing, leading to non-optimal use of forest resources and degradation.

### **3.3.3 BARRIERS TO FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN CAMEROON**

#### **3.3.3.1 Barrier 1: Policy and Implementation Readiness**

Forest legislation in Cameroon is complex and governed by many laws and decrees. The major policy documents include the Forestry and Wildlife Law No. 94/01 of 20.01.94 with its degree of application No. 95/531/PM of 23.08.95, the Forest-Environment Sector Programme (FESP) and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The Forestry and Wildlife Law is 23 years old and does not adequately address current issues, including climate change, land degradation and deforestation. This law mainly focuses on the management of production forests for economic revenue through the attribution of industrial logging permits, mainly the Forest Management Units. The forest policy offers little or no incentive to logging companies to restore deforested land and this is further exacerbated by the weak political capacity of the state. When a company's logging permit expires and the forest concession is relinquished back to the state, the law is unclear if the deforested and degraded lands belong to the state or the local population. In addition, the policy does not provide any incentives for land restoration. As we have seen above, NTFPs like *Bambusa* spp, *Irvingia* spp, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc. can play an important part in current restoration strategies and approaches. Unfortunately, the sector is not well structured mainly because of lack of adequate and consistent policies and legislations that support sustainable management. For example, because most actors are present in the informal sector, most of their restoration benefits are not integrated in the Cameroonian economy (GDP for example). This project will contribute in addressing this issue by assessing policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of indigenous NTFPs like *Bambusa* spp, etc. and create the appropriate environment to facilitate uptake and integration of those policies to support restoration activities.

In pledging to restore 12.06 million hectares of degraded landscapes under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 initiatives, the Republic of Cameroon not only wishes to address some of the above difficulties, but also wishes to demonstrate the political commitment to restore degraded and forested lands to facilitate biodiversity conservation, alleviate poverty, especially at the local level, promote food security, and sequester carbon as a way to fight against climate change.

However, political commitment alone is not enough if we want to bring on board all stakeholders in restoration activities. Key policy, legislative and institutional barriers need to be addressed, informed by experiences and lessons learned from pilot projects like the present Project. Also, according to Oyono (2006)<sup>50</sup>, other important policy issues that may hinder the implementation of Forest Landscape restoration activities on the ground include weak local organisational and institutional capacities and arrangements to foster local governance, poor environmental representation at the local level, unempowered local decentralised structures as experience in Cameroon's community forestry experiences, etc.

#### **3.3.3.2 Barrier 2: Uncertain financial environment for private sector commitment**

Mobilizing adequate funding for restoration in Cameroon is a significant challenge. Bridging the investment gap involves matching knowledge of restoration interventions with restoration investments, and adapting this to different types of degradation (soils, vegetation, biological diversity, etc.) For example, small scale farmers lack the necessary funds to implement restoration programs on the field, notably to enable them restore landscapes by planting of priority indigenous fruit trees, bamboos, medicinal plants (e.g. *Allanblackia*), cash crops like cocoa and coffee, etc. Investments

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<sup>49</sup> Gartland Stephen (1992) "Practical constraints on sustainable logging in Cameroon" in Kelvin Clearer, Mohan Munasinghe, Mary Dyson, Nicolas Egli, Axel Peuker, Françoise Wencélius (eds) Conservation of West and Central African Rainforest" World Bank, Washington, D.C.

- <sup>50</sup> Phil René Oyono, Jesse C. Ribot and Anne M. Larson 2006 Green and Black Gold in Rural Cameroon: Natural Resources for Local Governance, Justice and Sustainability

are not flowing because of lack of fund raising experience and capacities at the local level, insufficient knowledge and information of small-scale investment opportunities within and outside the country, lack of markets to commercialize finished restoration products, managing risks (e.g. pests) and land tenure uncertainties since most small-scale investors do not have adequate land tenure security to justify long term restoration investments, etc.

In addition, knowledge and clarity of risks involved in different types of restoration initiatives would help unlock necessary finance for restoration.

### **3.3.3.3 Barrier 3: Governance and Community Tenure**

The 1994 Forest and Wildlife Laws of the republic of Cameroon created Permanent Forest Estates (de facto and de jure State properties) and Non-Permanent Forest Estates. These are discussed above. Of these, Community forests and privately-owned forests are of particular relevance to this project. Community forests are described as Agroforestry Zones and include all the privately-owned farms of the villagers. Community forests are owned under management agreement with MINFOF by the local community that established itself as an Association. Except in very rare cases like in 2001 when the Minister put a stop on community forestry activities<sup>51</sup>, all sustainable management processes, including extraction of NTFPs, timber, tree-crop farming, tree domestication and marketing activities, are fully supported and promoted through periodically approved management and exploitation agreements. In the case of private forests – also part of the non-permanent estates – the owner, once he/she has planted trees and other plants, is much the de facto decision-maker regarding all operations; cultivation, management, harvesting and marketing. In facilitating the sustainable management of underutilized and priority indigenous species like *Bamboo (Bambusa spp)*, *Irvingia spp*. and others, this project will mostly focus on Community Forests where they exist.

However, in-between Community and State forests are what is termed the national domain. These are adjacent forests of often the same biodiversity and structure like the Community forests. They share common ecological make-up and can be intrinsically linked to Community forests through hydrology and wildlife habitats. Unfortunately, the management of unclassified forests does not come under the legal purview of the Community Forest management Committee. As a result, uncertainty exists as to the origins of even sustainably extracted forest products like *Bamboo (Bambusa spp)*, *Irvingia spp*. While this is not a barrier per se, it is important that simple tools of traceability be built into sustainable management of such forests as a part of this project. The likelihood of unclear tenure over resources extracted from unclassified national domains would depend on the scale of the operations and the need for special permits, respecting the stipulated volumes and periods of exploitation.

However, some possibility still exists that given the success of commercialization of underutilized species, pressure may grow on the project to engage with appropriate partners like INBAR and FAO to recommend specific regulatory texts and submit these to MINFOF for consideration. Note that these aspects of the project are likely to affect mainly sustainable management and conservation of underutilized species through their use; and mainly in unclassified forests.

Furthermore, under customary laws across the national territory, but especially in the humid forest zones; the “right of first occupancy” can operate in unclassified forests and woodlands. Here planting of trees by individuals or communities can be viewed by competing communities not directly involved in the project as an attempt to usurp the land through planting of perennials, like trees. This may well constitute a serious barrier against women and some indigenous groups to becoming engaged in restoration activities, especially with external support as is likely to be the case. However, all restoration interventions in the priority sites will be preceded by thorough sub national Restoration Opportunities Assessments (sub national ROAM) during which customary and or legal ownership of degraded lands earmarked for restoration will be thoroughly discussed and clarified. In this way, all restoration activities are likely to be supported by adjacent land users.

### **3.3.3.4 Barrier 4: Ensuring adequate participation and involvement of women and indigenous peoples in restoration**

In Cameroon, like most of West and Central Africa, agriculture and fuelwood extraction are two important drivers of landscape degradation, with women constituting approximately 50-70% of the active farming and fuelwood collectors workforce.

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<sup>51</sup> Certain Community Forests had ‘sold’ timber exploitation rights to private individuals who were using industrial forest approaches in Community forests. These were considered not in keeping with the ‘spirit’ of conservational use of community forests so the Minister put a stop to it. It did not constitute a seizure of community rights, as much as it represented the State using its coercive powers to arrest an urgent environmental degradation situation that was getting out of hand.

Paradoxically, due to prevailing socio-economic and cultural conditions of women, high poverty rates, low levels of formal education and restrictive inheritances systems, women's direct participation, especially in leadership roles in restoration of the lands which they significantly contributed to degrade is low. Women, girls and indigenous peoples are often excluded from leading the creation of permanent systems whose ownership reverts to the investor (the woman, girl or indigenous person) who did the planting. Being conflict averse, this scenario can create significant resistance in women and within women's groups to get engaged in restoration processes; especially as they are not the ones making the decisions. While this can be a significant barrier to getting women involved initially, evidence from Gender Diagnostic for Landscape Restoration work in Cameroon, (Mbile et al., upcoming) shows that where women are duly organized and constituted into associations at local level; with the relevant technical, institutional and policy support, they have excelled in three leading degradation areas of the country; the far north, western highlands and forest margins of Cameroon. This is the evidence-based approach likely to be adopted by this project to de-marginalize the involvement of women, girls and indigenous groups during restoration processes.

### **3.4 PROJECT STAKEHOLDER ANALYSES**

A stakeholder analysis was undertaken to identify key actors and guide the design of an engagement strategy for the proposed project. Table 4 below lists the key stakeholder organizations and provides a brief analysis of their strengths and of their interest in a potential collaboration with the project. It was also analyzed whether the project might impact the stakeholder, positively or even negatively. Table 5 describes the stakeholder situation in the sites selected for field interventions.

Table 4. TRI Project Stakeholder Analyses

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
<b>Global Programmatic Actors</b>			
IUCN	<p>A good technical and programmatic mastery of the GEF focal areas and needs for coordinating support, sharing and capitalization of lessons learned across the different child projects</p> <p>Developed the Project and therefore has intimate mastery of the intervention logic; its links to Global, regional and national priorities and GEF focal Objectives</p> <p>Has on-the-ground experience in intervention sites and relevant technical knowledge with which to provide the executing Agency with relevant backstopping. he IUCN can help the Child project in identifying and aligning opportunities for Co-funding; help strengthen monitoring and evaluation; knowledge sharing and capacity building</p> <p>IUCN oversees GEF TRI project in Cameroon and Guinea Bissau and has Regional restoration Strategy to which the project contributes and benefits from through opportunities within other W/A Africa countries</p> <p>IUCN has a number of completed, ongoing and planned projects in intervention sites. Project will build on these to leverage results. IUCN will guide alignment of progress with realistic baselines.</p>	<p>The project presents an opportunity for IUCN to assert its leadership in FLR in Cameroon through field driven activities combined with institutional and policy aspects.</p>	<p>IUCN's strategic positioning in FLR as leader Increased capacities and expertise of IUCN in FLR and valorisation of bamboo and rattans</p>
<b>Donors/Financing</b>			
AfDB Cameroon	<p>Located on the African continent (Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire), with offices in Cameroon; and has Financial, policy and technical capacity to support the project Through the ACCF (hosted by the bank) the AfDB promotes Green Growth, achievable via landscape restoration, and can support strategies for mobilizing private investments in restoration – a goal of this Child project</p> <p>Understands GEF procedures, especially in relationship with Government priorities Shares lessons learned from GEF experiences with project and facilitates identification of best mechanisms for synergies for co-funding.</p>	<p>Lessons learnt from project implementation will contribute AFDB country program portfolio particularly with regards to FLR</p> <p>The project will contribute to meeting some of the land degradation objectives</p>	<p>Integration of FLR aspects in priority actions of French Development Agency (AFD) in Cameroon</p> <p>Country contributions to GEF's objectives in combating land degradation</p>
GEF Focal Point			
<b>International Technical Partners</b>			
FAO	<p>Established player in the forests, agriculture, environmental management and livelihoods sector. Familiar with funding landscape and a contributor to the global TRI coordination team</p>	<p>The project will contribute to achievement of country's development objectives on exploitation and marketing of NTFP. FAO has been assisting GOC on this project.</p>	<p>Valorisation of NTFPs in line with national strategy and upscaling FAO work in this domain</p>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
<b>International Technical Partners</b>			
	FAO has extensive experience with NTFPs and other underutilized plants and trees. FAO is also involved in a <i>Bamboo (Bambusa spp)</i> promotion project with INBAR. This project will benefit from and diligently seek technical and funding synergies with that initiative.		
SNV (Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers – “foundation of Dutch volunteers” Dutch Development Organization)	SNV has longstanding working experience with local partners and community businesses and organisations. Its tools, knowledge, experience and connections will be useful to this project	The project will contribute to ongoing NTFPs activities implemented by SNV especially within savannah ecosystems in north Cameroon  This project will explore synergies for joint fund-raising initiatives with SNV or with SNV supported projects where common objectives are sought across the intervention sites.	Up scaling and replicating SNV project achievements
UNDP	UNDP has been present in Cameroon since 1972 and developed numerous projects to support Cameroon's MDG targets on poverty, governance and biodiversity conservation. Being an accredited entity to the GCF opportunities will be sought for joint proposal development benefitting national partners.	A major output of the project is to improve livelihood of local communities. By so doing the project will contribute to one of the development millennium goals of national development program supervised by UNDP	Significant contributions towards achievement of country specific MDG
INBAR (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan)	Probably the World's most experienced Bamboo and Rattan institution, with long experiences on the value chain for <i>Bamboo (Bambusa spp)</i> . With mastery of the China market, INBAR provides openings for value chain development of numerous sustainably management products. INBAR also has capacity to mobilize some co-funding for NTFPs development.	The project will contribute to operationalization of agreement signed between GOC and INBAR on valorization of bamboo and rattans	Expansion of INBAR's intervention zone in Cameroon
<b>Regional Actors</b>			
CEEAC/ COMIFAC	COMIFAC is the regional institution in charge of forest management in Central Africa. It helps provide regional legitimacy for national experiences, and support to communications needs and monitoring; so would be useful for sharing and scaling Cameroon lessons to the Central Africa region. COMIFAC has funding leverage with which to experiences and lessons can be deepened in-country or across borders. Associating them closely increases the chances of such leverage being used in favor of the project	The project will contribute to some of the objectives of COMIFAC's strategic action plan on combating desertification The project will also contribute to ECAS's program on sustainable management of fragile ecosystems	Significant progress and contributions to objectives of combating desertification and sustainable management of savannah ecosystems
<b>Central and decentralized Government services</b>			

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
MINFOF (Department of forest and fauna)	<p>Co-signatory of Cameroon's Bonn Challenge pledge, the MINFOF is responsible for all Permanent Forests Estates and oversees non-permanent forest estates including Community forest management, where most of the sustainable forest management activities of this project would occur. , across the country and supervises all the country's Protected Areas. MINFOF has a network work of decentralized services in project intervention sites who will be directly involved in activities.</p> <p>MINFOF supervises numerous projects with possible synergies with this project. This includes the National Bamboo (<i>Bambusa spp</i>) strategy under development and others like the UNEP/GEF project on sustainable management of natural resources in the South West region (one project site).</p>	<p>The project contributes to implementation of MINFOF's sectorial strategy notably programs 961(sustainable management of forest resources) and 963 on valorization of NTFPs</p>	<p>Contribution to MINFOF's sectorial strategy</p>
MINEPDED	<p>Co-signatory of Cameroon's Bonn Challenge pledge, MINEPDED oversees all major climate change related Conventions related to this project: UNFCCC, UNCCD, CBD. Though less represented in the regions, MINEPDED hosts the GEF, has well trained staff and in partnership with UNEP are implementing a number of compatible initiatives across the country.</p>	<p>The ministry of environment would like to ensure this project contributes to FLR objectives notably under AFR100/Bonn Challenge, fight against desertification and climate change etc. Restoration is a major pathway to CO2 sequestration and storage as part of the National REDD+ strategy overseen by MINEPDED. Monitoring activities as a part of emissions reduction through avoided degradation through sustainable management and carbon storage through restoration is an opportunity for this project to achieve shared goals (Component 4)</p>	<p>The project will contribute to achievement of AFR100/Bonn Challenge targets through FLR and national strategy on adaptation and fight against desertification</p>
MINREX	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of relations with foreign countries in the area of trade, exchange of competences and even movement of materials such as germplasm. MINREX is an important focal point of INBAR, the project executing agency. This is an opportunity for the project as MINREX has excellent relationships with Chinese partners dealing in NTFPs such as <i>Bamboo (Bambusa spp)</i> Rattan, and perhaps other species</p> <p>The National Agency for Forestry Development Support is a parastatal officially accredited by MINFOF with technical support to afforestation and reforestation across the country. It has both the mandate, personnel and reach across the country. Association with ANAFOR, IRAD, ICRAF is an opportunity that works both way. These institutions' personnel will provide techniques and experience with reforestation/afforestation where appropriate as part of restoration; while IUCN and the project would help educate ANAFOR, IRAD, ICRAF on the major differences between these and landscape restoration</p>	<p>The project will lead to operationalization of existing agreement between INBAR and GOC on valorization of bamboo and rattans</p>	<p>Reinforcement of collaboration with INBAR</p>
ANAFOR,IRAD, ICRAF	<p>The National Agency for Forestry Development Support is a parastatal officially accredited by MINFOF with technical support to afforestation and reforestation across the country. It has both the mandate, personnel and reach across the country. Association with ANAFOR, IRAD, ICRAF is an opportunity that works both way. These institutions' personnel will provide techniques and experience with reforestation/afforestation where appropriate as part of restoration; while IUCN and the project would help educate ANAFOR, IRAD, ICRAF on the major differences between these and landscape restoration</p>	<p>The project will capitalize on expertise of national institutions such as ANAFOR, IRAD on ecosystem restoration with tree planting and regeneration</p>	<p>Expertise of national institutions such as ANAFOR and IRAD will be capitalized in FLR with tree planting and regeneration programs targeting northern savannah zones</p>

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
MINADER	Responsible for agricultural development in the country, and has the most extensive network of field officers in constant close contact with farmers.	Landscape restoration will improve soil fertility and subsequent agricultural productivity of degraded ecosystems thereby addressing some of the objectives of ministry of agriculture. A significant part of the livelihoods components of this project occur on farmlands managed by small holder farmers. An opportunity exists with MINADER through this project to standardize approaches to restoration for livelihoods in agricultural mosaics.	Restoration initiatives will enhance soil fertility and agricultural productivity
<b>Regional/National Network/ Non-Governmental organizations</b>			
National REDD+ Platform	Created in 2011 thanks to the impetus of the MINEPDED and IUCN, its mission is to facilitate the effective and efficient participation of civil society organizations in Cameroon's REDD and Climate Change process. It is a space for dialogue, consultation, exchanges and an interface between civil society organizations and other actors involved in REDD and Climate Change at the local, national, regional and global levels. The national REDD+ platform is one of the most organized and nationally represented environmental management networks in Cameroon. A number of NGOs and CBOs identified for this project like PEW, MBOSCUA, etc. are members of the REDD+ platform. As a part of their position paper for the COP21 in Paris, they developed a restoration work plan which can be easily adapted to the restoration and gender mainstreaming needs of this project.	The project will help facilitate the functioning of certain platforms such as REDD+/CC with regional decentralized units and working groups as gender task force	Operationalization of Gender Task Force
REFADD Cameroon (Réseau Femmes Africaines pour le Développement Durable)	The African Women's Network for Sustainable Development aims to enhance women participation and involvement in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation. REFADD is an African women's network, therefore an immediate opportunity is to benefit from their experiences in empowering women's associations and bring this to bear of project results. It helps the project provide tested women's support approaches.	The project will capitalize on existing achievements such as the gender action plan on climate change	Implementation of Gender Action Plan
Cottage Industry Cooperatives and Forestry Networks (e.g. Handicraft Centres, Renewable Energy Association)		The project will further support functionality and achievements of certain cooperatives and networks	Increase in revenues and operations of enterprises involved
MBOSCUA	Sudano-sahelian North, Far North and Western Highlands. Community areas, buffer zones of protected areas, water sheds	The project will support functioning and achievements of MBOSCUA network	Expansion of thematic coverage

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
People EarthWise (PEW) and Network of community radios (RERAC)	according to sub national ROAM results. Restoration, Conservation and Protection of Biodiversity, Livelihoods support	The project will support functioning and achievements of civil society networks such as PEW. Knowledge Management, Information generation and dissemination	Expansion of thematic coverage
Private Sector & Syndicates	Cross-cutting, on a case-by-case basis	Increase in revenues and operations of enterprises/structures involved Livelihoods, Mainstreaming Policy into Restoration and Sustainable Land Management	Further mainstreaming of livelihood, FLR and participatory management practices in national programs and policies
Local communities	Understand local dynamics	The project will support functioning of local network	+ income diversification opportunities through value chain development - HH who might not be able to take advantage of these opportunities might experience livelihood loss in case the FLR strategy includes use restrictions of forest resource
Indigenous communities	Local knowledge of indigenous priority plants	The project will support functioning of local network	Increase in revenues and operations of enterprises involved
Local farmers/ tree growers	Are already organized and understand problems of farmers and tentative solutions	The project will support functioning of local farmers and tree growers network	Increase in revenues and operations of enterprises involved
Pastoralist groups / herders	Understand local dynamics	The project will capitalize on existing livelihood achievements	Access to training and professional development
Women	Understand local dynamics	The project will further support functionality and achievements of certain cooperatives and networks	Operationalization of Gender Task Force
Youth	Are interested in any job opportunities	The project will capitalize on existing livelihood achievements.	Access to training and professional development
Traders (Charcoal, NTFP etc.)	Understands the markets, opportunities and challenges	The project will facilitate networking of charcoal/NTFP traders	Improved livelihoods
Charcoal producers	Understands the markets, opportunities and challenges	The project will facilitate networking of charcoals/NTFP producers	Improved livelihoods

Table 5. Non-State Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in the sites targeted for field interventions

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder's strengths	Stakeholder's interest in the project	Impact of the project on the SH (positive or negative)
MIFACIG, SAILD	Local knowledge of indigenous priority plants	The project will support functioning of local network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ income diversification opportunities through value chain development</li> <li>- HH who might not be able to take advantage of these opportunities might experience livelihood loss in case the FLR strategy includes use restrictions of forest resource;</li> </ul>
CADEPI	Understands local dynamics	The project will support functioning of local farmers and tree growers network;	Increase in revenues and operations of enterprises involved
NGO of the IUCN Cameroon National Committee and Cameroon mangroves network (CWCS, CEW, CAMECO, OPED, FODER) and IUCN Commission Members	Understands local and national FLR dynamics	Capitalize and promote achievements of community-based organizations	Further mainstreaming of livelihood, FLR and participatory management practices in national programs and policies

### 3.5 BASELINE ANALYSES

#### Context

Depending on data sources, Cameroon's forests are estimated between 18 – 21 Million hectares (de Wasseige et al, 2015; <http://rainforests.mongabay.com/> accessed April 2017), and this includes all types of forests: “as from a wooded threshold of 0.5 ha and canopy cover of 10%” (National REDD+ strategy 2017). Between 1990 and 2010 the country lost almost 4,400,000 ha, i.e. 20% of the area<sup>52</sup> This trend is still evolving for the worse, given drivers like; plantation development and expansion, mining, desertification, and the activities of small holder farmers in agricultural mosaics. Moreover, despite increasing demands for food, energy and construction materials declines in agriculture productivity due to shortened fallow periods and lack of modern methods of farming are requiring the conquest of even more forests and woodlands for food production. Human and livestock population are also growing and their effects on land use are enhanced by migrations. Infrastructure development; especially road and dams construction also combine to put more pressure on land; forests and woodlands; and even water resources. These processes are resulting to much faster land use changes and ecosystems fragmentation, much of which is in the form of landscape degradation, especially in the densely settled Northern Zones, Central forest margins and the Western Highlands.

The baseline situation for this project is characterized by a sound Policy and Institutional framework, built on a 2035 economic emergence vision. Enabling policies and regulatory frameworks already find solid foundations on which to build resilience of the national economy, while remaining linked regionally and globally to platforms like the COMIFAC convergence plan, the CBD, the UNFCCC and other conventions.

In terms of capacity, activities and initiatives in relation to Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation through Use, only Restoration actions are likely to require some additional adaptation, broadening and fine-tuning. Institutional capacity, related to the policy landscape is strong; and prospects for mobilization of co-funding, based on project locations and shared outcomes are good. Context for knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, though strong, can be significantly improved with and across intervention sites. Below we address baseline situation across the four main components of the project

#### Vision 2035: Cameroon's Economic Emergence

This baseline is relevant to all Components of the current project. The 2035 economic vision for the Republic of Cameroon is very much in-step with this project; and is built on a reference framework anchored on three pillars underpinned by an ambitious industrialization strategy, a private-sector promotion strategy, a good governance strategy as blueprint for a resource allocation strategy; a strategy for sub-regional, regional and international integration, and a strategy for partnership and development assistance. The major pillars of this vision include:

- a) At the macroeconomic level: a need to accelerate growth by stepping up investment in infrastructure and modernising production while maintaining macroeconomic stability. This will go a long way to address energy crisis that currently inhibits growth. Efforts to be made alongside such initiatives will ensure considerable improvement of the business climate and governance to facilitate mobilization of domestic and external financing which are indispensable for economic growth.
- b) At the sector level: to address food crisis and re-make Cameroon, the breadbasket of the Central African region. This will require intensification of land use planning, build resilience through sustainable agriculture, diversification of forest-based food products (community-based forestry), rationalize pastoral and fishing activities and restructure the rural sector for greater professionalism, currently dominated by few large concerns; to one of pre-dominant medium-scale undertakings. To transition to greater industrialization supported by a bold regional trade policy and favour the gradual dominance of the secondary, and more professionalized, and specialized, job-generating tertiary sector. This should go hand in hand with revamped foreign trade favored by a more active integration with global markets.
- c) At the social and demographic level: to transform the citizens into the main actors of their own development through a bold capacity-building policy on decent job creation through innovation, and to recognize constraints faced by women, indigenous peoples and youths – and address these; raising average life expectancy by improving on the living conditions of the population; broadening the development, supply and quality of social services, reproductive health, education and family planning, taking into account economic growth requirements, narrowing the gaps between the rich and poor by improving on

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<sup>52</sup> REDD Desk <http://thereddesk.org/countries/cameroon/statistics>

the distribution of the fallouts of economic growth, enhanced national solidarity and the social protection of the underprivileged.

At an operational level, alignment of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), with the 2035 Vision of Cameroon to:

1. Eradicate poverty by reducing it to less than 10% through accelerated job creation and growth, as well as adopting bold policies for income redistribution by increasing, extending and improving social services, including health, education, training, water, electricity, roads, etc. ;
2. Envision Cameroon becoming a middle income country by seeking to increase the median income by consolidating economic growth rate over a long period, through diversification of economic activities ;
3. Pursue industrialization in phases, enabling the country transform primary products and raise the share of manufactured products to accounting for at least 23% of the GDP by 2035;
4. Become an emerging economy, by mainstreaming the countries' s economy with the global one in terms of trade (substantially increasing exports) and developing the financial services sector (opening up of local financial markets to foreign investments).

A number of important advances have been made to realize this vision. Cameroon was the first Central African country to develop and begin implementing a ground-breaking, multi-sector, national level, Forestry Framework Law - the 1994 Forestry and Wildlife laws. This framework law was considered to be innovative when it was adopted, especially in so far as it aimed for the first time to promote community-based forests and natural resources management as a strategy for both sustainable forest management and local economic and social development. As a result, by 2011, 301 Community Forests Management Conventions had been signed between Community Forests Management Committees with the Department of Forests, MINFOF, covering an approximate area of 1 million ha.

Community forests on which local associations hold legally recognized management titles are distributed across the national territory and occur in all intervention sites selected for this project; Far north, Western Highlands, Forest Margins and humid lowland forests.

In way of baseline, the national programs and plans emanating from this policy landscape, all support the GEF focal areas for this project: landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation, sustainable resources management, carbon sequestration and livelihoods improvement, through the different components, in some very specific ways.

### **Baseline National Programs, Policies and Plans**

The pioneer legislation on environment and forest management is 1994 forestry laws and its implementation decree of 1995 including the environmental legal framework of 1996. These legislations have as fundamental principle safeguarding forest cover and sustainable management. To operationalize this two strategic documents were adopted namely the national environmental management plan and forest and environment sectorial program. There is also national forest regeneration plan which represents concrete political commitment of government in landscape restoration initiatives.

*National Environment Management Plan (1996)*; specifically seeks through a landscape or ecosystem management approach to promote a network of protected areas, representing all the major biomes of Cameroon. With advanced forms of landscape degradation especially in the Far north, western highlands and central forest margins, there is acute need to protect such biomes through restoration initiatives. Thus existence of such a policy framework lays ample foundation and create necessary statutory legitimacy for restoration activities and initiatives to support biodiversity conservation in Cameroon.

*The Forest and Environment Sector Program - FESP*, renders these prior policy frameworks operational and facilitates alignment of GEF focal area initiatives to local realities. The FESP also provides institutional and policy support for funding mobilization; each according to local needs and priorities. The FESP is set up to coherently; in a sectoral manner, ensure participatory interventions to facilitate such actions as restoration and biodiversity conservation where appropriate; sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources; in a coordinated manner, such that processes can easily attract co-funding into what is termed a "basket fund"; or a common pool of financial resources, irrespective of donor.

*The National Reforestation Plans* sets ambitious site-specific restoration targets across the country. Boosted by Cameroon's Bonn Challenge and AFR100 Pledge to restore 12 Million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030, national level restoration is kicking off with the participation of 183 bodies nationwide, including 74 local councils, 36 non-governmental organizations, and business bodies. The government says local councils will receive FCFA 500 million (\$820,000) annually to plant new forest in their areas, while some chiefdoms (village administrative areas) in vulnerable regions will receive FCFA 70 million (\$115,000) annually in government support. The National Reforestation Program is especially a platform on which restoration interventions can and will be fine-tuned according to local needs and priorities; especially regarding the use of indigenous germplasm more adapted to local biophysical and social conditions. This plan also seeks to promote private and community tree planting initiatives to support conservation through use, sustainable management of natural resources and support the livelihoods of local populations. The National Agency for the Development of Forests (ANAFOR), project stakeholder is a major player in this domain.

*The National Program on Desertification:* On this plan is built the Northern Great Green Wall Initiative of which Cameroon is an important part. In addition, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) also builds on the expectations of this policy framework in its wide scale and mosaic restoration initiatives. This framework will support restoration and biodiversity conservation initiatives in the far northern Sudano-sahelian project intervention sites. The Cameroon Government has also conducted numerous state-of-the-art studies on land degradation in the Sudano-sahelian and Western high-land savannah zones of the country. These results will help establish more credible baselines for this project.

To materialize CCNUCC engagement on the ground, the government of Cameroon is piloting a national REDD+ process with elaboration and adoption since 2013 of RPP document which is critical for development of national REDD+ strategy. The government has also produced a document presenting expected contributions to reduced gas emissions. Furthermore, Cameroon has elaborated its national climate change adaptation plan which outlines significant contributions in degraded and threatened ecosystems such as restoration and protection of critical habitats and ecosystems such as the mangroves or savannahs. The restoration work is also meant to contribute to resilience of local communities to effects of climate change.

*National Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2021):* The government of Cameroon (GoC) via the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF), in its strategy of sustainable forest management, has decided to develop NTFP including bamboo. This strong political will to develop the bamboo sector in Cameroon has been translated by the fact that Cameroon join the International bamboo and rattan Organisation (INBAR) and subsequently, on 25.11.2013 signed an MoU with INBAR aiming developing the bamboo and rattan sector in Cameroon for poverty alleviation, environmental protection and job creation. Following the signing of this MoU, the GoC has undertaken a series of initiatives to development bamboo sector in Cameroon including capacity development, regional cooperation and resource mobilization. MINFOF has set aside funds and has conducted a bamboo resource assessment in four regions in Cameroon. In 2016, MINFOF had development a 5-year National Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2021) that includes bamboo in all restoration projects in Cameroon, especially because of its restoration potentials: stabilizes the soil, prevent erosion, restoration of degraded agricultural land biodiversity habitat, etc.

*The 2016 national Pledge to the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 restoration initiatives* is a most recent addition to an arsenal of policy tools promoting, legitimizing; and on which restoration activities under this project will build. However, under the analyses of gaps, some indication will be provided regarded where some fine-tuning will be necessary in the course of this project.

### **3.5.1 Past and Ongoing Initiatives**

A significant number of past and ongoing projects in the intervention sites provide meaningful baselines on which this project will be built.

For instance, the “**Green Sahel**” Strategy, aligns well with the objectives of this project, the lessons learned and identified gaps of the project titled: “Securing livelihoods for Sustainable Development of the Waza National Park and its Periphery”. This project initiated in 2013 by IUCN with funds from the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (PPTC), and implemented in collaboration with MINFOF comes to term this year 2017. The Sahel project with clearly designated sites, and which coincide well with the intervention sites for this current GEF project, has accumulated useful baseline lessons on promoting sustainable land use and management (eco-development), reforestation and revenue generating activities in community managed areas. The achievements in the domains of rehabilitation and restoration of more than 5000 ha of degraded lands and woodland ecosystems

in the project area, will be strengthened and expanded through systematic monitoring, evaluation and mitigation of identified constraints.

Key lessons learned from this ongoing restoration project, especially in the domains of adoption metrics, monitoring, restoration bottlenecks and sustainable land management will be built upon under this GEF project. Capacity building weaknesses will be strengthened and lessons shared for wider impact. Policy lessons will be taken-up with MINFOF and other Ministries like MINEPDED for even greater impact.

Similarly, lessons to strengthen the baseline of this project applicable to the Western Highlands and Northern project intervention sites will be drawn from the following additional initiatives in the Far North Region where IUCN has been active and which shares similar biophysical conditions with some degraded parts of the Western Highlands and Plateau of Cameroon. These are;

*The Chari-Logon (PDRI-CL) Integrated Rural Development Project that is funded by the Islamic Development Bank:* Lessons here will help identify and validated capacity building and knowledge generation lessons in integrated water management to support restoration and sustainable land management;

*The Project on the Resilience of populations to climate change funded by UNDP;* will serve as foundation on which landscape level benefits, spatial analyses (sub national ROAM) and carbon accounting resulting from restoration interventions will be built;

*The Support Program on Securing the Integrated Management of Agro pastoral Resources (PASGIRAP funded by AfD);* will serve as baseline on which lessons for promoting sustainable lands use by managing agriculture-livestock conflicts, in support of restoration and biodiversity conservation will be built

*The Program on the Rehabilitation and Resilience of Socio-ecological Systems in the Lake Chad Basin (PRESIBALT funded by AfDB);* will serve as sound basis for developing indicators for linking restoration with livelihoods benefits.

*The Project on the Development of Cattle Rearing (PRODEL) funded by the Cameroon Government and the World Bank;* will contribute towards understanding of the relationships between livestock systems, farmer-grazer conflicts and restoration. This project will also contribute towards developing progress indicators on strategies to control bush-fires – a major driver of degradation in the Far North.

*The Support Project on the Improvement of Productivity of Animal Raring (PAPE) implemented by CADEPI, CNEBCAM and IUCN;* this project funded by the European Union, has specific components on natural resource management and community consultation/participation, whose lessons on mobilization, adoption and benefits sharing are critical to monitoring for success in this project.

*The Dryad - TMP Systems Initiative* implemented in the *Bambusa spp* intervention zones of this project has the World Agroforestry Center leading a pilot of the TMP systems in Cameroon. The project running from 2015 - 2020 provides capital, equipment and technical assistance to locally designed, launched and operated Community Forests enterprises, and is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) at a total cost of £5.7 million

As part of the National REDD+ process furthermore, Cameroon has a number of targets to which the restoration and emissions reductions aspects of this project will contribute. These aspects are covered mainly under Component Four (4), and include;

- *Objective to reduce 32% of its Greenhouse gases;* avoided deforestation as a result of any renewable energy development targets will be carefully communicated to the National REDD+ secretariat in coordination with Component 4 of this project.
- *Pledged to restore 12, 06 million ha of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030 within the framework of the Bonn Challenge and AFR100;* through monitoring activities under Component 4 of this project, achievements towards this target will be evaluated.
- *Strengthen sub regional achievements of the REDD+ process;* working through the national Platform on REDD+ and Climate change, this project will systematically evaluate its contributions, especially in terms of relationships between restoration, sustainable land and forest management, emissions reductions, and livelihoods.

### 3.5.2 Past and Planned relevant GEF Initiatives in Cameroon.

The project will collaborate with other ongoing or planned GEF projects. It will ensure open and regular communications with the other on-going GEF projects to share lessons learned, build on strengths and avoid duplication. The relevant projects are summarized in the table below.

Table 6. GEF projects in Cameroon with which the TRI Cameroon child project will develop collaboration

GEF ID	Project Title	Existing Project Objectives	Status of project and possibility for collaboration with this project
3821	CBSP Sustainable Community Based Management and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems in Cameroon	To strengthen biodiversity conservation and reduce degradation in mangrove ecosystems	Finalization by the end of July 2017. Due to its focus on coastal forests direct collaboration will be relatively minimal. However, lessons learned in germplasm distribution and sustainable forest management can be useful
9470	LCB-NREE Cameroon child project: Improving Agro-Pastoral Systems in the Far North Region of Cameroon	To improve agro-ecosystem productivity and livelihoods in Cameroon's Far North Region by rehabilitating land and maintaining ecosystem services	In progress. Collaboration here will be active and complementary as similar goals are sought for similar intervention sites in the degraded Far North of Cameroon.
5210	GEF / UNEP supported ( 1,716,895 \$), Sustainable Farming and Critical Habitat Conservation to Achieve Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Protected Areas Management Effectiveness in Western Cameroon SUFACHAC	To strengthen and expand the PA network of, and mainstream biodiversity conservation in, the Bakossi Banyang Mbo landscape, specifically: (i) improved management effectiveness of existing and new protected areas; (ii) Increased revenue for protected area systems to meet total expenditures required for management; (iii) increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation	In progress. One of the intervention sites of this project are the degraded Montagne forests and watershed of the Bakossi Landscape. Close collaboration is envisaged here; even the possibility of co-funding.
5796	A Bottom Up Approach to ABS: Community Level Capacity Development for Successful Engagement in ABS Value Chains in Cameroon ( <i>Echinops giganteus</i> )	To ensure that the local community participates successfully in ABS-compliant value chains (related to <i>Echinops giganteus</i> and <i>Mondia whiteii</i> ).	In progress. Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current GEF project. These will be in the domain of ABS with local communities emanating from value chain development; and lessons learned from managing plant species applicable to the envisaged experience with <i>Bamboo (Bambusa spp)</i> and other NTFP resource species likely to be used under the Sustainable Land and Forest Management aspects (Component 2) of this current project.
	Integrated and Transboundary Conservation in the TRIDOM landscape	The objective is to strengthen the conservation of globally threatened species with a key focus on the portion of TRIDOM landscape	Will start soon: Lessons from this project will be valuable to the current TRI project
	Improving Lake Chad management through building climate change resilience and reducing ecosystem	The objective is to achieve climate resilient, integrated ecosystem-based management of Lake Chad Basin. In Cameroon, one of the pilot site is the Waza Logone floodplain	Will start soon: Some of the IUCN co-funding comes from this project, especially at the Waza site, as the two projects are complementary.
	Promoting Young Entrepreneurship	The overall objective is the sustainable improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the populations around the national parks and the protection of the biodiversity of the parks The development objective is to increase the incomes of rural youth, women and men, from the periphery of protected areas, in a sustainable and resilient manner to climate	Will start soon: Some of the IUCN and FIDA co-funding comes from this project, especially at the Waza site, as the two projects are complementary.

### 3.5.3 GAPS ANALYSES

As described above, the Government of Cameroon has demonstrated its willingness to use the forest landscape restoration approach to reduce forest degradation and deforestation, reduce loss of biodiversity, fight against food insecurity and climate change mitigation.

However, to succeed, the following risks need to be addressed:

### **3.5.3.1 Generation and dissemination of information and knowledge on FLR**

During data collection and consultation process, stakeholders highlighted lack of important information and case studies on FLR in Cameroon, notably the potential of bamboo and other key NTFPs in achieving conservation of biodiversity, poverty alleviation and carbon sequestration. To address these gaps, the project will pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using bambusa and other NTFPS and to support the development of NTFP value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction. Concretely, a ROAM assessments will be carried out in the four pilot sites to 1) identify high priority restoration opportunities and interventions; 2) prioritized relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites; 3) quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type; 4) assess the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites; 5) estimate the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and assess restoration readiness and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.

Also, to address the gap on the potential of bamboo and other NTFPs in achieving conservation of biodiversity, poverty alleviation and carbon sequestration, the project will carry a comprehensive scoping and situation analysis on value chain of bamboo and other NTFPs in the four sites, facilitate access to market for final products and support the promotion of NTFP, including bamboo. It is expected that this case study on value chain will portray the full potential of bamboo and other important NTFP's to facilitate FLR to achieve multiple benefits (biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and carbon sequestration).

Also, it is important to note that generation and dissemination of information and knowledge on Forest Landscape restoration has been a challenge in Cameroon. Most studies of forest landscape restoration in Cameroon were generated by Government technical staff at the Central level and have not been disseminated to local populations, which helps to explain why most sub-national stakeholders are ignorant of current forest landscape restoration dynamics, benefits, policies and legislation. The result has been that some communities are unsupportive of restoration efforts mainly because they have not been adequately sensitized on the benefits of restoration projects on the field.

This project has been designed to fill in this gap by either generating and/or disseminating fundamental information on FLR in a language that is best understood by local actors to facilitate buy-in and full participation in the activities of the project.

### **3.5.3.2 Unstable land tenure arrangements**

One of the major gaps is the instability of land tenure arrangements. Experience have shown that most investors (large and small-scale) find it very difficult to invest on parcels of lands that are not secured, as investors are not certain of realizing a return on their investments. Because most lands and forests in Cameroon are owned by the State and not by individuals, this constitutes a real barrier to investment - particularly for long term investments like Forest Landscape Restoration.

Unless security of tenure and trees is assured for areas under restoration, it will be very difficult in the long-term to ensure continuity of restored ecosystem functions. Land tenure security can be facilitated through ownership and use or by a title for some State lands by investors (individual private sector or community groups).

Although filling the tenure security gaps for the major biomes through establishments of irrevocable land titles is not an outcome of this TRI project per se, the selection of intervention sites for this project has endeavored to be aligned with forests and landscapes where significant security of tenure exists. This project will also work to set up local arrangements to facilitate and uphold land security on the ground. Also, by linking restoration actions to State Reserves, National Parks, Community forests and locally recognized Community Agroforests (such as in the Centre Region), the Project will ensures that (while awaiting even stronger instruments of tenure), restoration investments facilitated under the Project have a good chance of long-term success

In partnership with the Government of Cameroon, IUCN is seeking resources from the Green Climate Fund to begin evaluation of tenure security of these major forest Biomes, thereby contributing towards perpetuating long-term tenure security in Cameroon. In addition, since functional ownership exist under customary and riparian rights as in the case of Community Forestry, this project will build on this to support and/or set up community forest restoration projects in the various sites while the State will merely retain oversight responsibilities over

them to ensure that restoration activities are in line with the 1994 Forestry and Wildlife laws and other International Engagements like the Bonn Challenge, AFR100, REDD+ etc.

### **3.5.3.3 Need for Strengthened National Policies and Frameworks for Landscape Restoration**

As noted earlier, Cameroon recently pledged to restore 12,06 million ha under the Bonn Challenge and AFR100 during the first quarter of 2017, and the Government and other stakeholders are currently in the process of fine-tuning regulatory frameworks to facilitate specific restoration policy priorities and intervention needs on the ground. This project will support this process by ensuring that due registrations and management rights are obtained for community-led restoration activities in all the sites and weaknesses and lessons learned will be capitalized, up-scaled and incorporated into workable restoration policy support package (Component 1).

Field experience have highlighted key policy gaps between Cameroon's Bonn Challenge Commitment and concrete restoration actions on the ground. For example, achieving the restoration objective will be difficult because there is currently no comprehensive management plans for the restoration, processing and marketing of priority indigenous species like bamboo, *Irvingia*, etc. This is why this project will support the finalization, dissemination and implementation of the Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2020) initiated by INBAR, assess and make available reports on policies and plans that support or constraint the restoration of indigenous species like *bambusa* ssp, *Irvingia* spp and *ricinodendron heudelotti* and use the results of the ROAM Assessments in this project to advocate for policy and legislative reforms that will favor the implementation of forest landscape restoration on the ground. Another policy gap is the lack of participation of vulnerable groups like indigenous and local population in restoration activities. This partially explains why this project is targeting restoration of pilot sites using indigenous species to ensure their full participation. It is also expected that lessons learned from their participation will be used to advocate for policy reforms to facilitate their participation in restoration activities to facilitate local development, biodiversity conservation, etc.

### **3.5.3.4 Poor Gender responsiveness:**

The participation of women in restoration decisions, actions, and benefits has been shown to be key to the success of restoration interventions<sup>53</sup>. Unfortunately, stakeholders in Cameroon, especially policy makers, have not tapped into this great potential because restoration efforts in Cameroon to date have failed to explicitly call for participation of women. Because participation of women has not been designed in a gender responsive way, it is currently very difficult to fully include women in restoration activities, especially at the local level where land tenure systems that is key to restoration are not in their favor since most women do not own or fully manage lands that they can use for restoration. To help change the current mind-sets and promote integration of women in restoration activities, this project will work with key stakeholders like policy and decision makers to bring down these barriers by facilitating the participation of women through capacity building workshops, exchange visits, ownership of land and nurseries, processing and marketing of restoration products, etc.

### **3.5.3.5 Support Mechanisms for Restoration, SFM and SLM Initiatives**

One of the major gaps is the lack of adequate knowledge on the ground to effectively implement Forest Landscape Restoration on the field. This is why this project will ensure that stakeholders receive field level training and support to enable them understand and carry out restoration activities. With support from the Government of Cameroon, INBAR and other field Implementing Agencies, deconcentrated government services like Provincial Delegations of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Agriculture will train local stakeholders on agroforestry techniques, management of nurseries, value chain development, etc. to facilitate successful implementation of their activities. Also, since Restoration activities and interventions under this project will be preceded by sub national ROAM exercises. A basic training of leading actors will focus on understanding of restoration; as different from, yet encompassing of reforestation, afforestation, Agroforestry, soil fertility management, etc.

### **3.5.3.6 Institutional Capacity Needs and Options for Financing**

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<sup>53</sup> IUCN (2017). Gender-responsive restoration guidelines: A closer look at gender in the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Most stakeholders, especially state decision-makers, high-level technicians, extension officers and representative of NOGs and CBOs, lack the necessary institutional capacities and financing arrangements to facilitate large-scale restoration and sustainable forest and land management in Cameroon. This has resulted in the lack of adequate strategic partnerships and donors to fund FLR activities on the ground. To overcome these difficulties, this project will build their institutional, technical and financial capacities on restoration and the development and implementation of value chain for NTFPs like Bamboo, etc. Also, knowledge and information dissemination within the inter-ministerial coordination meetings will be used by stakeholders to facilitate restoration activities in the various sectors (Forestry, agriculture, etc.). One of the objectives of this project is to support stakeholders and partners to have the necessary skills to develop and submit bankable projects to donors to secure the necessary funds to implement FLR activities. The project will also support TRI partners to participate in relevant yearly IUCN TRI learning events that will be organized for all partners of the TRI Initiative in the various countries.

### **3.5.3.7 Knowledge and Information Needs for Ecosystems Monitoring and Evaluation**

Field experiences have highlighted numerous challenges with monitoring the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration, notably ecosystems services, livelihood benefits, etc. This makes it very difficult to monitor progress in terms of improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. Most stakeholders have requested us to help them address this issue. This project aims to address this issue by putting in place, with support from the Global Child Project and other partners, a comprehensive system to monitor the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon

## **4 INTERVENTION STRATEGY (ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO)**

### **4.1 Project rationale and expected global environmental benefits**

The overall objective of the “Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa spp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon” Child Project of TRI in Cameroon, hereafter referred to as “the Project”, is to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods.

Specifically, the Project will:

- Strengthen Cameroon Government policy commitment to forest landscape restoration and sustainable land management.
- Pilot application of restoration using *Bambusa spp* and other indigenous NTFP like *Irvingia spp*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc, and ensure the development of their value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction.
- Enhance institutional capacities and financing arrangements to facilitate large-scale forest landscape restoration in Project sites in Cameroon.
- Improve knowledge of best practices in landscape restoration and monitoring and evaluation amongst Project stakeholders and targeted external audiences.

To achieve the above objectives, the activities of this project have been designed to address key barriers to restoration in pilot sites and at the national level and encourage and support replication and up-scaling of results and lessons learned by generating and disseminating successful restoration knowledge and results through outreach and advocacy.

A specific focus of the Project will be to support efforts to further assess, pilot the application of, and disseminate knowledge on, the role that bamboo can play in supporting restoration efforts in Cameroon. Bamboo (*Bambus spp.*) is indigenous to Cameroon, and possesses qualities that potentially make it highly suitable for restoration of degraded lands in Cameroon. Those qualities include an ability to grow on degraded soils and steep slopes where many plants cannot grow. Being a perennial monocot, bamboo has extensive fibrous roots that make it capable of stabilizing loose soil to prevent soil erosion – in western China, bamboo is credited to have curtailed water runoff by 25% and soil erosion by 79%<sup>54</sup>. Its underground rhizomes and fibrous roots can measure up to 100 kilometers per hectare of bamboo stand, go down in the soil and live for a century. This underground biomass makes bamboo capable of surviving and regenerating when the above ground biomass is destroyed, for instance by fire. Bamboo is also the fastest growing woody plant. It is therefore able to re-vegetate and restore productivity to a bare land

<sup>54</sup> Source: <http://www.inbar.int/bamboo-strategic-resource-countries-reduce-effects-climate-change-0>

over a short period of time. Moreover, sustainable harvesting of bamboo, at between a sixth and a third of the stand at a time, encourages thicker growth of the stand in the subsequent years.

The fast-growing traits of bamboo also enable the plant to rapidly sequester high amounts of carbon. For example, managed *Schizostachyum pergracile* bamboo in India can sequester over 22 tons of carbon per hectare per year.

In addition to biological traits that allow bamboo to grow and quickly propagate on degraded areas, bamboo can be utilized in a number of ways including as a building material, food source, and as a fuel source. Where bamboo is utilized as a substitute fuel source for fuel wood extracted from natural forest, it can serve to reduce pressures on natural resources and biodiversity. Moreover, through value chain enhancements, bamboo can provide an important revenue source for communities.

NTFPs are important in Cameroon's section of the Congo Basin. For instance, in Eastern humid forest zone of Cameroon, NTFPs comprise a large portion of the cash and non-cash income of rural Bantu and Pygmy households, on the order of about 2,478 US\$ (about 813 US\$ in cash income and 1665 US\$ in non-cash income) per year.<sup>[1]</sup>

Below provides some examples of experiences using bamboo for restoration.

#### Box 1. Experiences using bamboo to restore degraded lands

##### Results from field application of restoration using bamboo

In India Allahabad, bamboo has been successfully used to reclaim over 100 hectares of degraded land. An extensive area of agricultural land in Allahabad got degraded in the 1960s through soil mining for brick making. Restoration started in the mid-1990s, spearheaded by the local NGO 'Utthan', in collaboration with INBAR and other partners. The results have been impressive: Bamboo has successfully converted over 106 hectares of the degraded lands into a green landscape with restored agricultural productivity. The planted bamboo has helped to raise the water table from 40 meters in 1996 to 15-18 meters in 2014. Each year, bamboo leaves add 15-20 centimeters of humus to the soil, restoring the soil carbon content from zero to as much as 0.9 tons per hectare and also soil nutrients. Long absent birds and other wild animals are returning. The planted bamboo is sustainably harvested for making a variety of bamboo products which account for an average of 10% of the incomes of local farmers. Utthan has replicated the learnings of this project and successfully reclaimed about 100,000 ha of degraded land in 600 villages in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, and Jharkand, benefitting over one million people economically.

In Africa, Ghana has successfully employed bamboo to reclaim a mine-degraded land through a pilot study<sup>1</sup>. Ethiopia is presently implementing a US\$ 95 million sustainable land management project as part of the NEPAD-supported Terra Africa programme, under which bamboo is being used to restore 1,000 hectares of degraded lands and to enrich a further 1,000 hectares of natural stands over a period of 5 years.

Specific questions regarding the suitability of bamboo for restoration in Cameroon that will be assessed through this Project's piloting include:

- The effectiveness of integrating bamboo in restoration strategies to achieve multiple objectives, including biodiversity conservation, livelihood development, and carbon sequestration. In other words, this Project will assess the effectiveness of using bamboo to:
  - Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity over a short period of time;
  - Enhance the household incomes of rural communities through development of bamboo value chains and where necessary other priority NTFPs;
  - Sequester carbon from the atmosphere; and
  - Assess the degree to which bamboo can contribute in raising water table in degraded landscapes (e.g. in the Waza Logon) to boost agricultural yields and restoration, as experienced in India.

[1] ENDAMANA, D.; ANGU, K.A.; AKWAH, G.N; SHEPHERD, G.; NTUMWEL, B.C. (2016). [Contribution of non-timber forest products to cash and non-cash income of remote forest communities in Central Africa](#). *International Forestry Review*, Volume 18, Number 3, September 2016, pp. 280-295(16) ISSN 1465-5489 (Print); ISSN 2053-7778 (Online [http://www.cfa-international.org/international\\_forestry\\_review.php](http://www.cfa-international.org/international_forestry_review.php) )

Since this will be a long term result that can only be measure after the lifespan of the project, we will set up a long-term monitoring system to address this issue after the project ends.

The project will employ a linked set of interventions to achieve the broader objective of supporting the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon. This will include:

- Support for ROAM assessments in each of the 4 pilot areas
- Where bamboo is identified by stakeholders through the ROAM process as a priority specie, support will be provided for restoration utilizing bamboo.
- Where pilot application of bamboo is supported, support will also be provided for development of value-chains utilizing bamboo
- Capacity development for mobilization of funding for FLR, and management of FLR.
- Support for the capture and dissemination of findings from pilot experiences; and
- Support for development of FLR-supportive policy, including through promotion of findings and recommendations from ROAM assessments in the 4 pilot areas, support for finalization of a Cameroonian law on bamboo management, and support for the national cross-sectoral working group on FLR.

The project will establish a conceptual framework for many subsequent restoration-related initiatives to follow. For this reason, although project resources are limited, this project will help establish a framework in policy, methodology, strategy and operational tactics to support landscape restoration. It will focus on sustainability, synergy, institutional and policy aspects as well as how to leverage existing and new investments (public and private) and initiatives to achieve the wider and longer-term goals of a restoration initiative well beyond its own resources and time-frame.

The selection of pilot sites was done based on the following criteria:

- Sites are situated within important biodiversity hotspots and key conservation corridors, notably protected areas: Waza National Park; Bakossi-Bayang-Mbo (that harbors the Bakossi National Park and the Bayang-Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary); the Douala-Edea biodiversity hotspots; and the Mbalmayo Cluster of Community Forests. These biodiversity hotspots and corridors are presently negatively impacted by fuelwood harvesting by local communities. A key objective of this Project will be to promote and expand the use of bamboo for fuel wood to reduce pressures on natural resources and biodiversity. Bamboo is already used by communities in most of the sites.
- All sites harbor degraded landscapes and ecosystems that need to be restored to ensure biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and important revenue source for local communities. The pilot sites have therefore been selected to represent these key biodiversity areas and degraded ecosystems;
- The sites have been selected because of their potentials to pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using bambusa spp and other indigenous NTFPs like Irvingia, etc. and ensure their value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction. These field pilot field data will facilitate informed decision-making on key policy and legislative issues that will facilitate the implementation and upscaling of forest landscape restoration.
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Lessons learned from piloting of these indigenous trees, including bamboo, in degraded sites will be captured and presented to wider group of stakeholders and policy makers to understand and inform restoration planing.

#### **4.2 Anticipated Global Environmental Benefits from the Project**

The Project anticipates contributing to the generation of Global Environmental Benefits in the following areas:

The global environmental benefits from this project is that it will facilitate the conservation of biodiversity in the various landscapes that harbour protected areas, flagship species and their habitats (see section 3.4), key biodiversity areas and corridors. For example, the following Protected areas are found in the following 3 landscapes: Waza National Park in the Far North, the Bakossi National Park and the Bayang Mbo Wildlife reserve in the South West and the Douala-Edea Forest Reserve in the Coastal magrove landscape of Cameroon. Since most communities live adjacent to these protected areas, the activities of this project have been designed to take pressure off the protected areas and biodiversity hotspots by developing and promoting alternative livelihood activities that will help the sustainable management of the protected areas. For example, the use of bamboo for fuelwood by community will take off pressure from these protected areas and key biodiversity areas because it will reduce deforestation for fuelwood in the above protected areas and biodiversity hotspots. It should be noted

that these fuelwood is not only meant for domestic consumption in the landscapes but also for commercial purposes, something that is detrimental to the environment because of the largescale exploitation. The project will also improve the planning and management of new agricultural expansion techniques like agroforestry to avoid deforestation and loss of biodiversity due to the current unsustainable agricultural practices that are prevalent in the site. This is important because agriculture is the number one cause of forest loss and degradation in Cameroon, with most communities and private sector even encroaching on protected areas and buffer zones.

Sustainable Forest management and biodiversity conservation will focus mainly in intervention sites occurring in humid lowlands forests of Cameroon; the South West Bakossi Segment of the Bayang Mbo Landscape (South West); The Mangrove forests of the Douala –Edea Landscape (Littoral) and the Mbalmayo Cluster of Community Forests in Degraded Landscapes of the Forest Margins (Centre region). These are zones of opportunities that will also include value chain development of NTFPs, where local actors and stakeholders managing Community Forests are the main entry points. Within these Zones the value chains of NTFPs like *Bambusa spp*, *Irvingia spp* and *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc, will be supported in the context of sustainable management of Community Forests on a case-by-case basis, depending on social, policy, economic and environmental due diligence assessment and engagement by stakeholders like INBAR, FAO, SNV, etc. Hereto the goal is of sustainable forest management of the indigenous NTFPs (indigenous plants and tree resources species) and livelihoods support, thereby bringing at least 1,000 ha of Forests under this form of sustainable management. Achieving these will contribute towards meeting GEF-6 goals for SFM. Currently the Mbalmayo Cluster has seven Community Forests whose Associations would be encouraged to work together and facilitate INBAR’s Bamboo intervention in the Centre region. Table 10 below are the Community Forests in the Mbalmayo Cluster that would serve as entry points:

Table 7 Community Forests in the Mbalmayo Cluster

	<b>Community Forest Names</b>	<b>Surface Area (Ha)</b>
1	OYENGA	5000
2	ESSINGANG	3300
3	COVIMOF BELOMBO	5000
4	ASFRADO	3660
5	AMBIS	2500
6	ADIZAN	4992
7	ADINNBIA	4730
		<b>29,182</b>

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is both a GEF priority area for this project and a cornerstone of Cameroon’s Forest and Environment Sector Programme (FESP). Three learning Sites, the Bakossi-Bayang Mbo, the Douala Edea Coastal Mangroves and the Mbalmayo area are sites where INBAR in the context of this project will co-finance the sustainable Management of underutilized species like Bamboo, for livelihoods and as an alternative energy source, saving natural forests and their biodiversity. Our SFM activities will be implemented mainly in the lowlands forests (the South West Bakossi Segment of the Bayang Mbo Landscape (South West); The Mangrove forests of the Douala –Edea Landscape (Littoral) and the Mbalmayo Cluster of Community Forests in Degraded Landscapes of the Forest Margins (Centre region). It will strengthen sustainable management of community forests, forests in protected areas and buffer zones. It will also support sustainable livelihoods activities of communities living adjacent to protected areas with the objective to reduce pressure on forests by communities and some private enterprises. Within this vain, we will promote value chain development of indigenous NTFP like *Bambusa spp*, *Irvingia spp* and *Ricinodendron heudelotii*,

Concerning GHG emmissions reduction, Cameroon’s national REDD+ strategy opts to explicitly use *landscape* restoration as a means of storing biomass carbon. This TRI, through its global component will help facilitate contributions of existing restoration initiatives to national carbon accounting across the representative project sites. Given that Fuel wood consumption for household energy remains an important source of GHG emissions in Cameroon, and driving degradation of woodlands, Sustainable Management of Bamboo and other lesser known species in the carefully selected Community Forests in the Project Intervention sites of the Centre and South west regions will serve as learning sites for this project. Given the widespread impact of fuel wood exploitation and the opportunity of having INBAR as project partners, the energy potentials of Bamboo and its positive effect on High Value Forests in the Bakossi-Bayang Mbo South West, Douala Edea Coastal Mangrove site and the Mbalmayo sites (Centre region) are expected to be a major lessons to be learned for natural forest wood energy substitution with Bamboo. The Waza landscape is considered as a REDD + pilot site in terms of assets and

potential for carbon sequestration. The same applies to mangrove ecosystems and forests of mountain ecosystems which are all concerned by this project.

In the domain **Climate Change Mitigation**, Cameroon's national REDD+ Strategy on mitigation, evaluates the contribution of biodiversity conservation, carbons stocks enhancement, emissions reductions, especially from degradation of natural forests; and promotion of non-fossil fuel renewable energy sources. Although not the major thrust, this project will contribute significantly towards the expected outcomes and indicators of Program 4 of the GEF-CCM-2.

### 4.3 Project Components, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

#### 4.3.1: Components, Outcomes, Outputs and Activities

### Component 1. Policy Development and Integration

**Component 1** of the Project will work to strengthen national commitment to FLR and improve the policy and regulatory framework governing FLR in Cameroon so that is it more supportive of FLR and incentivizes investment in FLR. This will occur through a set of linked interventions that include: (1) sub-national ROAM<sup>55</sup> assessments of FLR opportunities and priority interventions at the Project's four pilot sites; (2) development and publication of a report on policies and plans in Cameroon that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands through the use of bamboo and other indigenous plants; and (3) facilitating the uptake of FLR-supportive policies through dissemination of the findings from the ROAM assessments, the report on bamboo, and support for a national Cross-Sectoral working group on FLR

The Project will provide support for four sub-national ROAM assessments – one at each of the pilot sites – to be completed during the early stage of the Project, to generate key data to facilitate informed decision making by policy makers. Outputs of the ROAM process will include:

- Identified priority areas for restoration;
- Prioritised relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites;
- Quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type;
- Assessment of the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites;
- Estimation of the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and

Diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks. (More details on the ROAM process is described in Annex XIV)

The results of the four sub-national ROAM assessments and other lessons learned will be presented to policy makers and other stakeholders to ensure that they are integrated into on-going FLR policy and legislative practices and discussions. This will be done through workshops organized at the sub-national and national level, policy-briefs, radio programs, etc. The Project will also support the activities of the cross-sectoral National Working Group to Coordinate, Monitor, Impliment and Promote Forest Landscape Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands that was jointly set up by the Cameroon Ministers of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development in June 2017, and that include members from other sectoral Ministries like Mining, Agriculture, Commerce, Land Planning, Lands, Energy and Water, Scientific Research, Higher Education, Energy and Water, Civil Society Organisations, International Organisation (IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, WRI, GIZ, KFW, etc), Parliament, local Councils, etc). This component will also support a study on policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of of degraded lands using indigenous plants like bambusa, Irvingia, just as it will facilitate the finalization and implementation of the Cameroon Bamboo Management Plans for 2017-2020. These activities will help ensure that the ROAM findings are used to inform development and itegration of innovative policies, legislation and regulatory reforms and frameworks that support Forest Landscape Restoration activities on the ground and create incentives for FLR as an approach to conserve biodiversity, sustain livelihoods and promote carbon sequestration in the different project sites.

**Outcome 1: Strengthened policy commitment and improved legislation and regulatory frameworks supporting forest landscape restoration, sustainable land and forest management.**

**Output 1.1.** High-priority restoration opportunities and interventions identified in 4 pilot landscapes through facilitated participatory ROAM processes

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<sup>55</sup> The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), developed by IUCN and the World Resources Institute (WRI), provides a flexible and affordable framework for countries to rapidly identify and analyze areas that are primed for forest landscape restoration (FLR) and to identify specific priority areas at a national or sub-national level.

The sub-national ROAM assessments will include comprehensive stakeholder consultation meetings with traditional chiefs, head of community forests, community development institutions, heads of decentralized government services; associations of women, youths and indigenous peoples; and individual innovators. Meetings will cover the benefits and needs of restoration; how to make use of local knowledge for restoration through awareness; understanding existing regulations applicable to restoration; conservation and protection biodiversity across the landscape; and identifying existing gaps on experiences, baseline and ongoing complementary activities.

Assessment of restoration of opportunities for degraded Guinea Forests of Bakossi landscapes (Montagne Forests) will focus both on protecting protected areas (Waza, Bakossi, Douala-Edea) and supporting ongoing restoration in the target landscapes.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 1.1.1.** Conduct sub-national ROAM assessments at the 4 Project pilot sites.
  - Identified priority areas for restoration;
  - Prioritised relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites;
  - Quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type;
  - Assessment of the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites;
  - Estimation of the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and
  - Diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.

**Output 1.2:** Policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands through use of indigenous species like *Bambusa spp.*, *Irvingia spp.*, *Ricinodendron heudelottii*, etc., reviewed and compiled in a report.

Cameroonian policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous species like *Bambusa spp.*, *Irvingia spp.* *Ricinodendron heudelottii*, etc. will be assessed and developed into a published report. The report will essentially cover issues related to species, risks, seed supply and propagation, markets, etc. It will also focus on policies that supports financing functional landscape restoration, development of incentives for conservation, etc. It will be disseminated to policy makers and other key stakeholders and donors to make sure that the results are captured in to on-going policy practices on the promotion and use of priority indigenous species for restoration purposes to achieve numerous benefits in terms of biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, fight against climate change, etc.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 1.2.1:** Develop and publish a report on policy and plans that support or hinder the restoration of degraded lands using indigenous species like *Bambusa spp.*, *Irvingia spp.* and *Ricinodendron heudelottii*.

**Output 1.3:** Uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments, published report on used of indigenous plants to support restoration, and other briefs and case studies facilitated.

The activities below will support uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments in the 4 Project sites as well as results from the studies to understand those policies and plans that support or constrain restoration of degraded lands using bamboo and other indigenous plants. It will also support the work of the newly created cross-sectoral National Working Group to Coordinate, Monitor, Implement and Promote Forest Landscape Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands that was jointly set up by the Cameroon Ministers of Forestry and Wildlife and the Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development in June 2017. In addition to the two line Ministries in charge of Forestry and Environment, members of this important groups also include Ministries that impact in one way or the other Forest Landscape Restoration (e.g. Agriculture, Mining, Energy and Water, Planning, etc.), International Organisations (IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, WRI, GIZ, KFW, etc), Parliament, local Councils, etc). This group will ensure that the ROAM findings are used to inform the development and integration of policies, legislations and regulatory reforms and frameworks that support Forest Landscape restoration

Results of the ROAM assessments and other lessons learned will be presented to policy makers and other stakeholders through conferences, workshops, radio/TV programs, policy briefs and other means.

Activities under this output will also support the finalization and implementation of the 5-year National Bamboo Management Plan (2017-2021) that includes bamboo in all restoration projects in Cameroon. The Project will help ensure that the plan is disseminated, and that stakeholders understand the potential role of bamboo in reclamation of degraded lands, erosion control, local development, and biodiversity conservation.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 1.3.1.** Disseminate the results of ROAM assessments and ensure that the results and other lessons learned are used to advocate for policy and legislative reforms that support Forest Landscape Restoration.
- **Activity 1.3.2:** Elaborate and disseminate policy and scientific briefs on FLR to increase understanding among policy makers and other stakeholders of FLR benefits and opportunities.
- **Activity 1.3.3:** Support the activities of the cross-sectoral National Working Group that Coordinates, Monitors, Implements and Promotes Forest Landscape Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands.
- **Activity 1.3.4:** Support the finalization implementation of the national bamboo management plan (2017-2021) initiated by INBAR and the Cameroon Government

## **Component 2. Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives**

The outcome of this component seeks to pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using *Bambusa* spp and other indigenous NTFPs, and to support the development of NTFP value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction. It will also support the production of sustainable charcoal (from *Bambusa* spp), especially in sites near protected areas and other conservation sites to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration. Our experience in Burundi with a World Bank funded Project entitled "Supporting ROAM Piloting in Burundi" enabled IUCN and the Burundian Government to use the ROAM approach to generate socio-economic and spatial data during the first semester of 2017 to inform policy/decision makers on restoration opportunities, estimated costs and funding opportunities in Burundi. The data gathered also facilitated the elaboration of a USD 50 Million Restoration Project by the World Bank to support the Burundian Government's restoration efforts on the field. The implementation phase of the Restoration Project will start this year.

**Outcome 2:** Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using *Bambusa* spp and other indigenous NTFP like *Irvingia* spp, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc, and support the development of NTFP value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction

### **Output 2.1. Degraded landscapes under restoration with collaboration of stakeholders**

Taking the findings from the 4 ROAM assessments, for those areas where restoration utilizing bamboo has been identified by stakeholders as high-priority intervention, the Project will provide support for on-the-ground piloting of restoration utilizing bamboo to assess its effectiveness in achieving a number of objectives including biodiversity conservation, enhancing livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction.

Stakeholders will be trained on how to acquire, set up and manage nurseries destined for restoration purposes. To ensure that communities and farmers fully participate in restoration activities, this output is designed to create the necessary incentives.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 2.1.1.** Provide technical and logistical support for restoration activities (developing germplasm collection and sourcing manuals, training, markets for restoration products, etc.).
- **Activity 2.1.2.** Provide technical and logistics support for establishment of nurseries at all four sites.
- **Activity 2.1.3.** Develop incentive mechanisms for engaging communities, farmers and other stakeholders in restoration activities.

**Output 2.2. Value chain development and enhancement of priority NTFP like Bamboo, *Irvingia spp* and *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, etc is supported in the various sites to facilitate forest landscape restoration.**

Value chain development is very necessary because it will portray and strengthen the economic and environmental potentials of Indigenous species like bamboo, etc in local and national economies. It will also fill in current knowledge gaps that link raw, semi-finished or final products in the 4 sites to urban actors and markets.. It is expected that the elaboration of a value chain will effectively highlight the market value of indigenous species since stakeholders will have the necessary knowledge and skills to adapt to, and acquire the important technical, economical and marketing strategies to be competitive in national and international markets. This output also include trainings and financial training to address value addition to the NTFPs, creation of producer cooperatives to pool resources, and skills to negotiate prices to sell their products to traders at a competitive price that will enhance livelihoods in the 4 sites. The value chain development will also highlight the important role of various actors in the chain: e.g. farmers and associations at the local level; private sector (rural and urban private sector); government, civil society organizations, etc.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 2.2.1.** Perform a scoping and situation analyses on value chain of Bamboo and other NTFPs in the 4 Project sites (e.g. acquisition and planting of seedlings, management, harvesting, processing, marketing, actors involved, financial mechanism, etc.) ;
- **Activity 2.2.2.** Facilitate access to market for final products (market analysis/information, capacity-building, standardization techniques, consultation forum between private sector and communities, etc.)
- **Activity 2.2.3.** Support promotion of NTFPS including of Bamboo and *Irvingia* as part of forest landscape restoration

**Output 2.3. Promote the production of sustainable charcoal (from *Bambusa spp*), especially in sites near Protected Areas and other conservation sites to avoid deforestation in protected areas and promote carbon sequestration.**

This training will facilitate the understanding and dissemination of Bamboo charcoal production techniques across participating communities living especially in sites near protected areas and facilitate replication and up-scaling to other parts of the country. It will also support sellers access local national and international markets to sell their final products. Charcoal customers will include local households, population living around Protected Areas and those in neighboring villages and towns. The project will fund training sessions and charcoal production and processing techniques for village associations and other key stakeholders interested in this activity. The project will ensure that existing local institutions and structures (e.g. village associations, private local companies, Community Forest Management Committees) will be strengthened to set-up and manage production and processing units that will be technically support by National and Field Executing Partners of the project (INBAR in all sites that will prioritize bamboo, CADEPI for the Waza Legone Landscape; CWCS, WCW, FODER and OPED in the Mbalmayo and Coastal Magrove Landscape, etc.). Village associations and private local groups will be developing the products, while intermediaries like the Project National and Field Executing Agencies, the Government and other project partners will act as intermediaries between the producers and the buyers to ensure that quality products are sold in competitive prices.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 2.3.1.** Train pilot local communities in sites near protected areas and other conservation zones on Bamboo charcoal production techniques.
- **Activity 2.3.2.** Support communities to commercialize their products in local, national and international markets

### **Component 3. Institutions, Finance and Up scaling**

This component will deliver information, communications and knowledge management products to build and strengthen the capacities of decision-making, high-level technical personnel and extension personnel of MINFOF and MINEPDED so they become champions of Cameroon’s Bonn Challenge commitments. The component will further, use appropriate information, communications and knowledge management tools to strengthen the capacity of representatives of NGOs, CBOs, Women and Youth Associations in intervention sites so that they are capable of understanding the dimensions and needs of restoration to allow them innovate. Innovation is expected in domains like assessing how best to generate and present restoration opportunities, so that they are attractive to donors,

private sector investors and technical partners with ongoing projects. Using site-specific opportunities, this component will aim to facilitate development of small to medium-sized funding proposals using predetermined funding criteria developed by FEICOM (the Local Council Support Fund) to first facilitate direct investment through State budgetary allocations for restoration; and or take advantage of opportunities existing within the Jurisdiction of project Stakeholders. Opportunities can also be explored through the National Agency for Participatory Local Development (PNDP). The component will also facilitate capacity building of stakeholders relevant to strengthening the value chains of priority NTFPs such as *Bambusa spp.* The component will explore how the expected tCO<sub>2</sub>eq., to be saved through development of renewable energy using *Bambusa spp.* promotion and development, can serve as basis for developing project ideas for compensatory Payments for Ecosystems Services (PES), conserved as a results of wood energy savings from natural forests, and substitution with *Bambusa spp.* energy products. An important part of capacity building in the domain of market value chain support for NTFPs would be oriented towards generation and communicating knowledge useful in recognizing certain NTFPs as emerging commodities worthy of private sector considerations.

### **Outcome 3: Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place for large-scale Restoration, Sustainable Forest and Land Management in Cameroon.**

#### **Output 3.1 Beneficiaries Trained on Management, Financial and Technical aspects of Landscape Restoration and NTFPs Value Chain Development**

Training will be targeted to State decision-makers, high-level technicians, extension officers, representatives of NGOs, CBOs, and Women and Youth Associations. Similarly, training will focus on NTFPs such *Bambusa spp.*, also organized for the same stakeholders in the relevant intervention sites. As appropriate, training of local actors may also include local tree grower associations and other interested parties and individuals within the sites. Knowledge and information dissemination within inter-ministerial coordination meetings will also be encouraged for greater coherence of practices and implementation of enabling regulations impacting restoration and value chain development for NTFPs. Finally, capacity building events may also include facilitated feedback by persons with specialized knowledge and or experience, and who may have participated in specialized learning events involving emerging NTFPs such as *Bambusa spp.* This may also involve South-South cooperating like China - Cameroon exchanges.

The Project will support the participation of important stakeholders of the project, notably key Executing partners like The Government of Cameroon, INBAR and all field implementing partners in the online course to build in-country capacity for mobilization of Forest Landscape Restoration and ROAM finance that IUCN, in partnership with the Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative (ELTI) of the Yale University will organize, will be organizing. The six weeks intensive learning 6 module course will focus on 1) Ecology and drivers of degradation, 2) ROAM, 3) Social and cultural aspects, 4) FLR strategies and ecosystem services, 5) FLR for production purposes, and 6) scaling up FLR, financing and monitoring. It is expected that this course, that will be done during the early phase of project implementation will armed key managers and Executing Agency and its partners to deliver.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

**Activity 3.1.1.** Support key project stakeholders to participate in the IUCN and Yale University ELTI online training on ROAM and Forest Landscape Restoration.

#### **Output 3.2. New financing mechanisms for restoration investments and/or NTFP value chain development identified and mainstreamed at local and national level.**

Funding proposals targeting the private sector, public, Bi-lateral or Multi-lateral donors will cover restoration interventions. In addition, proposals may target species like the multipurpose *Pongamia pinnata*; and or such as *Bambusa spp.* others, based on opportunities for capitalizing on commoditization of selected multipurpose NTFPs.

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 3.2.1.** Develop bankable project proposals to address specific restoration opportunities across the intervention sites
- **Activity 3.2.2.** Develop partnerships with stakeholders (private sector, municipalities, technical and financial partners, etc.) for investments in restoration and value chains of NTFPs

## **Component 4. Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment**

Component 4 will provide support for the development and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to assess the effectiveness of the Project's interventions in achieving desired restoration outcomes. The M&E system will be designed so as to capture high quality and sufficient data from the Project's pilot sites to assess the effectiveness of using bamboo to:

- Restore productivity of degraded landscapes and conserve biodiversity over a short period of time;
- Enhance the household incomes of rural communities through development of bamboo value chains and where necessary other priority NTFPs;
- Sequester carbon from the atmosphere; and
- Assess the degree to which bamboo can contribute in raising water table in degraded landscapes (e.g. in the Waza Logon) to boost agricultural yields and restoration, as experienced in India. ]

Under this Component, the Project will provide support for developing Project contributions to, and stakeholder participation in, TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing events, the TRI Restoration Finance event, and TRI-sponsored South-South exchanges. It is anticipated that the Project will generate knowledge on the following thematic areas relevant to FLR: potential of NTFPs species like *Bambusa spp.*, *Pongamia pinnata* in restoration, as well as agroforestry techniques and germplasm production, adoption and distribution networks for these species.

In addition, under this Component, the Project will create a publically-accessible knowledge sharing platform for sharing of information on FLR within Cameroon and with external stakeholders.

**Outcome 4: Knowledge of best practices of restoration and value-chain development is generated and shared among key national and external audiences.**

**Output 4.1. System to monitor and evaluate progress on landscape restoration and SFM developed and operational, providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and global TRI Initiative**

Framework provided by the TRI Global Child project. This participatory monitoring system will enable all stakeholders in the project sites and beyond to track and report on progress on the implementation of the project. It will also be an opportunity for partners to adaptively manage the Project as needed to achieve Project objectives/

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

**Activity 4.1.1.** Establish a participatory and inclusive M&E system based on the Project's Theory of Change (TOC), Results Framework, and the TRI M&E

**Output 4.2. Development of FLR knowledge products.**

Under this Output, experiences of the Project interventions at the four pilot sites will be recorded and knowledge products based on these experiences. It is anticipated that the Project will make contributions along the following areas: potentials of emerging NTFPs species like *Bambusa spp.*, *Pongamia pinnata*, Agroforestry techniques and germplasm production, adoption and distribution networks for restoration

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 4.2.1** Generate and disseminate knowledge products on project results, notably on restoration, biodiversity conservation and Bamboo value chain development on social networks or other interactive online platforms.

**Output 4.3. Development and participation in knowledge sharing events to share Project experiences and knowledge products and learn from other TRI projects and initiatives.**

This Output will be achieved through the following activities:

- **Activity 4.3.1.** Organize yearly events to share knowledge on the results and lessons learned of the projects.

- **Activity 4.3.2.** Participation in Annual TRI Knowledge Sharing Workshops
- **Activity 4.3.3.** Utilize social media and other online means to disseminate relevant knowledge products and Project experiences.

Under this output, the Project will organize and/or capitalize on knowledge sharing events to produce and disseminate the results and lessons learned of the project to stakeholders. These events may be in Cameroon or abroad (e.g. BC, AFR100, COP24, etc.). These events will also be an opportunity to organize exchange visits to share the experiences of the Project and learn from the experiences of other TRI projects.

#### 4.3.2 Alignment and Integration with the TRI Program

The project is one of 12 child projects of The Restoration Initiative (TRI), a GEF-supported program to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge. TRI is designed and led by three GEF Agencies – IUCN (lead agency), FAO and UN Environment – in partnership with TRI countries.

The TRI program is comprised of 11 national child projects in 10 Asian and African countries, and is supported by a Global Learning, Finance, and Partnerships project (Global Child). The Global Child project will be responsible for facilitating overall coordination, monitoring, and adaptive management of the TRI Program, while at the same time providing key support along each of the four program components.

The design of the “Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa ssp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon” Child Project of TRI in Cameroon includes mechanisms to ensure cross-fertilization between the Project, other TRI child projects, and the overall TRI program. Mechanisms include:

- Participation in annual TRI knowledge sharing workshops;
- Exchange and study visits with other TRI countries;
- Project anticipates receiving and integrating support from the Global Child project. This includes benefiting from provision of:
  - o international experts and trainings on FLR- and TRI-relevant topics;
  - o establishment and participation in TRI Community of Practice groups (via online and other groups) facilitated by the Global Child project;
  - o support for identification and integration of policies that are supportive of FLR, including through partnership with the Global Child project in developing and utilizing relevant and high-value case studies and policy briefs;
  - o support for mobilization of FLR finance, including help in developing bankable FLR investment proposals;
  - o enrollment of Project stakeholders in a TRI course on FLR Finance to be developed by the Global Child project in partnership with Yale University, and made available beginning in 2018;
- The Project will develop knowledge products on in-country FLR practices, experiences, and achievements, for sharing with other TRI child projects, including through annual TRI knowledge sharing workshops;
- Project team member(s) will take part in regular monthly calls with the TRI Program Coordinator, to facilitate coordination and integration of efforts, and benefit from emerging opportunities;
- The Project will be responsive to any guidance received from the TRI Program Advisory Committee and the TRI Global Coordination Unit of the Global Child (see TRI Program institutional structure below);
- The Project will make use of Global Child provided standardized means (including standardized templates, and processes) for capturing and documenting lessons learned;
- The Project will make use of the Harmonized TRI Tracking Tool for reporting to the GEF, to facilitate comparability and utility of aggregated M&E data.

The table below provides additional information on how the Project aligns with and contributes to the TRI Program.

Table 8. TRI Cameroon Child Project Alignment with TRI Program

Criteria	Child project design features aligned with criteria
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Project interventions are designed/informed by forest landscape restoration best practices and are in line with support for the Bonn Challenge	The Project has been designed to support the Cameroon Government's pledge to restore 12.06 million hectares under the Bonn Challenge. This project will utilize the best practice ROAM methodology to 1) identify priority areas for restoration; 2) prioritise relevant and feasible restoration intervention types in the various sites; 3) quantify costs and benefits of each intervention type; 4) analyse the finance and investment options for restoration in the selected sites; 5) estimate the values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; and 6) come up with a diagnostic of 'restoration readiness' and strategies for addressing major policy and institutional bottlenecks.
Project strategy employs TRI strategic approach, and includes work under each of the four TRI Programmatic components	Project results framework is aligned with the 4 TRI thematic components and includes outcome, outputs and indicators under the four components
Project anticipates making use of supports from TRI Global Learning, Finance, and Partnership project (the Global Child project)	The Project has been designed to capitalize on support and expertise of the TRI Global Learning, Finance and Partnership Project. For example, stakeholders in the project will benefit from training workshops and ELTI courses organized by the Global Child Project and the University of Yale to support field activities and stakeholders
Project anticipates making contributions to the capture and dissemination of knowledge, for the benefit of all TRI child projects	Knowledge products and lessons learned from project activities will be up-scaled at the national, regional and global level to ensure that all TRI Child projects benefit.
Project design recognizes institutional linkages with the Global Child project, including with TRI Program Advisory Committee, for adaptive management.	Institutional linkages with the Global Child Project and the TRI Program Advisory Committee to facilitate adaptive management are highlighted in the Project document.
Project includes a planned activity and dedicated funding for participation in Annual TRI Knowledge-Sharing workshops	Project includes activities and dedicated funding for managers and key stakeholders to participate in Annual TRI Knowledge-Sharing Workshops
Project funding and anticipated global environmental benefits are in-line with estimates made at the time of PFD submission/approval	Project funding and anticipated global environmental benefits are in-line with estimates made at the time of PFD submission/approval
Other (including any additional support for partnership and knowledge sharing activities with TRI partners)	The Project will rely upon support from the Global TRI to facilitate partnership and knowledge sharing with all TRI partners.

#### 4.4 RISK ANALYSIS AND RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Project implementation risks are identified in the matrix below, per type of risk.

Table 9. Risk Matrix Table

Risk Description	Level	Mitigation measure(s)
<b>1. Political, technical or operational risks</b>		
Poor governance and corruption	Low	In achieving the direct (6,000 ha) of restoration targets this project will build on the achievements of restorations efforts presented in the baseline scenario for this project and other priorities to be identified following sub national ROAM exercises, involving specific, prior-identified stakeholders. The restoration interventions will support state conservation and restoration policies and therefore is outside the realm of ambiguity where corrupt practices thrive. Support will be logistical, knowledge and information product (training), facilitation, monitoring and evaluation. Minor procurements through credible partners is outside the realm of corrupt practices as these would be mediated through full participation of NGOs and CBOs.

		The Sustainable Forest Management Component of the project will not deal with actual movements of products, where corruption is possible and will focus on Community Forests with duly approved management plans and exploitation conventions; and restoration will focus on facilitated logistical support, knowledge and information product (training), monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, project activities will be outside the possibility of corruption.
Low capacity to implement FLR among Project stakeholders and limited data on FLR in Cameroon	Medium	The lack of qualified human resources and sufficient data on FLR in Cameroon is one of the constraints this project sets out to resolve. Sub national ROAM, Spatial and Socio-Economic Analyses; Value Chains support, Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management are key Project means for addressing these constraints. The project is also designed to facilitate cross-fertilization between national sites and across Global Projects through the Coordination team
Private investors and others are reluctant to invest in FLR in Cameroon.	Medium	This risk can happen when the donors or investors either lack the necessary information on functional restoration activities on the ground or lack of of capacities and partners to design bankable proposals to submit to them for funding. The project will build partnership with key restoration partners to train stakeholders on the conception and elaboration of bankable restoration projects to be submitted to donors for funding. The project will also encourage private sector-Government partnership to invest in restoration project at the local level, particularly to support the use of indigenous species like bamboo and other NTFPs for restoration.
<b>2. Social and environmental risks caused by the project</b>		
Promotion of NTFP and value chain development leads to unsustainable harvest rates	Low	The project will work with communities and other stakeholders to establish conservation agreements that include the establishment of sustainable harvest rates. Compliance with these rates will be monitored. By working with Government agencies at local and national levels, the project will promote the uptake of similar agreements by communities outside the project's area of influence in order to prevent that individuals or groups from communities which have not signed agreements take advantage of the new market and increase pressure on resources.
Increased environment deterioration (floods, droughts) due to impacts from climate change	Low/ Medium	The sub national ROAM assessments will highlight zones of feasibility, even if such zones remain subject to extreme weather-events. Species used to address degradation would be a mix of well-known indigenous species combined with, where necessary, high performing exotics ones.. As such, although restoration benefits are medium – long term, a combination of good local knowledge, conservative site selection, species selection for performance and stability would help strengthen system resilience and maturity of restoration solutions.
Exotic species developing invasive behavior	Medium	A protocol will be established that regulates the selection of species and provides risk management measures. Selection of species will be based on prior research confirming that selected species do not develop invasive behavior.
Negative impacts on the livelihoods of indigenous people and local communities	Low	Under component 2 concrete restoration and value chain development activities will be implemented that are expected to provide tangible benefits for local and in particular indigenous communities. The concrete activities will be decided during the ROAM planning proces together with the communities from the respective project sites. The ROAM process will be guided by a Process Framework that ensures that the principles and standards of the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) are adhered to and negative social impacts are avoided or, if avoidance is not possible, mitigated in a culturally appropriate way as agreed with affected groups. This ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework is attached in Annex XVI
Emissions from charcoal production cause respiratory illness	Low	The training on bamboo charcoal production will demonstrate practices to avoid exposure to fumes; the project will also promote the use of clean technology that avoids or significantly reduces air emissions causing respiratory health issues. The project will link communities with institutions and schemes who provide support on and/or access to clean technology.

of people exposed to the fumes		
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#### 4.5 CONSISTENCY WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND PLANS

Firstly, the restoration of landscapes in Cameroon, degraded by a combination of human and bio-physical factors is in line with the main sectoral directives and policies of Cameroon: The Economic Emergence Vision 2035; the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP); the Plan for the Acceleration of Economic Growth in Cameroon; and specifically, the Rural Sector Development Strategy (RSDS) are solid foundations for restoration and sustainable management of forests.

The **RSDS is a Framework or Policy Development Document** and therefore the main reference for related land use strategies. This Framework was put in place to address the major problems identified as follows:

- Difficulties in balancing the development of all the main production sectors,
- Land allocation and sub-optimal, unsustainable and inequitable management of land and natural resources
- A business environment unfavorable to the development of rural enterprises; both private companies and family farms.

Indeed, these are the same problems likely to confront landscape restoration efforts in Cameroon. The RSDS pursues an axis of intervention called "the Modernization of Production Apparatuses" which aim to:

- Make available inputs, including land, water and agricultural inputs;
- Promote access to technological innovations through inter alia; strengthening of the research / extension linkages; and to develop the competitiveness of production value chains.

It is expected that this modernization will be achieved through four major structural programs which comprise:

- a) The development of plants, animal, fisheries and forest products,
- b) Improvement and protection of human habitats from natural disasters often caused by extreme weather events,
- c) The sustainable management of all natural resources; and
- d) Continued strengthening and improvement of the institutional framework for managing natural resources

The Landscape restoration approach is therefore in direct support of the RSDS. The Government of Cameroon, through MINFOF, has been taking measures over a number of years to develop and grow innovative methods to enable different types of forests fulfill their functions efficiently (exosystemic: biological, socio-economic, environmental, etc.), to increase their productivity. To achieve these, measures related to forest management, controls, renewal or regeneration of resources, and environmental management, are strengthened through, inter alia, the forestry laws, being revised, (the 2020 Strategy); the Forestry-Environment Sector Program (FESP), the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) and the National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

**The Readiness Preparation Plan (R-PP) and the draft of National REDD+ Strategy (2017)** is following the same integrated vision of rural development and environmental management through reduction in Green House Gas emissions, as envisaged globally for Landscape Restoration. Landscape restoration as a part of the National REDD+ strategy seeks to increase trees and forest resources, and therefore carbon stocks, in degraded landscapes. Furthermore, all the land use activities are to be executed with the full participation and national stakeholders, especially local communities, consistent with the REDD+ strategy.

Component 1 on Sustainable Forest Management in **Cameroon's 2020 Strategy for the Forest and Wildlife sub-sector of MINFOF** actually draws from the 2035 vision of the Head of State for the development of Cameroon. It addresses among other issues: through sub-component 3, regeneration of forests and woodland; and reforestation. It achieves this by first identifying the central problems which are; weak national technical capacities to renew degraded woodlands and forest resources, (including in peri-urban areas); and outlines the relevant drivers of degradation which need to be addressed. The plan thus seeks to specifically promote:

- Reforestation;
- Afforestation: planting of new areas, in particular to limit the advance of desertification; and
- Creation of green zones in and around cities and to regenerate exploited urban forests and woodlands

**The National Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (NPACD)** has been in existence since 2007, developed by the Government of Cameroon through MINEPDED. This identifies the Sudano-Sahelian zone of the country

as the zone most affected by processes of Desertification – an advanced form of land degradation. The Northern and Far North Regions have thus been designated as priority areas for restoration actions.

The overall objective of the NPACD is to reverse desertification / land degradation trends; combat poverty and promote sustainable development. In order to implement the NPACD in these two Regions, MINEPDED has since 2008 been implementing the Sahel-Green Project in the Far North Region and the Bénoué Basin, also in the Northern region.

This plan identifies the level of degradation and areas particularly sensitive to further desertification (continuous degradation of vegetation cover and natural resources). The strategy provides a fairly precise inventory of the causes and effects of the degradation of forest landscapes by agro-ecological zone and some avenues of action have been validated. The NPACD is also aligned with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); Decade Strategy (2008-2018) and was developed to update the 2007 version of the plan.

The **National Biodiversity Strategy and Actions Plans (NBSAP)**, launched in 2012, in its target n°9, states that, by 2020, degraded ecosystems should be rehabilitated and in its target 11, even the restoration of degraded protected areas is inclusive, although this project may not extend to restoration of protected areas, unless in addressing buffer zone priority actions, such is explicitly called upon to benefit from landscape level actions by the project. Cameroon's NBSAP and off-shoot of the CBD to which Cameroon is a due signatory, also has in its Aichi Target 15, a clear requirement for restoration of high value biodiversity habitats.

Though not a priority under this current GEF project, the **National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC)** presents an integrated and multi-sectoral strategy that adds value to this project. This strategy, like the rural development plan, places particular emphasis on the need for coordinated planning of all rural sectors. To promote resilience, it gives priority to regeneration of landscapes through restoration approaches. The plan was adopted in June 2015, on the eve of COP 21 in Paris. It is a national strategy document that aims to support government and stakeholders in their adaptation to climate change. The overall objective of the NAPCC is to strengthen communities' ability to withstand effects of extreme weather events. The plan provides a framework to guide the coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives in Cameroon and activities were designed according to criteria established in consultation with various stakeholders, in each of the five agro-ecological zones.

In brief and more specifically, this project rests solidly on the following provisions:

- a) **The current definition of forests** (2017), which includes all relevant woodlands (0.5 ha and above with 10% canopy cover) thus reaching across all five agro-ecological zones, especially those in regions of high degradation; degradation hazard and restoration opportunity (Far north, Western highlands and Forest Margins)
- b) **The National Environmental Management Plan** (1996) which aims to secure and protect a national network of protected areas, and biodiversity therein and that of their buffer zones;
- c) **The National Forestry Action Plan**, (1995) which promotes opportunities for conservational use of forests, requiring that all forests and tree systems serve a societal purpose, to alleviate poverty in nearby communities such as by promoting the development of underutilized plants and tree species (or NTFPs) through sustainable management; e.g., development of the value chain of underutilized NTFPs (e.g., *Bambusa app*, *Irvingia spp*, etc.,) through sustainable management

#### **4.6 Project alignment with IUCN Program**

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world.

IUCN works under the principle that nature conservation and human progress are not mutually exclusive.

The IUCN 2017-2020 Program highlight the principle that nature conservation and human progress are not mutually exclusive but are implicitly linked together. This explains why the Program focuses on three Thematic:

Areas:

- 1) Valuing and conserving nature;
- 2) Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; and
- 3) Deploying nature-based solution to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development.

The proposed GEF project is aligned to the overall Mission of IUCN Programme’s and especially Programme Area 3, on Nature-based Solutions, which implicitly includes restoration and sustainable forest management. Nature-based solutions are defined by IUCN as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”<sup>56</sup>. This is what the proposed project aims to do under its second component by adopting an integrated approach for mangrove restoration and rehabilitation for an improved sustainable management of production landscapes. The project will contribute in particular to the following sub-results of each of the Programme Areas:

- SR 2.2: Governance at national and sub-national levels related to nature and natural resources is strengthened through the application of the rights-based approach, and incorporation of good governance principles
- SR 3.3: Intact, modified and degraded landscapes, seascapes and watersheds that deliver direct benefits for society are equitably protected, managed and/or restored.

IUCN has a Central and West Africa Program (IUCN PACO) based in Ouagadougou with the Regional Thematic Forest Program based in Yaoundé, Cameroon hosted by Cameroon Country Office. . This project comes under the purview of this Regional Forest Program working in close collaboration with the Cameroon Country Program. The three Pillars of IUCN PACO’s 4years Strategic Plan are: (i) Landscape Restoration (ii) Locally Controlled Forestry and (iii) Slowing the Global Deforestation Rate (including LULUCF and REDD+). This current project aligns very perfectly with the goals of this project which seeks restoration outcomes, sustainable use of NTFPs in locally controlled Community Forests, and Emissions reduction through wood energy substitution with *Bambusa spp* and *Pongamia pinnata*.

#### 4.7 INCREMENTAL COST REASONING (FOR GEF PROJECTS)

The table below present the baseline scenario and the project incremental reasoning per project component.

Table 10 Project Baseline Scenario and Incremental Reasoning

Business as usual scenario	Alternative scenario with GEF resources
<b>Component 1: Policy Development and Integration</b>	
12 Million Ha restoration pledge to the Bonn Challenge is a Political Commitment not yet taken-up in text of forest and environmental policy in Cameroon or leading to tangible, on-the-ground progress on restoration.	Probably the first exercise to begin characterizing and mapping progress with the Bonn Challenge pledge on the ground, by identifying and describing actual physical interventions sites (est. at 6,000 Has), actually coming under restoration
Insufficient technical knowledge about the relationship between ‘interventions’ and ‘restoration’ to facilitate policy support for tracking and monitoring of progress towards the Bonn Challenge target.	
Restoration-type interventions are ongoing in the context of national policy, but lack of technical knowledge of the dimensions of degradation, lack of adequate policies on implementation of restoration on the ground	

<sup>56</sup>Cohen-Shacham, E., Walters, G., Janzen, C. and Maginnis, S. (eds.). 2016. Nature-based Solutions to address global societal challenges. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xiii + 97pp.

<b>Business as usual scenario</b>	<b>Alternative scenario with GEF resources</b>
Restoration is long-term and needs security of tenure to mature especially for women, youth and some indigenous people to get involve	Policy proposals and directives building on practices, by-laws and Conventions describing how vulnerable groups: women, youths, indigenous peoples can be reassured by the law to engage in long-term landscape restoration.
Insufficient knowledge about costs, social context and risks of different restoration interventions, to enable policies to grow necessary incentives to motivate private sector investments in restoration and SFM	Private sector and other investors and innovators posses necessary information, data and asurrances regarding perceived barriers; social risks, costs, enabling policies to motivate them to develop bankable restoration investment plans.
Current policies and texts of application on NTFPs commercialization are not expansive enough to include new products and services of NTFPs like <i>Bambusa spp.</i> , etc. with potential to become commodities	Investors in value chain of new products and sustanable forest management processes like development of <i>Bambusa spp.</i> , are evaluated to be more confident about invest in developing the NTFPs sector
Co-financing: USD 1 400 000	GEF Funds: USD 205 000
<b>Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives</b>	
Insufficient technical skills, and knowledge of the characteristics of degraded portions; and planting materials, to meet an actual restoration intervention target of 6,000 Ha in targetted landscapes of the Far North, Coastal Mangroves in Douala-Edea, Forest Margins in Mbalmayo landscape and Montagne forests.	Restoration intervention opportunity sites making up a minimum of 6,000 Ha are known and the knowledge and skills developed and implemented through training of extension officers, NGOs and CBOs in project intervention sites in Far North, Coastal Mangroves in Douala-Edea, Forest Margins in Mbalmayo landscape and Montagne forests; and progress monitored.  The project will also pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using <i>Bambusa spp</i> and other indigenous NTFP like <i>Irvingia spp</i> , <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> , etc, and ensure the development of value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction
Value chain development for high value <i>Bambusa spp.</i> for the selected Community Forest sites in the South West, Littoral and Centre regions, are undeveloped; and partially understood for some NTFP species. In all cases experiences with NTFPs management are not fully described, documented and information disseminated as “best practices” in sustainable management of Community forests.	Value chain for <i>Bambusa spp.</i> and other relevant NTFPs developed and information made available to individuals, partners and other investors in formats which facilitate bankable business plans. Local actors, innovators and other investors are using knowledge and information to generate revenue for their businesses and families
No charcoal of commercial quality is currently produced in any of the project intervention sites using <i>Bambus spp</i> , or from any other sustainable sources, for that matter. Therefore, and secondly, no estimates of tCO2eq of charcoal from <i>Bambusa spp.</i> or how this type of energy reduce pressure and deforestation in protected areas and other key biodiversity areas due to the need for fuel wood.	Commercial quality charcoal from <i>Bambusa spp</i> and from other NTFPs is produced and marketed corresponding to an estimated tCO2eq of wood from natural forests (to be determined during the implementation of the project); and basic directives are proposed
Co-financing: USD 5 000 000	GEF Funds: USD 622 000
<b>Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Up scaling</b>	
Key mid level State decision-makers and advisory officials; NGOs Executives, Private Sector Operatives in Cameroon are unfamiliar with restoration, especially as it is different	Key mid-level State decision-makers and advisory officials; NGOs Executives, Private Sector Operatives in Cameroon are able to understand restoration; appreciate how to accelerate progress

<b>Business as usual scenario</b>	<b>Alternative scenario with GEF resources</b>
<p>from reforestation, afforestation, Agroforestry, soil fertility management; and therefore, why and how it must be differentiated, and especially why different statutory provisions may be necessary to motivate for profit and non-profit actors and investors.</p> <p>Lack of information and knowledge regarding the potential of species like <i>Bambusa spp.</i> for local economic development, energy substitution, etc. limits their use.</p> <p>Lack of knowledge of opportunities, strategies and possible shared goals inherent in specific restoration interventions and in developing new and enhanced NTFPs like Charcoal, and other products from <i>Bambusa spp.</i> and other species, limits opportunities for co-funding and identification of alternative financing mechanisms.</p>	<p>with meeting Bonn Challenge targets, and support restoration solutions for productivity, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience.</p> <p>Especially, knowledge and understanding of carbon benefits of restoration, and renewable energy (charcoal production) values of <i>Bambusa spp.</i>, will stimulate understanding and participation by these personalities on how to craft/identify innovative financing, such as carbon credits, PES, guarantee funding, etc.</p> <p>To facilitate the implementation of restoration by all stakeholders, IUCN will organize a Training Program with ELTI of the University of Yale develop capacities of Financing Forest Landscape Restoration and ROAM.</p>
<b>Business as usual scenario</b>	<b>Alternative scenario with GEF resources</b>
<p>Insufficient knowledge about costs, social context and risks of different restoration interventions limits private-sector investments in restoration and SFM</p>	<p>Private sector and other investors and innovators possess necessary information, data and assurances regarding perceived barriers; social risks, costs, enabling policies to motivate them to develop bankable restoration investment plans.</p>
Co-financing: USD 1 500 000	GEF Funds: USD 100 000
<b>Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment</b>	
<p>Information on restoration and value chain development is available amongst external stakeholders, but is largely theoretical and not about the Cameroon context.</p> <p>Such lessons can be shared but they are unlikely to be very useful and external partners cannot meaningfully monitor attainment of Bonn challenge targets; or advise on flexibilities necessary for better impacts.</p> <p>Even more importantly, local and national stakeholders within sites or elsewhere in similar sites have no restoration lessons to take-up or scale-out.</p> <p>Finally, strategic partnerships at all level cannot be built without knowledge of the opportunities and challenges.</p>	<p>We will capture information on the effectiveness of utilization of bamboo and other indigenous species in restoration in Cameroon. We will also support the establishment of long-term monitoring systems extending beyond Project scale and lifetime to understand the effectiveness of utilization of bamboo and other indigenous species to facilitate local development, biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration.</p> <p>Under a GEF project scenario, available technical information describing the Cameroonian project context to national and external stakeholders in terms of achievements, opportunities and challenges will be available. Such knowledge will facilitate monitoring of Bonn Challenge progress, contributions to Cameroon's INDC and Aichi/CBD targets. Especially, it will enable potential partners/donors with mutually reinforcing interests with the project to come on-board.</p>
Co-financing: : USD 1222 727	GEF Funds: USD 79 146

Below is the incremental cost matrix that presents confirmed co-financing incremental cost matrix  
Table 11

	Baseline Costs (USD)	Alternative scenario costs	Incremental costs
Component 1	1 400 000	1 605 000	205 000
Component 2	5 000 000	5 622 000	622 000
Component 3	1 500 000	1 600 000	100 000
Component 4	1 222 727	1 301 873	79 146

## 4.8 SUSTAINABILITY

Long-term sustainability of Project results is supported by the following Project design features and approaches:

- *Alignment with national objectives and global goals* – As noted in Section 3.5, this project has been designed to align with national and global goals like the Cameroon Economic Emergence Plan or Vision 2035, the Forest and Environment Sector Program, the National Reforestation Plan, the Operation GREEN Sahel, the REDD+ R-PP, the CBD and it's Aichi targets, etc.
- *Improving the policy environment for investment in FLR*: As mentioned in Component 1, there is dire need to strengthen the current policy environment to support investments in FLR by all actors, especially the private sector.
- *Building in-country capacity to plan, manage and implement FLR*: As highlighted in Outcome 3, this project will build the capacity of Cameroon actors in planning, management and implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration, notably by training and putting in place institutional capacities and financing arrangements to facilitate large-scale landscape restoration and sustainable forest management in the various project sites.
- *Enhancing the resiliency of natural resources* - The overriding objective of TRI and this child project is to facilitate and support the restoration of deforested and degraded landscapes, thereby enhancing the resilience of natural resources upon which livelihoods depend. In this way, Project efforts to develop restoration value chains and other productive investments are underpinned by restorative processes that should, if properly implemented and managed, strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of these same investments.

Specifically, we will focus on the following:

### 4.8.1 Financial and Economic Sustainability

. While restoration interventions are short-term, the direct and indirect benefits are medium to long-term and can occur many km away from actual intervention sites. Furthermore, this project will in the short-term identify and support ongoing and viable restoration initiatives within and across the project intervention sites and to the extent possible capitalize on lessons and experiences. As a result of these characteristics, restoration involves diverse types of interventions; corrective, conservational, protective and productive; for profit, social, economic or financial. Furthermore, restoration in the project intervention sites will involve supporting the activities of numerous stakeholders; women, youths, indigenous populations; innovators, private and public sector. Interventions in the North, Western Highlands, Montagne forests and Forest margins, will evaluate a variety of techniques, approaches, individual species and investments pathways. It is therefore, likely that successful experience with agroforestry (home gardens) providing economic sustainability to women-led households on the forest margins will be replicated in other intervention sites. Evaluation of the contribution of species like *Pongamia pinnata* towards restoring degraded lands holds potentials for financial sustainability and interest to private sector investors as this multipurpose tree species (feedstock, biofuels, etc.) has potentials to become and commodity-crop. The production and distribution of tree seedlings at cost across the restoration sites is also likely to generate important cash flows for the nursery resources centres. Based on the results of the sub national ROAM, identifying appropriate socio-economic opportunities for Agroforestry home gardens, commodity crop development and small nursery business; even where wide-scale restoration for ecosystem services and resilience would become easier.

Under the sustainable forest management work stream, although no sub national ROAM is envisaged, Community Forests already constitute small community enterprises. By supporting the value chains and sustainable management of promising NTFPs, (*Bambusa spp*, etc) this project will strengthen financial and economic aspects of Community Forest Management. Sustainability would then depend on the extent to which these support packages are successful.

Finally, the project intervention logic is both participatory and catalytic. The project aims to deliver at least two financing viable financing/investment models for post-project sustainability involving other partners; and based on shared goals and aspiration. This means the ultimate success in financial and economic sustainability depends to some extent on external factors.

### 4.8.2 Institutional Sustainability

The restoration outcomes of this project are wholly based on supporting the Pledge of the Government of Cameroon to restore 12 Million hectares by 2030. On the other hand sustainable management and conservation of NTFPs through use, especially within Community Forests is part of official SFM policy. Community Forest management conventions between the State and local Associations have a duration of 5 years, renewable. While this project will operate within these two institutional frameworks, it will also build on the institutional sustainability of ongoing projects, being executed by other institutions; local, regional and national; CBOs, NGOs and State Ministries.

Furthermore, this project will invest resources in strengthening the understanding by these stakeholders of the full dimensions of landscape restoration, SFM and commercialization of potentially high value, but underutilized species in Community forests. This aspect of the project will ensure that institutions whose mandate remains indefinite, also possess the relevant knowledge and skills to not only support project activities beyond the lifespan of the project, but to scale up the project and out to new sites, well after the project comes to an end.

#### **4.9 Replication**

One of the key objectives of this project is to generate, capture and disseminate results, lessons learned, experiences and scope of the policy and legislative changes to support policy and behavioral change that will support the use of indigenous species to effectively restore degraded landscapes over a long-term in Cameroon with the participation of key stakeholders (local communities, government, private sector, international organizations, etc.).

Replication and dissemination of the lessons learned in the project will be supported through Component 4 work. More generally, each project output across the sites includes documentation of lessons learned from execution of activities, delivery of results, outcomes, and lessons on the use of restoration and SFM tools and approaches. These will render replication and feedback from these experiences to evaluate how successful each replication attempt has been. Such lessons will be consolidated by the Project Coordinator, ensuring that such synthesis are made accessible to different stakeholder groups, including through the use of social media and other outreach methods. The participatory M&E system of the project will also facilitate the lesson-learning process by involving multiple stakeholders at national and at international levels.

#### **4.10 COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

Systematic capture, generation, management and dissemination of knowledge is a key focus of the Project.

To achieve this objective, the Cameroon Child project is designed to use the IUCN Global Project portal to support dissemination of outputs, connection to the Government and other stakeholders. It will also facilitate connections to the Global TRI Program portal and communities of practice (supported by FAO and UNEP through the TRI Global Child). In other words, the project will this work with the Global Program Component of the TRI to package and disseminate such knowledge using a variety of tools; at national and at international levels. The Network of Community Radios (RERAC) will be use at this end.

The project will also contribute to the generation of harmonized M&E data on the TRI Program by utilizing the templates, tracking tools, and other Programmatic tools and systems for tracking the progress of the Project, in cooperation with the TRI Global Child project.

The project will also use the Forest Landscape Inter-Ministerial Committee as a platform to generate, disseminate and replicate information.

#### **4.11 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS**

In compliance with IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) the project has been screened on the potential of triggering adverse environmental and social risks. The IUCN ESMS Screening Report is included in Annex XVI.

Social and environmental impacts are expected to be largely positive as the ROAM methodology is a tested approach for guiding forest restoration processes, provides for extensive analysis of local biophysical conditions and desired changes of ecosystem functionality and is carried out in iterative steps to identify the most appropriate suite of FLR interventions considering a wide range of restoration strategies. In order to ensure a social fit of these strategies, ROAM is designed with an inclusive and participatory planning and decision-making processes regarding restoration goals, implementation methods, risk management and trade-offs.

Positive social impacts are expected through the ecosystem benefits communities receive from restored landscapes (long-term) as well as through concrete short term benefits through diversification of income opportunities associated with the NTFP value chains promoted by the project.

Despite anticipating overall highly positive environmental and social impacts, there is a need for caution as the application of the ROAM methodology process implies that the restoration interventions will only be decided after having undertaken respective consultation and analysis in each site. In order to ensure that the project activities are compliant with the ESMS, a methodological description of the ROAM process has been provided that ensures adherence to ESMS principles and ESMS standards and includes a “mini-screening” procedure in order to detect potential environmental or social risk issues of proposed interventions (if any). Such ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework is considered equivalent to an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which would usually be required in circumstances where project activities will only be defined during the implementation phase.

The ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework has been drafted as a single standing document and is attached in Annex XVI. It contains two main components, a description of the key ESMS requirements to be adhered to when implementing the ROAM planning process and the establishment of a light ESMS review and management procedures for checking risks of the FLR interventions selected in each project site.

## **4.12 GENDER MAINSTREAMING CONSIDERATIONS**

### **4.12.1 The Gender context and evidence base for gender strategy**

The Cameroon data of the 2014 Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) report, suggests a comparatively high level of property rights discrimination (including access to natural resources) against women, of 0.2803<sup>57</sup>. On paper, and as analyzed by the SIGI, the property rights situation of women in Cameroon is rife with challenges, for instance:

- Despite broad-based improvements to individual and or collective property rights in recent years following the creation of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, considerable ground still needs to be covered to ensure individual landed property titles are systematically acquired by women in their names.
- According to the Civil Status Registration Ordinance (under review), except in few cases where full ownership is acknowledged or proven by legal documents, married women were not fully entitled to dispose of their property on the open market. The law granted the husband the right to administer communal property, based on verbal consultations with the spouse.
- Cameroon’s current credit legislations are under review, partly aimed at diminishing and ultimately eliminate gender discriminatory practices. Although the situation is improving, womenfolk (especially rural women) have traditionally been relatively less favored than men in acquisition of Bank loans. As at six years ago (World Bank, 2011) only 10.9% of women in Cameroon were reported to have accounts in formal financial institutions in their names, compared to 18.8% of men; and 3.4% of women had received loans from financial institutions, compared to 5.5% of men.
- Some men have been known to use an archaic provision whereby under the Civil Status Registration Ordinance, a husband can end a spouses’ business activities by notifying the Clerk of the Commerce Tribunal of his opposition based on the best interest of the family.
- There are no legislated quotas for women’s representation in elective offices at the national or sub-national levels, although some political parties can include voluntary quotas to encourage women’s participation.

The context of women’s property rights to natural resources access and control in Cameroon is cultural and has been entrenched in traditional practices for decades. Such restrictions tend to be strongest in rural areas and amongst less educated populations. Incidentally, rural, less educated members of the population, especially women, are the more dominant grassroots actors in land uses such as Landscape Restoration as part of Sustainable Land Management; and or collection and commercialization of NTFPs as part of Sustainable Forest Management. Cultural practices run deep and are unlikely to be significantly changed, even by public policies in force; during the relatively short lifespan of a project. Even if policies are adopted, time is still required for such policies to change behavior at the rural level, enough to achieve long-lasting positive impacts on the ground. For these reasons, alternative, evidence-based strategies, built on the current spirit of property rights reforms in favor of women; drawing from the legitimacy and scale of women’s roles in natural resources management; and which maximize their collective strengths, while minimizing their individual weaknesses as individuals, wives, widows, etc. are evaluated and will be adopted for the project.

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.genderindex.org/country/cameroon>

In a recent Gender and Landscape diagnostic survey conducted by IUCN PACO's Forest Program in Cameroon (P Mbile et al, *upcoming*), and supported through KNOWFOR and IUCN's Global Gender Office (IUCN-GGO) a number of findings and recommendations for Gender Mainstreaming in landscape restoration in Cameroon emerged. Firstly, the persisting, traditional weaknesses in women's position vis-à-vis access to natural resources were largely confirmed. Nevertheless, and despite these deep-seated fragilities characterizing women's potential roles in landscape restoration and other Sustainable Land Management endeavors, a number of significant Landscape Restoration achievements by women, were observed across the intervention sites of this current GEF project. By demonstrating that rural women, organized in formal and informal associations; and receiving direct technical and logistical support from higher level women's NGOs and Networks, the findings confirm that women themselves recognize their relatively weak position as individual actors; and how as associations women can be effective in Sustainable Land Management. Table 16 below is a snapshot of women's groups involved in successful Landscape Restoration activities in three of the four priority Landscape Restoration sites of this project.

#### **4.12.2 Project' strategy to Mainstream Women's activities.**

With guidance from the IUCN GGO, this GEF project will engage women to seek restoration impacts within intervention sites, based on current knowledge on women's situation vis-à-vis their access and control of natural resources, and based on the evidence gathered in Gender and Restoration diagnostics. Proposed mainstreaming of gender in this project will benefit from IUCN's GGO guidance through a two-pronged approach.

In the first instance and at the level of the project Components, capacity building of relevant actors, provision of logistical support to NGOs, CBOs and farmers will be executed normally, targeting all stakeholders and groups, including women, based on priorities identified through the sub national ROAM, and based on priorities of ongoing initiatives supported by the project. Through strategic partnerships, information, knowledge management, M&E and identification of co-funding women's groups will also be engaged. Similarly, the project will make value chain support accessible to men, women and indigenous groups through Community Forests Management Committees as they have been set-up to function.

In the second instance, this project using IUCN GGO guidance will work at national level with REFADD, (see Stakeholder Analyses) the Women's Network to provide direct support to eligible women's associations and women's common initiative groups active in both the restoration sites and the SFM intervention sites. The existing information on active, women's associations involved in landscape restoration and additional information arising from the sub national ROAM will be used. REFADD working with the Global TRI, in collaboration with the IUCN-GGO and the IUCN-GFCCP will be expected and supported, preferably through co-funding to conduct own analyses of eligible and viable women's groups within the project sites and to recommend appropriate types and levels of supporting.

Existing women's led restoration and value change development activities within the project sites will be given preference by REFADD in parallel, but in coordination with regular capacity building lay-out for local level actors under the different project components.

## **5 INSTITUTIONAL, IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **5.1 Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships**

IUCN is the Implementing Agency for the project while INBAR is designated national executing agency. As Implementing Agency IUCN will assume the overall responsibility for supervising the project, through its Regional Forest Programme (PACO). It will be responsible for providing strategic and technical direction to the project; and for overseeing the achievement of Project outcomes and objectives. The IUCN PACO Forest Programme will work in close technical and strategic relationship with IUCN's Cameroon Program and with the Project Steering Committee. IUCN will support the INBAR and the Project Management Unit, in key technical, strategic and scientific domains and orientations. The Regional Forest Program will also ensure that the results of the Project are upscaled at the regional and Global levels.

Other executing partners on the field include FODER, SAILD, IUCN National Committee members CEW, CWCS, Cam-Eco who are part of Cameroon Mangroves Network. IUCN National Committee Members will be supported by IUCN Commission Members based in Cameroon, notably technical support during strategic meetings, elaboration of the ROAM Assessments, NTFP case studies and value chain development and policy uptake.

**The Project Steering Committee (PSC):** The project will set up a Project Steering Committee to assist in facilitating the project execution in the selected intervention sites in Cameroon. The NPSC will serve in an advisor capacity to guide execution of project activities. Proposed Project Steering Committee members will include high level government representatives (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINREX), key project executing partners INBAR, National Networks (Cameroon Mangrove Network, REDD+ and CC network, Gender Task Force on REDD+ and CC issues), and on ad ad-hoc basis other (major) projects intervening in the selected sites. IUCN will participate as an observer. The Project Steering Committee will meet annually to monitor past progress in project execution, and to review and approve annual work plans and budgets. Some of the tasks of the PSC will include, but not limited to:

- Aligning the Project with national policies;
- Monitoring Project progress and take timely actions to resolve implementation constraints;
- Liaising with different national Project coordination units within the project intervention sites to ensure interventions occur in harmony;
- Receive and review annual substantive and financial reports on project activities;
- Review and approve annual work plans;
- Ensure assessment of monitoring and evaluation reports of project activities.

The PSC will execute its tasks through technical and strategic backstopping from IUCN, charged with overall project implementation. The PSC which will be managed through a Chairperson and a Rapporteur, will achieve its mission by directly supervising and overseeing the work of the National Executing Agency – INBAR and the project management unit.



up to the contract with IUCN, INBAR will sign a contract with the other field executing partners who will work in their respective area of expertise and intervention site, in consultation with INBAR (who will also work in all sites where bamboo is prioritized) and the Project Management Unit. These other executing partners on the ground are: CWCS (who is leading the Cameroon Mangroves Network), CEW (who is leading the IUCN Cameroon National Committee Members) and FODER. These organization and networks are providing co-financing for this project.

**The Project Management Unit (PMU)** will report to the Executing Agency and PSC. It will be in charge of daily operations of the project and effectively coordinate project implementation following approved work plans. This unit will work in close collaboration with MINFOF, MINEPDED, and other executing partners. The PMU is managed by a National Project Coordinator who coordinates a project team recruited and set up (jointly by IUCN and INBAR). The PMU is also responsible of leveraging site experiences relevant to project outputs through flexible activities; learning lessons on which to capitalize, spotting funding opportunities and other co-financing options; development of periodic work plans and making reports available to INBAR and to the NPSC on time. It will ensure close coordination and harmonization with other on-going projects, especially ensuring information exchange and coordination within the context of the development activities. In order to ensure appropriate implementation and monitoring of the project; especially alignment with the GEF Focal Areas of the project.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) which is recruited and supervised by the INBAR, with non-objection from the Implementing Agency (IUCN), will consist of one (01) staff- i.e. the National Project Coordinator. The immediate technical responsibilities of the PMU will consist of:

- Management of technical backstopping inputs by IUCN and other staff
- Ensure systematic collection of data for monitoring of relevant activities as required by the global Program
- Implementation of the ESMS review and risk management tasks outlined in the ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework
- Develop and ensure production of national level communication of the project achievements;
- Ensure regular reporting of the project activities;
- Ensure fluid internal communications between the field executing entities;
- Consolidation of national work plans and budget from relevant partners and entities across intervention sites
- Preparation of the annual (if required quarterly) work plan and budgets;

Administrative, accounting, financial responsibilities arrangements will be finalized with IUCN prior to any disbursement. These will include, though not limited to:

- Assessment of the financial management system with a timetable for any improvements required;
- Agreement with Project on financial and accounting standards;
- Control and management of project budget and expenditures;
- Management of sub-contracts to NGOs and CSOs;
- Procurement of equipment as IUCN's procedures required;
- Periodic financial reporting to IUCN as required;
- Audit arrangements, to ensure independent audits will be undertaken on an annual basis according to standard Implementing Agency requirements;
- Approvals of procurement Plans, submission and reception of No Objection requests based on standard disbursement procedures and best practices;
- Fulfillment of all administrative reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements and procedures as required by the implementing agencies;
- In case of services required, preparation of bid document according to IUCN procedures;
- Administration of local contracts

However consultants will be recruited to facilitate the implementation of some technical, administrative/financial and logical activities (e.g. monitoring and evaluation, etc.).

## **5.2 Institutional linkages with TRI Program**

The TRI Program will be strengthened by the establishment and operation of a TRI Program Advisory Committee (PAC), supported by the TRI Global Child. The PAC will be comprised of representatives from the three TRI Partner Agencies, the GEF, as well as representatives from some or all of the TRI countries (TBD), and relevant external experts. The PAC will provide oversight and recommendations over the course of TRI implementation, to capitalize on emerging opportunities, facilitate linkages to existing and relevant restoration initiatives, and provide recommendations to address any implementation bottlenecks as they arise.

Recommendations provided by the PAC are of an advisory nature only – TRI child projects are not bound to follow the advice of the PAC. However, experience has demonstrated the value that an advisory body, with substantial expertise and experience and a unique vantage point and perspective, can bring to a program. It is therefore anticipated that TRI Child projects will incorporate recommendations of the PAC into their work plans and operations.

Specific functions of the PAC shall include:

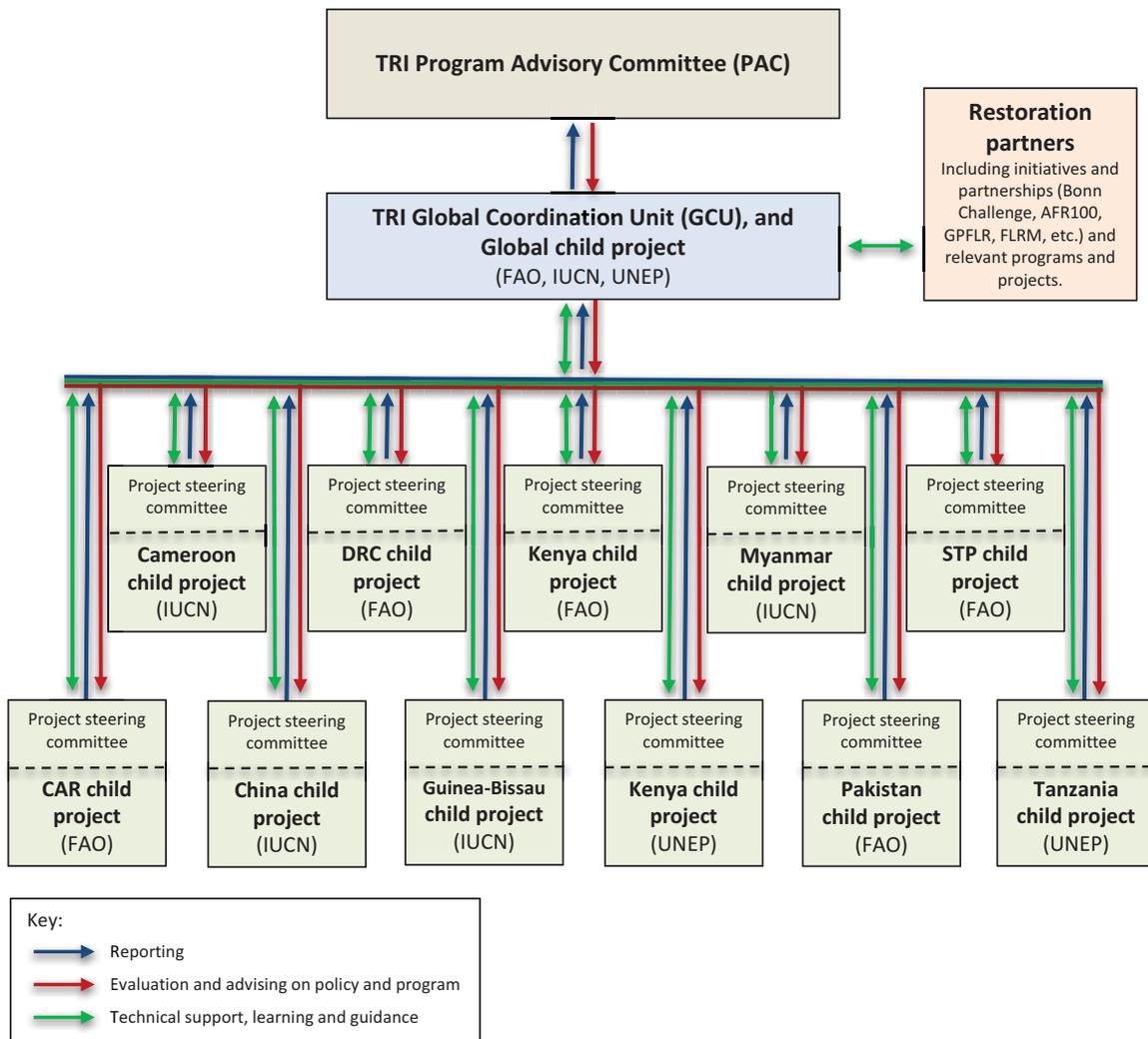
- Provide overall strategic policy and management direction to the Program and Child projects;
- Review progress of previously agreed Program work plans;
- Review key milestones and points for review;
- Discuss process forward, and any proposed changes to plans and main activities;
- Facilitate linkages between the TRI Program and other relevant FLR initiatives where appropriate;
- Provide technical and substantive input to the TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing workshop where appropriate.

The TRI Program will also be strengthened by the establishment and operation of a TRI Global Coordination Unit (GCU), housed within the Global Child project. Specific functions of the GCU shall include:

- Lead the focus on optimizing integration and capture of synergies among child projects;
- Develop and implement a TRI Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System for the TRI Program with effective linkages to all 12 child projects, based on the TRI Theory of Change, the results matrices in the project documents of all 12 TRI child projects, the TRI M&E Framework, as well as additional monitoring elements that may be required to achieve value for money assessments and other desired assessments, to ensure the systematic monitoring of the implementation of the TRI Program;
- Develop and implement a TRI Global Communications and Outreach Strategy supporting achievement of TRI communications objectives;
- Develop and implement a TRI Partnership Strategy supporting effective engagement and partnership with external programs, projects, institutions, and potential donors/investors, that help foster achievement of TRI objectives, both at the Program- and child project-levels, and participation in appropriate external fora on behalf of the TRI Program;
- Organize and participate in monthly working group meetings with TRI child project managers;
- Organize and participate in biannual meetings of the Program Advisory Committee;
- Provision of secretarial services to the Program Advisory Committee;
- Preparation of biannual Program Progress Reports for the Program Advisory Committee;
- Coordinate adequate response to all specific issues and concerns raised by the Program Advisory Committee.

Figure 1 shows the institutional structure and reporting linkages between TRI program constituents. Note that Child project reporting to the GCU will be largely identical to the bi-annual Project Progress Reports and annual PIRs submitted, respectively, to Implementing Agencies and the GEF. Therefore, additional reporting by Child projects to the GCU is not anticipated, except in the case of other studies on TRI Program efficacy, such as Value for Money studies, that this Child project may be asked to participate in during the final years of TRI implementation.

Figure 1. TRI Program institutional structure.



### 5.3 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES AND PLAN

A detailed procurement plan is attached in Annex 3.

Procurement will be carried out in accordance with the Policy and Procedure on Procurement of Goods and Services of IUCN of November 2011. This policy aims at ensuring that executing agencies obtain value for money in all procurement activities and that procurement is conducted in an efficient and cost-effective manner that respects sustainability, the environment and ethical principles. It therefore sets the procurement method depending on the value of Goods or Services, and includes the level of delegation of authority. The following defines procurement categories, methods and thresholds.

**Procurement of civil works:** No civil works are expected to be procured under this project.

**Procurement of Goods:** “Goods” includes commodities, raw material, machinery, equipment and vehicles. All procurement of goods shall be carried out in accordance with the IUCN procurement policy (see procurement methods and thresholds in Table 17 below).

**Procurement of non-consulting services:** Non-consulting services for which the physical aspects of the activity predominate, are submitted to a bid and contracted on the basis of performance of a measurable physical output, and for which performance standards can be clearly identified and consistently applied, such as drilling, aerial photography, satellite imagery, mapping, and similar operations. Procurement of non-consulting services will be conducted in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Guidelines (see procurement methods and thresholds in Table 17 below on Goods, Works and Non-consulting services).

The use of civil servants as individual consultants or as a team member of Consultants firms will strictly follow the provisions of the IUCN Consultant Guidelines.

Goods and non-consulting services shall be procured under contracts awarded on the basis of “International Competitive Bidding”. However, “Shopping”, is another method, other than International Competitive Bidding, that may also be used for procurement of goods and non-consulting services for those contracts specified in the Joint Procurement Plan

Table 8. Project baseline scenario and incremental reasoning

	Description	Procurement Methods	Threshold US\$	Prior review
1	Works	No Works will be Financed	No Works will be Financed	No Works will be Financed
2	Goods and non-Consultant services	Quality, track-record and cost-based selection		All

**Selection of Consultants:** Consulting services foreseen will be procured with the most appropriate procurement method allowed by the World Bank Guidelines and included in the Joint Procurement Plan approved by the World Bank : (a) Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS); (b) Least Cost Selection (LCS); (c) Selection under a Fixed Budget (FBS); (d) Selection based on the Consultant’s Qualification (CQ) for the selection of firm for contract estimated to cost less than US\$200,000; (e) Single Source (SS) Selection of consulting firms shall be used with the World Bank’s agreement for services in accordance with paragraphs 3.10 to 3.12 of the Guidelines.

Terms of reference will be subject to the World Bank review. Short lists of consultants for services estimated to cost less than US\$200,000 equivalent per contract may be composed entirely of national consultants in accordance with the provisions of the IUCN Consultant Guidelines.

Consultant services meeting the requirements of the consultant guidelines will be selected under the provisions for the Selection of Individual Consultants through the comparison of the curriculum vitae of at least three qualified individuals, and Single-source procedures for the Selection of Individual Consultants (see procurement methods and thresholds below in Table 18 on Selection of Consultants).

Table 9. Selection process for Consultants

Description	Procurement methods	Threshold (US\$)	Prior review
Consulting Firms	QCBS; QBS; LCS; LBS	≥ 200.000	All
	CQ	<200.000	All
	SSS	No threshold	All
Individual Consultants	IC (Advertisement)	≥ 100.000	All
	IC (Three CVs)	< 100.000	All
	SSS	No threshold	First contract and then all contracts estimated above the equivalent of 5,000 US\$
<b>All TORs are submitted for prior review</b>			

QCBS: Quality and Cost Based Selection; QBS: Quality Based Selection; LCS: Least Cost Selection; LBS: Limited Budget Selection; CQ: Consultant Qualifications; IC: Individual Consultant; SSS: Single-source

The procurement plan for good, non-consultant services and consultant services is provided in Annex VI.

## 6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

### 6.1 Stakeholder Contribution to the Project Design Phase

The project preparation followed a participatory approach, reflecting the aspirations, plans and aptitudes of the stakeholders in relation to their expected participation throughout the project, in the different relevant activities and especially after the project comes to an end.

Engagement during project conception included consultations with the Government of Cameroon through its GEF Focal Points; the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED). These two Ministries co-signed Cameroon's pledge to the Bonn Challenge, and are co-implementers of Cameroon's Forest and Environment Sector Programme, the FESP. The FESP defines the NFAP (1995), the NEMP (1996) and significantly contributes to the National REDD+ Strategy (2017), implemented by MINEPDED. These Institutional and Policy Frameworks defines Restoration programmes, Biodiversity Conservation Programmes, Climate Change Mitigation (and Adaptation frameworks); all implemented to provided revenue for the State and Livelihoods support to communities through Sustainable forest Management and Sustainable Land Management. The Project has also engaged with the Ministry of External Relations (MINREX) through the INBAR Focal Point hosted by that Ministry, from the outset of the project.

In addition to stakeholders from the Government consultations were also carried out with the Project Executing Agency, INBAR, and technical partners like FAO, ICRAF, FODER, private sector syndicates and individual resource persons. Field visits were organized in order to consult a wide range of relevant stakeholders in the sites selected for field intervention such as regional, national NGOs, CBOs and local communities in the respective four pilot sites and to generate baseline data. The consolidated field consultation report which is attached in Annex XIII provides details on these consultations including a complete list of actors consulted.

Relevant stakeholders were convened in Yaounde for an Inception workshop on April 28, 2017 to engage them in the design process of the project and for a final Validation Workshops on July 18, 2017 to validate the various components, outcomes, outputs, activities and sites of the Project.

### 6.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

A preliminary stakeholders engagement plan is presented in table 10. The table describes the roles the stakeholder will assume under three key action areas representing the expected project outcomes:

- Decision Making and Strategic direction
- Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change
- Information, Communication and knowledge management

The table further indicates whether discussions were held during the PPG stage. Further details on these discussions are presented in the consolidated field consultation report presented in Annex XIII. It is important to note that a key element of the project's stakeholder engagement strategy will be the ROAM process carried out at

the beginning of the project for identifying and prioritizing restoration opportunities in each site. Based on the outcomes of this process the engagement strategy will be further concretized.

Table 10 Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan

<b>Stakeholder Engagement during Project Implementation</b>			
Stakeholder	Role in project or other forms of engagement	Description of the stakeholder	Discussions held during PPG
MINFOF	Decision Making and Strategic direction.	Ministry in Charge of Forestry and Wildlife. Overall supervision of Project implementation the this project	Yes
MINEPDED	Decision Making and Strategic direction	Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development. Host the GEF Operational Focal Point	Yes
MINREX	Information sharing and networking	Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon	Yes
ANAFOR	Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change: Germplasm Delivery and Technical Capacity Building of Stakeholders.	Government organisation responsible for forest plantations	Yes (through MINFOF) the parent Ministry
Plateforme REDD	Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change: Participation in developing renewable energy sources (e.g., cookstoves, Bamboo charcoal, etc)	Decentralised Civil Society Organisations responsible for advocacy in REDD+ implementation	Yes
CN COMIFAC	Information, Communication and knowledge management	Cameroon Chapter of the Central African Forest Commission that is responsible for Regional Coordination in the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa	Yes
FAO	Information, Communication and knowledge management : Knowledge sharing on value chain development for small and medium scale forest enterprises based on NTFPs	The Food and Agricultural Organisation. Member of the Global TREE Project	Yes
AfDB Cameroon	Co-funding for upscaling of pilot activities	African Development Bank. A donor	No
REFADD Cameroon (Network of African Women for Sustainable Development)	Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change : Maintreaming gender in project activities, especially support to women's associations involved in restoration activities, renewable energy and NTFPs value chain development	In charge of empowering women in the sustainable management of forests in Africa	Yes

INBAR (Banboo and Rattan)	As Executing Agency, will be involvd in al three: Decision Making and Strategic direction; Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change and Information, Communication and knowledge management; including specifically, Capacity building on Bamboo related activities.	The Executing Agency of this Project.	Yes
SNV (Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers – “foundation of Dutch volunteers” Dutch Development Organization)	Information, Communication and knowledge management: Will deliver capacity building products on NTFP value chain development: Enterprise development, group dynamics, market information systems, and networking	Will support in the implementation of the project, notably INBAR	Yes
UNDP	Experience sharing	A partner GEF Implementing Agency	Yes
National CSOs such as Forestry Network	Information, Communication and knowledge management, Policy advocacy support.	Technical advise to community forests committees in Cameroon	Yes
CBOs such as MBOSCUDA, CAFER, CADEPI, GIC Djam	Executing restoration activities, generating information and participation in value chain development of NTFPs.	Indigenous network and CSO organisations responsible for supporting local and indigenous populations in the implementation of the project	Yes
FODER	Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change; and Information, Communication and knowledge Management, in relation to restoration and sustainable forest management on the Forest Margins and humid high forest zones of sustainable forest management and value chain development of Bamboo.	Field implementaiton Agency	Yes
Members of IUCN, IUCN Commission Members National Committee (CEW, CAFER, SAILD, CIPRE, , COMECO, CEDC	Monitoring Actions and Behaviour change; and Information, Communication and knowledge Management, with focus on Lobbying and advocacy for policy uptake. Liaison with CBOs invlved in project, participation in meetings, ROAM and studies	CEW is one of the Field Implementation Agency	Yes for (CSO, Members of IUCN like CEW)

Handicraft Centers within Project Intervention Sites	Training ground on value-addition to Bamboo		Yes
Forest Products Syndicates	Support to relevant policies reviews to support value chain development of NTFPs.	Platforms to advocate for sustainable management of Forests Projects to facilitate development	Yes
PEW and The Network of Community Radios (RERAC)	By working with the Information, Communications and Knowledge Management Units, will provide Knowledge Management Support with potential to be cross-cutting to benefit project intervention sites.	Network of rural Communicator (Radio Environment, community radios, etc.)	Yes
REPALEAC Cameroon (Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa)	Will facilitate in the implementation of IP activities and consultations	Indigenous network responsible to support indigenous communities in the implementation of the project	Yes
Community Forest Management Committees and local farmers/tree growers	Will assist in the implementation of the project in rural communities and Community Forests	Supports Community Forests in Cameroon	Yes
Wood processing companies	Will assist communities and other stakeholders to process and commercialised final products	Private sector's engagement is very important in acquiring new and cost efficient processing technology.	No, but discussed in validation workshop

## 7- Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

The following narrative of the Cameroon TRI Child Project M&E supports the Monitoring and Evaluating Framework in Annex I. The following narrative describes steps taken during the development of the Project Documents to include monitoring activities throughout the life of the implementation of the project until its completion.

### (a) Project Inception and Launching

An inception workshop will be organized by IUCN at the project outset to ensure that all stakeholders take ownership of the project. The inception mission will be an opportunity to:

- Orient project stakeholders towards the project's intervention logic and discuss any changes in the overall context which are likely to influence the project's implementation;
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project teams, including reporting, lines of communication and conflict resolution mechanisms;
- Review the results framework and finalize the indicators, means of verification and monitoring plan;

- Discuss reporting, and participation in monitoring and evaluation; identifying national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discussing the roles of the GEF OFP in M&E; overall roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, and finalize the M&E budget;
- Update and review responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk log; Environmental and Social Management Plan and other safeguard requirements; the gender strategy; the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies;
- Review financial reporting procedures and mandatory requirements, and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit; and
- Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first year annual work plan.

The Project Coordinator will prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. The inception report will be cleared by IUCN and the GEF, and will be approved by the Project Board.

**(b) Every three months (Quarterly)**

- Based on the initial risk analysis submitted, the risk log shall be regularly updated in IUCN information system. Risks become critical when the impact and probability are high. Note that for GEF projects, all financial risks associated with financial instruments such as revolving funds, microfinance schemes, or capitalization of value chain actors are automatically classified as critical on the basis of their innovative nature (high impact and uncertainty due to no previous experience justifies classification as critical).
- Based on the information recorded in IUCN information system, a Project Progress Report can be generated in the Executive Snapshot.

**(c) Every Year (Annually)**

Annual Project Review (APR): This key report is prepared to monitor progress made since project start-up and in particular to cover the previous reporting period. The APR combines both IUCN and GEF reporting requirements and use data collected using the project M&E and GEF Tracking Tools.

The APR includes, but is not limited to reporting on the following:

- Progress made toward project objective and project outcomes — evaluated against the indicators and building on baseline data and end-of-project targets (cumulative)
- Project outputs delivered per project outcome (annual).
- Lesson learned/good practice.
- Expenditure reports
- Risk and adaptive management
- IUCN information system
- Portfolio level indicators (i.e. GEF focal area tracking tools) are used by most focal areas on an annual basis as well.

## 8- Project Financing and Budget

The overall project budget comprises the following items

- 1- Implementing Agency: 119 354
- 2- Activity Budget: 1 326 146

Component 1: Policy Development and Integration: **255 000 USD**

Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives: **732 000 USD**

Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Up scaling: **119 000 USD**

Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment: **99 507**



Microsoft Excel  
Worksheet

# ANNEXES

Annex 1: Project Work Plan and Time Table

Task	Responsible Party	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5							
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																				
<b>Component 1: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives</b>																									
<b>Outcome 1: Strengthened policy commitment and improved legislative and regulatory frameworks supporting forest landscape restoration and sustainable land and forest management</b>																									
Output 1.1: High-priority restoration opportunities and interventions identified in 4 pilot landscapes through facilitated participatory ROAM processes.																									
Output 1.2: Policies and plans that support or hinder restoration of degraded lands using indigenous plants <i>Bambusa spp</i> , <i>Irvingia spp</i> and <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i> , etc. reviewed and compiled in a report																									
Output 1.3 Uptake and integration of policy recommendations from ROAM assessments, published report on use of indigenous plants to support restoration, and other briefs and case studies facilitated																									
<b>Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives</b>																									
<b>Outcome 2: Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using <i>Bambusa spp</i> and other indigenous NTFP like <i>Irvingia spp</i>, <i>Ricinodendron heudelotii</i>, etc. and ensure the development of value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction</b>																									
Output 2.1. Degraded landscapes under restoration with collaboration of stakeholders																									
Output 2.2. Value chains development and enhancement of priority NTFPs like Bamboo <i>Irvingia</i>																									





## Annex II: Description of Project Budget

The overall project budget is:

- Implementing Agency Fee: USD; 119 354
- Activities Budget: USD. 1 326 146
- Component 1: Policy Development and Integration: **255 000 USD**
- Component 2: Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives: **732 000 USD**
- Component 3: Institutions, Finance and Up scaling: **119 000 USD**
- Component 4: Knowledge, Partnerships, Monitoring and Assessment: **99 507**

The summary of the activities' budget is presented below. The budget details are provided in appendix



Microsoft Excel  
Worksheet

**Annex III: Procurement Plan<sup>58</sup>**



GEF TRI Cameroon  
Procurement Plan 2:

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<sup>58</sup> This procurement plan has been established following the IUCN guidelines available at : [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/procurement\\_policy\\_and\\_procedure\\_v\\_1\\_2\\_october\\_2015.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/procurement_policy_and_procedure_v_1_2_october_2015.pdf)

**Annex IV: GEF Tracking Tools (also see separate file)**



**Annex V: Population distribution by region in Cameroon.**

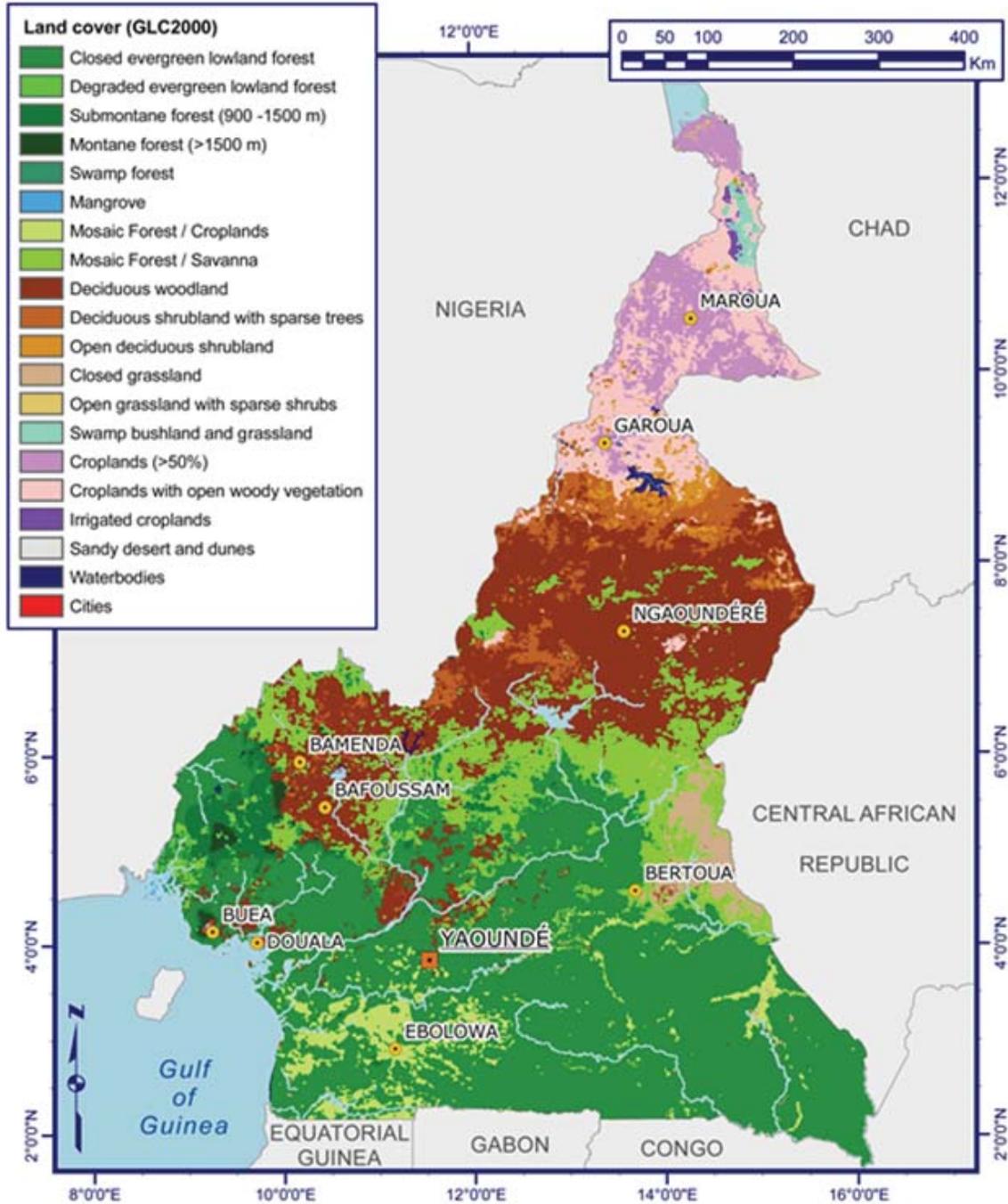
Région	Population		Superficie		Densité de population (habitants/Km <sup>2</sup> )
	Effectif	%	Valeur (km <sup>2</sup> )	%	
Adamaoua	884 289	5,1	63 701	13,7	13,9
Centre	3 098 044	17,7	68 953	14,8	44,9
Est	771 755	4,4	109 002	23,4	7,1
Extrême-Nord	3 111 792	17,8	34 263	7,4	90,8
Littoral	2 510 263	14,4	20 248	4,3	124,0
Nord	1 687 959	9,7	66 090	14,2	25,5
Nord-Ouest	1 728 953	9,9	17 300	3,7	99,9
Ouest	1 720 047	9,9	13 892	3,0	123,8
Sud	634 655	3,6	47 191	10,1	13,4
Sud-Ouest	1 316 079	7,5	25 410	5,4	51,8
Cameroun	17 463 836	100,0	466 050*	100,0	37,5

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2005 (reported in 2010)

**Annex VI: Changes in Population density from 1976 – 2005.**

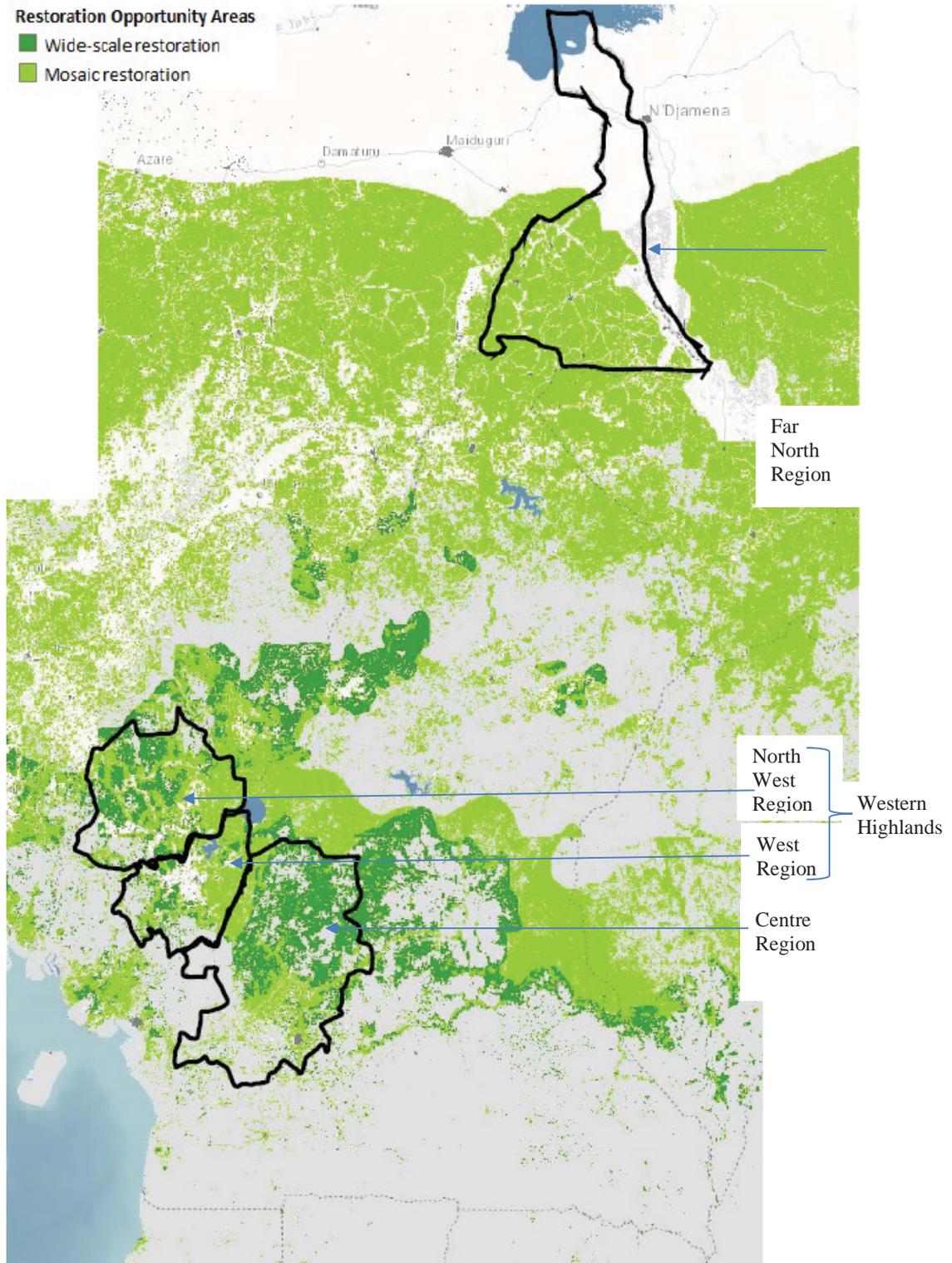
Région	Evolution de la densité de population (habitants/Km <sup>2</sup> )			Pourcentage croissance 1976 à 2005
	1976	1987	2005	
Adamaoua	5,6	7,8	13,9	248
Centre	17,1	24	44,9	263
Est	3,4	4,7	7,1	209
Extrême-Nord	40,7	54,2	90,8	223
Littoral	46,2	66,8	124	268
Nord	7,3	12,6	25,5	349
Nord-Ouest	56,7	71,5	99,9	176
Ouest	74,5	96,4	123,8	166
Sud	6,7	7,9	13,4	200
Sud-Ouest	24,4	33	51,8	212
Cameroun	16,4	22,5	37,5	229

Source: Population and Housing Census, 2005 (reported in 2010)

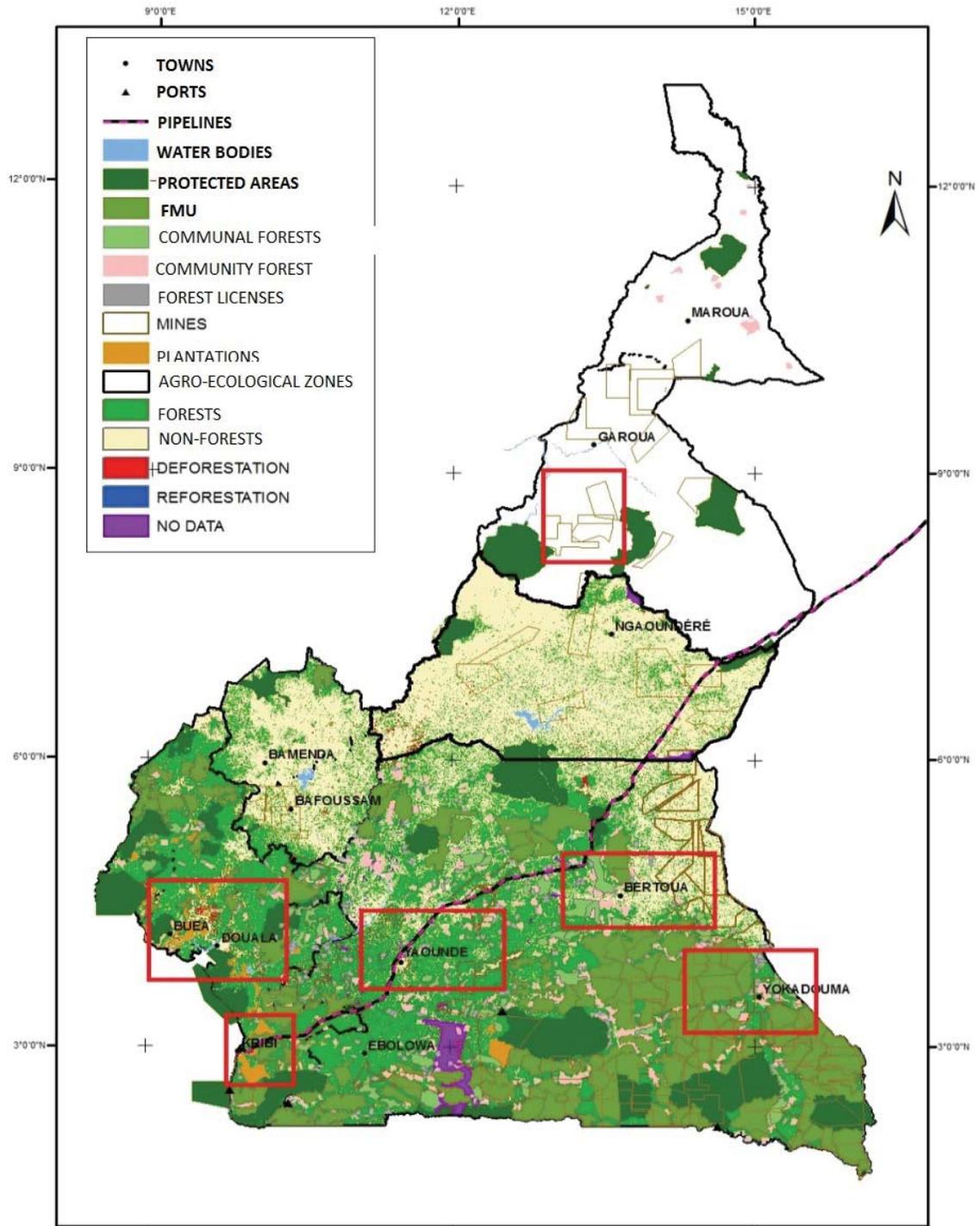


Data sources:  
 - Vegetation cover: GLC2000 (EU Joint Research Centre, 2003)  
 - Cameroon administrative boundaries, hydrology, settlements, and coastline: Interactive Forestry Atlas of Cameroon, Version 2 (Cameroon Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife / World Resources Institute, 2007).

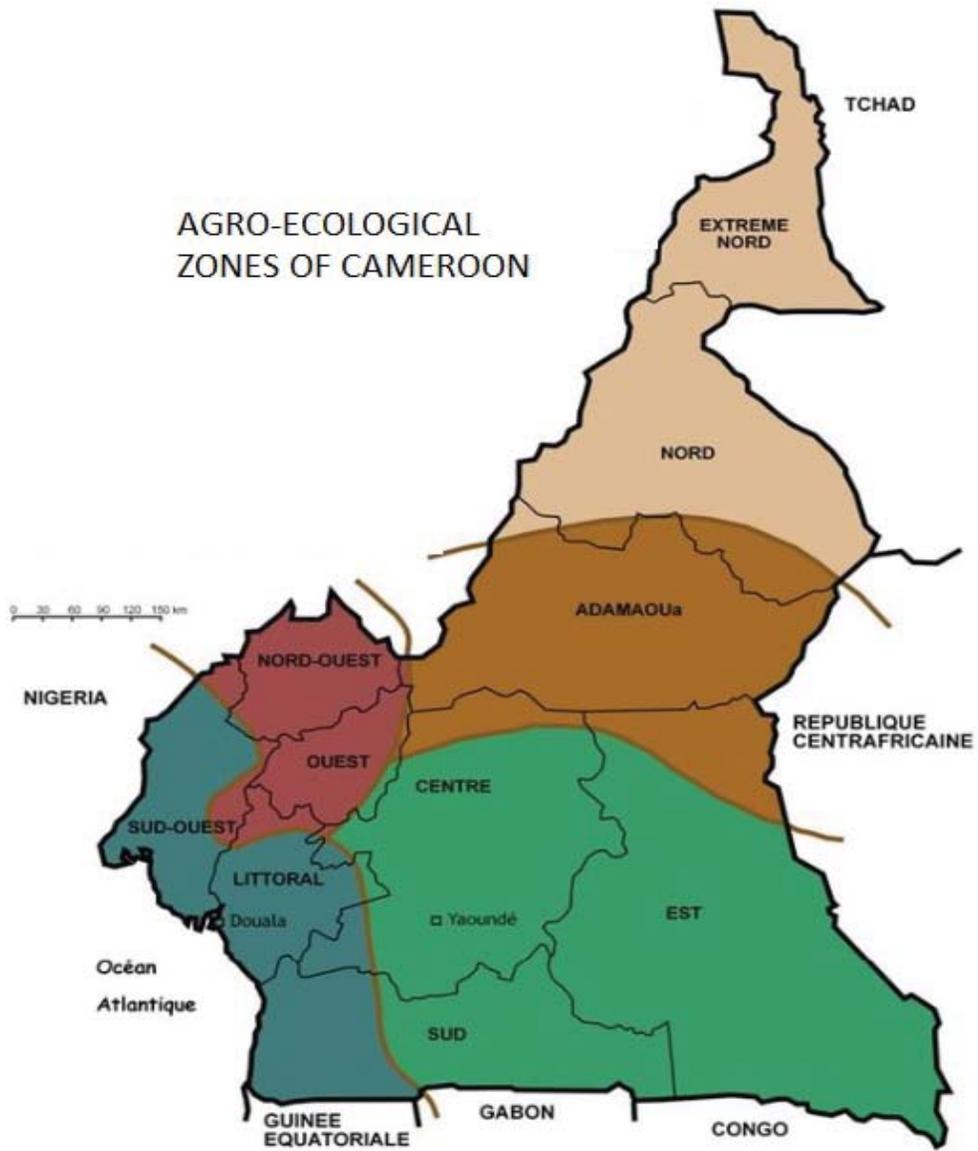
## Annex VII: Land Cover Map of Cameroon



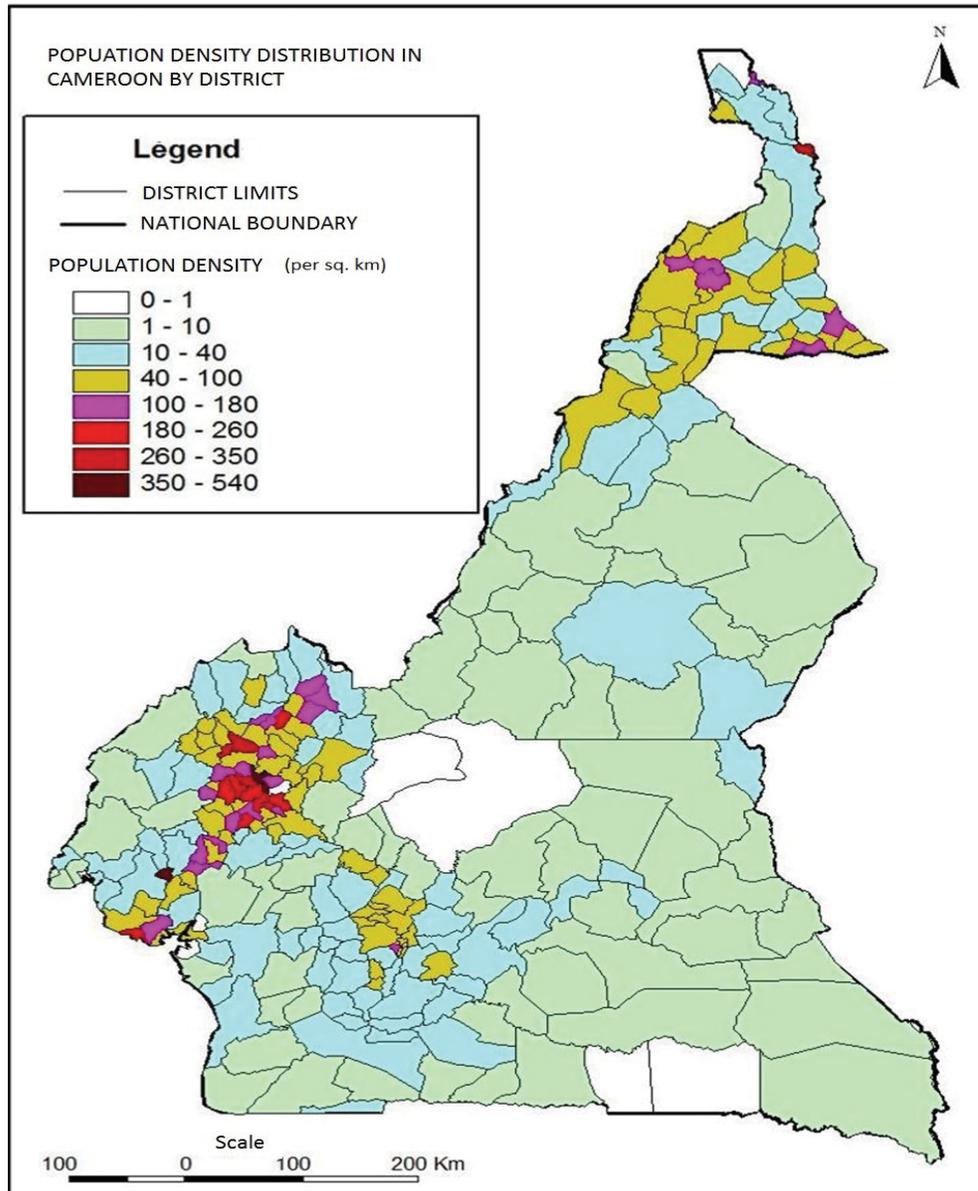
Annex VIII: Restoration Opportunities Assessment of Cameroon (GIZ, 2016)



Annex VIX: Land Use Allocation in Cameroon IUCN



## Annex X: Agro Ecological Zones of Cameroon



Annex XI: Population distribution by Regions in Cameroon



## Terms of Reference for the development of Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) capacity building and planning activities

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) focuses on strengthening the resilience of landscapes and creating options to adjust and optimize the type and flow of ecosystem services as societal needs change, or new challenges arise. Applying the FLR/ROAM process means that it is not possible at the project design stage to flesh out all project activities as these will be decided after having undertaken consultations and analyses at each site. The strength of the FLR approach is that the restoration strategies are locally designed together with relevant stakeholders and developed through a combination of advanced ecological technical expertise, situation analysis and understanding of local interests (across scales and sectors).

### FLR Principles

For the Project, the following FLR principles will be applied:

Maintain a **broad focus** on multiple benefits, multiple methods, and diverse and changing site conditions, with attention to:

1. **Landscape.** Restoring entire landscapes as opposed to individual sites. This typically entails balancing a mosaic of interdependent land uses across the landscape, such as protected areas, ecological corridors, sustainably managed forests, agroforestry, agriculture, plantations and riparian strips to protect waterways.
2. **Human well-being and equity.** Restoring entire landscapes generates opportunities to improve and equitably share the benefits that come from increasing the flow of desired ecosystem services, thereby improving human well-being.
3. **Stakeholder involvement.** Engage stakeholders in an inclusive and participatory planning and decision-making processes regarding restoration goals, implementation methods, risk management and trade-offs.
4. Restoring **ecosystem functionality.** Restore natural capital and ecological processes that underpin ecosystem functionality, thereby generating improved flows of ecosystem services. For example, restoring habitats, improving species and genetic diversity, restoring predator-prey relationships, restoring hydrological and natural disturbance (fire, flood) processes.
5. Generating improved flows of **ecosystem services.** Create an improved flow of ecosystem services, that have been identified as important during stakeholder consultation and planning processes, by:
  - a. **Applying a suite of strategies.** Use a wide range of technical strategies for restoring trees on the landscape, ranging from natural regeneration to tree planting.
  - b. **Tailoring interventions to local conditions.** Adapt restoration strategies to fit local social, economic and ecological contexts; there is no “one size fits all”.
  - c. **Addressing pressures** that cause adverse changes to ecosystem functionality, ecosystem services or human well-being.
  - d. **Adaptively managing forest landscapes.** Adjust the restoration strategy over time as environmental conditions, human knowledge and societal values change. Use lessons from monitoring and evaluation to adjust forest management and the flow of benefits to people.

### The FLR planning process

The FLR process involves operating at different scales, from national to local. This requires a multi-layer and iterative planning process. For example, national policy and plans set the overall framework for FLR, provincial and city plans provide more refined strategy and opportunities to link local FLR plans. Local FLR plans identify local stakeholders, opportunities and risk and detailed FLR interventions.

The iterative FLR planning process is designed to ensure that national and sub-national needs for ecosystem services (e.g. catchment protection, biodiversity conservation, timber, climate change mitigation) are considered at local level when planning restoration and local level needs for ecosystem services (e.g. fuelwood, NTFPS, water) are determined by the people most affected by changes in forest functionality.

The **planning process** at the local level will involve the following steps:

1. **Inspiring people:** raising awareness, mobilizing communities, and stakeholders to participate, identifying partners, facilitating the formation of consultative planning groups (ensuring inclusiveness).
2. **Clarifying use rights.** Before any FLR interventions can be contemplated, it is important to work with local people to develop a shared understanding of land, forest, and tree use rights. Through this process grievances may be identified, recognized and where possible managed. The involvement of different government departments is important at this stage. FLR interventions should protect the needs of vulnerable groups and avoid creating inequity.
3. **Undertaking a comprehensive, integrated situation analysis.** The purpose of the situation analysis is to identify the priority issues for FLR engagement at each location. This is important as there is usually great variation between sites in terms of bio-physical and socio-economic conditions and interest in ecosystem services. The situation analysis should be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding. The integrated FLR situation analyses include:
  - a. *State and trend of natural resources* (forests, water, agriculture, soil, meadows, fishery etc.). Drivers and pressures of environmental change.
  - b. *The current flow and trend of ecosystem services* (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.).
  - c. *The benefits and costs* of these flows to different social groups (including gender, age and wealth-disaggregated information)
  - d. *An assessment of needs* for ecosystem services and how these will affect development needs (gender disaggregated). This aspect should identify the various (and potentially competing) needs of stakeholders for different ecosystem services from the landscape, what deficits they suffer, and what opportunities there are to remedy these through FLR. For example; at local level firewood and clean water may be in short supply and the supply situation deteriorating; at national/provincial level water catchment may be of key interest. That is, the needs for ecosystem services should be disaggregated by gender, wealth, and location (e.g. local needs versus national needs).
  - e. *An identification of priority issues for FLR engagement.* Based on the above analysis the stakeholders should be able to clarify local development opportunities and goals, ecosystem service needs and potential conflicts, pressures on and threats to forest landscapes, equity in terms of benefits and costs etc.
4. **Co-develop FLR plans.** Inclusive participatory planning and negotiation processes, that consider the local context, that lead to agreement on a suite of FLR interventions, that:
  - a. Are locally-appropriate to bio-physical and socio-economic conditions
  - b. Deliver desired changes to ecosystem functionality
  - c. Generate needed ecosystem services
  - d. Achieve equitable sharing of costs and benefits and improve human well-being
  - e. Are within the risk appetite of stakeholders (the risk that stakeholders are prepared to accept in pursuit of FLR objectives)

This involves:

- a. A wide range of technical strategies for restoring trees on the landscape such as natural regeneration, enrichment planting, seeding, plantation establishment, agroforestry, silvicultural treatments, depending on local bio-physical and socio-economic conditions
- b. A variety of management approaches from locally- to nationally-managed forests;

- c. A range of economic interventions, such as local enterprise development and eco-tourism.
- 5. **Implement FLR plans, review, revise and adapt.** The implementation of FLR plans requires the coordinated application of finances, human resources, materials, and knowledge and capabilities. It also requires safe and reliable access to the area and a social license to operate (ongoing social acceptance of FLR within the local community and by other stakeholders). Successful FLR includes ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptation of plans and actions according to experience and evolving challenges and opportunities, including any need to adapt to climate change. The FLR process requires the Project team and government staff to establish and maintain rapport with local communities and stakeholders.

## ANNEX XIII: Consolidated field consultation report

### 1. Introduction

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, IUCN organized a workshop with potential project partners to unveil the GEF - Government of Cameroon (GoC) - IUCN proposed Cameroon Child Project within the global GEF Restoration Initiative Programme, in response to the Bonn Challenge 'to restore 150 million ha of world's deforested and degraded lands by 2020 and 350 million ha by 2030.'

From April to June 2017 representative sampling and field visits were conducted across Cameroon covering the following agro-ecological zones;

- Lowland degraded semi-deciduous forest zone with bi-modal rainfall regime (Centre) - Visited
- Degraded lowland forests of the coastal region (Littoral), Visited
- Degraded Montagne Forests near high value biodiversity sites (Southwest region) Visited
- Humid plateau with high degradation and biodiversity enhancement potentials (North West –Visited; West and Adamaoua)
- Sudano-Sahelian vegetation with high degradation and restoration potentials - Far-North Regions - visited;

The visits were to consult with local level, potential project stakeholders, ground truth restoration information and confirm relationships with livelihoods and conservation objectives; and alignment with goals of the GEF 6 TRI project in Cameroon. The general characteristics of the selected sites are presented below:

### 2. The Intervention sites

Characteristics of Potential Intervention Zones

Region	Agro-ecological zone
<b>FAR NORTH</b>	Sudano-Sahelian vegetation with high degradation and restoration potentials
<b>CENTRE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowland degraded semi-deciduous forest zone; flora combines evergreen and deciduous species; Rainfall pattern is bimodal; annual rainfall is between 1500 and 2000 mm; two distinct rainy seasons (mid-March to May; September-October); annual temperature ranging from 23°C to 25°C,</li> <li>• Slash-and-burn agriculture; mosaic of cassava-based food crop farms cocoa agroforests and patches of secondary forests and fallows</li> <li>• Logging</li> <li>• Rattan exploitation; gathering of NTFPs</li> <li>• Occurrence of bamboo</li> </ul>
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humid plateau with high degradation and biodiversity enhancement potentials</li> <li>• Humid Sudano-Guinean savanna; plateau; annual rainfall: 1500 - 2000 mm;</li> <li>• Fertile soils; young soils on steep slopes, weathered soils on old plateau; soils have developed on volcanic materials</li> <li>• High population density</li> <li>• Rattan exploitation</li> <li>• <i>Eucalyptus</i> planting and exploitation for timber production and fuelwood</li> <li>• Fuelwood gathering from woody species</li> <li>• Occurrence of bamboo</li> </ul>
<b>ADAMAOUA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highland Guinean savanna; Permeable soils, brown or red ferrallitic and hydromorphic soils; Annual rainfall is about 1,500 mm</li> <li>• Low population density; Livestock production Fuelwood gathering from woody species</li> <li>• Occurrence of bamboo</li> </ul>
<b>NORTH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudano-Sahelian savanna in the Benue valley; annual rainfall is about 400 mm; distinct dry and wet seasons; in the dry season, some rivers and streams dry up</li> <li>• Diversity of soils: lithosols, alluvial soils, weathered soils, ferruginous</li> <li>• Livestock production, and often overgrazing</li> <li>• Fuelwood gathering from woody species; charcoal production</li> <li>• Occurrence of bamboo</li> </ul>
<b>COASTAL</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degraded forests from the Coastal zone</li> <li>• Mangroves</li> </ul>

<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal high forest zone</li> <li>• Evergreen rainforest and mangroves</li> </ul>
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### 3. Sites with confirmed bamboo development potential

Site	Regions	Agro-ecological zone
Lowland degraded semi-deciduous forest zone with bimodal rainfall regime (Mbalmayo )	Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lowland degraded semi-deciduous forest zone; flora combines evergreen and deciduous species;</li> <li>-Rainfall pattern is bimodal; annual rainfall is between 1500 and 2000 mm; two distinct rainy seasons (mid-March to May; September-October); annual temperature ranging from 23°C to 25°C,</li> <li>-High population density</li> <li>-Slash-and-burn agriculture; mosaic of cassava-based food crop farms cocoa agroforests and patches of secondary forests and fallows</li> <li>-Logging</li> <li>-Rattan exploitation; gathering of NTFPs</li> </ul>
Coastal high forest and Montagne Forests (Bakossi Bayang Mbo Landscape)	South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lowland high forests with degraded Montagne patches; flora combines evergreen and deciduous species;</li> <li>-Rainfall pattern is mono-modal between 2000 -3500 mm and even higher. Two distinct seasons; one rainy March to November; and Dry season, from November to February; annual temperature ranging from 25°C to 28°C or higher</li> <li>-Moderate population density</li> <li>-Extensive plantation agriculture, Mining, Slash-and-burn agriculture; mosaic of cassava-based food crop farms cocoa agroforests and patches of secondary forests and fallows</li> <li>-Logging</li> <li>-Bamboo, Rattan exploitation; gathering of NTFPs</li> </ul>
Highland Guinean savanna (Ngaoundere)	Adamawa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Highland Guinean savanna; Permeable soils, brown or red ferrallitic and hydromorphic soils;</li> <li>-Annual rainfall is about 1500 mm</li> <li>-Low population density;</li> <li>-Livestock production</li> <li>-Fuelwood gathering from woody species</li> </ul>
Sudano-Sahelian savanna in the Benue valley (Garoua)	North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Sudano-Sahelian savanna in the Benue valley; annual rainfall is about 400 mm; distinct dry and wet seasons; in the dry season, some rivers and streams dry up</li> <li>-Diversity of soils : lithosols, alluvial soils, weathered soils, ferruginous</li> <li>-Population density; medium</li> <li>-Livestock production, and often overgrazing</li> <li>-Fuelwood gathering from woody species; charcoal production</li> </ul>

### 4. Consultations in the Intervention Sites by Region

#### (a) CENTRE REGION

Visited in this region were three villages where bamboo stands are available and some artisans with bamboo processing techniques.

#### Zamakoe

There are 30 artisans involved in rattan and bamboo artisanal work with two having very high experience (15-30 years) in using bamboo to make chairs and beds but in very sporadic manners based on command by customers. There are about 300 inhabitants in this village which is located at about 40 km from Yaoundé. The artisans have not yet received any outside financial supports. Opportunities exist in the village for the restoration of large swampy areas with bamboo in the village. Products are exhibited and sold along the roadsides. Cups/flutes and other products could be made out of bamboo but the artisans in the villagers need to be trained on the techniques. Existing bamboo stands are natural (Messi Mathieu Clement). Vernacular name of bamboo: Essong-Ntang, which means white-man's bamboo. Average monthly income is about 75000 FCFA.

### **Abang (Village Rotin)**

In the past, bamboo was simply considered an invasive plant and was burnt but nowadays, people are increasingly protecting their stands. There is one artisan with 20 years of experience in bamboo furniture and the money is used for livelihoods, health and education of children. The artisan works with at least 10 people following commands for products from Chad, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. The artisan has technical expertise on bamboo planting, harvesting, and transformation with marketing contacts in Chad, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. According to him, good marketing depends on good finishing while respecting bamboo quality such as thickness, observation of knots and treatment of those knots to ensure long lifespan. There is no outside technical and financial support yet but activities are auto-financed, albeit opportunities to expand into real business enterprises following the availability of good start-up capital. Chairs, tables and beds can be produced from bamboo.

There are possibilities for planting bamboo in swampy areas in Abang and neighbouring villages. Bamboo could be planted in combination with bushmango, rattan and other trees such as Fraké. There are small, medium and big bamboos. There is need to improve expertise through training and exchange visits. There is also the need for financial support to build an exhibition centre for bamboo products. The women assist in clothing, plating and selling of the products (Engola Amougou Casmir).

### **Ndick Village**

Ndick village has a population of about 1000 inhabitants. There are two artisans in this village with bamboo expertise in producing sets of chairs that could cost 100, 000 FCFA per set. Two sets could be produced per month and supplied to the sale point in Yaoundé. According to Owono August (key artisan), bamboo was introduced in the village by his grand-father in 1982. He has a family size of six with two in college that provide support in getting raw materials from the forest during holidays. In Ndick village, there are opportunities for planting bamboo in large swampy areas at the backyards.

## **(b) SOUTH WEST REGION**

### **Meetings with Local Authorities of the Government of Cameroon**

- MINFOF: Received by the Regional Delegate Mr Issola. He welcomed the idea of the project raised relevant issues and provided advice.
- MINEPDED: Received by the Regional Delegate Mr Ekwadi Seth. He welcomed the idea of the project raised relevant issues and provided significant suggestions.
- Limbe Botanic Garden: The Conservator was not on seat, but we were received by two staff. We took a walk through the Garden, but there was no bamboo ex-situ collection. There is rattan, which was a source of confusion between the two craft materials. The idea of the project establishing a bamboo ex-situ collection as part of the education component of the project was floated. This could take the form of Bamboo exhibition sites with different species as bamboo hedges (Mafani John)

### **NGOs/Communities Visited**

- **People EarthWise (PEW).**
- A briefing meeting was made with Sheh Benjamin, the coordinator of PEW, who acted as the resource person for contacts in the Southwest region. The mission activities, the matters arising, and potential assignments were discussed. Most importantly, the role of the Focal Civil Society Organisation as a Local Counterpart in relaying project information to local partners and stakeholders and building its knowledge base on the project, preparing the ground for visiting project missions and accompanying project preparation and implementation missions was discussed. PEW could play a key role in environmental education on the production and uses of bamboo in schools, municipalities and among youths and on how this can lead to jobs creation. It was

discussed that PEW could engage in developing its readiness in line with its vision, mission, objectives and the information and resources on restoration of forest landscapes and the bamboo industry provided by IUCN and partners in the Southwest region.

- **Construction Site:** Use of bamboo for decking witnessed. Local sources of bamboo indicated around Buea, Muyuka and Tiko. Valuable exchange on local indigenous knowledge and experiences with bamboo. Germinating pieces collected from offcuts thrown on the floor.
- **Bokova Village:** Met the President of the Water Management Committee. He informed us on the availability of bamboo patches on the mountain, which are mainly used as yamsticks.
- **Woteva Village:** The Chief, villagers and representatives of 5 other villages and local civil society organisations were in a workshop of the Woteva Tree Planting Project targeting *Cedrella odorata*. The chief welcomed the project idea. Questions from the villagers and the local community radio on the Bamboo management and development opportunities were answered by the Consultant. Significant presence of Indian bamboo noticed in wild and introduced stances. Opportunity for planting bamboo could be in the over 2700 ha of Woteva community forest up the mountain, especially if the villages are thought on how to use the bamboo for furniture and other uses to earn income. This can lead to job creation in the village.
- **Bokwaongo Village:** We arrived the palace when the Chief, Traditional Councilors including the Secretary General of the Buea Council ((Evariste Dabuju) were just ending a meeting. The Secretary provided us with the local history and incidence of bamboo. Paid our respects to the Chief and Elders who expressed their interest in the bamboo project, if and when the time comes, noting that the traditional uses of bamboo could be expanded. The local name for bamboo in the Bakweri was cited as: Ekokoya mokala (the Whiteman's bamboo).
- **Man O War Bay, CDC Bimbia Camp:** Team met with two locals: a resident Ngwang and a Supervisor (Dang Joseph) of the CDC Palms operations in the area. Bamboo was visible in multiple stances and bushes along the drive to Bimbia and along river courses. Local indigenous knowledge holds that the bamboos were introduced by the CDC for banana support poles. Given the introduction by the Indians who were the first managers of the CDC, the name Indian bamboo arose. A pertinent question was asked on why protecting bamboo when it is invasive? It is only useful when other uses are found.

### **International NGOs in the Region**

- **GFA/KfW/MINFOF PSMNR** association was discussed with the Regional Delegate of MINFOF but apparently the PSMNR is overcharged with various programmes and projects and will be cutting back on these, so the prospects of bamboo initiatives were low.
- **WWF-CFP:** Met with Dr Philip Fobosseh in a highly analytical meeting in his office in Limbe. Restoration is the 'new attraction' in the biodiversity conservation & sustainable development world prompting the repackaging of programmes and projects. The choice of the pilot regions, the possibility of association with ongoing projects and national programmes, relevant issues, implementation strategies and options related to various aspects of implementation were discussed.

### **(c) FAR-NORTH REGION**

Field visits were conducted in two villages with extremely degraded landscapes and where individual initiatives on forest restoration are remarkable.

### **Visit to Government Agencies**

The Regional delegations of MINFOF and MINEPDED were visited but opportunities were offered to discuss with the Delegate of the former (Mr Zourmba Juoullier) for about 45 minutes. He shaded light on some salient issues related to FLR in the region and the TRI project possible areas of focus. These included:

- The great need for fuelwood in the region could be tackled,
- The existing law has little clarification of the management of forest and tree resources in the region that takes into consideration the great needs of the people, it stresses on conservation measures, which is not working and is being considered for revision but to the detriment of the forest that is continuously

disappearing. For instance, the region has a wood deficit of about 350 000 m<sup>3</sup>, consequential on people exploit wood in reserved areas, talkless of pressures from agriculture and livestock encroachments.

- The Logone and Birnie areas suffer from transboundary illegal exploitation pressures from Chadians. This requires a lot of targeted sensitization of the local populations in order to circumvent illegal exploitation.
- There is a wood energy project with a legal and institutional context but with only a provisional convention on management, while waiting for the final management tools.
- There is need to work with village heads and customary leaders and organize exchange visits on best practices for them to share experiences on forest management and conservation in the region.
- Wildlife and livestock management has to be brought into context in all restoration efforts in the region, making sure that their watering points are identified and avoided. For instance, where elephants visit frequently cannot be restored easily.
- It will be important to note the human dimension that can be a constraining factor to all restoration efforts. There is need to involve everyone (men; women, young, old) at the beginning to the end of the project, to make them feel to be part of the whole in developing their environment.
- Fire-breaks and tracing are important to avoid wildfires from afforested/reforested areas and they need to be constantly cleaned of dry debris and herbs.
- There need to create tree seed gardens for the provision of tree germplasms for both fuelwood plantations and conservation ends as well as to enable locals understand tree nursery techniques.
- The use of barb wires could also be envisaged to avoid animal intrusion and destruction of young planted seedlings and saplings.
- There is also the need to organize a big regional meeting and sensitize the traditional village chiefs on the rule of law in place to ensure conservation and protection of tree resources in their landscapes.
- There is need to inculcate locals with the ideals of forest restoration initiatives that will imply planting trees of their choice by themselves for themselves - CHEFAR
- In terms of existing opportunities, there are many tree nursery technicians that produce seedlings in different sub-divisions but all is based on command and programs. The greatest difficulty is associated with the transportation of the seedlings from nurseries located in far-off wet areas to the planting sites. Seedlings of above 30 cm height should be avoided for transportation over long distances because they have higher risk of being destroyed. The nursery technicians also need to be trained and also given the opportunity to share experiences.
- In the case of bamboo that does not grow almost anywhere in the region, a legal process may be followed to introduce it at the level of local populations. Instead, there is need to focus on important threatened species such as **Baobab**, which is adapted to the region and could directly contribute to the improvement of the livelihoods of the local population.
- Land and tree tenure is an important issue in the region because once trees are planted the idea of common pool resources, as a matter of necessity need to be kept aside.
- Urban reforestation is also very important in the region for the provision of shade in urban areas.
- The implication of women should be given its due importance in this project as well as other development projects, especially if those women are organized in groups.

### **Guirvidig Village**

There is a common initiative group composed of 350 members in the village that works with IUCN-Maroua on the restoration of highly degraded areas, and principal agricultural crops are sorghum, rice and millet but still with rudimentary cultivation techniques. Women on their part turn to petit trade in fried fish and plating of mats with the involvement of their children only during weekends, when there is no schooling. The village has a total population of about 900 inhabitants and is located at about 130 km from Maroua, which was one of the villages affected by the deadly flooding of 7 November 2012 in the Far-North region. This village did not receive any help from the government after the destruction, but IUCN is working hand-in-gloves with them to restore certain sites, and those that get assistance use it in the improvement of the agricultural activities.

Opportunities exist in the village to restore large areas of degraded lands and mango and Neem (*Azadirachta indica*) are the species of choice for this activity. Neem is an introduced species that does well where natural species cannot. There is no bamboo anywhere but may be tested in the area in small plantations. Locals are facing a lot of difficulties with farm work in the village but if there was a possibility to obtain an innovative multi-tasking machine, it will go a long way to develop the agricultural sector in the village and villages have the willingness to contribute up to the sum of 500 000frs to ensure that they can be assisted to get such a machine.

### **Maola (Mora) Village**

Eucalyptus was introduced by the explorer, Jacques Billardière in 1972, from Australia. First used for the treatment of pulmonary diseases and subsequently for antiseptic ends. This tree species was planted in the four corners of the world especially hot regions as the tree does not grow in cold areas below 4°C.

In Moala village, there are personal restoration initiatives. Of particular interest is a facilitator called **Mr Boukar Blandzand** that has almost 22 ha reforested area comprising of about 200 trees per ha, planted mostly of Neem and eucalyptus. Eucalyptus poles used as supports during the construction of houses cost 1500-2000 Franc CFA and he could easily make up to 2500000 per year from sales as well as the selling of offcuts and branches as firewood in Mora. Youths that are no longer schooling are engaged in working in his forests for small wages of 500-1000 FCFA per day. His trees are cut upon command and replanting is done almost immediately and adding about one ha per year. The forest of Mr Boukar was created 15 years ago.

The main problem encountered is that of transporting from the forest to supply Mora town, which is about 7 km from his plantation. Mora has a population of about 3000 inhabitants with the growing of cotton, groundnuts, niébe and honey as the main economic activities.

In the village, there are several opportunities for reforestation of degraded areas but putting in place a common initiative group and supporting them with required tools and resources to engage in restoration activities. Getting water is a call for concern in the village because digging boreholes to even 30 m deep are not successful everywhere, and people have to go as far as Mora to get water by motorbikes for home use and nursery operations. Mangos planted in the village do not successfully grow well.

(d) LITTORAL REGION: DOUALA – EDEA COASTAL FOREST

Consultation of Women’s Groups.

Below is a tabulated summary of consultations in the coastal region of mangrove degradation in the Douala-Edea landscape.

Consultation of women’s association involved in restoration activities

Sampled Women-led Association case studied	Organizations providing direct and indirect support to Association/NGO	Key Groups of activities by Support Organizations	Agro-ecological Zone /GEF Intervention site	Direct landscape Restoration related Initiatives by women’s Associations/NGOs benefiting women’s groups, youths and outcomes
The MERUNGA (Ménagères Rurales de Ngalli) Ngalli II (Widows of Ngalli II), Soa Yaoundé	Two (2) Women’s Networks (REFACOF and REFADD)  Two (2) International Knowledge Centers (ICRAF and CIFOR) World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF),  2 National NGOs (FODER and CAFER)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Agriculture;</li> <li>• Reforestation techniques</li> <li>• Advocacy and Promotion of Women</li> <li>• Environment and climate change Education</li> <li>• Improved Artisanal Mining</li> <li>• Micro Enterprise</li> <li>• Agroforestry Research, Knowledge and Germplasm transfer</li> </ul>	Degraded Forest Margins of Cameroon, Center Region.	<p><i>Star Initiative:</i> Development of mixed Home Gardens (Agroforestry System) using multiple species; Enrichments planting of degraded forests controlled by MERUNGA Women’s Association.</p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i> Previously degraded forest margins, is now the only zone in the Centre Region of Cameroon with productive Agroforestry plantations of <i>Irvingia wombolo</i>, an indigenous African tree species that previously disappeared from the area. The species flower and fruit during the lean (dry season) period of January, February. Agroforestry Systems with Oil Palm are ‘Kitchen Gardens’, enabling direct access to Palm Oil and cash non-existent before project. Inherited Cocoa farms are now diversified and secondary forest farming is protected from destruction and is a source of spices and fruits</p>
Community-Based Women’s Associations and village Meeting groups.	- Two Development Organizations (Mboscuda and INADES)  - Two (2) Foundations (IVFCAM, IDF)  - Nine (9) Non-Governmental Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for Indigenous People’s Rights the Development</li> <li>• Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry</li> <li>• Micro Credit and Rural Women’s Enterprise</li> <li>• Environment education and Climate Change</li> </ul>	Degraded Humid Highland Savanna (North West, West, and Adamawa).	<p><i>Star Initiative :</i> Acquisition and titling of land acquired from traditional authorities and from the Ministry of Lands Planted with Eucalyptus for timber production</p> <p><i>Outcomes:</i> The women have control over land and Tree plantations. Are able to decide when and where to sell timber, seedlings, fruits and processed fruits; and especially if and how to modify land use to suit the needs of women. With his success women are educating men and planning to use the same experience and acquire more land in vicinity, elsewhere and train other Associations to do same in their localities.</p>

<p>Les GICs FC de MANOKA Et le GIC pour la Régénération des Mangroves de LONDJI (Women's Common Initiatives on Community Forestry and Restoration of Mangroves)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three (3) Women's Networks (REFACOF, Eleven (11) Women-led Common Initiative Groups (GICs)</li> <li>• Three (3) Women-led Associations</li> <li>• One State-led Task Force on REDD+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational and institutional strengthening</li> <li>• Micro Finance and Trading</li> <li>• Training in agroforestry skills</li> <li>• Independent observation of forests (Water)</li> <li>• Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Husbandry Techniques</li> <li>• Mangrove Regeneration</li> </ul>	<p>Evergreen rainforest, Coastal Forests (Littoral- Sanaga Maritime), South West, South NGWEI, NDOKOHI</p>	<p><b>Initiative :</b> Restoration of Mangroves in the Coastal Forest Zones of Cameroon. Due to demands for wood energy, particularly to smoke fish and supply cooking energy to urban centers the Mangroves around Manoka and Londji – Littoral of Cameroon, have been decimated. The Women's Association or Common Initiative Group has been engaged in restoration activities here for many years.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> The mangrove forests under co-management by the women's association is attributed as a Community Forest, and therefore, legally secured, giving exclusive management rights to the community, including to the Women's Association. Illegal activities are controlled and the Women are engaging in restoration of the mangroves through better Silviculture and protection practices; including sales of seedlings to other ventures.</p> <p><b>Initiative:</b> Kirdi women, who are agriculturalists, inhabiting the highlands are constrained to crop on rocky, infertile soils; or descend to the plains to rent land at exorbitant costs. The cost of 120,000 FCFA (approx. \$US 200) per season is too high for poor women folks, who go for poor quality land at 20,000 FCFA per season (approx. US\$ 35). With the help of NGOs, these degraded lands are put under restoration during the first of three years for soil fertility restoration using biological nitrogen fixation by leguminous plants with help of NGOs and cultivate gravels during the 2 remaining years. In the meantime women even crack gravels to await soil restoration.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Following 1 years of fallow, and soil restoration techniques the women are able to produce Millet, Maize, Groundnut, Sesame, and Sorghum; practice vegetable gardening (onion, garlic, carrot, okra, tomato), grow Cowpea, soybean and Potatoes.</p>
<p>4.Kirdi Women's Association and meeting groups amongst the : Guiziga, Mofou, Moundang, Toupouri, Musgum, Masa, Mandara, Kanuri communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three (3) National Development Programmes (ACEFA, GTE/SAHEL, COPRESSA)</li> <li>• Three (3) Common Initiative Groups</li> <li>• Two (2) Women's Associations</li> <li>• Six (6) Non-Governmental Organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fundraising and Technical Support to Women's Associations and Cooperatives</li> <li>• Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Soil Fertility Management</li> <li>• Fight against sexual abuse of women</li> <li>• Protection of rights of children and young girls</li> <li>• Renewable energy, Environmental Education and Climate Change</li> </ul>	<p>Sudano-Sahelian Far Northern Region of Cameroon (around MAROUA)</p>	<p><b>Initiative:</b> Kirdi women, who are agriculturalists, inhabiting the highlands are constrained to crop on rocky, infertile soils; or descend to the plains to rent land at exorbitant costs. The cost of 120,000 FCFA (approx. \$US 200) per season is too high for poor women folks, who go for poor quality land at 20,000 FCFA per season (approx. US\$ 35). With the help of NGOs, these degraded lands are put under restoration during the first of three years for soil fertility restoration using biological nitrogen fixation by leguminous plants with help of NGOs and cultivate gravels during the 2 remaining years. In the meantime women even crack gravels to await soil restoration.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Following 1 years of fallow, and soil restoration techniques the women are able to produce Millet, Maize, Groundnut, Sesame, and Sorghum; practice vegetable gardening (onion, garlic, carrot, okra, tomato), grow Cowpea, soybean and Potatoes.</p>

NB: Similar Women's Associations involved in restoration-type activities are also ongoing in the degraded Montagne Forests of the Bakossi Landscape in the South West region; one of the project intervention sites. This particular women's group was not surveyed during the Gender and Landscape Restoration diagnostic by IUCN PACO, but was assessed in another survey (WWF, 2016) and remains relevant to this project.

## 5. Non-Government Organizations Consulted

### GIC DJAM

A short meeting was held with Mr Yahya Lawane, delegate of GIC DJAM and coordinator of the Renewable Energy Project of IUCN Cameroon in the Far-North region. According to Mr Yahya, about 80% of the population of Maroua Centre use fuelwood equivalent to about 400 ha/year of forest deforested. This demand is growing because local populations believe that household gas is very dangerous. An option according to him is to put in place an alternative system of green carbon from the carbonization process of agricultural wastes and encourage the use of improved stoves and fire places. This will reduce pressure from the exploitation of forests for fuelwood production, especially if the new technology is successful and taken up by local populations.

The envisaged TRI project collaborating with the project on the fabrication of green gas will enable the northern regions of the country to reduce the net consumption of wood and thus protect the trees and the environment. Moreover, it will be necessary to have one aspect of the project to look at how to recycle all the plastic bags and papers thrown everywhere in the environment. The tree species of choice for the restoration efforts could be Neem with its shade, oil and medicines providing advantages. With respect to bamboo, the approach could be to test it in the region but more importantly it will be good to add endangered species such as Baobab and tanné that are fast disappearing.

### CADEPI (MORA)

In the context of the TRI project, the visit to CADEPI, a current partner to IUCN was saluted with a field visit to a restoration site located at about 2 km from Mora, with a current project financed by WWF on the fight against climate change in collaboration with FEF and SNV. We are welcome with the TRI project idea and emphasis was placed on helping farmers in the zone plant agroforestry tree species for soil fertility enhancement such as *Acacia albida*. The most important difficulty to restoration in the area is that of maintenance of what has been planted associated with encroachment by animals. This will be important to think about in the project implementation set up. It is also important to sensitise local populations on the importance of restoration in the area and on how this will benefit them in the short and long run. It will be interesting to thinking of putting in place a committee to protect the restored forest or simply demarcate and create a community forest area with a complete management team.

### Presentation of CADEPI

- **Date of creation:** November 2002 as common Initiative Group and transformed into a non-profit Association in July 2006; Order N°009/ RDDA/K44/BAPP of 17 July 2006,
- **Constitutional organs of CADEPI:** General Assembly composed of members, Executive bureau and management control

### Mission, vision and virtues of CADEPI

“Promote dialogue and stakeholder’s consultation for the sustainable management of natural resources (NR) and improvement of social services at the local level (water, health and education).

### Specific Objective

- 1- Improve organizational, institutional and technical capacities of the structure,
- 2- Reinforce the capacities of community and political leaders, territorial decentralized communities and community based organizations for sustainable local development,
- 3- Promote sustainable and equitable management strategies and methods for natural resources,
- 4- Improve access by vulnerable groups to basic social services

### Areas of Intervention of CADEPI

- Support the sustainable management of natural resources Appui à la gestion durable des ressources naturelles (GRN)
- Support decentralization/local governance

### **Target groups:**

- Les organizations and different group users of land resources (farmers, animal rearers, fishermen, wood exploiters...);
- Vulnerable youths;
- Council and communities;
- Village development committees;
- Centres for the promotion of women and the family;
- Community leaders (traditional/customary/religious),
- School establishments.

### **Partners of CADEPI**

- In addition to government agencies, (MINADER, MINFOF, MINEP, MINEPIA, MINATD, MINEPAT,...) that are permanent partners, CADEPI collaborates regularly with the following partners:
- European Union Delegation in Cameroun, PNUD (Programme des Nations Unies pour le Développement), PU-AMI; SNV, GIZ, PNDP (Programme National de Développement Participatif), UICN-MINFOF, CBLT etc.

### **Focal Areas of CADEPI**

- Integrated natural resources management (NRM):
- Organizational and institutional development
- Support to decentralization and local development;
- Support the sustainable management of natural resources;
- Improved access to quality social services;
- Improve the revenue for vulnerable groups

## **6. Summary Field Findings**

There is need to establish a Theory of change for the project which may be linked to REDD+. This could be stated as: Increasing people's replacement of the uses of wood with bamboo will lead to reduced deforestation and improved regeneration of biodiversity and conservation. Let people see the value of bamboo and benefit from it. Less trees will be cut for poles, decking of houses, furniture and craft items if bamboo is used as raw material. This is more applicable in the Centre and Southwest Regions of Cameroon with forested landscapes. In this direction, activities that will lead to the promotion of value addition to bamboo will be instrumental in the sustainable development of bamboo. Bamboo could be planted in large swampy areas and degraded community forests to ensure sustainable supply of raw materials to the evolving bamboo enterprises to be promoted.

The theory of change in the Northwest and Far-North Regions with focus on biodiversity conservation could be based on the promotion of biodiversity for the benefit of local populations and communities. The entry point activities could include:

- Training and support of nursery farmers to produce and market selected tree seedlings. This could be part of a REDD+ project that will lead to green jobs and reduced deforestation
- Rehabilitation or restoration of water catchments with water loving trees will be of interest to local communities and the local councils. Examples of water loving trees include: *Prunus africana*, *Maesupis* spp, *Acacia* spp. and *Podocarpus*
- Rehabilitation or restoration of Sacred forests with a mix of indigenous species to reduce previous tempering effects;
- Beautification in schools by planting ornamental and fruit trees in school yards and boundaries. Examples of ornamental trees include: *Calistemon*, *Royal palm*, *Wenge*, *Jacaranda*, *Grewilea* spp. etc
- Restoration of degraded biodiversity hotspot mountain areas such as the Kilum-Ijum Mountain and community forests with desirable tree species such as *Prunus africana*.
- The restoration of degraded areas in the Sudano-sahelian zone with neem (*Azadirachta indica*), baobab (*Adansonia digitata*), acacia (*Acacia albida*) and Eucalyptus spp. as required by the diagnostic needs of the local populations.

Governance is a cross-cutting issue driven by ignorance that leads to corruption. However, sensitization, monitoring and application of the law is a solution based on proper dissemination of the law. Forest landscape

restoration is an opportunity to engage local people but the right governance issues must be addressed at local and national levels (Dunga Jules). As a primary activity, a synthesis of the policy issues governing restoration efforts in Cameroon need to be produced and disseminated. This will dwell on government policies and institutions that support germplasm production and deployment. International agreements and main regulatory framework in force in Cameroon.

4. Germplasm (seeds and seedlings) production and deployment pathways exists and should be harnessed and promoted through networks for the propagation of bamboo and other tree species that may lead to the conservation of biodiversity and enhanced livelihoods. Seeds/seedlings deployment pathways in Cameroon include:

- Centralized government tree nurseries lead by ANAFOR
- NGO model using MPTS/IFT such as that of MIFACIG
- Decentralized model of farmers-to-farmer, practiced by individual farmers
- Private tree seedling centers by individual tree growers and forest owners

There is need to identify and map these pathways and quantify their current and potential capacities in ensuring the production of planting materials in Cameroon. Indeed, there is need to map out sources and networks of seeds and seedlings. This will allow for the understanding of the number of seeds/seedlings stands and other seed sources as well as the number of species being planted. This could ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places. What is the demand for tree germplasm and how much can be supplied by available sources?

The level of participation of local NGOs (e.g. MIFACIG, PEW, CADEPI, GIC DJAM etc.) in restoration efforts in Cameroon is very promising with existing practices on the ground that could be up scaled with this project intervention. No reinventing of the wheel may be necessary. Working closely with Government agencies such as ANAFOR may lead and bring the private sector together in a network in order to organize the provision of germplasm to farmers in the country.

Bamboo has been perceived by local people to do excessively well in swampy areas that are abundant in most villages visited. These areas are open for restoration efforts. Community forests are usually of low stock densities of valuable timber tree species. This provide opportunities for restoring parts of 11 community forests in the Northwest and Southwest regions with bamboo or other tree species of interest. These opportunities can give the possibility of having the contribution of local communities linked to the cost of their land that could be estimated at over 5000 ha for the project. Budgetary estimates could be made for the restoration of 5000 ha for the benefit of local communities.

## **7. Main Challenges Observed**

Sustainable landscape management practices include afforestation/reforestation/restoration that define the new wave of tree planting to meet commitments of Cameroon to the Bonn Challenge. However, many but surmountable challenges hovers around Cameroon including:

- The way we have been handling planting materials
- Involving media to become stakeholders to help bring out the issues
- The need to protect investments from pest and diseases, fire and climate change.
- Lack of seed source certification scheme, thus means to distinguish between improved germplasm and unselected planting materials. How to ensure quality tree planting materials including seeds and seedlings?
- Seeds and seedlings supply are constrained by poorly managed seed orchards,
- Seeds and seedlings distribution networks and markets are dominated by the private sector. The need for capacity building for tree breeders and support staff.
- Most planting initiatives do not put emphasis on sources of planting materials (seeds, seedlings etc.) but rather on the cost of planting linked to surface areas. There is inadequate planting materials associated with the lack of capacity to produce them in order to meet the commitments to the Bonn Challenge.

## **8. Conclusion**

The mission was very successful in that most envisaged persons, institutions and places were contacted and all welcomed the idea of the project and expressed positive expectations. Many suggestions were provided and the discussions were rich in information, analysis of relevant issues and examination of potential challenges. The demand for planting materials (germplasm) in Cameroon is fueled by unprecedented interests for public, private and community tree planting. In addition to agroforestry techniques, massive tree planting programs can be promoted in schools, borders, communities and councils to meet various ends (food, medicine, timber, fuelwood,

environment benefits such as the provision of shade in urban areas, shelterbelts, water catchments, erosion control, soil fertility etc.). This means that forestry is not the resolve of government alone, it is the shared responsibility of multiple stakeholders (government agencies, councils, communities, NGOs, common initiative groups, individuals etc.) including the media. The project will have to reconcile the ecological, socio-economic objectives and make links with existing national and global programs. Concrete responses to environmental and socio-economic challenges towards restoration need to be identified and carried out with suitable strategic choices of options given limited project time and financing. Interventions in the development of Bamboo value chains could include the biology, genetic resources and conservation aspect, the management of natural stands and plantation applications, the utilization and value addition aspect, propagation aspect, marketing of products, and policy and institutional aspects. In this project, the latter five aspects could be considered for intervention. Various tree species could be promoted for restoration efforts in the different regions of Cameroon based on local needs and environmental requirements. Others could be introduced on a pilot basis, especially with reference to Bamboo introduction in the Far-North region of the country.

## 9. List of Institutions and Persons Consulted

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Key personnel interviewed</b>	<b>Function</b>
1	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family	Catherine Makon	Head of service of women's employment
2	Empowerment and the family	Solange Bangweni	Head of service of women's partnership
3		Esso Biyiti	Head of service of women's integration in economic programs
4		Joseph Mamadou	Head of unit of climatic issues
5	Ministry of forests and wildlife	Ngomin Anicet	Head of afforestation unit
6	MINEPDED	Dr. Bring	Department Head of studies, projects and cooperation
7	GIZ	Mvongo Nkene Mikhail Nelson	Technical advisor in charge of forest landscape restoration
8	REDD+ National Secretariat	Hortense Ngono Ngah	Senior staff
9	IUCN	Charlotte Ako Eyong	Senior staff
10	IUCN	Dominique Endamana	Program officer Regional Forest for Central and West Africa regional
11	IUCN	Jiagho Rémi	Program officer
12	IUCN	Peter MBILE	Coordinator, forest landscape restoration
13	UN Women	Paulette BEAT SONGUE	Program Coordinator, Women economic empowerment and governance
14	REFACOF	Rose MASSO	Sub-regional treasurer of REFACOF
15	REFADD	Albertine TCHOULACK	Focal Point of REFADD Cameroun
16	FODER	Rodrigue NGONZO	FODER President
17	AIWO CAN	Bouba	Sub-regional Coordinator
18	INADES	Emmanuel SAMA	Bamenda Antenna Delegate
19	Forum des Femmes Autochtones du Cameroun (FFAC)	Aissatou BOUBA	FFAC national coordinator
20	GREEN SAFE	Djidja Djaili GARGA	General coordinator GREEN SAFE and Far North REFACOF focal point
21	SODECOTON	Alifa MAHAMAT	Senior staff
22	ALDEPA	Marthe WANDOU	Coordinator
23	AGIR	Julienne DJAKAOU	Coordinator and Senator
24	MINADER Maroua	Oumoul OUSMANOU	Deputy regional delegate
25	TASK FORCE GENRE REDD+	Claire ATEBA	Task force leader
26	ACTWID KONGADZEM	Bernadette WEN LOSHA	Coordinator
27	Abang (Village Rotin)	ENGOLA Amougou Casmir	Mbalmayo (Centre)
28	ZAMAKOE	Messi Mathieu Clement	Mbalmayo (Centre)

29	MINFOF Delegate	Issola DIPANDA	Buea (SW)
30	MINEPDED Reg. Delegate	Ekwadi Seth	Buea (SW)
31	WWF-CFP	FORBOSEH Philip	Limbe (SW)
32	Secretary, Bokwaongo Village Traditional Council	DABUJU Evariste	Buea (SW)
33	Chief Woteva Village	Bernard Lieti Woloko	Buea (SW)
34	CAMCCUL	SHEY BENJAMIN SERKFEM	BUEA (SW)
35	MINEPDED Reg. Delegate	MOMA Henry Awah	Bamenda (NW)
36	Nursery Attendant -ANAFOR	Abanda Cletus	Bamenda (NW)
37	Coordinator ANAFOR	Sime Christian	Bamenda (NW)
38	Head, Bafut Handicraft Centre	Bagham Samuel Shu	Bafut (NW)
39	MIFACIG	Kuh Emmanuel	Ndjinkum-Belo (NW)
40	Success Bamboo Handicraft	Ambebi Albert Che	Bafut (NW)
41	FODER	KAMGA K. Justin	Yaoundé
42	MINFOF	AMOUGOU ONDOUA	Yaoundé
43	Délégué du GIC JAM	YAHYA Lawane	MAROUA(Centre)
44	MINFOF Regional Delegate	ZOURMBA Juoulier	MAROUA (Centre)
45	Gérant du parc à bois	CHETIMA Pierre	Moala Village
46	Coordonnateur CADEPI	MAHAMAT Allamine	MORA
47	Facilitateur CADEPI	Emmanuel SAWADA	MORA
48	Promoteur	Boukar BLANDZANG	MORA

10. Photos from the Field



Bamboo furniture, Mbalmayo



Bamboo Cups, Mbalmayo area.



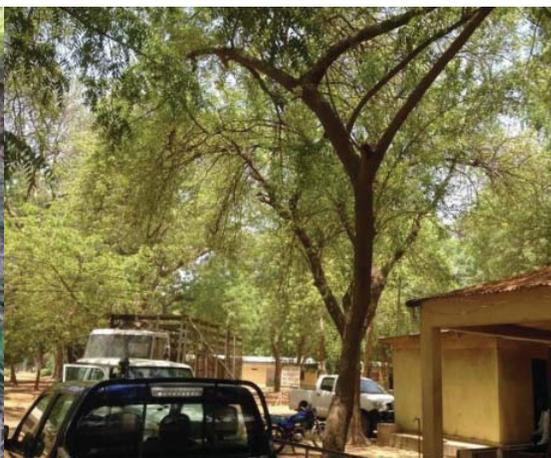
*Bambusa robusta* bushes in Mbalmayo



*Bambusa robusta* re-growths in Mbalmayo



*Bambusa robusta* harvesting in Mbalmayo



Aesthetic Trees in Home Gardens, Northern region



Eucalyptus nurseries, MIFACIG, Njinikom



*Grevilia robusta* nursery, MIFACIG, Bamenda



*Prunus africana* nursery, North West



Goat rearing in the Far North



Bamboo Stakes prepared for sales, Yaoundé



Bamboo Stakes used for scaffolding, Yaoundé



Bamboo stakes used a Yam props



Bamboo furniture, Douala

Annex XIV: Co-funding letters



INBAR Note: 17-S-246

Mr. Jean-Yves Pirot  
Director, GEF Coordination Unit  
International Union for Conservation of Nature HQ  
Rue Mauverney 28, Gland, Vaud, 1196  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41229990256

29 November 2017

**SUBJECT:** INBAR in-kind contribution to the project *Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon (ID GEF 9264)*.

Dear Mr. Pirot,

I have the pleasure to present the compliments of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization.

Considering INBAR's commitment to natural resource management and social development, and leveraging INBAR's significant work in these areas in Cameroon and the region, I am pleased to submit this written agreement to contribute in kind 1,991,932 US dollars to ensure the full implementation of activities under the project titled *Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon (GEF 9264)*.

INBAR avails itself of this opportunity to reaffirm with you the constructive cooperation between our institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Hans Freiderich  
Director General, INBAR

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
Paix - Travail - Patrie  
MINISTRE DES FORÊTS ET DE LA FAUNE  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
DIRECTION DE LA PROMOTION ET DE LA  
TRANSFORMATION DES PRODUITS FORESTIERS



B.P. 2440 Yaoundé  
Tel: (+237) 23 22 8 26  
Site web: www.minfoc.cm

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace - Work - Fatherland  
MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT  
DEPARTMENT OF PROMOTION AND  
PROCESSING OF FOREST PRODUCTS

4246

N° \_\_\_\_\_ /L/MINFOR/SG/DPT/SDNL

06 DEC 2017

Yaoundé, le

Réf.: V/L n° 00990/17 du 30/11/2017.

Le Ministre

A

Monsieur Jean Yves Piro, *1009*  
Directeur de l'Unité de Coordination  
du Fonds Mondial pour l'Environnement  
(FEM),  
Union Internationale pour la Conservation  
de la Nature (UICN).

06 DEC 2017

Objet : Co-financement de Projet.

Monsieur le Coordonnateur.

J'ai l'honneur de vous confirmer l'engagement du Gouvernement du Cameroun à co-financer à travers le Ministère des Forêts et la Faune, le Projet « *Mainstreaming Landscapes Restoration and Conservational Use of Bamboo for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon ID FEM 9519* »

En cas d'approbation de la proposition de Projet par votre partie, le co-financement susmentionné sera assuré par la mise à disposition de Cadres et personnels d'appui compétents, ainsi que le déploiement dans la mesure du possible, des mesures de facilitation de l'atteinte des objectifs fixés et des résultats attendus.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Coordonnateur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.



*Philippe Ngouesso*



**Bureau National/National Address**

BP 30685 Biyemassi 13, Yaounde

Cameroon, Afrique Centrale

Tel: (237) 679 71 00 70

S/c

Programme CWCS de Conservation et d'Aménagement des Forêts  
Côtières et de Mangrove/CWCS Coastal Forests & Mangrove  
Conservation and Management Programme

BP 54 Mouanko, Région du Littoral

Tel: (237) 677 51 52 41/695 71 17 94/697 75 49 65/653 58 51 37

E-mail : [cwcmko@yahoo.fr](mailto:cwcmko@yahoo.fr)

Website: [www.cwcs.cameroon.org](http://www.cwcs.cameroon.org)

Au Service de la Conservation de la Biodiversité et du Développement Durable des Communautés locales/  
Towards Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development of Local Communities

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To

Jean-Yves Pirot  
Head, GEF Coordination Unit, IUCN  
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland  
[jean-yves.pirot@iucn.org](mailto:jean-yves.pirot@iucn.org)

12<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

**Subject** : Co-financing of the project "Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon ID FEM 0519"

Dear Sir/Mrs,

We are writing to you to express our interest and commitment to participate in the founding mobilization of the above named project to be funded by the Global Environment Facility Funds (GEF 8).

Given the importance of this project to the sustainable management of the mangroves ecosystems and the complementarity with our work in this area, I confirm our support to the project.

Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society, CWCS acknowledges the co-financing contribution of US\$ 1,500,000 for the project. In this contribution of project contribution, about US\$ 500 000 will be in cash and US\$ 1 000 000 in kind within the project period.

Yours Sincerely



Dr. Gordon Ajonina  
National Coordinator, CWCS



01.23.17/L/CN/PR

Yaoundé, le 29 novembre 2017

To

Jean-Yves Pirot

Head, GEF Coordination Unit, IUCN

Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland

[jean-yves.pirot@iucn.org](mailto:jean-yves.pirot@iucn.org)

**Subject :** Co-financing of the project "Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa* spp,  *Irvingia* spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon ID FLM 9519"

Dear Sir/Mrs,

We are writing to you to express our interest and commitment to participate in the founding mobilization of the above named project to be funded by the Global Environment Facility Funds (GEF 6).

Given the importance of this project and the complementarity with the work of the Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW) and the NGOs of the IUCN members National Committee in this area (represented by CEW), I confirm our support to the project.

CEW and the NGOs of the IUCN members National Committee acknowledge the co-financing contribution of US\$ 1,000,000 for the project. In this contribution of project contribution, about US\$ 500,000 will be in cash and US\$ 500,000 in kind within the project period.

Yours Sincerely

  
  
P. Roger Ngoufo  
Ecologie - Environnementaliste

Yaounde, 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Ref: <sup>2017</sup>2017/L/CG/1117

**Dr ANGU ANGU Kenneth**  
**Coordinator Regional Forest Program**  
**for Central and West Africa- IUCN -**

**Subject: FODER'S co-financing**

Dear Dr ANGU ANGU Kenneth,

Regarding FODER's project, I am pleased to inform you that the amount of **82773, 72 USD** will be invested as in-kind collaborative funding that will complement, support and leverage the goals, objectives and outcomes of the GEF funded project entitled « Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp*, etc.) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction » in Cameroon.

This amount will cover part of the salary of some members of FODER's staff involved in the project implementation, purchase of computer equipment, office furniture's, sensitization of stakeholders and communications actions.

This contribution as described above is intended as co-financing for the project proposal to be successful.

Yours sincerely



**MBENDA épse LEUNKEU Rosette**  
**Coordinator of FODER**



Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale  
Bureau Régional  
31 BP 6610 Yaoundé Cameroun  
Rwanda: +2538  
Tél : +228 23 40 66 79  
+228 53 36 48 88  
E-mail : [paoc@iucn.org](mailto:paoc@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org/paoc](http://www.iucn.org/paoc)

Yaoundé, 23 NOV 2017

N° 00986 / 17

**De:** Coordinateur Régional du Programme Forêts  
Afrique Centrale et Occidentale  
IUCN Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale  
S/C BP 5506 Yaoundé, Cameroun  
Tel: +237 222 21 64 96; Fax: +237 222 21 64 97

**A:** Monsieur Jean-Yves PIROT  
Directeur de l'Unité de Coordination du Fonds  
Mondial pour l'Environnement (FEM)  
Union International pour la Conservation de la  
Nature  
Glâne - Suisse

**Objet:** Lettre de Co-financement du Projet « **Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon** » - *ID FEM 9519*

Monsieur le Directeur,

Je vous confirme l'engagement de l'IUCN à cofinancer le Projet « *Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon ID FEM 9519* »

Ce co-financement qui s'élève à un montant de 4,548,021 US\$, sera assuré par la mise à disposition du projet, des cadres compétents du programme, du matériel roulant, pour la réalisation des objectifs et les résultats attendus, si la proposition du projet est approuvée.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur de l'Unité de Coordination du Fonds Mondial pour l'Environnement, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

**Dr ANGU ANGU Kenneth**  
Coordinateur Régional du Programme Forêts  
Afrique Centrale et Occidentale  
IUCN Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale

Annex XV: Endorsement Letter GEF Operational Focal Points

REPUBLICQUE DU CAMEROON  
Paix-Travail-Patrie

**MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT,  
DE LA PROTECTION DE LA NATURE  
ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
DIVISION DES ETUDES, DES PROJETS  
ET DE LA COOPERATION

CELLULE DES ETUDES ET DE LA PROSPECTIVE  
POINT FOCAL OPERATIONNEL DU FEM

N° 005 /EL/MINEPDED/SG/GEF-OFF

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
Peace-Work-Fatherland

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,  
PROTECTION OF NATURE AND  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

SECRETARIAT GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF STUDIES, PROJECTS  
AND COOPERATION

STUDIES AND PROSPECTIVE UNIT  
GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT

Yaoundé, the 29 NOV 2017

**GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT**

**Subject:** Endorsement letter for the project «Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products (*Bambusa ssp*, *Irvingia spp*, etc) for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon ID FEM 9519 ».

**TO**  
**Jean-Yves PIROT**  
Head, GEF/GCF Coordination Unit, IUCN  
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196, Gland  
jean-yves.pirot@iucn.org

In my capacity as the GEF Operational Focal Point for Cameroon, I confirm that the above project proposal (i) is in accordance with the government's national priorities and the commitment made by Cameroon under the relevant global environmental conventions and (ii) has been discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points, in accordance with GEF's policy on public involvement.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the objectives and strategies of the above project proposal with the support of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Further, I request IUCN to provide a copy of the project document before submission to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing for GEF being requested for this project is US\$ 1,445,500, inclusive of project preparation Grant (PPG) and agency fees for project cycle management services associated to the total GEF grant.

This financing request for Cameroon is detailed in the table below.

Trust Fund	Country/Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
				GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c) = a+b
GEF TF	Cameroon	Biodiversity		822 211	73 999	896 210
GEF TF	Cameroon	Climate Change		26 523	2 387	28 910
GEF TF	Cameroon	Land Degradation		39 784	3 581	43 365
GEF TF	Cameroon	Multi-focal Areas	SFM	437 628	39 387	477 015
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>				<b>1 326 146</b>	<b>119 354</b>	<b>1 445 500</b>

I consent to the utilization of Cameroon Trust Fund as defined in the GEF STAR system.

Sincerely,

Copp: Convention Focal Point for UNFCCC



*Hansen Unusa (P.H.)*  
Ministère de l'Environnement, Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable

## ANNEX XVI: ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework

### I. Rationale for the ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework

The overall objective of the project is to support the implementation and scaling up of Forest Landscape Restoration in Cameroon to facilitate biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate resilience and improved community livelihoods. The project is organized in the following main components each of which is concretized in form of an expected outcome:

**Component - Outcome 1:** Policy Development and Integration - Increased Policy commitment and improved legislation and regulatory frameworks supporting forest landscape restoration, sustainable land and forest management;

**Component - Outcome 2:** Implementation of Restoration Programs and Complementary Initiatives - Pilot and assess the effectiveness of restoration using *Bambusa* spp and other indigenous NTFP and ensure the development of value chains to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and GHG emissions reduction;

**Component - Outcome 3:** Institutions, Finance and Upscaling - Strengthened institutional capacities and financing arrangements in place for large-scale Restoration, Sustainable Forest and Land Management in Cameroon; and

**Component / Outcome 4:** Knowledge, Partnerships, Project Monitoring and Assessment - Knowledge of best practices of restoration and value-chain development is generated and shared among key national and external audiences

Under *Outcome 1* the project aims at increasing policy commitment and improving legislation and regulatory frameworks in support of forest landscape restoration, sustainable land and forest management. The main activity is carrying out sub national Restoration Opportunity Assessments (ROAM). The sub national ROAM process will be conducted at each of the four identified priority sites and will deliver a) a shortlist of the most relevant and feasible restoration intervention types across the assessment area; b) identified priority areas for restoration; c) quantified costs and benefits of each intervention type; d) estimated values of additional carbon sequestered by these intervention types; e) a diagnostic of the presence of key success factors and identification of strategies to address major policy, legal and institutional bottlenecks; and f) an analysis of the finance and resourcing options for restoration in the assessment area.

Concrete field activities are implemented primarily under *Outcome 2*. Restoration strategies will be piloted by providing technical and logistical support for restoration activities in each of the four selected sites – in the degraded peripheral zones of Waza National Park, the Bakossi segment of the Bakossi-Bayang Mbo Landscape, in degraded forest margins in the Mbalmayo Cluster and in mangrove areas near Douala-Edea. The component includes forest restoration activities such as the development of germplasm collection, production of sourcing manuals, training on propagation and cultivation techniques and the establishment of nurseries. But it also includes activities for promoting livelihood diversification opportunities associated with processing and market development of selected forest resources (bamboo or other species and NTFPs), the development of incentive mechanisms as well as activities around the sustainable production of bamboo charcoal. However, the concrete value chain activities and in particular which species and NTFPs to focus on will only be decided as part of and/or following the sub national ROAM planning process defining each site's concrete restoration strategy. The strength of this approach is that the restoration strategies are locally designed together with relevant stakeholders and developed through a combination of advanced ecological technical expertise, situation analysis and understanding of local interests (across scales and sectors).

Under *Outcome 3* the project will strengthen the institutional capacities and financing arrangements for large-scale restoration, sustainable forest and land management in Cameroon. And *Outcome 4* is about generating and sharing knowledge of best practices of restoration and value-chain development.

Following the provisions of IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) the project has been screened on environmental and social risks. The screening resulted in the classification of the project as a moderate risk Project due to a limited number of social risks but most importantly due to the fact that concrete restoration activities and associated livelihood strategies will only be decided

during Project implementation. Because the identified social risks are overall considered minor and the fact that in this Project risks would be exclusively associated with the FLR interventions under outcome 2 - defined through the ROAM planning process - motivated the decision to enhance the methodological guidance of the ROAM planning process by incorporating key principles and provisions of the ESMS. Such an ESMS-enhanced ROAM Process Framework is considered equivalent to an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which would usually be required in circumstances where project activities will only be defined during project implementation.

The purpose of this document is to delineate the ESMS-enhanced ROAM process by

- describing key ESMS requirements to be adhered to when implementing the ROAM process in the context of the landscape restoration project in Cameroon and
- establishing a light ESMS review and management procedures for checking risks of the FLR plans for each project site.

## II. ESMS enhancements of the ROAM Process

This chapter describes enhancements of the ROAM methodology in order to ensure full compliance with the ESMS principles and provisions. The sub national ROAM planning process will involve five distinct steps as described in the project document. The ESMS enhancement of each of the distinct steps is delineated below.

### Step 1 – Stakeholder engagement

In this step it will be critical to ensure an inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy for the local level and that appropriate participants are selected and invited for the local level workshops and other consultation events. The stakeholder analysis conducted during the project design phase is a good start but needs to be disaggregated to provide an appropriate overview of all relevant stakeholders and their respective interest, needs and concerns in each of the four sites selected for field interventions. The stakeholder analysis will be instrumental not only for deciding who to invite for the ROAM planning events but also for pronouncing the wider stakeholder engagement strategy in each site. In this step it will also be essential to map the location of settlements of indigenous communities as well as activities in relation to the project area (including sites and resources of cultural and religious significance).

Stakeholder engagement should aim at a balanced ratio of men and women as well as a balanced representation of groups in terms of other criteria (e.g. indigenous/ethnic groups, different age, status/class, etc.). The engagement strategy should respect IUCN policy reflected in the *ESMS Principle on Stakeholder Engagement* and the *Principle of Protecting the Needs of Vulnerable Peoples* as well as provisions of the *Standard on Indigenous People*. As such it will be ensured that not only stakeholder groups are identified that actively articulate their stake in forest restoration, but also (sub)-groups whose interests and livelihoods might be impacted (positively or negatively) by forest restoration approaches promoted by the project and whose ability to articulate their needs and interests is less pronounced and/or might generally have less access, power and influence on land use decisions processes. Engaging these groups in the project will not only ensure that their needs, rights and concern are appropriately taken into consideration but their engagement is also expected to contribute to their empowerment.

The project team will design the ROAM workshops and other consultation events in a culturally appropriate, non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive manner, free of external manipulation, intimidation or coercion. Information relevant to stakeholders will be shared in a timely fashion in appropriate language and channels of communication. In village meetings, pro-active involvement of stakeholders will be institutionalized by a priori orientation on what the meeting is about. The meeting facilitators ensure that time and location are suitable for all stakeholder groups, in particular for indigenous groups, women and elderly. Wherever sensible the team will set-up separate meetings for indigenous communities and/or women in order to ensure appropriate levels of participation in the discussion or to accommodate schedules.

It is good practice to document the meetings with minutes describing topics discussed, concerns raised and potential disagreement, together with names/occupation of participants (but participants are not

obligated to provide names) and photography or video, where culturally appropriate. Stakeholder consultation will also include other forms of engagement such as interviews with stakeholder or stakeholder groups, results of which should also to be documented.

## **Step 2 – Clarifying use rights**

Before any restoration strategy can be contemplated, it is important to clarify the relevant tenure situation and use rights disaggregated by relevant groups. This will require consultation with local communities in the respective project sites to ensure a good understanding about the actual implementation of land rights. The involvement of relevant government departments is also important in order to ensure that current policies and legal frameworks related to forest management as well as potential reforms and changes are appropriately taken into account.

While recognizing statutory rights it is critical that also customary rights are well understood. The ESMS emphasizes the importance of respecting customary rights but it is also important to recognize potentially ambiguous issues to get the FLR strategy right. As example, customary rights such as the “right of first occupancy” practiced in the humid forest zones in unclassified forests and woodlands might act as barriers to restoration activities as planting of trees might be viewed as an attempt to usurp the land and could constrain the engagement of women and indigenous groups in the restoration strategy.

Through the process of clarifying land rights and consulting with communities grievances related to land issues may be identified, recognized and where possible managed. This relates in particular to indigenous communities as they might have experienced negative impacts from land-use decisions and forest conservation practices including resettlement, eviction and violations of rights.

## **Step 3 – Undertaking a comprehensive, integrated situation analysis**

The purpose of this step is to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the bio-physical and socio-economic conditions of each of the four sites to provide the foundation for the decision about the respective restoration strategy and concrete project activities.

The situation analysis should be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding and will cover biophysical topics such as state and trend of natural resources (forests, water, agriculture, soil, meadows, fishery etc.) as well as drivers and pressures of environmental change, current flow and trend of ecosystem services (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.). The latter will segue into the analysis of costs and benefits of ecosystem services as well of these needs for specific services/resources, disaggregated by social groups where relevant and possible (e.g. gender, age and wealth-disaggregated information). The various and potentially competing needs of stakeholders for different ecosystem services from the landscape will be identified, what deficits they suffer, and what opportunities there are to remedy these through FLR - disaggregated by relevant social groups.

It will be critical to determine dependencies on ecosystem services and forest resources of vulnerable members of the community, including ethnic minorities, people who are landless or displaced, elderly or disabled, children and groups that are impoverished, marginalised or discriminated against.

The situation analysis should also provide for a comprehensive understanding about ethnic groups who inhabit or use the project's area of influence, specify their geographic location and describe language and levels of literacy, use of land, land-use practices and means of livelihood. It needs to be determined who of these groups qualify as “indigenous peoples” according to IUCN definition and/or are recognized as such by national legislation. The situation analysis should further suggest measures for ensuring cultural appropriateness of the FLR interventions. Some indigenous groups have already tentatively been pre-identified (Baka, Bakola or Bagyéli, Bedzang and Mbororo), but their presence in the project sites need to be confirmed, including by mapping the precise locations of their settlements as well as areas of economic or cultural activities.

Project sites should also be analysed on relevant gender differences, e.g. in terms gender specific livelihood strategies, needs and barriers faced by different genders, dependency on ecosystem services and forest products and their current role in forest management. This will allow identifying the potential need for gender differential treatment when designing FLR interventions in order to address a bias or

disadvantage due to gender roles or norms. This should also serve to identify opportunities for empowering women and improving gender equality such as promoting women's participation in institutions governing forest management or in restoration activities implemented by the project; the identification of skills and knowledge that could be tapped into as part of the livelihood strategies might another strategy to empower women.

#### **Step 4 – Co-develop FLR plans**

The social baseline data gathered as part of the situation analysis will be instrumental for the development of the FLR plans and the livelihood strategies and for ensuring that rights and livelihood context of the different social groups are respected, negative impacts are avoided and social benefits sought wherever possible and in line with the conservation objective. The development of the FLR plans is designed as a participatory process and by following the provision described under step 1 inclusiveness of this process will be ensured.

It is unavoidable that participation in the planning workshops might often be limited to the legitimate representatives elected by the communities at each project site. It is therefore essential that disclosure meetings will be organized at the community level to present the results of the workshops to a wider audience to inform them on the FLR plans and ensure their buy-in as well as feed-back on potential risks. Good practice rules for organizing and documenting community meetings are already described under steps 1.

#### **Step 5 – Implement FLR plan, Review, revise and adapt**

During implementation of the FLR plans and the livelihood strategies it will be important that the project team and its partners establish and maintain close relationship with the respective local communities and stakeholders in order to ensure ongoing social acceptance of FLR within the local community. Local stakeholders will be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the agreed FLR plans. Monitoring should also provide for checking on new environmental and social risks that might emerge during project implementation.

A project-level grievance mechanism will be established following the guidance provided by the generic IUCN ESMS Grievance Mechanism<sup>59</sup>. This generic mechanism will need to be adapted to reflect local customs and institutions; it will be described in the local language and communicated and disseminated in a culturally appropriate way to all relevant stakeholders, women and men, in the project's area of influence at the beginning of project implementation. To minimise grievances it will be essential that the project team and implementing partners are highly attuned to community concerns and provide for regular consultation during implementation.

### **III. ESMS review and risk management procedure**

#### **1. Screening for potential environmental and social risks**

A simplified ESMS procedure has been established to ensure that the FLR plans selected during the local level workshops as well as identified livelihood strategies are screened for potential environmental and social risks. The screening of the identified FLR plans is best done during step four of the ROAM process ("Co-develop FLR plans"). It should be undertaken as early as possible - when information on the FLR plans' individual interventions is available in sufficient detail (e.g. geographical location, activities etc.).

The screening step will be supported by a questionnaire (ESMS questionnaire) that is designed to tease out risk issues that could give rise to potential negative impacts. It is structured in three sections.

In its **first section** the ESMS Questionnaire analyses impact issues related to the four ESMS standards:

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<sup>59</sup> Available on IUCN website at [www.iucn.org/esms](http://www.iucn.org/esms)

- Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions;
- Standard on Indigenous Peoples;
- Standard on Cultural Heritage;
- Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.

The **second section** of the ESMS Questionnaire focusses on other environmental or social impacts (beyond the four ESMS Standards) that might be caused by the FLR interventions, the proposed policies and the sustainable development plan. It looks at risks such as

- health and safety issues for local communities, project staff and other individuals involved in project implementation (e.g. human-wildlife conflicts, respiratory health issues, exposure to hazardous materials),
- economic, social and cultural risks for women (or other gender groups) including the risk of inadvertently perpetuating or aggravating inequalities between women and men,
- inter-community impacts (e.g. disturbances to patterns of social relations and social cohesion, project benefits leading to discrimination or marginalization of certain groups),
- risks of causing conflicts between communities,
- environmental impacts not covered by the Standard on Biodiversity (e.g. pollution, hazardous waste and generation of significant quantities of GHG emissions).

One aspect to be reviewed in more detail is the risk of health impacts from charcoal production, e.g. the risk of air emissions (in particular charcoal dust) causing respiratory illnesses of people exposed to the fumes. The proposal refers to training of five pilot local communities on bamboo charcoal production, but does not specify whether the project will provide clean technology (e.g. equipment) that would avoid the emission of charcoal dust.

In the **third section** the ESMS Questionnaire addresses risks of the proposed interventions inadvertently increasing the vulnerability of ecosystem and people in the context of climate change.

The results of the screening of the FLR plans and the livelihood strategies for each of the pilot sites will be documented in form of screening reports according to the provided IUCN template.

## **2. Managing environmental and social risks**

If the ESMS screening identifies environmental or social risks of proposed FLR interventions these will be addressed by

- analysing the probability and significance of the identified risks,
- identifying alternative approaches in order to avoid risks and/or
- developing culturally appropriate and agreed measures for mitigating the risks.

These steps will require additional consultations with the affected groups and other concerned stakeholders which should be initiated as early as possible. Where risks of FLR interventions are identified the consultations include a discussion about alternative project design, trade-offs and mitigation measures. Depending on the nature of the risk this step might also require further environmental or social impact assessments (ESIA) and the development of mitigation measures to assist people affected by project activities in their efforts to improve or restore their livelihoods; the latter need to be documented in form of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

## **3. Relevant norms of ESMS Standards**

The sections below provide guidance on the application of the ESMS Standards.

### ***Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions***

The Standard applies to projects where the conservation objectives require (1) resettlement of communities or (2) restricting peoples' access to areas and/or the use of natural resources with impact on the economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits that people accrue from these resources or areas. The access restriction component of the Standard is triggered by projects that involve

- establishing use restrictions under formal frameworks (e.g. legal framework for protected area),
- strengthening enforcement of existing resource restrictions and/or
- designing or redesigning protected area boundaries.

The Standard also covers activities that involve involuntary land acquisition from a community or individual land owners for the purpose of infrastructure development or for the creation of buffer zones around a high biodiversity area.

The Standard does not apply to projects that support local communities in establishing resource use regimes (including access or use restrictions) on a voluntary basis, e.g. for the purpose of sustaining long-term use of resources to which they have legitimate rights. However, the project needs to ensure that these regimes do not put members of the community into a vulnerable position and that the community decision-making process is adequate and reflects voluntary, informed consensus; and if negative impacts on vulnerable groups are expected, that appropriate measures have been put in place to mitigate them.

If a project supports voluntary co-management agreements between relevant agencies and the community or other potentially affected stakeholders such as herders using rangeland within the project's area of influence, a process of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be established. This process should start with the identification of legitimate representatives of the community and be accomplished through a series of at least 4 well-documented meetings conducted in good faith (an introductory meeting, a consultation meeting, and meeting to present the draft of an agreement, and a meeting to sign the agreement). These meetings should be combined with an analysis of social impacts to better comprehend potential impacts and their significance. If significant social impacts cannot be avoided by adjustments of project design and/or if the consultation process does not provide for agreement on mitigation measures, the Standard is triggered and the respective provisions need to be followed.

Gender balanced representation of the affected group(s) in these consultations is desirable, although the project should take the community's culture and traditions appropriately into account. An expert on gender, familiar with the local context should be able to advice on the right ways to ensure gender-responsive risk management strategy.

### ***Standard on Indigenous Peoples***

Projects that operate on land or territory of indigenous peoples require the analysis of the specific socio-economic and cultural conditions of these groups, their rights and needs. The presence of indigenous peoples has been confirmed at the scale of the larger regions, but not at the actual intervention site as these and the interventions itself will only be known during the ROAM process. Once the sites have been narrowed down, the presence of indigenous communities and their socio-economic situation should be inquired; where indigenous communities are confirmed, they should be provided the opportunity to join the planning process. It will be essential that the situation analysis takes their interests, concerns and needs for ecosystem services appropriately into account and that the involvement of these groups is done in a culturally sensitive manner. This might require specific arrangements (e.g. to provide for inclusion of groups with special needs or seasonal availability) or capacity building measures.

Legitimate representatives of the indigenous groups need to be involved in the design of relevant components of the restoration intervention and their consent sought (following FPIC) to activities that might affect their rights, resources or livelihoods. If negative impacts cannot be avoided, mitigation measures need to be developed and agreed with the respective groups; the measures should be either incorporated in the ESMP or, if measures are substantial, articulated in form of a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan.

FPIC from relevant rights holders is also required in case the project

- involves commercial development of resources from land or territories claimed by indigenous peoples
- seeks to use traditional knowledge or
- promotes the generation of social or economic benefits from cultural sites or resources.

It also needs to be ensured that the interventions respect indigenous people's social and cultural identity, traditions and institutions, including their cultural and spiritual values and perspectives on the environment. Wherever relevant and possible, the project should seek opportunities for providing culturally adequate and gender inclusive benefits to indigenous groups. It is further important to take seasonal non-availability of pastoralist groups into account (e.g. Mbororo) and allow for equitable participation of all communities.

### ***Standard on Cultural Heritage***

The Standard applies to projects that could adversely affect peoples' cultural heritage defined as tangible or intangible, movable or immovable cultural resources or natural features of historical, cultural, spiritual or symbolic value.

The Standard is triggered for projects that involve:

- risks of potentially damaging cultural resources when undertaking small scale construction;
- the need of restricting access to cultural resources or sites;
- the development of social or economic benefits from cultural heritage (including traditional knowledge and forms of cultural expressions) in order to ensure equitable sharing of benefits.

### ***Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources***

The situation analysis will provide for extensive analysis and as such is expected to achieve a good understanding of the state and trend of natural resources, drivers and pressures of environmental change, current flow of ecosystem services. The identification of FLR interventions will be carried out in iterative steps where the impacts (positives and also potential negatives ones) on all components of biodiversity are assessed before agreeing on interventions. The FLR interventions in each site should nevertheless be screened on Standard-related impact issues as this might hint to issues potentially overlooked in preceding analytical steps.

Two aspects referred to in the project's Screening Report deserve particular attention. There is a possibility that FLR interventions might include the use of certain species that are either not native to Cameroon (but introduced in the country already decades ago) or are not native to the respective pilot sites (but indigenous to other regions). To mitigate against the risk of these species developing invasive characteristics the project will screen any species to be introduced from beyond its current range for the potential to become invasive (e.g. due to its dispersal mechanism or growth habits) and avoid those species that are likely to be invasive.

Second, when promoting the use of natural resources such as NTFP it will be critical to ensure that this is done in a sustainable way, e.g. by providing appropriate guidelines and mechanism for verifying the sustainability of harvest rates and by ensuring their adherence (during the life of the project and beyond, to the extent possible).

#### **IV. Institutional Arrangements for ESMS**

The institutional arrangements for implementing the ESMS review and management procedures are the following:

- High-level oversight will be provided by the Implementing Agency;
- The National Project Management Unit led by the national Project Coordinator will be responsible for implementing the ESMS review steps and risk management procedures, including the drafting of screening reports and ensure implementation of mitigation measures established in the ESMP (if needed); he will also provide brief annual reports demonstrating compliance with the ESMS procedures.
- Technical staff and consultants will provide technical expertise on ESMS-relevant topics on request of the Project Coordinator and/or support him in ESMS-specific stakeholder consultation activities.
- Environmental or social impact assessments (ESIA), where needed, will be carried out through consultancies assignments.
- ESMS Training is provided for all project staff including relevant governmental and non-governmental project partners during the inception phase of the project.

#### **V. Monitoring of ESMP progress and ESMS risks**

Monitoring the progress in implementing the mitigation measures presented in the ESMP will be integral part of the project's monitoring system.

ESMS monitoring also involves tracking the measures' effectiveness in mitigating the identified environmental and social risks. If FLR plans require the establishment of new restrictions on the use of forest resources or the enforcement of existing restrictions, this will require the development of dedicated indicators at village level to monitor livelihood impacts.

Baseline information on socio-economic conditions of the villages and households will be available through the situation analysis. Depending on the nature of identified social impacts, these baseline data can be used as the basis for designing measures to assist people affected by project activities in their efforts to improve or restore their livelihoods. Follow-up assessments, conducted at the mid-term review and the close of project, will update these data for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation strategy.