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**GEF-7 PROJECT: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CAMEROON'S FOREST
LANDSCAPES IN THE CONGO BASIN**

East and south regions



May 2021



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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BIP	: Public Investment Budget
CES	: Secondary Education Colleges
CETIC	: centre of Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies
CIE	: Interministerial Committee for the Environment
CIFAN	: National Armed Forces Training Centre
CMA	: sub-divisional Medical Centres
CMRC	: Campo Ma'an-Rio-Campo
COVAREF	: Wildlife Resources Valorization Committees
CPF	: Farmers-Forest Committee
CVBD	: Conservation and Valorization of Biological Diversity
ESA	: Environmental and Social Assessment
ESIA	: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	: Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESSF	: Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework
SIPP	: Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures
ESMPs	: Environmental and Social Management Plans
FESP	: Forest Environment Sector Program
FP	: Process Framework
FPIC	: Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GBV	: Gender-Based Violence
GEF	: Global Environmental Facility
GIC	: Common Initiative Groups
ICRAF	: International Council for Research in Agroforestry
IGA	: Income Generating Activities
IPLCs	: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
IRAD	: Research Institute for Development
IUCN	: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LUP	: Mainstreaming integrated land use planning
MINADER	: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINAS	: Ministry of Social Affairs
MINAT	: Ministry of Territorial Administration
MINDCAF	: Ministry of State Property Survey and Land Tenure
MINEE	: Minister of Energy and Water
MINEPAT	: Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Territorial Development
MINEPDED	: Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINMIDT	: Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technological Development
MINPROFF	: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family
MINTOUL	: Minister of Tourism and Leisure
NCCESD	: National Consultative Commission for the Environment and Sustainable Development
NDS	: National Development Strategy
NSFPA	: National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas
NTFPs	: Non-Timber Forest Products
OUV	: Outstanding Universal Value

PAP	: Project Affected People
PNCM	: Campo-Ma'an National Park
PNGE	: National Environmental Management Plan
PNL	: Lobéké National Park
PPP	: Public Private Partnership
PTA	: Parent Teachers Association
RFD	: Dja Wildlife Reserve
SCEA	: Cameroonian Agricultural Exploitation Company
SFM	: Sustainable Forest Management
SIA	: Social Impact Assessment
TCC	: Community Hunting Territories
TNS	: Sangha Tri-National
TRIDOM	: Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe
UFA	: Forest Management Units
UNDP	: United Nations Development Program
VC	: Cut Sales
WCS	: Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF-Cameroon	: World Wild Fund for Nature - Cameroon
ZAF	: agro-forestry zone
ZIC	: Zones of Hunting Interest
ZICGC	: Community Management Hunting Areas

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Background and Context

The proposed GEF-funded project entitled « Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin » is a child project under the Global Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes (CBSL). It will be executed by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in close coordination with the World Wild Fund for Nature - Cameroon (WWF-Cameroon). The project's objective is to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon's globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and livelihoods for forest dependent people. Over a six-year period, the project will address key barriers and tackle the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss through an inclusive, integrated approach that aims to achieve and sustain the effective participation and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and reinforce their resilience. The project will be implemented across the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes: (i) the Rio-Campo landscape (769,446 ha), specifically around Campo Ma'an National Park; (ii) the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape (4,949,174 ha), and (iii) the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape (1,490,552 ha), specifically in and around Lobeke National Park. The project is divided into five components, as follows:

Component 1: Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management. The project will mainstream LUP by applying a bottom-up approach for participatory, informed and integrated LUP and management across the 1.2 million hectares of the Ngolya and Mintom councils of the TRIDOM landscape.

Component 2: Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests. The project will directly address barriers associated with the lack of participatory management models for sustainable forest and wildlife management by promoting better governance of protected areas and their peripheries, notably for Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP) and Lobéké National Park (LNP).

Component 3: Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains, in the TRIDOM landscape. The project will address the impacts of unsustainable resource use by local communities and private sector actors by promoting their increased engagement in local-level models for SFM that engage IPLCs and the private sector.

Component 4: Increasing benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development. The project will take advantage of the unique set of attractions that can be found in and around CMNP to develop a sustainable tourism value chain in the Cameroon segment of the Rio-Campo Landscape.

Component 5: Project and knowledge management (KM), monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The objective of this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to avoid (or minimize or mitigate) any adverse environmental and social impacts from the implementation of

the project. These impacts and risks are identified in an Environmental and Social Assessment required to ensure compliance with the specific WWF GEF Agency policies and guidelines (WWF SIPP, 2019).

Project Institutional Arrangements

The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility of the project, with WWF GEF Agency providing oversight as the GEF Agency. As the main Executing Agency (EA), MINEPDED will be responsible for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and the effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in line with WWF-US and GEF policy requirements. In addition, WWF-US will enter into a Grant Agreement with WWF Cameroon, the Financial Administrator (FA) for the project which spells out the terms and conditions under which the GEF funding is being received, disbursed and accounted for project funding.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be co-funded by the GEF and established within MINEPDED. The main functions of the PMU, and under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/B). A safeguards Specialist will be located in the PMU and will be responsible for the day-to-day safeguards of the project. Coordination for the implementation of the project with other ministries will be managed via the National Project Director (NPD) and approval of the annual work plan and budget via the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The NPD will be the contact point for the project within the government of Cameroon and responsible for coordinating project activities with national bodies related to the different project components as well as with the project partners. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also be established to provide punctual support to the PSC on particular subjects, as relevant.

Project Area Profile

See Chapter 3 for a detailed description of the biophysical, biodiversity, hydrological, climate, socio-demographic characteristics of each project landscape.

Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape

The Campo Ma'an – Rio Campo landscape (CMRC) is made up of the Campo-Ma'an National Park (CMNP) in Cameroon and the Rio Campo Reserve in Equatorial Guinea in terms of forests of global importance. The two protected areas constitute a sub-regional block separated by an interstate border. This project is focused on the part of the landscape found in Cameroon, more precisely the Campo National Park and its peripheral zone, designated by the term "the Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape". The landscape is located entirely in the Southern Region, covering an area of approximately 771,668 ha, that is 16.33% of the area of this Region. The CMNP, created by decree n° 2000/004/PM of 06 January 2000, covers an area of 264,064 ha. It straddles two divisions: the Ocean division (Campo and Akom II subdivisions) and that of the valley of Ntem (Ma'an subdivision). Numerous ethnic groups are found in this landscape, including the Bagyéli Indigenous Peoples who are considered part of the most vulnerable groups in this region.

Dja-Odzala-Minkebe landscape

The protected areas that are Dja, Odzala and Minkébé are respectively found in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, constituting the forest landscape called TRIDOM (Tri National Dja-Odzala -Minkébé). This forest landscape covers a total area of about 147,000 km², which is about 7.5% of the area of the entire Congo Basin. Its portion in the territory of Cameroon extends into the southern and eastern regions, over a total area of approximately 51,801 km². The forest landscape of the TRIDOM concerned by this project is that which is on the Cameroonian territory. Therefore, the Dja Wildlife Reserve (RFD) is part of the landscape. However, in this landscape, the project concerns the Councils of Somalomo, Lomié, Mintom and Ngoyla. With regard to the ethnic composition, the area is mainly composed of seven (07) ethnic groups namely: Bulu, Fang, Bandjoue, Maka, Kaka, Nzimé and Baka. There are also the Bamiléké, the Bamoun, the Hausa, the Bassa, etc. Among these populations, the most vulnerable are the Baka (pygmies) who live mainly from hunting, fishing and foraging. The other ethnic groups are primarily Bantu whose main activity is agriculture.

Sangha Tri National Landscape

The forest landscape of the Sangha Tri National (STN) is made up of the following 3 neighboring national parks: Nouabalé-Ndoki in Congo, Lobéké in Cameroon, and Dzanga Sangha in the Central African Republic, as well as their peripheral areas. This landscape covers an area of approximately 259,354 km². The current project concerns only the STN on the Cameroon side, in particular the Lobéké National Park (LNP) and its peripheral zone as well as the councils of Moloundou and Salapoumbé. The peripheral zone of Lobéké National Park had a population of 23,245 people in 2012. Like the other populations of the forested zones of Cameroon, the Bangando, Bakwelé and Baka constitute the major ethnic groups. The Baka Indigenous Peoples group is considered the most vulnerable in the region.

Environmental and Social Policies, Regulations and Guidelines

The project is subject to the laws and regulations of the Government of Cameroon and the WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF), as detailed in the safeguards integrated policies and procedures (SIPP) document. For the purposes of the GEF 7 Cameroon project implementation, the principles and procedures of the SIPP shall prevail in all cases of discrepancies. The table below provides a description of the Cameroon laws against the WWF standards as they relate to the proposed project.

NORM /STANDARD TRIGGERED	PROVISIONS OF THE STANDARD	PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL REGULATORY TEXTS	OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS
Standard 1 : Environmental and Social Risk Management	Tool: Depending on the project, a range of methods and tools can be used to meet the policy requirement of WWF and to document the results of such an assessment, including the mitigation measures to be implemented, which will reflect the nature and scope of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA); - Environmental and Social Audit (AES); - Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) 	Decree N° 2013/0171 / PM of February 14, 2013 to lay down the modalities for carrying out environmental and social impact assessment provides as tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ESIA (Chapter 2); - the ESMP (article 27) Decree N° 2013/0172 / PM of February 14, 2013 to lay down the modalities for carrying out the Environmental and Social Audit provides for the ESA	The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. National regulatory texts do not include among the tools the Environmental and Social Management Framework (CGES). In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement the national texts.
	Environmental screening: Determining the specific type and level of environmental and social assessment required for selection and the categorization of the project.	Environmental screening and categorization are provided for by Decree N°. 00001/MINEPDED of February 8, 2016 to lay down the different categories of operations whose execution is subject to a strategic environmental assessment or an environmental impact assessment and the Order N° 00002/MINEPDED of 08 February 2016 defining the standard	The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts
	Categorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Category A: for projects with significant negative impacts - Category B: for projects with less significant negative impacts which are addressed by mitigation plans 		The dispositions of this Norm are fully satisfied by national statutory instruments

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	<p align="center">Category C: for projects with minimal or no negative impacts</p>	<p>guidelines of the terms of reference and the content of the EIN.</p>	
	<p>Project implementation: During project implementation, the project team (including the executing agency and / or the lead technical ministry) reports on compliance with the measures</p>	<p>Decree N° 2013/0171 / PM of February 14, 2013 setting the conditions for carrying out environmental and social impact studies provides for the environmental monitoring and follow-up of the project to report, among other things, on compliance with the measures</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>
<p>Standard 2: Consultation and disclosure This standard describes WWF's commitments to engage those likely to be affected, and to ensure the transparency of these safeguards.</p>	<p>The project team will undertake a process of meaningful stakeholder consultation so as to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views on project design, risks, impacts and mitigation measures, and allows the project team to discuss, review and respond to them.</p> <p>It is important to make project information available as early as possible in the project cycle and in a manner and in a language appropriate for each stakeholder group.</p>	<p>Law N°. 96/12 of August 5, 1996 establishing a framework law on environmental management provides compliance with public consultation.</p>	<p>The provisions of this Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>
<p>Standard 3: Stakeholder engagement This standard ensures that WWF is committed to ensuring that stakeholders meaningfully, effectively and in an informed manner involve indigenous people and local communities likely to be affected, in the design and implementation of projects.</p>	<p>Stakeholders should be involved throughout the project life cycle. It must have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment during project preparation: Stakeholders should be involved throughout the project life cycle. To ensure that a project is designed to be effective while respecting safeguards, it is important to start involving stakeholders early in the preparation process. - Commitment during project execution Stakeholders must be regularly informed, consulted and engaged during the execution of the project. The project team should engage with stakeholders in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 	<p>Law N° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 on the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitment of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. National regulatory texts do not directly provide for a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement</p>
<p>Standards No. 4: Complaint management mechanisms This standard provides a mechanism for affected people to raise concerns on how they are affected by WWF projects.</p>	<p>A grievance redress mechanism that takes into account local conflict resolution practices</p>	<p>Law N° 85-09 of July 4, 1985 relating to expropriation for public utility and to the terms of compensation provides for the provisions of the Standard in part.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement the national texts.</p>
<p>Standard 5: Involuntary resettlement and Restriction of Access</p>	<p>This standard helps WWF identify and respond to physical resettlement, access restrictions and economic displacement or other economic impacts triggered by its projects</p>		<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard and Process Framework applies to supplement</p>
<p>Standard 6: Indigenous peoples and local communities This standard ensures that due attention is paid to WWF projects that may have an impact on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including free, prior</p>	<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - early recognition of indigenous peoples; an environmental and social impact assessment with the participation of indigenous peoples to assess risks and opportunities and improve understanding of the local context and affected communities; - a process of consultation with affected indigenous communities to fully identify their views and obtain their free, prior and informed consent with respect to project activities that affect them; and 	<p>Law n ° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>

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and informed consent, where applicable.	- developing and including elements of a project-specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) with measures to avoid negative impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits in each project		
Standard 8: Protection of natural habitats This standard guarantees the mitigation of any potential negative impact on natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation for biodiversity - Protection of legally protected areas and internationally recognized areas - No introduction of invasive alien species 	Law No. 94/01 of January 20, 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fishing provides for these provisions in Title II	The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts
Standard 9: Community Health, Safety and Security This standard ensures that the health, safety and security of communities are respected and protected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WWF should avoid or minimize the risk of community exposure to health, safety and security risks, paying attention to disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups or individuals. - Any security arrangements to safeguard personnel, property or project-affected people must be proportional and consistent with applicable national laws and good international industry practices. 	<p>Law N ° 96/06 of January 18, 1996 revising the constitution of June 2, 1972</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guarantee the right of all citizens to a healthy environment <p>Law n ° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	Some aspects of the provisions of the Standard may not be fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard and associated plan applies to supplement the national regulatory text.
Standard 10: Cultural Resources This standard ensures that cultural resources are appropriately considered, respected and protected and their destruction, damage or loss is avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure full understanding of the tangible, intangible and natural cultural resources of the landscape as perceived by IPLCs - Analyse tangible, intangible and natural cultural resources in relation to project interventions and assess potential negative impacts on these resources - Inform project-affected parties of their rights under national law when a project involves the commercial use of cultural resources; arrange for fair and equitable sharing of benefits - Avoid financing and/or implementing projects that could significantly damage or modify cultural resources. 	<p>Law N°.2013/003 of April 18, 2013 governing cultural heritage in Cameroon repealing Law N°. 91/008 of July 30, 1991 on the protection of cultural and natural heritage. Promotes knowledge, conservation, protection, enhancement, promotion and transmission of cultural heritage, for public interest in the perspective of sustainable development</p> <p>Law n ° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts

Description of potential negative environmental impacts

Negative Impact - Potential disappearance of some NTFP species

Forest landscapes are in the throes of unbridled use of several species, including NTFPs. The establishment by the Cameroonian legislature of several types of forests (community forest, FMU and others) is a positive approach to reduce unsustainable natural resources use, however the lack of proper management and enforcement of these various legislatures added to illegal logging, contributes to the disappearance of several species.

The high level of poverty in IP communities undoubtedly justify their intense use of NTFPs, thereby contributing to the potential unsustainable use of certain NTFP species. This impact was identified during public consultation meetings with IP groups, particularly in Salapoumbé and Yenga (TNS landscape).

Negative Impact - Potential use of invasive species or pesticides in plantations

In addition, negative environmental impacts may arise through the creation of plantations, the promotion of agroforestry and production/cultivation of NTFPs and in the Ebony Project activities, as pesticides may be used and forested land may be ploughed to make room for plantations.

Mitigation measures

To mitigate the above potential impacts, the following measures have been proposed and incorporated into project activities:

- Raise awareness among local populations on the need for the sustainability of NTFPs;
- Train local populations on techniques for sustainable exploitation of NTFPs;
- In the event that plantations, agroforestry, and/or cultivation of NTFPs require the use of pesticides, ensure that they are not on the exclusion list and create a Pesticide Management Plan;
- Ensure all plantations are created on already degraded lands, avoiding the use of forested lands, HCV areas, etc.

Description of Negative Social Impacts

Negative Impact - Increased deterioration in the health of IPs due to alcohol and tobacco abuse which may result from revenue increase

- Description of the impact

One of the objectives of the project is to increase the economic opportunities and the livelihoods of forest dependent populations. This will manifest itself in the increase in income. Indigenous Peoples would risk investing their income in alcohol and tobacco as they currently do. The consumption of alcohol at home is a real scourge. Everyone consumes it, including infants. A woman who drinks whiskey easily gives the rest to the baby she carries on her back. Consumption is made easier by the low price of local alcohol and whiskey in sachets. This type of whiskey is sold at a price (50 FCFA, or 0.09 USD/sachet) which is within everyone's means. However, joint decree N^o. 6011 MINMIDT/MINCOMMERCE/MINSANTE of 12 September 2014 prohibits the production and marketing of whiskies in sachets and containers. Unfortunately, it is not enforced¹.

The consequences of alcohol consumption for IPs range from health deterioration, to household-level dysfunction, leading to premature death. Likewise, a study has been found that their race is threatened, as the combination of high deaths with lower fertility rates result in population decline (Ramirez Rozzi FV., 2018)². If nothing is done to support a change in the behaviour of IPs, the project will certainly increase the livelihoods of forest dependent peoples, however, the positive long-term impacts of the project on IPs may be affected by this chronic problem they are facing.

- Mitigation measures

To mitigate this impact, the following measures are proposed :

- raise awareness among IPs about the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco abuse;
- sensitize the IPs on revenue management;

Negative Impact - Increase in human/wildlife conflicts

- Description of the impact:

Wildlife such as the buffalo, elephant, gorilla, and duiker etc. often venture out of the protected areas and end up in the outskirts of villages. Not only do they destroy crops in farms, but also prevent IPLCs from collecting NTFPs making that activity unsafe for communities.

¹ Since MINAS has a cofinancing in this project, it could seize the opportunity to call upon its counterparts of MINMIDT, MINCOMMERCE and MINSANTE to implement the order.

² The study conducted between 2007 and 2017 in Moangue le Bosquet in the Eastern region showed that there was a correlation between reduced fertility and alcohol consumption.

One of the objectives of the project is to guarantee the biological integrity of the three forest landscapes. Consequently, its implementation will lead to better conservation of fauna with the corresponding increase in its population.

This impact is already noticeable in the field. It was also identified during public consultation meetings with the IPLCs, in particular in Akanga, Campo (CMRC landscape), Assok, Ngoyla and Assoundélé II (TRIDOM landscape) and Moloundou, Salapoumbé and Yenga (STN landscape).

- Mitigation measures

To mitigate this impact, the following measures are proposed:

- sensitize, train and support IPs on the development of mechanisms on traditional methods and best and proven practices to repel wildlife;

Negative Impact - Increased prevalence of STIs/HIV/AIDS

- Description of the impact:

The South and East Regions of Cameroon, which are home to the three project landscapes, are the areas where the prevalence of STIs/HIV/AIDS is highest with 6.3% and 5.9%³ respectively. The implementation of the project will induce social influx, especially workers and their families as well as job seekers. Over time, increased contact of local IPLCs with these outsiders may lead to increased transmission of STIs/HIV/AIDS. As the serological status of people is not known, a risk of infection and an increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is likely to occur.

Likewise, the development of sustainable tourism as foreseen in component 4 of the project will promote the influx of tourists into the CMRC landscape. These tourists could be agents of transmission or receptors of the disease.

- Mitigation measures

To mitigate this impact, the following measure has been proposed:

- sensitize the IPLC and the personnel of the project on the methods to prevent STIs/HIV/AIDS.

Guidelines for Environmental and Social Management Plan

The implementation of measures contained in the ESMF shall be carried out either by the PMU or by the Project Technical Consultants as part of the activities established in their contracts.

Project Management Unit

Staff whether at the level of the National Director or at the Project Implementation Unit (PMU) level shall have the following roles to play: the National Project Director and the Project Manager have to master the project in terms of environmental and social issues; the Technical Advisors should also have a broad knowledge of environmental and social safeguards in the project; the Safeguards and Gender/IP Specialists shall be in charge of the implementation of ESMP measures in Campo Ma'an Landscape since there is no Landscape Technical Assistant for this landscape; the Landscape Operational Assistants shall be in charge of most of the environmental and social safeguards measures. For activities like awareness raising, their capacities have to be reinforced; the Administrator is supposed to prepare the recruitment and contracts of technical project consultants. The Administrator has to make sure that environmental and social concerns are incorporated in procurement documents and subsequently in their contracts. For this project, it is recommended that all technical staff receive training on environmental and social

³ CAMPHIA, 2017. *Assessing the impact of HIV on populations in Cameroon*

safeguards and the landscape operational assistants in all project area landscapes need to be trained on awareness raising techniques and issues for best practices in capacity building techniques.

Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF)

In accordance with WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples and the Categorization Memo, the objective of the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is to elaborate a framework for the design and implementation of specific actions for the Bagyéli/Baka within the GEF-7 project, in order to ensure that the development process proposed by the project can benefit these populations, in the same way as the other members of the local communities, and without having any negative impacts on their environment and nature. This includes ensuring that the benefits provided to the Bagyéli/Baka by the development plan are culturally and socially appropriate.

The WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples aims to ensure that indigenous rights are respected in WWF's activities, that Indigenous Peoples are not adversely affected by projects and that they receive culturally appropriate benefits from conservation. WWF must ensure that:

- projects respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their rights to FPIC processes and to tenure over traditional territories;
- culturally appropriate and equitable benefits (including traditional ecological knowledge) are negotiated and agreed with the indigenous communities in question; and,
- potential adverse impacts are avoided or adequately addressed through a participatory and consultative approach.

The development of landscape-specific Indigenous Peoples Plan may be required during project implementation. In the event this is required, the following guidance should be applied for the development of such plans. The contents of an IPP for each project landscape, will depend on the specific project activities identified and the impacts these activities may have on Indigenous Peoples in the project area. As a minimum, the IPP should include:

- Description of the Indigenous Peoples affected by the proposed sub-project;
- Summary of the proposed sub-project;
- Detailed description of the participation and consultation process during implementation;
- Description of how the project will ensure culturally appropriate benefits and avoid or mitigate adverse impacts;
- Budget;
- Mechanism for complaints and conflict resolution; and
- Monitoring and evaluation system that includes monitoring of particular issues and measures concerning indigenous communities.

Consultation Modalities and Methods

WWF's Standard on Indigenous Peoples applies to projects that affect Indigenous Peoples, either negatively or positively. WWF's requirements include an environmental and social impact study with the participation of Indigenous Peoples to assess risks and opportunities and improve understanding of the local context and affected communities; a process of consultation with affected indigenous communities to fully identify their views and obtain their free, prior and informed consent to project activities that affect them; and developing and including elements of a project-specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), with measures to avoid negative impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits in each project.

During the implementation of micro-projects

The Baka/Bagyéli populations in the project area will be consulted through the FPIC process as required for the following subjects (see below), as well as when deemed necessary according to the nature of the consultation required and in compliance with the WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples: choice of sites for carrying out specific activities; choice of NTFPs; choice of the

workforce to be recruited; choice of their representatives in the various decision-making structures. Throughout the implementation of the project, the Baka/Bagyéli will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of activities. They will be informed of the progress of activities throughout the process.

Process Framework

WWF's Standard on Restriction of Access and Resettlement is applicable in the case of this project, as restriction of access to natural resources may occur in the framework of the land use planning activities and improvement in the efficiency in the management and governance of protected areas.

The main requirements of this standard as they apply to restriction of access are, among others, the following:

- when a proposed project is likely to result in restriction of access to resources, a Process Framework will be prepared that will dictate how Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs) will be prepared in the event of access restriction;
- if access restriction is to occur in a project, a baseline assessment must be conducted to determine who is eligible to receive compensation and how much compensation should PAPs receive (this can be monetary or in the form of capacity building, training on alternative livelihoods, etc.);
- the project ensures that restriction of access will not occur until the necessary measures for restriction of access are implemented;
- all Livelihood Restoration Plans must be fully implemented before the project is officially concluded;
- the compensation, assistance and benefits are designed to improve or at least restore the livelihoods of all economically displaced persons in real terms with respect to pre-project conditions and to improve the living standards of the poor experiencing restriction of access and other vulnerable groups.

The Process Framework describes how the local communities will participate in establishing criteria for eligibility for assistance to mitigate adverse impacts or otherwise improve livelihoods. The criteria developed for a process framework needs to be refined during implementation when site-specific plans are prepared. The eligibility criteria determine which groups and persons are eligible for livelihood support and mitigation measures. The criteria also distinguish between persons utilizing resources opportunistically and persons using resources for their livelihoods, and between groups with customary rights and non-residents or immigrants. A cut-off date for eligibility for compensation needs to be established early in the process to prevent a subsequent inflow of people into the project area. This date will be established with the government of Cameroon and could be the start of a census taken as part of the development of the Livelihoods Restoration Plan (LRP), that will address the compensation and rehabilitation measures for each type of access restriction.

Monitoring

Monitoring has been carved to be an activity of the project (activity 3.2.2.1) which consists of developing an expanded monitoring system to track and assess the economic, social and environmental impact of the project, train and cover costs for communities to participate in its implementation.

The monitoring should be carried out by the Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist. He/she shall need to have a focal point at the level of each landscape to collect necessary data. The focal points shall be trained in the necessary skills to conduct these tasks. The focal points shall be the Landscape Technical Assistants for TRIDOM and TNS, and the Social Safeguards (Gender/IP) Specialist.

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) at national and local level

This complaints redress mechanism is inspired by the GRM elaborated in Mambéle around the Lobéké National Park, following a successful model implemented in the Dzanga-Sangha PA, which is part of the TNS landscape. The latter was subject of consultation and consensus between stakeholders including Baka and Bantu leaders, local Civil Society Organizations, RACOPY (*Réseau Recherches Actions Concertées Pygmées*), National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), judicial, traditional, administrative and municipal authorities, Ministry of Social Affairs and others. This process consists of 13 steps, as described in details in Chapter 13 of this ESMF.

Grievance redress mechanism at international level

At international level, WWF's Standard on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism has provided a complaint reception service. The Project Complaints Officer (PCO) is in charge of addressing any grievances. This Officer is a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer
Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/fr/wwf>.

Capacity Building

Actors to support project implementation should receive capacity building in the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework. These actors include : National Project Director (NPD); Technical Advisor; Partnerships/Transboundary Landscapes Advisor; The Project Manager (PM); Landscape Operational Assistants (2); Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Safeguards Specialist (ESS Specialist); and Gender/IP Specialist.

These newly recruited project staff may not have the necessary skills for ESMF implementation, hence they will need capacity building at the onset of the project implementation phase. The training sessions organized for the project technical staff shall contain, to a minimum, the following modules : WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework; Typology of environmental assessments; What constitutes an ESMP; Implementation of an ESMP; Environmental and social monitoring of a project. This training shall last the necessary number of days to cover these modules in depth (three days is recommended) and shall be carried out by a consultant to be recruited in due time, supported by the PMU safeguards specialist.

Disclosure

Disclosure of information on the project is very important as it allows the various project stakeholders and the general public as well to be informed about the project at various stages of the project lifecycle. The WWF Standard on Public Consultation and Disclosure provides for the dissemination of information concerning environmental and social issues related to the project with respect to decision points throughout the project life cycle. For a given project it provides for disclosure of project information as follows: disclosure of Safeguards Project Categorization

Memo; disclosure of final safeguards reports, including management plans; and disclosure of Safeguards Compliance Memo. All key safeguards documents, such as the final Project Categorization Memo, Compliance Memo, ESMPs or other mitigation plans for Category B projects are publicly disclosed on the WWF Safeguards Resource webpage (<http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/safeguardsresources>). These documents will be disclosed for at least 45 days prior to project concept finalization since Indigenous Peoples exist in the project area. Additionally, these safeguards documents shall be published on the national websites of the Executing Agency, MINEPDED and on the MINFOF website, and made available locally in the three forest landscapes (the TRIDOM, STN, CMRC) in specific locations easily accessible to all affected communities. Since project-affected people may not have reasonable access to a WWF office or to the internet, the Project Team is also required to make hardcopies of documents available to communities. This includes documents translated into local languages and made available in a culturally appropriate manner, to facilitate awareness by relevant stakeholders.

Budget

The total budget estimate for the ESMF is **18 320 000** CFA (eighteen millions three hundred and twenty thousand), that is \$33,127 USD (thirty three thousands one hundred and twenty seven). This cost is moderately low since most of the activities of the ESMP are already included in the project budget.

Chapter 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This introductory chapter presents the context and justification of the project, its objectives, the environmental classification of the project, and the organization of the report.

1.1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROJECT

The forests of the Congo Basin in general and those in Cameroon in particular (the Sangha Tri-National landscape, the TRIDOM landscape and the CMRC landscape) are relatively intact when compared to other tropical forests. However, under what appears to be an intact canopy, serious degradation is underway. Large blocks of these forests have become void of all their large fauna and are therefore deprived of the resources necessary for the survival of forest dependent people and wildlife. Unless the trend of accelerating degradation is reversed, the forests of the Congo Basin could experience a destruction of the same magnitude as that of the forests of West Africa and those of Southeast Asia.

Following this observation, the board of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved a six-year program on the impact of globally important forests in the Congo Basin which includes a regional component, managed by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), and several national projects in the Congo Basin countries. At the level of Cameroon, the project is entitled "GEF-7 project: *'Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin'*". It is developed to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation through strategies aimed at strengthening the integrated management of Cameroon's globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin in order to guarantee its biological integrity.

Since the Project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the WWF GEF Agency, it is therefore necessary to ensure that it complies with WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) as detailed in the Safeguard Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP).

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ESMF

The objective of this ESMF is to avoid (or minimize or mitigate) any adverse environmental and social impacts from the implementation of the project. These impacts and risks are identified in an Environmental and Social Assessment required to ensure compliance with the specific policies included in WWF's SIPP, 2019.

1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROJECT

The project, through its various components, will generate lasting social and environmental benefits. However, due to the nature of the project activities, there are some site specific, mitigatable risks. These risks and impacts can be properly addressed and / or mitigated within the ESMF of the project. Taking these elements into account and in accordance with the parameters contained in WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF), the project is classified as Category B in the safeguards assessment.

1.4. ORGANIZATION OF THE ESMF

This document is subdivided as follows:

- Executive Summary in French and English;
- Chapter 1: general introduction;
- Chapter 2: project description;

- Chapter 3: project area profiles;
- Chapter 4: environmental and social policies, regulations and directives;
- Chapter 5: institutional arrangements;
- Chapter 6: anticipated environmental impacts / risks and mitigation measures;
- Chapter 7: anticipated social impacts / risks and mitigation measures;
- Chapter 8: procedures for identifying and managing environmental and social impacts;
- Chapter 9: guidelines for the preparation of the ESMP;
- Chapter 10: Indigenous Populations Planning Framework (IPPF);
- Chapter 11: Process Framework (PF);
- Chapter 12: monitoring;
- Chapter 13: grievance mechanism;
- Chapter 14: capacity building;
- Chapter 15: disclosure; and
- Chapter 16: budget.

This report also includes bibliographical references and a series of annexes. It is worth mentioning that the Indigenous Populations Planning Framework (IPPF) and the Process Framework (PF) are treated in separately in this document as well as the Environmental and Social Assessment.

Summarily, this introductory chapter has mainly provided an understanding of the project and the objectives and format of the ESMF. At this juncture, it is convenient to describe the project. This is the subject of the next chapter.

Chapter 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project “Integrated Management of Cameroon’s Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin” is a child project under the global Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes (Congo IP). This chapter states in a concise manner, the objectives of the project and goes ahead to present an overview of the various project components, not without having presented the institutional and safeguards implementation arrangements and the host of stakeholders concerned with the project.

2.1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The project aims at strengthening the integrated management of Cameroon’s globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to secure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and livelihoods for forest dependent people.

The project will address key barriers and tackle the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss in the Cameroon segments of the Congo Basin trans-boundary forest landscapes, through an inclusive, integrated approach that aims to achieve and sustain the effective participation and empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) and reinforce their resilience. The Cameroon segments referred to, are made up of the following: the Campo Ma’an-Rio-Campo (CMCR) landscape; the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape and the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape.

2.2. SOURCE OF FUNDING AND PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project funder is the Global Environment Facility (GEF), that would for a six-year period make available \$ **9 608 256** USD. In addition to GEF funding, a host of co-funders would provide funds via either subventions and /or in kind.

2.3. PROJECT EXECUTION AGENCIES

This project is executed by the main executing agency, Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in close coordination with the World Wild Fund for Nature - Cameroon (WWF-Cameroon). Refer to the diagram in the next sub-section for proper understanding. More on the institutional arrangements and safeguards implementation arrangements can be found in Chapter

2.4. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility of the project, with WWF GEF Agency providing oversight as the GEF Agency (Figure 1). As the main **Executing Agency (EA)**, MINEPDED will be responsible for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and the effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in line with WWF-US and GEF policy requirements.

In addition, WWF-US will enter into a Grant Agreement with WWF Cameroon, the Financial Administrator (FA) for the project which spells out the terms and conditions under which the GEF funding is being received, disbursed and accounted for project funding.

Coordination for the implementation of the project with other ministries will be managed via the National Project Director and approval of the annual work plan and budget via the Project Steering Committee (PSC). A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also be established to provide punctual support to the PSC on particular subjects, as relevant.

As the EA, MINEPDED will nominate a **National Project Director (NPD)** who will be the contact point for the project within the government of Cameroon and responsible for coordinating project activities with national bodies related to the different project components as well as with the project partners. The NPD will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Manager (based in the Project Management Unit) on government policies and priorities. He/she will be supported by a Technical Advisor from each MINEPDED and MINFOF. The proposed institutional set-up to implement the project activities is described in the following sub-sections.

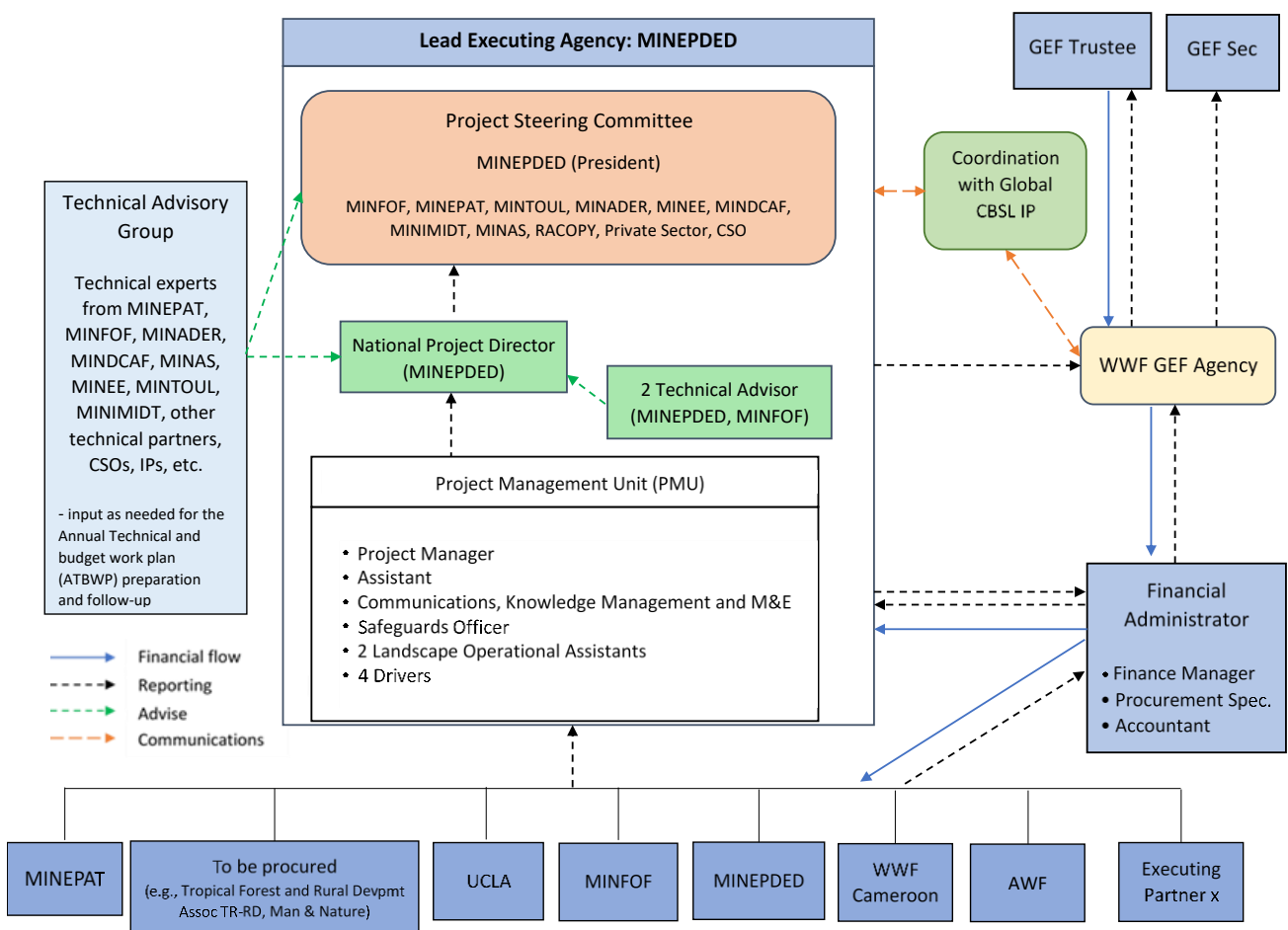


Figure 1: Project implementation institutions
Source: Project documents (ProDoc, March, 2021)

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be co-funded by the GEF and established within MINEPDED. The main functions of the PMU, and under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/B).

The PMU staff will be competitively recruited on the open market by the Financial Administrator (FA) in coordination with MINEPDED and seconded to the project. It will be composed of the following full-time staff: Project Manager (PM); Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist; Safeguards Specialist; Gender and Social Development Specialist; Project Assistant; Finance Manager; Procurement Specialist; accountant; two Landscape Operational Assistants; and four project drivers.

Given the complex logistical context and distance of certain of the project landscapes from Yaoundé, **Landscape Operational Assistants** will be recruited for the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes. These assistants will be based within the landscapes and will be responsible for day-to-day coordination of certain project activities at the local level. They will work in close collaboration with the PMU, the projects executing partners, sub-contractors, local administrative bodies, IPLCs, and other stakeholders to support project implementation. They will also play a significant role in project communications and monitoring by organizing regular meetings with key stakeholders to evaluate project progress.

For information on the safeguards-specific implementation arrangements, see Chapter 5.

2.5. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin will be implemented in Cameroon's three transboundary landscapes with their corresponding surface areas as stated below:

- (i) the Campo Ma'an-Rio-Campo (CMCR) landscape (769,446 ha);
- (ii) the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape (4,949,174 ha); and
- (iii) the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape (1,490,552 ha).

2.6. PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

A multitude of stakeholders will be involved in this project. A non-exhaustive list is given below to this effect;

- ministerial departments (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINAS, MINDDEVEL, MINTOUL, MINADER etc.) and other public administrations;
- civil society organisations [international and local Non-Governmental Organizations, Forest Peasant Committee (FPC), Local wildlife management committees / Comité de Valorisation des Ressources Fauniques Local (COVAREF)], including Indigenous Populations (Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli) and Local Communities (Bantus);
- technical organizations and partners [World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) Cameroon, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)...],
- private sector (forestry companies, mining companies, agro-industries...);
- university and research institutes [Research Institute for Development (IRAD), Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD), International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF)...]; and other interested parties.

2.7. TARGET GROUPS

Indigenous Populations and Local Communities (IPLC) are targeted, aiming at engaging and empowering IPLCs rights-holders, including women and youth. Their views and participation will be encouraged and continuous open dialogue promoted throughout the lifecycle of the project whenever possible.

2.8. PROJECT COMPONENTS

In describing the project, it is worthwhile stating the project components, their outcomes as well as their corresponding implementation zones. This GEF 7 project is further divided into five components, each having a number of expected outcomes and outputs as well as activities. The various project components, their corresponding outcomes and zones of implementations are discussed below.

2.8.1. Component 1: Mainstreaming integrated land use planning (LUP) and management

The project will mainstream Land Use Planning (LUP) by applying a bottom-up approach for participatory, informed and integrated LUP and management.

Participatory, informed and integrated land use management establishes a framework for planning, monitoring and adapting land management on approximately 1,200,000 ha of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape.

Component 1 of the project will be implemented in Mintom and Ngoyla council areas.

2.8.2. Component 2: Improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their endangered species

The project will focus directly on improving the weak participation of Indigenous Populations and Local Communities in sustainable management forests and wildlife by strengthening and / or establishing inclusive governance and management systems for protected areas and their peripheries.

The efficiency of the management of the Campo Ma'an and Lobéké National Parks will be improved through inclusive governance and management systems.

The effectiveness of forest and wildlife management in the peripheries of Campo Ma'an and Lobéké National Parks will be strengthened through increased engagement and capacity, and the establishment and adaptive management of equitable and transparent management agreements between local stakeholders.

Long-term zoonotic surveillance systems will be strengthened to minimize the risk of disease transmission between humans and wildlife, and vice versa.

This component will be implemented in the Campo-Ma'an National Park and its peripheral zone and Lobéké National Park and its peripheral zone.

2.8.3. Component 3: Advancing sustainable forest management (SFM) through non-timber forest product (NTFP) and hardwood value chains.

The project will focus on the impacts of unsustainable use of resources by local communities and private sector actors by encouraging their increased engagement in models of SFM at the local level. Strengthened and / or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector, reduce the impacts of unsustainable use of natural resources and bring benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLC) in the three Cameroonian cross-border landscapes.

The public-private partnership to create a sustainable and socially responsible value chain for tropical hardwood species will be expanded and will provide tangible benefits, including restoration and income generation.

Component 3 will be implemented in Campo, Somalomo, Lomié in Campo Ma'an NP; Mintom, Ngoyla councils in TRIDOM landscape; and Moloundou and Salapoumbé councils in TNS landscape, Lobeke NP.

2.8.4. Component 4: Improving benefit generation from biodiversity through sustainable tourism development.

The project will take advantage of the unique set of attractions that can be found in and around the Campo-Ma'an National Park (CMNP) to develop a sustainable tourism value chain in the Cameroonian segment of the landscape of the CMRC.

Sustainable tourism value chain that engages IPLCs and the private sector is strengthened, reducing the impacts of the unsustainable use of natural resources and providing benefits to IPLCs in the Cameroonian segment of the landscape.

The Campo- Ma'an National Park and its peripheral area are the zone of implementation of this component.

2.8.5. Component 5: Project and knowledge management (KM), monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The results of the project will be monitored and evaluated. Lessons learned used to inform adaptive management and awareness; this to support the reproduction and implementation of best practices for sustainable forest management at national and sub-regional levels.

The results of the program monitoring and lessons learned will be used to inform adaptive management and awareness raising in support of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) at local, national and sub-regional levels.

This component will be implemented in the Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape, TRIDOM landscape and Sangha Tri National landscape.

At this juncture, it is worth stating that this chapter dealt with describing the proposed GEF-funded and MINEPDED executed Project, dubbed "Integrated management of Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin" which is subdivided into five components to be implemented across the Cameroon's segments of three transboundary landscapes.

The project aims to address key barriers and tackle the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss through an inclusive, integrated approach involving a host of stakeholders as well as a well-known institutional arrangement for implementation, aiming to achieve and sustain the effective participation and empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and reinforce their resilience.

The chapter that follows gives an overview of the project area profiles.

Chapter 3: PROJECT AREA PROFILES

This chapter analyzes the project area profiles. It first gives an overview of all the project area before presenting each landscape in different aspects: physical, biological and socio-economic.

3.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF FOREST LANDSCAPES

The different forest landscapes submitted to the study are: Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape, TRIDOM landscape and Sangha Tri National landscape. The following figure gives an overview of the different landscapes.

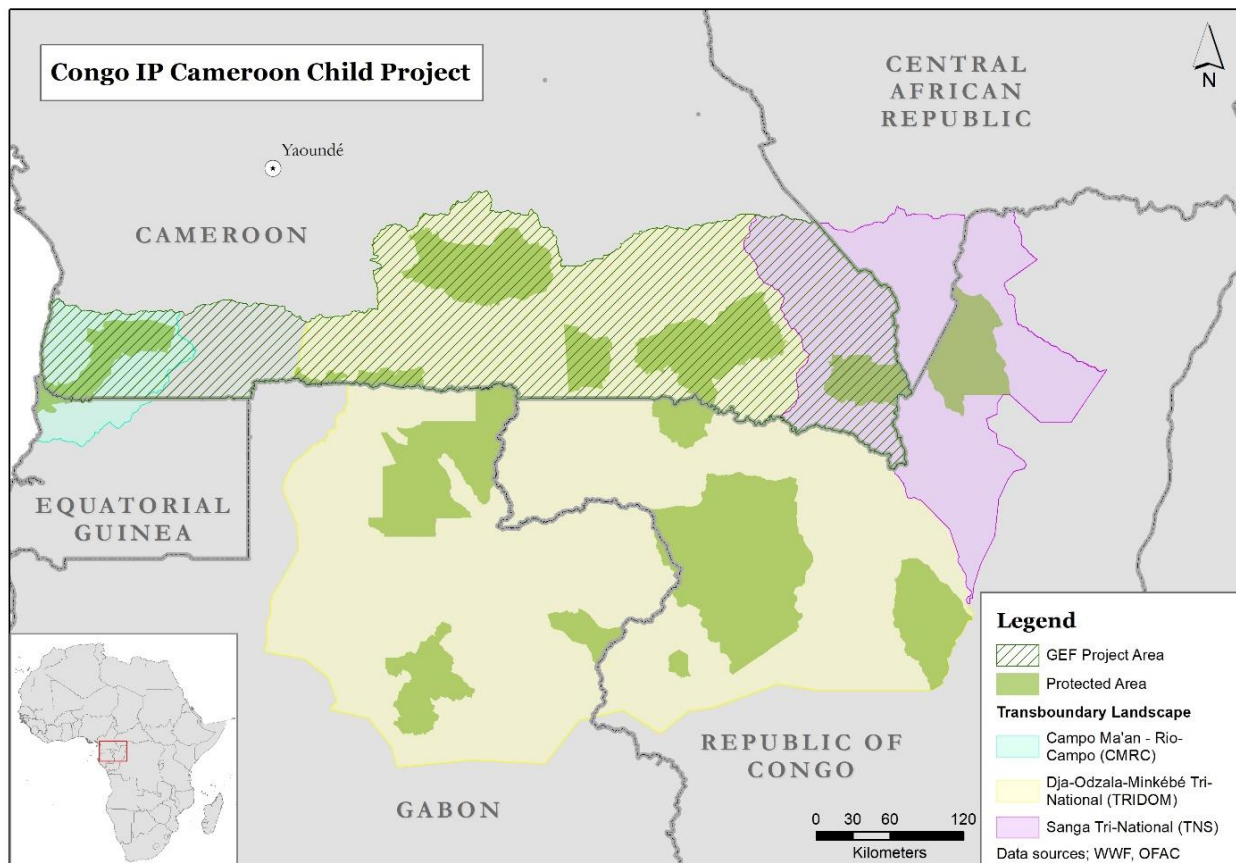


Figure 2: Overview of the different forest landscapes
Source: Project document (ProDoc, January 8, 2021)

3.2. LANDSCAPES AREA PROFILES

3.2.1. Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo (CMRC) landscape

The Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape (CMRC) is made up of the Campo-Ma'an National Park (CMNP) in Cameroon and the Rio Campo Reserve in Equatorial Guinea in terms of forests of global importance. The two protected areas constitute a sub-regional block separated by an interstate border.

For this assessment, interest is focused on the part of the landscape found in Cameroon, more precisely the Campo National Park and its peripheral zone, designated by the term "the Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape".

3.2.1.1. Physical environment

3.2.1.1.1. Geographical and administrative situation

Administratively, the Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape is located entirely in the Southern Region, covering an area of approximately 771,668 ha, that is 16.33% of the area of this Region. The CMNP, created by decree n° 2000/004/PM of 06 January 2000, covers an area of 264,064 ha. It straddles two divisions: the Ocean division (Campo and Akom II subdivisions) and that of the valley of Ntem (Ma'an subdivision).

The CMNP and its peripheral zone / Campo-Ma.an - Rio Campo landscape is bounded:

- in the North by the Kribi-Akom II-Ebolowa road axis up to NkongYebay village;
- in the South by the border between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea till the mouth of the Ntem river;

- to the east by the road from NkongYebay to Konemékak, up to its intersection with the border of Equatorial Guinea;
- in the West by the Atlantic coastline beginning from the mouth of the Ntem river to the mouth of the Lobé.

3.2.1.1.2. Climate

The Campo-Ma'an - Rio Campo landscape is characterized by a coastal equatorial type climate marked by 2 dry seasons and 2 rainy seasons:

- the first dry season is from November to February;
- the first rainy season is from March to May;
- the second dry season is between June to mid-August; and
- the second rainy season is from mid-August to November.

Concerning precipitation, the annual average is 2800 mm. The humidity of the air is high all year long, even during the dry seasons.

As for the temperature, the hottest months are February and March with respectively 28 °C and 27.8 °C; while August (25.2 °C) and July (25.5 °C) are the coldest months.⁴

3.2.1.1.3. Air quality and acoustic environment

Due to the presence of several forests in the Campo-Ma'an area, the air is generally less polluted. However, the implementation of project activities, some of which are sources of emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), airborne particles and dust, etc. can affect this quality.

As for the acoustic environment, several activities of these projects are likely to generate more or less resounding noises. Sources of noise include, among others, the machinery, engines of devices and vehicles, generators, chainsaws and many other devices used in the area or region.

3.2.1.1.4. Relief and topography

The relief of the CMNP and its peripheral zone (OLIVRY, JC, 1986)⁵ is characterized by: i) small valleys (more in its southern part) of about 300 m; ii) mountains (encountered especially in its northern part) with a maximum altitude of 1126 m; iii) a coastal zone with altitude less than 200 m.⁶

The main peaks are: Nkol'Ongongo (1100 m above sea level), Nko'okouroungbem (800 m), Nkol'Nnéméyong (750 m), Nkol'Mebengue (700 m) and Nkol'Tom (550 m).

3.2.1.1.5. Geology and pedology

From a geological point of view, the area is marked by a substratum made up of Quaternary fluvio-marine alluviums, coinciding with the extension of the coastal forest; and border massifs such as that of Mamelles (323 m) in the extension of the coastal surface located at the western end of the southern Cameroonian plateau.

The rocks found here are mainly metamorphic rocks, in this case gneisses, migmatites, schists and quartzites dating from the Precambrian. In a hot and humid climate, these rocks give rise to acidic and nutrient poor soils (Maarten J. de Wit; François Guillocheau; Michel CJde Wit, 2015)⁷.

The soil types in this landscape are as follows:

- ferralitic soils: these are yellow or red soils developed on very acidic source rocks which cover most of the park. In these soils, nutrients are found more in its surface part and the cation exchange capacity of these soils is low;

⁴ OLIVRY, J.C., 1986. *Fleuves et rivières du Cameroun*. Collection Monographies Hydrologiques ORSTOM No 9.

⁵ OLIVRY, J.C., 1986. *Fleuves et rivières du Cameroun*. Collection Monographies Hydrologiques ORSTOM No 9.

⁶ <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

⁷ Maarten J. de Wit; François Guillocheau; Michel CJde Wit, 2015. *Geology and resource potential of the Congo Basin*

- little evolved soils: they are found on massifs or thalwegs with steep slopes. These are soils very sensitive to clearing requiring conservation action to prevent erosion;
- hydromorphic soils: they are found in valleys and lowlands. They have agricultural potential but require improvements (drainage, mineral addition) before exploitation.

3.2.1.1.6. Hydrography and water quality

The proximity of the landscape to the Atlantic Ocean influences its hydrographic network which is densified. The Ntem and the Lobé are the main rivers in the area.

- The Ntem is the densest watercourse, forming with the Biwome, the Ndjo'o and the Mvila an important network in the Ma'an area. It waters nearly 70% of the park area and its periphery, much more on the south side of CMNP. In some places, we can observe falls with heights of up to 250 m deep.

The water quality of Ntem river is good. A pollution index is observed in rivers when the orthophosphate contents are greater than 0.5 mg/l (Rodier)⁸. From the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Ecotourism Development Project of Campo-Ma'an National Park carried out by JMN Consultant Sarl in 2014,⁹ "The ortho-phosphate content is equal to 0.5 mg/l and does not yet reflect a state of pollution" However, measures must be taken to preserve the quality of the water in the rivers in the project area.

- the Lobé, whose main tributary is Nye'ete, flows through the north-west of the area, covering its 15%. There are many rivers there. This situation is favourable to the development of aquatic fauna.

However, the black waters here indicate a high content of suspended matter of plant origin.

3.2.1.2. Biological environment

3.2.1.2.1. Vegetation and flora

The forest landscape belongs to the category of the dense humid Guineo-Congolese evergreen forest. In other words, this vegetation has the characteristic of keeping its greenery all year long.

According to UNESCO¹⁰, there are around fifteen plant associations, of which the most characterised are:

- Atlantic Biafran forests with Caesalpiniaceae occupying nearly 65% of the area of the Park from the North-West to the South-East. These forests have hardly been disturbed;
- Atlantic Biafran forests with Caesalpiniaceae still abundant, with *Calpocalyxheitzii* and *Sacoglottis gabonensis* which cover 10% of the area of the Park and extend from the island of Dipikar to the Mamelle mountains (western periphery of the Park);
- Atlantic Biafran forests with Caesalpiniaceae with *Aucoumea klaineana* are found mainly on the north-western periphery of the Park within which the rubber and palm oil agro-industries are found;
- Relatively rare coastal Atlantic forests with Caesalpiniaceae, with *Calpocalyxheitzii* and *Sacoglottis gabonensis* cover at most 5% of the area of the Park and run along the western coast of Dipikar Island to Ebodje;
- Mixed forests, evergreen, Atlantic and semi-deciduous, with predominance of elements of evergreen Atlantic forests cover about 15% of the area of the Park from the North-West zone to the South-West periphery;
- Sub-montane forests are scattered in the northern part of the Park to the south of Akom II Subdivision;
- Degraded forests are mainly disseminated in the agro industrial zones of HEVECAM SA and SOCAPALM and along the coastal strip;
- Swamp forests which are periodically inundated skirt the Ntem and Lobé rivers;

⁸Rodier, 10th updated edition. Water analysis, control and interpretation.

⁹JMN Consultant Sarl, 2014. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Ecotourism Development Project of the Campo-Ma'an National Park,

¹⁰ <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

- Low internal mangroves to small *Rhizophora racemosa* and *Pandanus satabiei* (in the Campo section)¹¹.

The CMNP has a very rich and diverse flora, influenced by climate (rainfall, temperature, relative humidity), proximity to the sea, altitude and soils. There are over 1,500 plant species, including 114 endemic species (Tchouto, 2004).¹²

3.2.1.2.2. Wildlife

According to the inventories already carried out to date, the forest landscape of Campo-Ma'an displays a great diversity of fauna. Indeed according to the UNESCO database¹³, we can cite: **i)** 390 invertebrates; **ii)** 302 birds. With this significant number of birds, this area is classified by Birdlife International as an "Area of Importance for the Conservation of Birds"; **iii)** 249 species of fish; **iv)** 112 reptiles; **v)** 80 large and medium mammals. Among these mammals, some species are of great importance and sometimes considered as threatened (23 are on the IUCN red list) such as the giant pangolin (*Manisgigantea*), the African elephant (*Loxodonta Africana cyclotis*), the gorilla (*Gorilla, gorilla*), leopard (*Panthera pardus*), buffalo (*Syneruscaffermanus*) and mandrill (*Madrillus sphinx*); and **vi)** 80 amphibians.¹⁴

This wildlife population is unevenly distributed throughout the CMNP due to human activities in the park including traditional agriculture, foraging, logging, the development of vast agro-industrial areas, poaching and tourism and sightseeing.

3.2.1.2.3. Outstanding Universal Value and justification

Campo-Ma'an National Park constitutes an Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which was formalized after the date of submission by Cameroon on the 2nd of February 2018¹⁵.

UNESCO puts forward the following 4 criteria to justify the OUV of the PNCM:

Criterion (vii): Campo-Ma'an National Park represents a natural phenomenon or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance due to its large surface area and diverse plant species as well as a rubber plantation and the iconic rocks of Dipikar. We can also observe the waterfalls of Memve'ele, the buffalo cave, the picatharte cave, the mangrove of Dipikar.

Criterion (viii): Campo-Ma'an National Park is an eminently representative example of stages in the history of the earth, including the testimony of life, of ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms or geomorphic elements or physiographic elements having great significance. The park was witnessed to have been a refuge to most animal species during the ice age.

Criterion (ix): it is an eminently representative example of ecological and biological processes underway in the evolution of the development of terrestrial, aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals. The park presents about fifteen plant families followed by 1500 species of plants and a great animal and biological diversity.

Criterion (x): it contains the most representative and important natural habitats for the in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those, which are endangered species such as: pangolins (*Manis sp.*), African elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*), the western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla, gorilla*), the chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*). All of this biodiversity is important from a scientific or conservation point of view.

3.2.1.3. Socio-economic environment

¹¹<https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

¹²Tchouto Mbatchou, GP, 2004 - Plant Diversity in a Central African Rain Forest. Implications for biodiversity conservation in Cameroon, Tropenbos Cameroon Series 7, Wageningen University / The Tropenbos-Cameroon Program, Kribi.

¹³ <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

¹⁴<https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

¹⁵<https://whc.unesco.org/fr/listesindicatives/6312/>

3.2.1.3.1. Sociodemographic and cultural characteristics

❖ Ethnic groups

From the ethnic composition analysis, we find: Bulu, Bagyéli, Yemeyema'a, NvogBokon, Yembot, Yemvan, Awomo, Esso-Ekotan, Essam-Mbita, Essa-Menyum, Ndong, Tendjock, essock, Essahock, Essango'ok and Yessella, Esse ella, Yemong, Yemensen, Essembock, Yekembo, Nvog Ebon, NvogEssam, Esambak. Mvae, Mabi, Essoke; Yemfock; Essamebenga; Essamedjan; Essassun; NvogBalezouk and NvogMentchaMizou, Ngion, Nzambi, Manzamo, Ngakion, Mbile, Essoke, etc.

Likewise, there are non-native Bulu, Bamileke, Bassa'a, Ewondo, Eton, Nigerians, etc.

❖ Vulnerable populations

- **Bagyéli.** They are people considered vulnerable. Their vulnerability stems from the fact they are IPs and suffer inequalities and discrimination and are excluded from active participation in community development, and do not have the same access as Bantus to benefits from development initiatives promoted in their area, etc. The GEF-7 project aims at ensuring that the Indigenous Populations and Local Communities (IPLC) are targeted, aiming at engaging and empowering IPLCs rights-holders. Their views and participation will be encouraged, and continuous open dialogue promoted throughout the lifecycle of the project whenever possible. Therefore, the issue of their vulnerability will be addressed;
- **Women.** Local women living in the landscape zone are not empowered to make decisions; most agricultural activities are left to women in addition to household activities; men have a great primacy in the income of various subsistence activities. All of these make women vulnerable to any changes that the project may bring about and likely to restrict their livelihood activities. All of these make women vulnerable to any changes that the project may bring about and likely to restrict their livelihood activities; also, women are not concerned by decision-making; their point of view is neglected.

❖ Gender-based violence

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the area is carried out in particular against women, girls and Indigenous Peoples (Bagyélis). The situation of GBV in the project area is less serious compared to other regions. Regarding rape, for example, the regions with a high incidence are the North (7.5%), the North-West (7.1%) and the Far-North (6.8%)¹⁶.

Workers in the area with available means seduce young girls (and even women) stay with them for some time and quite often end up abandoning them with unwanted pregnancies after some time, which undermines their education.

❖ Cultural and eco-tourism heritage

The cultural and eco-tourism heritage of the Campo Ma'an - Rio Campo forest landscape in Cameroon is diverse. We notice among other things:

- **the CMNP forest massif and its peripheral zone;**
- **the gorilla habitat site;**
- **the tree museum.** Located inside Campo-Ma'an National Park on Dipikar Island, this museum consists of a huge tree whose roots in the form of raised buttresses extend over 15 m in diameter. On this tree, there are paintings made using natural materials such as earth and lime. These paintings represent scenes of lives, animals of the forest or symbols of the country.

❖ Customs and traditions

¹⁶ MINPROFF, 2017. National Strategy for the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence

In the CMNP, several rites are practiced by Indigenous Peoples in particular (N. CHEUMANI, 2016):

- i. *Initiation into Jengi* which lasts 2 weeks, marking protection and belonging to a tribe.
- ii. *The Yeli*: this is an initiation rite for women which consists in preserving her for the preparation of the big hunt;
- iii. *Embouamboua*: preceding a hunting party, this rite is practiced in the form of dance during the night, by the women. During this dance, these women burn certain tree bark and perfume the body of the hunters with this mixture;
- iv. *The rite of protection against sorcerers*: this rite is performed by burning or chewing the bark of Ebolkwan (*Otochnema*) with the Ntintim (shrub containing ants). Its aim is to protect populations against evil spirits, and certain trees in the Cameroonian TRIDOM are used for this purpose, in particular Mgbando (Tali) and Mbondo (Abipélé);
- v. *The rite of protection against the action of ferocious beasts*: It is practiced during hunting, fishing or foraging and consists of using the ash of the Nguélé tree (Padouk) to achieve the aforementioned purpose;
- vi. *The fertility rite*: honey is used with the bark of the Egbakam tree (Mebemengono), present in the Cameroonian CMNP, to enhance fertility.

However, the practice of these rites is becoming less common in the Campo Ma'an landscape due to restrictions introduced by forestry legislation and proximity of Bagyéli with Bantu.

❖ Land use and land management

In the vast majority of villages in the area, land is not a significant problem, not only because of the small number of populations, but also because these populations are not quick to initiate projects on large areas. However, in some neighbouring villages (Akom 2, Aloum 2, etc.), demographic growth and agricultural development are factors which induce greater demand on the land.

Generally speaking, the land is occupied either for housing and agriculture, or for community forests and national parks. In the villages, it is the lineage leaders or village chiefs who distribute the land. The acquisition of land can be done by donation, by rental or by purchase. For the latter case, this is done following negotiations with the village chief and his advisers.

The distribution of land among the descendants is the responsibility of the leaders of the different lineages that make up the village. It is often recurrent that the lineage leader is the village chief, in the event that such a village consist of only one lineage. Due to the high availability of land, the procedure for acquiring a piece of land by a non-native is relatively simple. It is simply a question of discussing with the lineage leader who, in turn, refers to the village chief, in order to agree on the terms of acquisition of the said piece of land. After this stage, it will be necessary to fulfill all the formalities relating to the acquisition of a land title.

The areas allocated to these various activities coincide with the lands traditionally occupied by Indigenous Peoples, and applicable national legislation severely restricts access to these areas and exacerbates the denial of the property rights of Indigenous Peoples which is rooted in general and sectoral laws and regulations.

As for women, they have access to land for subsistence activities, but hardly have access to land titles.

3.2.1.3.2. *Economical activities*

According to the studies carried out within the framework of the CMNP management plan (MINFOF, 2006), the table below summarizes the provisions laid down.

Table 1: Breakdown of commercial activities according to stakeholders and marketing site

Rights of usage pending establishment of formal agreements		Local Indigenous populations		Other populations
		Bakola - Bagyéli	Bantu	
Circulation within the CMNP		Yes but regulated (with authorization)	Yes, but regulated with permission	With permission
Dwelling	Permanent or temporary establishments	Only temporary camps	No	No
Use of CMNP resources (rational exploitation zones)	Hunt	Yes (sustenance)	No	No
	Foraging (NTFPs and medicinal plants)	Yes (sustenance)	Yes (sustenance)	No
	Fishing	Yes (sustenance)	Yes (sustenance)	No
Agriculture	Clearing	No	No	No
Other activities		Not specified	Not specified	Not specified

Source: MINFOF, 2006¹⁷

The economic activities are mainly:

- **agriculture.** The products cultivated are mainly cassava, plantains, yams, cocoyams, maize, etc. Most of the harvest is for home consumption and only a small part is sold. However, the size of local agricultural plots remain small.
- **commerce.** It takes the form of catering, the sale of game (fresh), public houses, shops and cash registers, call boxes, the sale of various products, the sale of agricultural products.
- **breeding.** The main animal species kept are: goats/sheep, guinea pigs, pigs and poultry.
- **fishing.** A distinction is made in the zone between inland fishing and maritime fishing (artisanal and industrial). The fish species regularly encountered are: Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), Tilapia (*Tilapia niloticus*), Ray (*Raja clavata*), Pike (*Esox lucius*), Machoiron (*Chrysichthys nigrodigitafu*), Catfish (*Silurus glanis*) as well as shrimps and crabs.
- **hunting.** It is the second most practised activity in the area after agriculture because bush meat is not only a main source of animal protein, but also a great source of income. The regulated hunting zone of 1,481 km² is made up of approximately 61% in the CMNP and 29% in the agro-forestry zone (ZAF). The most hunted species are: porcupine (*Hystrix cristata*), rat (*Rattus rattus*), antelope (*Antelope cervicapra*), pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*), tiger cat (*Felis aurata*), hare (*Lepus spp*), wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), monitor lizard (*Varanus*), doe (*Ourebia ourebi*), hedgehog (*Ateleris albiventris*), etc.¹⁸.
- **handicraft.** Handicraft as a profession is hardly practiced in the area. The tourist potential of the locality should however favour its development. For this activity, the forest remains the main, if not the only source of raw materials.

3.2.2. TRIDOM landscape

3.2.2.1. Physical environment

3.2.2.1.1. Geographical and administrative situation

The protected areas that are Dja, Odzala and Minkébé are respectively found in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, constituting the forest landscape called TRIDOM (Tri National Dja-Odzala -Minkébé). This forest landscape covers a total area of about 147,000 km², which is about 7.5% of the area of the entire Congo Basin. Its portion in the territory of Cameroon extends into the southern and eastern regions, over a total area of approximately 51,801 km².

¹⁷ MINFOF, Campo-Ma'an National Park, 2006. Development plan for Campo Ma'an National Park and its peripheral zone.

¹⁸ CHEUMANI NOUDJIEU C., 2005.- Sustainable hunting management approaches in the technical operational unit of CAMPO-MA'AN (UTOCM) in southern Cameroon. DES thesis in Management of Animal and Plant Resources in Tropical Environments, wildlife management orientation. Univ. de Liège, Belgium, 97p. + Annexes.

The forest landscape of the TRIDOM concerned by this project is that which is on the Cameroonian territory. Therefore, the Dja Wildlife Reserve (RFD) is part of the landscape. However, in this landscape, the project concerns the Councils of Somalomo, Lomié, Mintom and Ngoyla.

3.2.2.1.2. *Climate*

The climate is presented according to its different characteristics, in particular: the precipitation and temperatures; the relative humidity of the air; and the winds.

Located in the South Cameroonian plateau, the TRIDIOM landscape in Cameroon is characterized by an equatorial climate with four seasons (two dry seasons and two rainy seasons) unevenly distributed over the year, namely:

- the great dry season. It's from mid-November to March;
- the short dry season. It is between July and mid-August;
- the great rainy season which goes from mid-August to mid-November;
- the small rainy season is from April to June.

The relative humidity of the air in the area, according to M. Vallerie (1973), is between 60 and 97%. The average relative humidity is generally above 85%.

High temperatures and very high humidity induce significant evapotranspiration. The water vapour that the latter generates permanently maintains humid air above the Cameroonian TRIDOM.

Two air masses influence the climate and by extension the seasons in the South and East regions of Cameroon. These include the monsoon and the harmattan, originating from the two anticyclones.

Wind speed and direction can play a role in the dispersion of dust from project activities carried out in and around the TRIDOM landscape in Cameroon.

3.2.2.1.3. *Air quality and acoustic environment*

Due to the presence of several forests in the TRIDOM area, the air is generally less polluted. However, the implementation of project activities, some of which are sources of carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), airborne particles and dust, etc. can affect this quality.

As for the acoustic environment, several activities of these projects are likely to generate more or less resounding noises. Sources of noise are, among others, machinery, engines of devices and vehicles, generators, chainsaws and many other devices used in the area or region. These noises could not only drive away some animals, but also harm the health of workers and neighbouring populations.

3.2.2.1.4. *Relief and topography*

The Haut Nyong division (Eastern Region) and Dja and Lobo division (Southern Region) belong to the South Cameroon plateau. They are part of this vast peneplain that characterizes the entire region, whose average altitude varies between 600 and 700 meters (SONKE, 2004). In general, the relief is gentle, not very rugged, characterized by low hills with more or less steep slopes. This low topography predisposes the region to flooding phenomena at the slightest rise in water levels. This is the case observed with the impoundment of the hydro-Mékin dam. This could happen more with other similar projects.

The forest landscape of TRIDOM in Cameroon, which covers an area made up of a set of localities belonging to these two regions, has a geomorphology, however, specific to each of these localities. To this end, the perimeter of the reserve itself has several rocky outcrops inside which culminate at 800 m (Schwam, Bouamir, Nkoubar, Bassakok, Augustin etc.) and therefore constitutes an undeniable tourist potential (MINFOF, 2017).

With this relief, the other touristic attractions are numerous, particularly in terms of landscape, ecological, economic and cultural aspects, enhanced with the Baka-Bantou cultural alternation. These are the many opportunities or possible advantages to be seized as possible by the local populations of the Cameroonian TRIDOM as well by all the other stakeholders including public authorities for the expansion of the local and national economy.

3.2.2.1.5. *Geology and pedology*

The Cameroonian TRIDOM, straddling the southern and eastern regions, is located in an environment that presents a particular geology and pedology.

From a geological point of view, the descriptive studies of the lithological units of the rock formations of South and East Cameroon have revealed a geological substratum consisting mainly of metamorphic and plutonic rocks (Maarten J. et al., 2015). In the East as in the South of the country, there is a mining potential characterized by the presence of gold, mercury, diamonds, iron and many other minerals. All this mining potential is found below the forest massifs. This is how we note overlaps between Forest Management Units, protected areas and mining permits, which most often result in conflicts. This situation is created by the separate management of the forestry and mining cadastres.

From a pedological point of view, the classification of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) "Soil Taxonomy", around the Dja Reserve distinguishes several types of soil, namely: i) ferralitic soils (inceptisols); ii) hydromorphic soils; iii) sandy soils, sandy clay soils, stony soils (entisols); iv) clay soils (ultisols); and v) lateritic soils (oxisols).

3.2.2.1.6. *Hydrography*

The hydrographic network around the Cameroonian TRIDOM is very influenced by the Dja river. This constitutes a natural limit to the north, west and south of the reserve, thus forming the "Dja loop". It takes its source north-west of Djaposten, it first follows an east-west orientation towards Bengbis then, at Assôk (Bengbis), it takes a north-south direction in which it captures its main tributaries in particular the Lobo and the Libi, on its right bank. Towards Bityé (Meyomessala), this network takes a west-east direction to Bi (Mintom) where it detaches from the reserve and switches to the south-east of Cameroon. At this level, this network flows into the Sangha at the level of the Congolese basin, where it's called Ngoko.

The Dja river drains the middle part of the Cameroonian central plateau and is part of the Congo river basin. It is interspersed with waterfalls and rapids which make its course difficult to navigate. The other rivers that irrigate the Cameroonian TRIDOM constitute tributaries of the Dja. These are :

- along the north side: Lou, Koung, Edjiné, Mien, Sabe and Ndoumé;
- in the southern part: Mpeup, Mpam, Ndjia, Nlong, Mintomo, Bisa, Djablé, Makoum, Bobo, Djomé.

3.2.2.1.7. *Surface water quality*

According to assessment reports of projects underway in the area, the waters of the Dja and its tributaries are weakly mineralized, with good physical and chemical qualities (Hydro Mekin, 2011).

On the other hand, it was observed in the rivers near the GEOVIC mining site, the presence of fecal coliforms ranging from 1500 to more than 2500 CFU/100 ml, which testifies the influence of animals and human activities in the area (GEOVIC, 2012).

Since the Dja and its tributaries are bordered by several projects, the quality of their water may be further impaired by the cumulative effects of these projects.

3.2.2.2. **Biological environment**

3.2.2.2.1. *Vegetation and flora*

From a phytogeographic scope, the forest landscape of TRIDOM in Cameroon is an integral part of the Guinea-Congolese dense humid evergreen forest (Letouzey R., 1985).

From a floristic point of view, the location of the area, which is in the east of the Biafran Atlantic forest on one hand and in the the south of the semi-deciduous forest on the other hand, gives it great diversity. Thus, it is reported that the Cameroonian TRIDOM is home to more than 32,000 species of flora (ECOFAC, 2002), which is one of the criteria which give it its Outstanding Universal Value.

3.2.2.2.2. *Wildlife*

The fauna of the Cameroonian TRIDOM area is rich and varied due to the diversity of habitat types. It is for this reason that several protected areas are found in the zone. We can cite the Cameroonian TRIDOM itself, the Ngoyla-Mintom Wildlife Reserve.

With regard to the Cameroonian TRIDOM more specifically, the studies carried out by Colyn and Perpete, 1994 and Williamson and Usongo, 1995 reveal that there are 109 mammals distributed in 10 orders and 34 families, 360 species of birds and 62 species of Pisces. It is in this light we find large mammals, in particular: the Panther or leopard (*Panthera pardus*), the Gorilla (*Gorillagorilla*), the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), the Magistrate (*Colobusguereza*), the Elephant (*Loxodonta Africana cyclotis*), the Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*), Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*), Giant pangolin (*Manis gigantea*), River hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*), Black-banded duiker (*Cephalophus dorsalis*), Bongo (*Tragelaphus itansycerus*) putty-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*), the Moustac (*Cercopithus cephus*), the White-cheeked Cercocèbe (*Cercocebus albigena*), the Agile Cercocèbe (*Cercocebus galeritus*), the Mone (*Cercopithecus pogonias*), the brazzarella monkey (*Cercopithecus halbigena*), the blue duiker (*Cephaloplus* sp).

With regard to avifauna, the work of Christy (1996) confirming the work of Colyn and Perpete, 1994; Williamson and Usongo, 1995, reveal the presence of more than 360 species of birds including some 80 species of migratory birds. The red-tailed gray parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), the great blackhelmeted hornbill (*Ceratogymna atrata*), the brown-cheeked hornbill (*Ceratogymna cylindricus*), the gray-cheeked hornbill (*Ceratogymna subcylindricus*) are the most notable. There is also the Bald Picatharte (*Picatharte soreas*).

3.2.2.2.3. *Biodiversity and protected areas*

The area of the Dja Wildlife Reserve has an extraordinary diversity of plants and fauna. The same is true for the diversity of habitats. It is this richness in biodiversity that makes it the Outstanding Universal Value of the Cameroonian TRIDOM, which earned it its classification as a World Heritage site. Chapter 9 is devoted to the analysis of the impacts of the projects on the Outstanding Universal Value of the reserve.

Several protected areas are located not far from the Dja Wildlife Reserve, both nationally and internationally. It is also part of the TRIDOM landscape (Tri-national: Dja in Cameroon, Odzala in Congo and Minkébé in Gabon). There is great connectivity between these different reserves.

3.2.2.3. **Socio-economic environment**

3.2.2.3.1. *Sociodemographic and cultural characteristics*

❖ **Demographics and ethnic groups**

The Cameroonian TRIDOM covers 09 subdivisions with 04 in the Haut Nyong division (Messamena, Dja, Lomié, Somalomo), Eastern Region and 05 in the Dja and Lobo division (Bengbis, Meyomessala, Meyomessi, Djoum, Mintom) in the Southern Region.

From a demographic point of view, the population of the area today amounts to 162,466 inhabitants (BUCREP, 2007)¹⁹ distributed into the subdivisions according to the following table:

¹⁹RGPH, 2005. Data updated in 2019 by extrapolation with an increase rate of 2.8%.

Table 2 : Population of the Cameroonian TRIDOM area

Division	Subdivision concerned	Population in 2005 (Source: RGP, 2005)	Population in 2019 (extrapolation)
UPPER NYONG	Messamena	26,153	28,999
	Already	3,489	11,566
	Lomie	18,952	21,015
	Somalomo	4,902	5,435
DJA AND LOBO	Bengbis	13,075	16,033
	Djoum	18,050	22,131
	Meyomessala	31,366	38,458
	Mintom	6,130	7,516
	Meyomessi	9 227 ²⁰	11,313
TOTAL		131,344	162,466

Source: Projections made in 2017 with an increase rate of 2.8% on data from BUCREP 2007

With regard to the ethnic composition, the area is mainly composed of seven (07) ethnic groups namely: Bulu, Fang, Bandjoue, Maka, Kaka, Nzimé and Baka. There are also the Bamiléké, the Bamoun, the Hausa, the Bassa, etc. Among these populations, the most vulnerable are the Baka (pygmies) who live mainly from hunting, fishing and foraging. The other ethnic groups are mainly Bantu whose main activity is agriculture.

❖ Religions

On the religious level, various religious denominations have settled in the study area. They are Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and the faithfuls of the so-called awakened churches. However, the populations remain very attached to their traditional values and beliefs. Some of these beliefs or rites are intimately linked to the forest. This is the case of the Baka with "the Jengi", a rite which requires the sacrifice of an adult elephant per year.

❖ Habitat

The habitats in the Dja area are disposed in groups along the roads. We can distinguish the houses whose walls are made of earth bricks, hard, beaten earth or "*potopoto*", planks and branches. The type of habitat in branches is prerogative of the Pygmies, but there's more and more evolution in building with rammed earth by the latter.

Most of these houses are built with materials from the forest. However, due to the low density of populations, the pressure on natural resources is therefore limited.

❖ Associative life and community organizations

The populations of the Cameroonian TRIDOM area are grouped under 3rd or 2nd degree chiefdoms. At the head of each chiefdom, there is a village chief assisted by the notables. Around certain projects, the chiefdoms are responsible for the implementation of certain environmental measures.

In these villages, there are also basic community organizations: associations, Common Initiative Groups (CIG), cooperatives, mutual aid groups.

These different groups are much more focused on social than economic development. However, most of the supports for Income Generating Activities (IGA) are centered on groups. This is probably why these activities have difficulties being successful.

Development committees are almost non-existent. On the other hand, in some villages, there are vigilance committees and forest-peasant committees, but which do not function well because of the lack of motivation from the members.

❖ Vulnerable populations

²⁰ [https // www.citypopulation.de](https://www.citypopulation.de)

In the area, the vulnerable populations are mainly made up of Baka Pygmies, women and young people.

- *Baka Pygmies*

The Baka Pygmies are a group with their own traditions. Their main way of life is based on hunting and foraging. They take care of themselves with plants from the forest, on which they are highly dependent. Generally, the hamlets of the pygmies are located far away from the centre of the Bantu villages. They have their chiefdoms, but they are not recognized as much by their Bantu neighbours as well as by the administration. This aspect constitutes a legal vacuum which has not often been favourable to their development, especially since the actions carried out in the villages are of little or no benefit to them.

- *Women*

Women have little consideration in environmental studies of projects around the Cameroonian TRIDOM. Not only are they not granted specific access to meetings, but they are very poorly represented at public consultation meetings. However, some activities are carried out mainly by them. These are fishing with weirs, the exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), the cultivation of certain food crops such as cassava and cocoyams. They are also vulnerable with regard to HIV/AIDS and several other threats (gender-based violence). It is therefore possible that certain impacts concerning them are not or are poorly understood during studies.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family (MINPROFF), which was supposed to ensure that these aspects were taken into account, is unfortunately not part of the Inter-Ministerial Committee of the Environment which gives its opinion on the validity of environmental studies.

- *Youth*

Young people also constitute an equally large segment of the population of the Cameroonian TRIDOM area. They are characterized by unemployment and alcoholism. Nowadays, very few young people engage in agriculture and are increasingly involved in poaching. Youth problems are linked to lack of education (schooling being low and much lower among young girls), health, child labour and youth employment. These setbacks linked to schooling pose a real problem of qualification when recruiting locals for various projects.

It therefore appears that young people have specific problems and should be consulted separately during public consultations of environmental and social studies of different projects since this is not the case today.

❖ **Gender-Based Violence**

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Cameroonian TRIDOM area, in particular against women and girls, is related to economic aspects. Workers with enough means appeal to the latter. Young girls are often abandoned with unwanted pregnancies, which undermines their education.

The situation of GBV in the project area is less serious compared to other regions. Regarding rape, for example, the regions with a high incidence are the North (7.5%), the North-West (7.1%) and the Far-North (6.8%)²¹.

❖ **Cultural and archaeological heritage**

The localities in the area around the Cameroonian TRIDOM have significant cultural and archaeological potential. Indeed, the studies carried out in eastern Cameroon (Germain L. et al., 1998) and those in progress by Hydro-Mékin have revealed their existence. In fact, they have

²¹ MINPROFF, 2017. *National Strategy for the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence*

found that there are many archaeological sites with ceramical and lithic remains likely to be flooded by the Hydro-Mekin dam²².

❖ Customs and traditions

In the East as in the South, two large cultural groups border the Cameroonian TRIDOM: the Bantu and the Baka (pygmies). To this end, they have user or customary right over the Cameroonian TRIDOM, that is to say the right to exploit all forest, wildlife and fishery products with the exception of protected species for personal use. (Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 laying down forestry, wildlife and fishing regulations, Article 8, paragraph 1).

However, the traditional habits and practices are quite different in these groups although they are quite enshrined among the Baka, an indigenous people with about forty thousand (40,000) people occupying about 75,000 km² in the south-east of the country.²³ In and around the Dja Wildlife Reserve constituting part of the Cameroonian TRIDOM, several rites are practiced by these pygmy peoples in particular (N. CHEUMANI, 2016):

- vii. initiation into *Jengi* which lasts 2 weeks, marking protection and belonging to a tribe. It gives them access to the protection of the forest and, for some old initiates, favours the power to "guard" the spirits of the *Jengi* family who "walk" alongside the elephants and guide the game towards the hunters. For this ceremony, the Baka must kill an elephant for the rite. The elephant being a protected species, the law does not formally recognize this right. It is often out of "administrative tolerance" that the public authorities grant them this practice.
- viii. the *Yeli*: this is an initiation rite for women which consists in preserving her for the preparation of the big hunt; which is a ritual hunt for cultural event consisting in killing large mammals.
- ix. *Embouamboua*: preceding a hunting trip, this rite is practiced in the form of dance during the night, by the women. During this dance, these women burn certain tree bark and perfume the body of the hunters with this mixture;
- x. the rite of protection against sorcerers: this rite is performed by burning or chewing the bark of Ebolkwan (*Otochnema*) with the Ntintim (shrub containing the ants). Its aim is to protect populations against evil spirits and certain trees in the Cameroonian TRIDOM are used for this purpose, in particular Mgbando (Tali) and Mbondo (Abipélé);
- xi. the rite of protection against the action of ferocious beasts: It is practiced during hunting, fishing or foraging and consists of using the ash of the Nguélé tree (Padouk) to achieve the aforementioned purpose;
- xii. The fertility rite: honey is used with the bark of the Egbakam tree (Mebemengono), present in the Cameroonian TRIDOM, to enhance fertility.

Contrary to the Bayéli in the CMRC landscape, these rituals are still well practised in the TRIDOM landscape.

❖ Nutrition

One of the strong eating habits of the area is the consumption of game or bush meat from infancy by the Bantu and the Baka. The inhabitants of this zone who move to the cities keep these same habits, hence the strong demand for bush meat.

In terms of drinking, people consume a locally made whiskey called "Odontol" and other whiskeys in sachets. These different liquors have considerable harmful effects on the health of populations (blindness, various dysfunctions, reduced fertility, death) and affect their performance at work.

²² BISMOS CAMEROUN SARL, 2019. *Etude d'inventaire et de sauvetage des sites culturels et archéologiques dans le cadre du projet d'aménagement hydroélectrique de Mékin. Rapport d'étape 1 Inventaire des sites culturels et archéologiques.*

²³ PL BIGOMBE. *Trajectories of progressive construction of the citizenship of the "pygmies" in Cameroon. P.7*

Women, young people and children are not marginalized from this scourge. All projects in and around the Dja must take this parameter into account.

❖ **Safety in the area**

The implementation of development projects around the Cameroonian TRIDOM is one of the factors of insecurity, in particular with the arrival in the area of workers and social influx, some of whom are of dubious behaviours. Likewise, the proliferation of firearms resulting from armed conflicts in the sub-region has exacerbated the phenomenon of cross-border poaching.

Faced with this insecurity, some villages are starting to set up vigilance committees, which are not recognized by the State, but also lack the means to function properly.

Otherwise, there is a military training school in the area, in particular the National Armed Forces Training Centre (CIFAN) in Djoum, whose impact on poaching is significant.

❖ **Land use and land management**

In the Cameroonian TRIDOM area as everywhere else in the forest area, traditional/customary land law and modern land law coexist. As regards traditional law, the appropriation of land is done not only by clearing and felling the primary forest (by axe), but also by donations, bequests and purchases. In this system, the woman has no right to land. She only has the right to use.

In addition, there are problems of overlapping between mining concessions and forest concessions, as a result of mining cadastre and forest cadastre operating independently from each other. This is not without consequences for the conservation of forest areas in the region.

In the context of certain public projects, the State makes land available through expropriations which consist of declassification in the private domain of the State and expropriation for reasons of public utility for individuals. With regard to decommissioning, the procedure is generally not followed and with regard to expropriations, those concerned are generally not compensated in time; which poses problems for the execution of projects. This is particularly the case for the Hydro Mékin projects and the development of the Sangmélima –Djoum - Mintom - Congo border road.

3.2.2.3.2. *Economical activities*

The main economic activities in the area are:

- **Agriculture.** Agriculture is primarily the activity of sedentary ethnic groups (Badjoué, Boulou, Nzimé, Fang and Kaka). Alongside this sedentary population, there are the semi-nomadic groups of Baka Pygmies who do not really practice agriculture for their own account, but constitute agricultural labour for the sedentary groups. The aforementioned crops are mainly intended for self-consumption. A small part is sold. The absence of markets and the bad state of roads constitute a limiting factor for the development of these crops. Cash crops are cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber and pineapple.

Among these crops, pineapple cultivated by the Cameroonian Agricultural Exploitation Company (SCEA) and the rubber tree by the SUDCAM company are done industrially. SUDCAM's plantations with more than 10,000 hectares reduces the areas for the development of activities by the local populations. Likewise, the presence of a large workforce of this company has increased the demand for foodstuffs that the local populations are not always able to satisfy.

- **Breeding.** Traditional breeding and modern breeding are the two types of breeding practiced in the Cameroonian TRIDOM area. The modern breeding is the system of breeding where feed is given to animals. This system is not well practiced in the TRIDOM landscape. In the other hand, traditional breeding system where animals are abandoned to themselves to find their feed is the must practice system in the landscape.
- **Fishing and pisciculture.** The Cameroonian TRIDOM zone has many rivers full of fish, but which are weakly exploited. It is thus estimated that the contribution of fishing to household income represents only 3.86% (MINEPAT/MINEPDED, 2017).

– **Hunting and poaching**

- **Traditional hunting.** Hunting is the main activity through which the local populations of the Cameroonian TRIDOM satisfy their protein needs. They do so in order to enjoy their rights of use, but this hunting is done by deviating from the provisions of Decree n° 95/466/PM of 20 July 1995 setting out the modalities of application of wildlife regime.
- **Organized hunting activities.** Sport hunting is practiced on the outskirts of the Cameroonian TRIDOM in the banal zone and in the three (3) Zones of Hunting Interest (ZIC) created. It should be noted the absence of Community Hunting Territories (TCC) and Community Management Hunting Areas (ZICGC). The species hunted most often are: elephants (*Loxodonta africanacyclotis*), buffaloes (*Syncerus caffernanus*), sitatungas (*Tragelaphus spekei*), bush pigs (*Potamochoerus porcus*), black-banded cephalophs (*Cephalophu dorsalis*) and yellow-backed cephalophs (*cephalophus sylvicultor*).
- **Poaching.** Poaching is illegal hunting practiced by both natives and immigrants. Among these poachers, there are nationals of neighbouring countries (Congo and Gabon). Animals are slaughtered for their meat and or their trophy (ivory, panther and python skins, etc.). As for bush meat, it has a strong demand in close or distant large cities.

– **Forest exploitation.** There are three types of logging in the Dja area: industrial logging, artisanal logging and NTFP exploitation.

- **The industrial exploitation of timber.** The peripheral zone of Cameroonian TRIDOM comprises nine (09) Forest Management Units (UFA). In the South region, these are UFA 09 002, 09-006, 09-007 and 09-008 to the 'West of the reserve. The five (05) other UFAs are located in the Eastern Region on the northern outskirts of the reserve (10-048, 10-047a, 10 047b, 10 068) and in the southeast of the reserve (10-036). However, procedures are underway to change the vocation of UFA 10-036 in order to make it more of a biodiversity protection zone. Alongside these UFAs, there is the operation of Sale of Standing Volumes and the communal forests. The latter are State Forests managed by the councils through management plans.
- **Artisanal logging.** The wood here is used for constructions (posts and poles). Traditionally, timber was not used by the local population, but with the advent of the chainsaw (chainsaw, Lucas Mill) and sheet metal for roofing, all commercial species (Iroko, Movingui, Sapelli ...) are today the object of artisanal sawing.
- **The exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products.** This exploitation, beyond the local consumption needs that it satisfies, provides significant income for households in the area. In addition, some of these products are used for medical and other needs. Today, commercial activities are becoming more and more extensive for some of these products, even being exported. It is therefore an important resource for households in the region. Among the NTFPs exploited, we find: leaves (palm veins, Eru), fruits (Moabi, coconuts, palm nuts, Andok, Djansang, etc.), tubers, herbs and barks.

– **Mining.** The mining sector includes exploration, industrial exploitation and artisanal exploitation.

- **Mineral exploration.** Mineral exploration is currently the most popular activity in the region. In fact, several mining exploration permits have been allocated in the peripheral zone of the Cameroonian TRIDOM. The activity report of the Southern Regional Mining Delegation mentions 10 permits in the peripheral zone belonging to the Southern Region.

On the other hand, investigations have established that the numerous exploration permits in the area have, in a good proportion, overlaps with the forest concessions (UFA), and to a certain extent the Reserve, be it in the Haut Nyong division or in the Dja and Lobo division. This situation leads to numerous conflicts between administrations

and with local residents. These conflicts are revived by the contradictions between law 94-01 of 20 January 1994 regulating forests, fauna and fishing, and law n° 2010/011 of 29 July 2010 amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law n° 2001-1 of 16 April 2001 relating to the mining code, the rights and obligations of which overlap. These multiple conflicts constitute a major cause of the impacts on the integrity of the Reserve, added to the multiplicity of different administrative interventions in the area.

- **Industrial mining.** The most important and prominent exploitation permits in the study area are that granted to Camiron for the exploitation of iron from Mbalam and that of the exploitation of nickel-cobalt in the Lomié, Ngoyla, Messok section by GEOVIC. Due to several factors, the activities have experienced a drastic slowdown or even a stop. **The exploitation of these important deposits has many direct and indirect effects on the Cameroonian TRIDOM and its peripheral zone, and which must be analysed in an exhaustive manner.**
- **Artisanal mining.** The most prominent artisanal mining in the region is gold mining. This form of exploitation is rapidly developing. This sector also has several effects on wildlife, vegetation, soil, water, humans and the environment in general. It is also subject to sectoral mining regulations and environmental regulations. This type of operation is subject to an environmental impact notice, the implementation and monitoring methods, which have not yet been mastered by the councils. This is not without consequences for the Cameroonian TRIDOM.
- **Handicrafts.** Handicrafts in the region is related mainly to basketry, an activity which mainly involves women. The products resulting from this activity are, among others, raffia mats, baskets, traps and hoods. However, there is a potential for the production of rattan furniture and other local materials like handles for agricultural tools. Handicrafts therefore remain a sector to be promoted in the Cameroonian TRIDOM area, the potential being significant given the abundance of natural resources present which constitute the raw material for handicrafts.
- **Industry.** The industrial activities that are developing in the Cameroonian TRIDOM area are grouped together in the sectors of agro-industry, forestry, mining and hydroelectric power. The agro-industry sector is marked by the presence of the SUDCAM company which has a rubber production plant; the industry in the forestry sector is represented by the sawmill of *Société Industrielle de Mbang* (SIM) which deals with wood processing (sawing and manufacturing of plywood); the mining industry is represented by the GEOVIC and CAMIRON projects, which have not yet started.
- **Commerce and trades.** Commerce and trades in the area involve agricultural products such as plantain, bananas, cassava, yams, maize, peanuts, pistachio, pepper and many others. Trade is also in natural resources such as products from hunting, fishing and NTFPs. The manufactured goods of first necessity are sold in shops or kiosks. The markets exist only in the administrative headquarters of the subdivisions.
- **Transportation.** Transport is dependent on the road network and the state of this network in place in the peripheral zone of Cameroonian TRIDOM. This constitutes the several means of transport used in the area. These include transport by bus, "bush taxi" and motorbike. This latter mode of transport, commonly known as moto taxi, is the most widely used method, given the state of the roads and the region's isolation. It strongly contributes to the development of poaching. There is also transport by travel agencies. Poaching products are also transported by this mode of transport. Finally, transport is also done by ferry and canoe due to the isolation of the area, which limits the movements of mobile wildlife control teams.
- **Jobs and income.** The major development projects underway in the area constitute a potential source of employment and income in the Cameroonian TRIDOM area. This potential is growing with the gradual implementation of projects. But unfortunately, the

young people in the villages do not always have the skills required to have jobs in these projects. Likewise, they are not always well informed of job opportunities and do not master the procedure to constitute their files. The consequent unemployment leads them to engage in poaching. Those who even have jobs find their wages insignificant compared to the income from poaching. The companies concerned are thus obliged to use external labour most of the time.

3.2.2.3.3. *Infrastructures and equipment*

In terms of infrastructure and equipment, the area is characterized by:

- **Transport infrastructure.** The paved roads closest to the Cameroonian TRIDOM are located in the subdivision of Meyomessala at the west of the reserve, they connect this subdivision to the capital Yaoundé and its extension to Zoétélé is underway. The other road being tarred in the area is the Sangmelima - Djoum - Mintom - Congo border road which in some places is less than ten kilometres from the reserve.

The other routes are made up of regional or divisional roads equipped with non-definite material, most often poorly maintained. These tracks are very impractical in the rainy season. While it is understood that improved access will promote the activities of control officers, it will equally facilitate the movement of poachers.

- **Health infrastructure and common diseases in the TRIDOM area in Cameroon.** We can observe that all the administrative headquarters of the subdivision on the outskirts of the Reserve have sub-divisional Medical Centres (CMA). However, there is a problem of insufficient personnel and technical platform in these structures. Difficult access to pharmaceutical products due to isolation makes health coverage even more derisory on the outskirts of the Cameroonian TRIDOM. As a result, populations have no other means than the traditional pharmacopoeia which is also threatened by deforestation making certain medicinal plants scarce. Some cases of illness or accidents cannot therefore be handled locally.
- **Tourist infrastructure and leisure.** Due to its characteristics and peculiarities it comprises, the Cameroonian TRIDOM area has a strong tourism potential: the Dja river itself, the dense evergreen forest, the abundant and diverse fauna, the presence of rocks in the Cameroonian TRIDOM and the Baka - Bantou cultural alternation. However, it is slow to appear among the tourist destinations of choice. The reasons are mainly infrastructural. The area lacks usable roads throughout all seasons.

Tourist infrastructure is also insufficient in the peripheral zone of the Cameroonian TRIDOM. Indeed, apart from the main towns of the Dja and Lobo division and Haut - Nyong division where one can find more or less acceptable hotels and restaurants, other localities including the chief towns of the subdivisions are lacking in providing adequate accommodation and feeding their hosts. There is shortage of power and water supply. Likewise, visitors feed themselves in makeshift restaurants where the dishes are mainly based on bush meat including that of protected species. However, the state levies taxes on these establishments, which implies the implicit acceptance of the sale of bush meat.

The insufficiency of road and tourist infrastructure reflects the weakness or even non-existence of tourism activities. Tourist activity cannot be developed solely by the State. For the development of this sector, the Public Private Partnership (PPP) has a place of choice, as is the case in other countries and even in Cameroon with the case of Campo - Ma'an.

- **Educational infrastructure and education.** In terms of infrastructure in the field of education, the study area has an almost complete typology in terms of educational services. By way of illustration, we find in the area: nursery and primary schools; secondary schools (classical high schools, bilingual high schools, technical high schools, Secondary Education Colleges (CES), centre of Excellence in Information and Communication

Technologies (CETIC) and a university professional school such as the Cameroon-Congo Inter-States University.

From an educational point of view, the study area is generally staffed with insufficient numbers of qualified personnel. Thus, schools are most often obliged to resort to Parent Teachers Association (PTA) teachers.

Moreover, it should be noted that the Pygmies or Baka are not really interested in these educational activities.

- **Energy infrastructure and access to energy.** The energy sector in the study area is characterized by significant potential deposits of natural gas, hydroelectric energy and other renewable energies (solar, biomass, wind). Some towns are supplied by the South Interconnected Network (Sangmélima, Meyomessala, etc.), but many towns are supplied by generators which have serious maintenance problems and cause regular power shortages. The Hydro Mekin dam (15 MW) on the Dja aims to fill the energy deficit in the area.

In addition, we note in several villages the existence of transport lines. The poles used are generally made of wood. When they don't rot, they are burnt by bushfires. This is the cause of several breaks in the electricity supply and even the discontinuance of the use of certain lines.

- **Access to water.** In this region, access to drinking water remains very problematic. In fact, the drinking water supply network is only present in the administrative towns of the division and in a few subdivisions. However, there are often many water cuts. As it is the situation in most of the villages in the area, the populations mainly use traditional wells and springs. Sometimes, they use running water from rivers or streams exposing them to the risk of water-borne diseases (diarrhoea, typhoid, amoebiasis, etc.).
- **Telecommunications infrastructure and communication.** Telecommunications infrastructures are present in a good number of localities in the peripheral zone of the Cameroonian TRIDOM. Indeed, in this zone, one notes the presence of radio and television antennas; telephone antennas (MTN, Orange, NEXTTEL). However, there are great disparities in the area in terms of areas covered by these telecommunications infrastructures and their services.

As we get closer to the Cameroonian TRIDOM, these telecommunications networks tend to disappear. This situation is likely to further complicate the exchange of information in the context of control activities. This is why it will be necessary to use other means of communication (HF radio, walkie-talkie, thuraya telephone).

3.2.3. Sangha Tri National landscape

3.2.3.1. *Physical environment*

3.2.3.1.1. *Geographic location*

The forest landscape of the Sangha Tri National (STN) is made up of the following 3 neighboring national parks: Nouabalé-Ndoki in Congo, Lobéké in Cameroon, and Dzanga Sangha in the Central African Republic, as well as their peripheral areas. This landscape covers an area of approximately 259,354 km².

The landscape is bounded:

- in the West by the Community Management Hunting Areas (ZICGC) n° 1, 2, 3;
- in the North by the Zones of Hunting Interests (ZIC) n° 28 and 30 and;
- in the South by ZIC n° 31.²⁴

The current study concerns only the STN on the Cameroon side, in particular the Lobéké National Park (LNP) and its peripheral zone as well as the councils of Moloundou and Salapoumbé.

²⁴ MINFOF, 2014. *Development plan of Lobéké National Park and its peripheral zone.*

3.2.3.1.2. *Weather*

The overall humid climate is typically equatorial, marked by 4 seasons:

- the great dry season lasting from December to February;
- the short dry season is from March to June;
- the short rainy season, from July to August;
- the great rainy season extends from September to November.

The average rainfall is around 1,600 mm/year. During the year, these precipitations are spread with two peaks in April-May and in September-October. The annual temperature averages 24.76 ° C. For monthly consideration, this temperature varies from 23.3 ° C to 26.1 ° C. The relative humidity of the air varies from 60 to 90%. Saturation rates can be recorded during dry season nights.²⁵

3.2.3.1.3. *Air quality and acoustic environment*

Due to the presence of several forests in the landscape of the Sangha Tri National, the air is generally less polluted. However, the implementation of project activities, some of which are sources of carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), airborne particles and dust, etc. can affect this quality.

As for the acoustic environment, several activities of these projects are likely to generate more or less resounding noises. Sources of noise are, among others, machinery, engines of devices and vehicles, generators, chainsaws and many other devices used in the area or region.

3.2.3.1.4. *Relief and topography*

The relief in the Landscape of the Sangha Tri National is essentially flat with a few hills varying in altitude between 400 m and 700 m.

3.2.3.1.5. *Geology and pedology*

From a geological point of view, the Landscape of the Sangha Tri National is made up of the typical metamorphic rocks of Precambrian to Cambrian age, belonging to the lower Dja series. This formation is mainly composed of tillites, quartzites, schists, limestones and dolerites.

From a pedological point of view, the soils are essentially ferralitic, derived from ancient metamorphic rocks. However, in some places, hydro-morphic soils can be seen. In general, the soils are thickened and solidified, there are ferruginous crusts which cover them in some places.

They are also acidic, clayey with a low content of nitrogen and exchangeable bases. The layer of the humus is relatively thin.²⁶

3.2.3.1.6. *Hydrography and water quality*

The TNS is mainly watered from north to south by the Sangha, the main river in this region.

LNP is watered by the Lobéké, Lobila and Moko-Paka, Djombi and Boulou rivers; while its peripheral zone is supplied by the waters of the Bolima, Lokomo, Lopondji, Malapa, Mbimé, Moboussambou, Mokoto, Monguelé and Ndjangué rivers.

The watercourses draining the Lobéké National Park (LNP) supply:

- the Sangha river. It is to the east of the LNP and it receives water from the rivers Bolima, Lobéké, Lobila and Moko-Paka, Monguelé and Ndjangué;
- the Ngoko River. It is to the south of the LNP and receives water from Djombi, Boulou, Malapa, Mbimbe, Moboussambou and Mokoto;
- the Boumba river. It is in the West and it receives the waters of the Lokomo and Lopondji rivers.

²⁵MINFOF, 2014. *Plan d'aménagement Du parc national de lobéké et de sa zone peripherique*

²⁶Laclavère G. (1979). *Atlas of the United Republic of Cameroon. Ed. Jeune Afrique, Paris, 72p.*

There is also a complex of marshy clearings that the Baka of the area call "baï" by name. It contains a flooded lake called Lac Lobéké.

Concerning water quality, the Sangha River in particular and the other rivers in the area in general have suffered over the years from a deterioration in the quality of their water due to increasing sand drift. This is mainly due to the contribution of particles from erosion in peripheral forest concessions, among others. There is a need to strengthen the implementation of low impact logging standards.

3.2.3.2. Biological environment

3.2.3.2.1. Vegetation and flora

In addition to protected areas, the landscape is dominated by logging concessions which, over the past two decades, have grown exponentially through the commercial exploitation of logs in the region.

The type of vegetation contained in the forest landscape of the STN in Cameroon is the low-altitude Guinean-Congolese humid dense forest:

- the northwest of the landscape consists of a semi-deciduous forest;
- the southeast is made up of swamp forest;
- inside and outside protected areas and Forest Management Units (UFA), there are many natural glades.

The landscape in Cameroon is characterized by the presence of glades. The results of the floristic inventories carried out in the Lobéké zone attest the presence of 764 plant species belonging to 102 families.²⁷ The distribution in morphological type shows a high diversity of tree and shrub species (440 species) compared to that of other groups (161 species of lianas and 163 species of herbaceous plants).

From the floristic inventory carried out in four glades (using the phytosociological enigmatic approach of Braun-Blanquet), the dominant families were Cyperaceae, Poaceae and Fabaceae.

The most frequent species in all the glades were *Rhynchosporacorymbosa*, *Cyperusdifformis*, *Acrocerasamplectens*, *Paspalumconjugatum*, *Pentodonpentandrus*, *Acmelacaulirhiza*, *Commelinasp.*, *Desmodiumadscendens* and *Hydrocharischevalieri*. Therophytes and geophytes were the dominant life forms. The dominance of *phanerophytes* in Djaloumbé reflects the closure of the latter. Actions to remove *Mimosa pudica* and invasive *Cyperaceae* should be considered as part of the development of these glades.²⁸

3.2.3.2.2. Wildlife

Much of the STN forest landscape in Cameroon is rich in large mammals. There are large animal populations classified among the most threatened on the continent, in particular:

- large mammals such as forest elephants;
- large primates (lowland gorillas, chimpanzees) and antelopes (bongo, sitatunga);
- small mammals (duikers, etc.);
- small primates (colobus, cercopithecus), carnivores (leopards, golden cats, mongooses) and rodents.

The avifauna of the landscape is also rich due to the presence of several species of resident and migratory birds.

The rivers are also home to a great number of ichthyofauna (not yet sufficiently explored), and there are several families of fish like the LatesNiloticus commonly called captains, the Malapterudae (electric fish), the Mormyridae (Kpété), etc.

²⁷Harris D. 1999. Lobéké: Botanical Inventory. WWF Cameroon Technical Report. 130p.

²⁸LF TEMGOUA et al., 2018. Characterization of the vegetation of the clearings on hydromorphic soil of the Park National of Lobéké, East Cameroon.

3.2.3.2.3. Outstanding Universal Value and justification

Sangha National Park constitutes an Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) which was formalized after the registration date in 2012 by Cameroon, Congo and the Central African Republic²⁹.

UNESCO puts forward the following 2 criteria to justify the Lobéké National Park (LNP) OUV:

Criterion (ix): the property is characterized by its vast dimensions reinforced by a very large buffer zone, minor disturbance over long periods and an intact character allowing the continuation of large-scale ecological and evolutionary processes. Of note is the continued presence of viable populations and natural densities of wild animals, including large predators and large mammals which elsewhere are often affected by hunting and poaching. The asset is formed by a fully connected mosaic of a wide variety of habitats, including many types of ecologically remarkable forest glades attracting large groups of wild animals and where countless plant species are found, otherwise absent in the forest landscape. Unlike many other forest protected areas, the asset is not a vestige but continues to be part of a much larger and undisrupted landscape with good prospects for conservation, which is increasingly rare and globally important.

Criterion (x): the property represents a broad spectrum of tropical rainforests, rich in species from the Congo Basin in Central Africa, and provides protection for a range of endangered species. The flora is enriched by species that are found exclusively in the various types of forest glades. The Sangha Tri National protects a large number of tree species that are, elsewhere, heavily exploited for trade, such as the critically endangered mukulungu. In addition to viable populations of forest elephants, there are significant populations of critically endangered western lowland gorillas and endangered chimpanzees, both in and around the property, as well as several endangered antelope species such as the sitatunga and the iconic bongo.

3.2.3.3. Socio-economic environment

3.2.3.3.1. Socio-cultural aspects

– Demography

The peripheral zone of Lobéké National Park was populated by 23,245 people in 2012 divided into five sectors as follows; the North (Libongo, Béla); North-West (Momboué, Lokomo, Salapoumbé, Koumela); West (Mambélé, Yenga, Dioula, Mbateka, Nguilili, Mbangoye, Makoka, Banana, Mokounounou, Malapa and Moloundou); South (Socambo, Mongo Kéllé, Kika, Zéga, PK 27, Beza, Ngoko) and East (Djemba). In terms of potential pressure, to this number of inhabitants, we should add the 2,115 inhabitants of Bomassa and Kabo which are two Congolese localities located practically opposite the LNP on the other bank of the Sangha.

– Social organization

Like the other populations of the forest zone of Cameroon, the Bangando, Bakwelé and Baka constitute acephalous or segmental human groups. The indigenous Bantu groups (Bakwele and Bangando) are divided into clans characterized mainly by compulsory clan exogamy which is accompanied by a patrilocal residence of the couple, patrilineal descent and group solidarity. There is a collective responsibility for the problems that the members of the group encounter. Each Bantu clan has its own territory, and its members live grouped together in dwellings which form a single concession for the whole family. These dwellings are built along the road or on the banks of the Ngoko (as regards the Bakwele). The different clan territories are separated by groves, that is, portion of uninhabited forest.

The social organization of the Baka is also based on the clan model, that is, the exogamous patrilineal units are installed near Bantu villages. The residence of the Baka couple is patrilocal, with however a temporary matrilocality which consists of a stay of the newlyweds with the parents of the young girl for a few seasons. Traditionally, the head of the clan is the eldest. He coordinates the life of the group and represents it in external assemblies such as village meetings.

– Religious beliefs

²⁹ <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/>

The populations of the peripheral zone of Lobéké National Park (PNL) have various beliefs. Traditional and modern beliefs mingle together. Animists before belonging to one of the revealed religions, these populations believe in the spirits of the forest. In addition to traditional beliefs, the population of the PNL periphery adheres to several branches of the Judeo-Christian tradition and Islam. Christianity is represented by Catholics, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, and Evangelists.

– **Occupation of space**

Apart from some Baka camps and bush field shelters, the habitat and other village infrastructure are located along the road (village-street) or large rivers. The rest of the components of the village operating area are organized according to the road and the dwellings. Along the road, outside the living quarters, the crops form either large blocks or modest tasks separated by uncultivated areas. Their distance from the road vary according to the accessibility, the space required by the populations and the agricultural aptitudes of the land.

Spending more and more significant periods of the year at the village level and gradually embracing agricultural activities for several decades, the Baka hunter-gatherers are partly in line with the logic of occupation of space presented above. In spite of this evolution, they still remain considerably attached to hunting and foraging and retain notorious specificities in the way of occupying and managing the forest space of which they are the quintessential masters.

– **Housing**

The constructions in the area around the LNP are generally of precarious types. Habitat appears to be less of a priority for the populations of the villages around the LNP. It is nomadic style for the indigenous Baka populations where the material used is 100% flora. The Bantu populations, for their part, associate this plant material with mud to improve it, compared to the Baka camps. However, it is clear that some Baka are already building in Bantu style.

– **Vulnerable populations**

The Baka Pygmies, women and young people constitute the vulnerable populations of the region.

- Baka Pygmies: their main way of life is based on hunting and foraging;
- Women: they are very poorly represented at public consultation meetings yet some activities are carried out mainly by them (fishing with spillways, exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFP), the cultivation of certain food crops such as cassava and cocoyams);
- Youth: they are characterized by unemployment and alcoholism. These problems are linked to lack of education (schooling is low and much lower among young girls), health, child labor and lack of job opportunities for youth. These setbacks related to schooling pose a real problem of qualification when recruiting locals for various projects.

The Baka Pygmies in the TNS landscape practice almost the same rituals vis à vis the forest as those of the TRIDOM landscape.

❖ **Gender-Based Violence**

In the area, gender-based violence is mainly linked to economic aspects. Workers with sufficient means call on them. Young girls are often abandoned with unwanted pregnancies, which undermine their education.

The situation of gender-based violence in the project area is less serious than in other regions. Regarding rape, for example, the regions with a high incidence are the North (7.5%), the North-West (7.1%) and the Far-North (6.8%).

❖ **Cultural and archaeological heritage**

In the area, the ancient habitat of the Baka pygmies, built in leaves or bark with a pyramidal shape, is still maintained for several centuries. The metallurgy of iron is represented by the forge axes and spears. If ceramics still deserve in-depth studies, basketry as for it, is an ancestral culture in

the area. However, the entire sites remain unexplored in the area. Future research will highlight the existence or not of archaeological remains.

❖ **Customs and beliefs**

Generally speaking, here each clan group has a totemic name. In Mambelé, for example, there are five clans and each one designates itself by the name of the animal which serves as its totem. The name of the totem is preceded by the term *bo* which means "people of" or "family of". In this regard, we find in Mambelé the Bodawa (monkey clan, *dawa*), Bonguili (turtle clan, *nguili*), Boyélé (buffalo clan, *yélé*), the Bofolo (elephant clan, *folo*), etc. Traditionally, respect for the prohibition of consumption of the clan totem marks the attachment to the said family unit.

The populations of the TNS have diverse traditional beliefs. In reality, traditional beliefs and modern beliefs cohabit. Animists before being all of one of the modern religions, these populations believe in the spirits of the forest. In addition to traditional beliefs, the people of the in this zone adhere to several branches of the Judeo-Christian tradition and Islam. Christianity is represented by Catholics, Presbyterians, Pentecostals and Evangelists missions³⁰.

❖ **Nutrition**

One of the strong eating habits of the area is the consumption of game or bush meat from infancy by the Bantu and the Baka. The inhabitants of this zone who move to the cities keep these same habits, hence the strong demand for bush meat.

In terms of drinking, people consume a locally made whiskey called "Odontol" and other whiskeys in sachets. These different liquors have considerable harmful effects on the health of populations (blindness, various dysfunctions, reduced fertility, death) and affect their performance at work. Women, young people and children are not marginalized from this scourge. All projects in and around the Dja must take this parameter into account.

❖ **Safety in the area**

The implementation of development projects is one of the factors of insecurity, especially with the arrival in the area of workers and the social influx, some of whom exhibit questionable behavior. Likewise, the proliferation of firearms resulting from armed conflicts in the sub-region has exacerbated the phenomenon of cross-border poaching.

❖ **Land use management**

In the area, traditional / customary land law and modern land law coexist. With regard to traditional law, the appropriation of land is done not only through the clearing and felling of the primary forest (with an ax), but also through donations, bequests and purchases. In this system, the woman has no right to land. She only has the right to use.

3.2.3.3.2. *Economic aspects*

– **Agriculture**

Agriculture is practiced both to produce food for households (including indigenous Baka) and to generate income. The activities are spread almost over the whole year following an agricultural calendar increasingly disrupted by climatic variations. Each household maintains several plots of food crops (cocoyams, maize, yam, etc.) and cash crops (cocoa) generally located in the agro-forestry strip. The cultivation method is slash-and-burn agriculture.

– **Breeding**

Cattle rearing is the second most important activity carried out by the populations in the area after agriculture. Other main breeds are sheep, goats, pigs and chickens, not only to generate financial income, but also to feed themselves and use for rites. Apart from few breeders in the north and west parts of the park who are building enclosures, the animals are raised roaming in the localities. These breeding activities are much more practiced by the Bantu than the Baka.

³⁰ Source: Lobeke National Park Management Plan

– Fishing and fish farming

In the peripheral zone of the Lobéké National Park (LNP), from Libongo to Socambo via Lokomo, Moloundou and Kika, fishing is practiced by both the local populations and the indigenous Baka using tools such as nets, traps, hooks or simply weirs. The native populations regularly practice fishing upstream of rivers which periodically flood the marshy clearings of Djangué and Djaloumbé inside the LNP during the first half of the great dry season (December-January). During low water periods, fishing with weirs (scoop and trap), especially practiced by women and children, is a very popular traditional activity. The products (fish, shrimps, mussels, oysters, crabs, turtles, etc.) are intended for sale and/or for home consumption. It represents a source of income and a significant food supplement. River fishing is practised by West African immigrants and Central African ethnic groups who exploit the fishery resources of this border river sector.

With regard to fish farming, many farmer organizations (eg: COVAREF n° 2, GIC SANOFA) are leading initiatives for the production of improved tilapia. At the level of the PNL Conservation Services, there are more and more requests for support from individuals and groups carrying projects to create fishponds.

– Hunting

Two modes of hunting practiced by the populations living near Lobéké exist: subsistence hunting and commercial hunting. Subsistence hunting can be defined as that which the product is mainly intended for self-consumption although a small surplus is regularly left and sold in the villages. As for commercial hunting, it can be considered as that which is practiced primarily for the purpose of marketing game and trophies; it is akin to poaching, since it takes place in most cases in protected areas.

The hunters from the area practice subsistence hunting all year round. Though it is believed that subsistence hunting has less impact on wildlife, it has been proven that this does not discriminate protected species. If large mammals like gorilla are not the targets of hunters, they are caught in traps put there³¹. In some cases, gorilla are killed for their meat. The Consultant of this study noticed the sale of gorilla meat in a restaurant in Moloundou during the field visit in TNS landscape.

– Picking

Out of 601 woody plant species identified in the Lobéké zone, 41 are part of the Baka pharmacopoeia (Kenfack and Fimbel, 1995)³². An ethnobotanical survey carried out among the populations of the villages of the Kouméla – Nguilili axis (Gwet, 2003)³³ reports the use of 584 plant species (trees, grasses and lianas); including 28.8% for food, 17.8% for equipment, 15.7% for construction and 37.7% for traditional medicine.

The gathering of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (wild mango, djanssang, etc.) is the third activity which occupies communities in Lobéké National Park and its periphery.

– Handicrafts and mining

Craftsmen have been registered in all parts on the outskirts of LNP: basket makers in Lokomo and Salapoumbé, Baka and Bantou women united in the WHCS (Women's Health and Conservation Society) Association of Mambéle, blacksmiths from Nguilili and sculptors from Moloundou and Kika. We can also cite the construction of huts by the Baka women, the making of baskets, mats and drying racks by a few men and women the making of roofing mats by most of the men, wooden pestles and mortars, the making of baskets, beds and bamboo chairs by a few craftsmen, the making of traditional wooden and skin armchairs and the making of axes by the Baka. These different productions are modest and irregular.

³¹ PNUF, 2019. *Plan d'action pour le gorille des plaines occidentales (Gorilla gorilla gorilla). Accord sur la conservation des Gorilles et de leurs habitats de la Convention sur les espèces migratrices*

³² Kenfack D. & Fimbel R. (1995). *Contribution to the study of medicinal plants in the Lobéké reserve: update on traditional Cameroonian medicine. WCS / Cameroon report.*

³³ Gwet J.-P. (2003). - *Socioeconomic and ethnobotanical survey on the inventory of non-timber forest products around and in the community area of Lobéké National Park. Report, GTZ-PROFORNAT, Yokadouma, 35 p.*

With regard to mining activity, artisanal exploitation is currently underway in the southern part of the LNP; but the activity is reduced and is illegal. Fifteen mining exploration permits were awarded in the Cameroon segment of the STN. Only one of the 15 is subject to an agreement with the Cameroonian government (C&K Mining for Diamond). In the other parts of the park, the activity is limited to artisanal sand mining in certain marshy areas, not far from motorable roads. This sand is almost exclusively intended for marketing (the average price of a truck is 20,000 FCFA), but it is exploited occasionally.

– **Logging**

The LNP buffer zone is essentially made up of forest concessions under development. In the southern and south-western periphery, along the Ngoko River, illegal artisanal logging is practiced, exported by river (rafts), to urban centres in Congo.

Six FMUs respectively granted to three Concessionaires (SEFAC, SEBC and ALPICAM) generate annually, in addition to felling taxes and factory entry taxes, an annual forestry royalty estimated at 832,916,300 FCFA. For the needs of wood processing, 4 factories were built in Libongo, Bela, Lokomo and Kika.

The communal forest of Moloundou (42,556 ha) is currently being exploited while that of Salapoumbé (22,886 ha) is in the process of being classified.

– **Trade and transport**

Trade in the area is modest, among others due to the numerical weakness of the population, purchasing power, standard of living, high rurality, the structure of the regional economy, accessibility problems and the weak connection to global economy. The trade here has three main components: cocoa trade, carried out by buyers who roam the different villages, more or less regularly, from July to February; the sale of manufactured goods by shops and stalls for regular consumption; the sale of crop products, livestock and natural resources (NTFPs, etc.).

Transport is almost exclusively provided by cars, bush taxis ("clando" or "Opep"), trucks, moto taxis, wheelbarrows and personal vehicles. Due to the poor condition of the roads, transport prices are generally high. For example, the cost of transporting people by bush taxi is 28 to 35 FCFA per km; by moto-taxi, the price is 80 to 150 FCFA per km.

3.2.3.3.3. *Social infrastructure*

– **Education**

In the area, there are public nursery and primary schools, secondary schools and a vocational training centre. In recent years, the field of education has benefited from a number of infrastructure development or construction projects with funds from forest royalties and the Public Investment Budget (BIP).

However, schools in general are struggling. Teachers cite difficulties such as the lack of classrooms, teachers and school supplies. These problems are current among Baka students who, if they are simply not going to school, join the forest activity expeditions with their parents.

– **Health**

The Lobéké zone comes under the health district of Moloundou which covers all parts of the park. The hospitals of Salapoumbé and Moloundou are the only health facilities equipped for simple consultations. Health coverage is 01 doctor for 10,000 people. Apart from company pharmacies, the drug distribution system is poorly organized. Poverty and certain cultural traditions push local populations to turn to traditional medicine as a priority.

This chapter was aimed at the analysis of the initial state of the environment in the three landscapes. The next chapter will deal with environmental and social policies, regulations and guidelines.

Chapter 4: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The design and implementation of the "Integrated Management of Cameroon Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin" (GEF ID # 10287) must be governed by political and legal requirements at both the international and national levels for development to be sustainable. Likewise, the institutional arrangements must also be analyzed in order to determine the institutions concerned in governing this study and analyze their capacities in order to ensure proper implementation of the environmental and social measures that are proposed.

This chapter is organized in three main parts: a part which deals with environmental and social policies; another part which deals with regulations and guidelines; a last part which presents a comparative analysis of the management standards of the WWF environmental and social safeguards framework and national regulatory texts.

4.1. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES

4.1.1. Relevant national policies

4.1.1.1. *National Environmental Management Plan (PNGE)*

The National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) drawn up in 1996 with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was revised in 2008. It is the reference framework document for planning and environmental management in Cameroon. This plan is implemented through several programs and projects, the most important of which are the Forest Environment Sector Program (FESP) drawn up in 1999 and the Environment Program drawn up in 2008. These define policies for the protection of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources, the main objectives of which are:

- rational management of space, ecosystems and resources;
- valuation of raw materials through industrial development and infrastructure, in particular through ecologically sustainable industrial development and an acceptable impact of infrastructure on the environment;
- improvement of the living environment in urban areas;
- improvement of the conditions for the development of human capacities through the integration of women into environmental programs, with sufficient consideration of environmental concerns in the various sectors.

The environmental policy invites all institutions to make the population aware of environmental problems. These public or private institutions must therefore integrate into their activities programs to ensure better knowledge of the environment. The environmental and social management framework of the project "Integrated Management of Forest Landscapes in Cameroon in the Congo Basin" will have to develop an environmental and social management framework plan which will be an integral part of the activities of the structures responsible for the implementation of this project.

4.1.1.2. *Forestry policy*

The 1983 forest policy served as the basis for the development of the forest law which aims to promote integrated management, to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of resources as well as of various ecosystems. It contains a wide range of terms, including: participatory forest management; the conservation of nature and biodiversity; sustainable management of forests; community forestry; the development of compensation mechanisms; the allocation of forest exploitation for the benefit of riparian communities, districts and the state; the conservation of the customary rights of users and the rights of riparian communities.

The objective is to revise the forest law to improve the definition of the forest taking into account the imperatives of REDD+, to integrate land and forest tenure issues that involve carbon ownership, forest revenues and economic incentives that call for sharing of benefits from REDD+.

Components 2 (Improving the efficiency of the management and governance of high conservation value forests, and targeted interventions to protect their threatened species), 3 (Improving the Sustainable Management of Forests (SFM) through value chains of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber products.) and 4 (Increase generation of biodiversity benefits through sustainable tourism development) of the GEF-7 project are closely linked to this policy.

4.1.1.3. National gender policy

It is an instrument of development based on the principles of human rights, social justice, equality between women and men and democracy. Its implementation will help reduce gender inequalities for sustainable development. This is a multisector policy which has a national scope, aiming for a society free of all forms of gender inequality and inequity, and that ensures all its citizen's basic security for their social, cultural, political and economic fulfilment.

The gender policy document of the Republic of Cameroon is a framework of reference and guidance for the Government's action in the area of promotion and integration of gender or / and gender equality in all sectors of development.

This project aims to involve and empower Indigenous Populations and Local Communities (IPLC) who hold forest rights, including women and the youths. As such, through the gender analysis that was conducted during project development and the subsequent elaboration of a gender action plan, the project will ensure that women and youths views and participation are facilitated. It will favor continuous, open and inclusive and intergenerational dialogue on gender whenever possible, consequently, the project aligns with this strategy.

4.1.1.4. National anti-poaching strategy

The overall objective of the national strategy to combat poaching and wildlife crime is to reduce the risk of species extinction for the maintenance of ecosystem health and the well-being of the population.

This project aims, among other things, to ensure the continuous richness of animal and plant species. In doing so, it is in line with this strategy.

4.1.1.5. National land use plan

Over the past few years, the implementation of the policy on regional planning has been highly dominated by the project approach despite the inherent inadequacies in terms of coherence, synergy and the risk of spatial imbalances. This naturally resulted in a lack of coherence, harmonization and coordination between the various interventions in the fields of management of the national territory.

The regional land use plan aims, among other things, to develop the rural sector with the inevitable support of the State and sector development to improve incomes, reduce poverty and secure land to the populations.

The project dubbed Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin, is related to certain priority actions of the national planning scheme.

4.1.1.6. 2020 Strategy for the Wildlife Forestry Sub-sector

This is a document which aims to better identify the priorities of the forests and fauna sub-sectors, in relation to the strategy of the rural sector and the national or international constraints in this regard. Generally, this strategy proposes to increase the contribution of the forest and wildlife sector to Cameroon's economic development, and hence the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular MDG 7 which aims to "ensure a sustainable environment". Components 3 (Improve Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through the value

chains of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber products; and component 4 (Increase the generation of biodiversity benefits through the development of sustainable tourism) of the project under consideration, are closely linked with this strategy.

4.1.1.7. The Yaounde Declaration

The Yaoundé declaration, which is a will of the Central Africa Heads of States, aims to conserve and sustainably manage their forest ecosystems. In order to do this, they commit to accelerate the process of creation of trans-border protected areas, develop proper forest taxation, as well as necessary accompanying measures in its implementation, adopt national harmonized policies in the field of forestry, strengthen actions aimed at increasing the active participation of rural populations in the planning and sustainable management of ecosystems. The project includes three forest landscapes among which the TRIDOM, and the Tri National of the Sangha, which are cross-border protected areas set up following the Yaoundé declaration.

4.1.1.8. Sustainable Financing Strategy for Protected Areas

The National Strategy for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas (NSFPA), for the Conservation and Valorization of Biological Diversity (CVBD) and its Action Plan 2020 - 2024, as well as its strategy and communication plan were validated in Mbankomo in Cameroon on November 13, 2019. The objective of the project is to put in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long-term financial viability of protected area systems and associated ecosystems in six beneficiary countries of the Congo Basin. It is in this sense that the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) made a donation to COMIFAC member countries to the level of US \$ 8,181,181, for the implementation through the UNDP, the regional project CBSP - Mechanisms of Sustainable Financing of the Protected Areas of the Congo Basin - PIMS 3447", in order to support an approach and a methodology aimed at meeting the challenge of financing protected areas at the local, national and regional levels.

4.1.1.9. National Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan

Revised between May 24 and December 21, 2012, at the initiative of MINEPDED, the new national biodiversity strategy and plan document proposes a new policy orientation in this area, aimed at slowing down, or even stopping, the current trend on the loss of biodiversity as a means of establishing a strong natural base, essential for improving the growth of the country's economy and the living conditions of its inhabitants. Cameroon's vision for biodiversity states that: "By 2035, a lasting relationship with biodiversity is established in its use and benefit-sharing in order to meet the development needs and well-being of the population, and the ecosystem balance is preserved through sectoral and decentralized integration with the effective participation of all stakeholders, including local communities". The new 2012 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan charter formulated four strategic objectives (or areas of intervention) in order to achieve this vision. These objectives are to:

- manage the root causes of degradation and loss of biodiversity by reducing direct and indirect pressures on biodiversity;
- conserve and improve the state of biodiversity by preserving ecosystems, habitats, species and genetic diversity;
- promote the sustainable use of biodiversity as an instrument for wealth creation and poverty reduction, and starting with providing a response to the human consequences of the loss of biodiversity which constitute obstacles to national development and in particular poverty, diseases, various conflicts, food insecurity, declining income and unemployment at household and national levels;
- promote the integration of biodiversity into sectoral and local planning and development.

The Integrated Management of Cameroon Forest Landscapes in the Congo Basin project perfectly integrates this strategy through its objective which is to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon's globally important forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to ensure

continued richness in animal and plant species, increase economic opportunities and livelihoods of forest dependent populations.

4.1.1.10. Strategy for Involving Indigenous Populations in the REDD+ Process

This strategy will determine the intervention rules for REDD+ projects and activities in the environment of indigenous populations and, in accordance with the national framework and WWF's policy on IPs, will ensure that the REDD+ development process will have no negative impact on the environment and culture of IPs, but will instead provide culturally and socially appropriate benefits to these populations.

In line with this strategy, the project considers indigenous peoples, their rights, needs and aspirations in that context.

4.1.1.11. REDD+ National Strategy

The effective implementation of REDD+ requires reliable, responsive and accountable governance structures at different levels. The REDD+ governance structure offers the opportunity to engage the various actors involved in forest management in a process of dialogue that allows sectoral policies and investments to be oriented towards genuine economic and social transformation. The governance framework for an effective, efficient and equitable implementation of REDD+ in Cameroon will be formulated around the following pillars:

- engagement and participation of stakeholders;
- establishment of a conducive institutional framework for the implementation of REDD+ at several levels of the State;
- harmonization of the legal/regulatory and political framework for an effective implementation of the REDD+ strategy;
- establishment of a benefit-sharing and fund management mechanism;
- establishment of a complaints and redress mechanism;
- access and sharing of information;
- taking into account gender considerations in REDD+ projects / programs.

The project Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscape in the Congo Basin aims, among other things, at reducing emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation, more sustainable management and conservation of forests and building stocks of forest carbon.

4.1.1.12. National Guidelines for Obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) under REDD+ in Cameroon

This document offers practical guidelines on how to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from indigenous and local communities during the implementation of the REDD+ process and initiatives (projects, programs and activities) in Cameroon.

The Integrated Management of Cameroon's Forest Landscape in the Congo Basin project will implement this directive regarding the indigenous Baka and Bagyeli.

4.1.2. WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) Standards

WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) consists of ten standards. Four standards of which are automatically applicable to all projects; while this GEF-7 project triggers six more of WWF's standards. Those triggered within this project are 10 in number and are described below:

- **Environmental and Social Risk Management** - The proposed project is a special consideration. All negative environmental and social impacts due to project activities are expected to be minor and site specific and can be mitigated. The project will elaborate a basic Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) (SIPP: 10) and Environmental and Social Management Framework.

- **Natural Habitat Protection** – This is triggered because the proposed project directly targets the protection and restoration of species and their habitats; strengthen the capacity of local communities to conserve the natural resources on which they depend.
- **Access Restriction and Resettlement** - While the proposed project is unlikely to result in the displacement of people, the project may result in some access restrictions. Given that the activities proposed under the project include, but are not limited to, the management of protected areas and the development of integrated land use plans for the areas of the councils of Ngoyla and Mintom, the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restriction is being triggered and the project will prepare a Process Framework (PF). The purpose of this FP is to ensure the participation of the Project Affected People (PAP) while recognizing and protecting their interests and ensuring that they do not get worse as a result of the project. WWF policy prohibits forced evictions that include acts involving forced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and / or lands and common property resources that were occupied or on which depended, eliminating or thus limiting the ability of an individual, group or community to reside or work in a home, a residence or a particular location without the supply and the access to appropriate forms of legal protection and other. In addition, the project will exclude funding for any activity that would result in physical displacement and voluntary or involuntary resettlement. However, economic displacement or restriction of livelihoods or access to natural resources may occur (for example, as a result of negotiations through highly participatory consultations on the establishment of collaborative management arrangements for protected areas and/or other parameters of sustainability of natural resources).
- **Indigenous Peoples** – This is triggered as the project area is inhabited by various ethnic groups, among which are two considered to match the definition of Indigenous Peoples under WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples (SIPP: 74). These are the Bagyeli or Bakola (estimated at around 24,000 people) living in the western part of the project area and the Baka (estimated at around 40,000 people) living in the central and eastern part of the project area. Both groups are traditionally hunter-gatherers and internationally regarded as the traditional owners and customary users of the vast forests outside the settlements of agricultural populations along streams and roads. However, their rights are largely unrecognized and they do not have equal access to decision-making processes. To understand these challenges, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will be prepared and an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) or Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will be developed in accordance with SIPP 2019: 74. IPPF will be established in close consultation with affected indigenous populations by obtaining the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of the project affected people.
- **Cultural Resources** – This policy is triggered as a precautionary measure, since two out of the three project landscapes will be implementing activities that may increase risks of affecting communities' cultural resources, especially those of Indigenous Peoples, namely in the Campo Ma'an and TRIDOM landscapes. Activities in those landscapes involve promoting sustainable tourism and land use planning processes, respectively. Therefore, close monitoring of these activities will be required throughout the project life cycle and in the event risks relating to cultural resources are surfaced during the project implementation phase, appropriate measures will be taken to develop mitigation plans to address those newly identified risks.
- **Community Health, Safety and Security** - This standard is being triggered as a precautionary measure since this project will be engaging with numerous stakeholders and partners, who for some groups, have a history of conflicts between them. Certain project activities may increase the potential for these existing conflicts to escalate or for new conflicts to emerge among these groups and lead to violence and abuse targeted at some communities or individuals.

- **Public Consultation and Disclosure.** This standard describes WWF's commitments to engage people likely to be affected and to take their views into account while ensuring transparency at all stages of the project. The Project Team provides relevant information in a timely manner and in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to diverse stakeholders;
- **Stakeholder Engagement.** This standard ensures that WWF is committed to ensuring that stakeholders are meaningfully, effectively and formally involve Indigenous Peoples and local communities likely to be affected, in the design and implementation of all GEF projects. The intensity and scale of stakeholder engagement will vary with the type of project, its complexity, and its potential risks and impacts. It starts early in project planning and spans the entire life of the project;
- **Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms.** This standard provides a mechanism for affected people to raise concerns about how they are affected by WWF projects. The affected persons are offered a platform for filing their complaints to seek settlement of disputes that arise from project activities.

4.2. REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The legal framework encompasses international, sub-regional and national concerns as well.

4.2.1. International legal instruments

Cameroon has signed and / or ratified several international conventions aimed at protecting the environment. The various ratified Conventions that relate to this study are tabulated below:

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Table 3 : International Conventions ratified by Cameroon

International conventions for the protection of the environment	Objectives of the Convention	Links with the ESMF under study
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC was ratified by Cameroon in 1982	It sets up a global framework for the intergovernmental effort to face the challenge posed by climate change. The Convention aims at the dissemination of information on greenhouse gases, the implementation of national strategies to deal with greenhouse gas emissions, adaptation and cooperation.	The Cameroon forest landscape in the Congo Basin under study is a carbon reservoir. The study will take measures to minimize greenhouse gas emissions for potential projects
United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed on May 22, 1992 and ratified by Cameroon on October 19, 1997	The UN Convention on Biological Diversity emphasizes the preservation requirement essentially in situ of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural environment.	The study area includes a reserve classified in the UNESCO heritage and many national parks bordered by forest galleries, forest reserves with endemic species which are the home to a varied fauna. The project will work with stakeholders to address threats to biodiversity.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or Washington Convention (1973) ratified by Cameroon on June 5, 1981.	To ensure that international trade in specimens of flora and fauna does not endanger their survival and grants varying degrees of protection to more than 33,000 species of plants and animals.	Convention relevant to the study due to the fact that protected and endemic species abounds in the landscape.
RAMSAR Convention entered into force in Cameroon on July 20, 2006	It aims to stop the degradation or disappearance of wetlands presently and in the future, by recognizing their ecological functions as well as their economic, cultural, scientific and recreational value under the designation Algiers Convention.	This agreement is particularly important for the study as part of the study area including the Campo Ma'an National Park located in mangroves and wetlands.
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2007.	Indigenous peoples have the right to internal self-determination and by virtue of this right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Indigenous peoples cannot be evicted from their land and have a right to the natural resources located on their land.	The indigenous populations (Baka and Bagyéli) live in the Campo Ma'an National Park; Baka people live in the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes.
<i>Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization</i> relating to the CBD signed by Cameroon on October 29, 2010 and ratified in July 2014	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources resulting from sustainable management	The project will be carried out in forest landscapes giving access to genetic resources which may require the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	It aims to eliminate all racial discrimination, racial segregation or apartheid and to promote understanding among all peoples	The project will take into account all the sociological components in its zone of execution



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<i>Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters</i>	This convention adopted in Aarhus (Denmark) in 1998 stipulates that each state must guarantee the rights of access to environmental information, of public participation in the decision-making process and of access to justice in environmental matters in accordance with the provisions of this Convention in order to help protect the right of everyone, in present and future generations, to live in an environment which is conducive to their health and well-being.	This agreement is taken into account in this study through the public consultation meetings that will be organized with the local populations of the project.
<i>Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals</i>	The aim of this Convention is to protect "Migratory Species", that is to say the whole population or any geographically separated part of the population of any species or of any lower taxon of wild animals, of which a bigger fraction crosses in a cyclic and predictably manner one or more boundaries of national jurisdiction	The area covered by this project is conducive to the migration of wild fauna species, hence the creation of cross-border protected areas (TRIDOM and Sangha Tri National)
<i>International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention N°.182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour</i>	It sets at least 18 years, the age at which any individual can claim access to a job. Article 3 defines, among other things, the worst forms of child labor as "work which, by its nature or the conditions in which it is carried out, is liable to harm the health, safety or morals of the child".	The project must ensure that the workforce recruited is not in contradiction with the said agreement.

The table below shows some regional and sub-regional legal instruments signed and/or ratified by Cameroon which shall be considered in the study.

Table 4 : Regional and sub-regional legal instruments considered in the study

Regional and sub-regional legal instruments	Objectives of the instruments	Links with the ESMF under study
African Convention on Nature Conservation and Natural Resources. It results from the amendment of the Algiers convention of 1968 for the conservation of nature and natural resources and the strengthening of its elements relating to sustainable development.	It is a regional convention with a general scope in terms of nature protection and natural resources. It is concerned with every aspect of biodiversity conservation.	This agreement is reflected in the project through its objective to strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon Forest landscape in the Congo Basin to ensure the continuous wealth of animal and plant species, increasing the economic opportunities and livelihoods of forest dependent populations.
Cooperation agreement between conservation and the Central African States on Wildlife conservation, signed in Libreville April 16, 1983 between Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic and Sudan	According to the signatories of this agreement, the need for the conservation of wild fauna stems from the fact that it "constitutes, by its beauty and variety, an irreplaceable element of natural systems, which must be protected by present and future generations. "	Cameroon lays emphasis on these various ratified international conventions and agreements. This is why Article 14 (2) of Law N ° 96/12 of August 5, 1996 on the framework law on environmental management provides that "the Administration responsible for the environment must ensure that Cameroon's international commitments in environmental matters are introduced into the relevant national legislation and policy ".



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African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ratified by Cameroon on June 20, 1989	The Member States of the Organization of African Unity, parties to this Charter, recognize the rights, duties and freedoms set forth in this Charter and undertake to adopt legislative or other measures to apply them.	Human and peoples' rights must be respected throughout the project.
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4.2.2. National regulations and guidelines

4.2.2.1. National regulations

The Cameroonian government has adopted a set of laws and legal regulations for the protection of the environment in order to guarantee a healthy environment for its citizens and ensure the establishment of sustainable development,

The following table summarizes the legal arsenal relating to the Environmental and Social Management Framework

Table 5 : National legal framework

LEGAL TEXTS	OBJECTIVES COVERED BY THE TEXT	LINKS WITH THE ESMF
CONSTITUTION		
Law N ° 96/06 of January 18, 1996 revising the constitution of June 2, 1972	Guarantee the right of all citizens to a healthy environment	The implementation of this project will be done in strict compliance with the constitution of Cameroon.
LAWS		
Law N°. 96/12 of August 5, 1996 on the framework law on environmental management	Basic legal instrument for environmental protection in Cameroon.	The principles mentioned here must be applied during the project by the structures that will be installed on the site and whose activities could help improve, but are unlikely to harm the biophysical and the human environment.
Law N°. 94/01 of January 20, 1994 establishing the forestry, wildlife and fishing regime	Guarantee integrated, sustained and sustainable management of forest, wildlife and fishery resources.	The project site is located in a forest and maritime area where flora, fauna and fishery resources are highly sensitive.
Law N° 92/007 of August 14, 1992 on the labor code	It aims to protect the health and safety of workers, guarantee a minimum wage and regulate working conditions.	The work will require the use of labor. The application of regulatory rights and working conditions is essential.
Law N°.2013/003 of April 18, 2013 governing cultural heritage in Cameroon repealing Law N°. 91/008 of July 30, 1991 on the protection of cultural and natural heritage	Promotes knowledge, conservation, protection, enhancement, promotion and transmission of cultural heritage, for public interest in the perspective of sustainable development	The areas' cultural and natural heritage magnitude will be identified during the implementation of the project.
DECREES		
Decree N°. 2013/0171/PM of 02/14/2013 fixing the modalities for carrying out environmental and social impact assessments	Explains the ESIA implementation methods (content, preparation and approval procedure, monitoring and environmental monitoring modalities).	Alongside the development of this environmental and social management framework, an environmental and



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		social impact assessment is also carried out in accordance with this decree.
Decree N°. 78/263 of July 3, 1978 establishing the terms of settlement in agro pastoral disputes	Defines the composition of the members of the commission and its role, the methods of use of mixed zones, exercises permanent control over the agro-pastoral land in order to ensure that farmers and breeders respect the boundaries of the respective zones and regulates agro-pastoral disputes.	Agro-pastoral conflicts might result in the context of the presence of projects in the area.
ORDERS		
Order N° 00001 / MINEPDED of February 08, 2016 setting the different categories of operations whose implementation is subject to a strategic environmental assessment or an environmental and social impact assessment	This decree lists and classifies the different categories of projects and programs whose implementation is subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment or a strategic environmental assessment.	Environmental and social assessments will be recommended according to the categories of operations to be carried out in the project.
Order N° 00001 / MINEP of 03 February 2007 defining the general content of the terms of reference (TOR) for Environmental Impact Assessment	Defines the various elements of terms of reference of Environmental Impact Assessments, whether basic or detailed	The TORs of the ESIA will be drawn up following the provisions of this decree.
Order N° 0565/A/MINEF/DFAP/SDF/SRC of August 14, 1978 to lay down the list of animals in classes A, B and C, distribution of animal species for which slaughter is authorized as well as the slaughter latitudes by type hunting sport license	Lays down the list of animals by class and give the slaughter latitudes by type of hunting sport license.	By this order, measures will be taken in the ESMF for the protection of species.
Decree N°. 002/MINEPIA of August 1, 2001 laying down terms of protection of fishery resources	Fixes the methods of protection of fishery resources. In particular, it prohibits fishing in all areas identified as sensitive fish habitats (nurseries and places of refuge). It carries the institution of biological rest corresponding to the period of reproduction, of growth of the juveniles of a species or of a group of target species.	The project area abounds in numerous fishery resources. Measures will be taken to protect these resources.



4.2.2.2. **Some Local Agreements with MINFOF**

The Lobéké National Park (LNP) is located in the trans-border area called the Sangha Tri National landscape, subject of a tripartite agreement between the Central African Republic, Congo and Cameroon. While this Agreement does not contain explicit provisions on the rights of local Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC), the dynamics of local collective actions have generated other multi-party acts at the site level: the 1999 Mambele Convention revised in May 2007; this Convention fights in a collaborative manner against poaching; and the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed between MINFOF and ASBABUK in February 2019.

While the said acts do not create the rights of local IPLC, it should be recognized that they reaffirm and adapt to a certain extent the said fundamental rights contained in international legal instruments and national legislation (see the following table).

Table 6: Rights of indigenous populations and local communities explicitly mentioned in local LNP acts.

Local acts	Nature of IPLC rights
Memorandum of understanding MINFOF / ASBABUK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customary rights • right of access to resources • right to be recruited as an employee • right to be consulted and agreed • right to be educated / capacity building • right to be informed
Collaboration agreement for the fight against poaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rights to alternatives against poaching • right to a 10% share of the felling tax • right to collaboration with other actors
Mambele Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respect for usage rights • right to awareness and education • right to 10% of the cut tax • right to information • right to respect the commitments made

4.2.2.3. **National guidelines**

4.2.2.3.1. *Guide for conducting and validating Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)*

The guide for carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was a document set up in October 2007 by the Cameroonian government and which gives general guidelines for carrying out EIAs as provided for by the framework law N°96/12 of 05 August 1996 on environmental management as well as its various implementing texts. Its objective is to provide project promoters and consulting firms approved for carrying out EIAs, a general guideline indicating the nature, scope or extent of the activities / missions to be undertaken within the framework of an EIA. The various projects that will result from this vast project will necessarily need to carry out environmental assessments. The guide is useful in this regard.

4.2.2.3.2. *Guide to public participation*

The guide for integrating the views of the population in development policies and strategies in Cameroon governs³⁴ this study because it allows the views of the populations concerned by the GEF-7 project to be taken into account in the integrated management of the three landscapes under consideration.

This guide was developed and edited within the framework of the 5th cooperation program between Cameroon and the United Nations Population Fund. It will then be necessary to take into

³⁴ MINEPAT, 2012. *Guide simplifiée d'intégration des questions de population dans les politiques et stratégies de développement au Cameroun.*

account, among other things, the population development concerns, as well as gender and culture, human rights and reproductive health issues following the guidelines established by this guide.

4.2.2.3.3. *Guide to monitoring the implementation of ESMPs*

It is a document designed to pave the way forward for monitoring the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and compliance with other environmental obligations, such as monitoring being a prerequisite for the issuance of certificates of compliance with environmental obligations.

It takes place within the framework of a mission dedicated to this effect and uses the framework of general inquiry elaborated for the cause. This follows three major steps which are: the preparatory phase, the mission and the demand response phases.

4.3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS OF THE WWF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS FRAMEWORK AND NATIONAL REGULATORY TEXTS

National regulatory texts may fail to meet the provisions of WWF Environmental and Social Standards. To be able to visualize these gaps, the table below gives a comparative analysis between the management standards of WWF environmental and social safeguards **framework** and the **national** regulatory texts.

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Table 7: comparative analysis between management standards of the WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework and national regulatory texts

NORM /STANDARD TRIGGERED	PROVISIONS OF THE STANDARD	PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL REGULATORY TEXTS	OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>Standard 1 : Environmental and Social Risk Management</p>	<p>Tool: Depending on the project, a range of methods and tools can be used to meet the policy requirement of WWF and to document the results of such an assessment, including the mitigation measures to be implemented, which will reflect the nature and scope of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA); - Environmental and Social Audit (AES); - Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); - Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) 	<p>Decree N° 2013/0171 / PM of February 14, 2013 to lay down the modalities for carrying out environmental and social impact assessment provides as tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ESIA (Chapter 2); - the ESMP (article 27) <p>Decree N° 2013/0172 / PM of February 14, 2013 to lay down the modalities for carrying out the Environmental and Social Audit provides for the ESA</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. National regulatory texts do not include among the tools the Environmental and Social Management Framework (CGES). In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement the national texts.</p>
	<p>Environmental screening: Determining the specific type and level of environmental and social assessment required for selection and the categorization of the project.</p> <p>Categorization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Category A: for projects with significant negative impacts - Category B: for projects with less significant negative impacts which are addressed by mitigation plans - Category C: for projects with minimal or no negative impacts 	<p>Environmental screening and categorization are provided for by Decree N°. 00001/MINEPDED of February 8, 2016 to lay down the different categories of operations whose execution is subject to a strategic environmental assessment or an environmental impact assessment and the Order N° 00002/MINEPDED of 08 February 2016 defining the standard guidelines of the terms of reference and the content of the EIN.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p> <p>The dispositions of this Norm are fully satisfied by national statutory instruments</p>
	<p>Project implementation: During project implementation, the project team (including the executing agency and / or the lead technical ministry) reports on compliance with the measures</p>	<p>Decree N° 2013/0171 / PM of February 14, 2013 setting the conditions for carrying out environmental and social impact studies provides for the environmental monitoring and follow-up of the project to report, among other things, on compliance with the measures</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>
<p>Standard 2: Consultation and disclosure This standard describes WWF's commitments to engage those likely to be affected, and to ensure the transparency of these safeguards.</p>	<p>The project team will undertake a process of meaningful stakeholder consultation so as to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to express their views on project design, risks, impacts and mitigation measures, and allows the project team to discuss, review and respond to them.</p> <p>It is important to make project information available as early as possible in the project cycle and in a manner and in a language appropriate for each stakeholder group.</p>	<p>Law N°. 96/12 of August 5, 1996 establishing a framework law on environmental management provides compliance with public consultation.</p>	<p>The provisions of this Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>

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<p>Standard 3: Stakeholder engagement This standard ensures that WWF is committed to ensuring that stakeholders meaningfully, effectively and in an informed manner involve indigenous people and local communities likely to be affected, in the design and implementation of projects.</p>	<p>Stakeholders should be involved throughout the project life cycle. It must have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commitment during project preparation: Stakeholders should be involved throughout the project life cycle. To ensure that a project is designed to be effective while respecting safeguards, it is important to start involving stakeholders early in the preparation process. - Commitment during project execution Stakeholders must be regularly informed, consulted and engaged during the execution of the project. The project team should engage with stakeholders in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. 	<p>Law N° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 on the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitment of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. National regulatory texts do not directly provide for a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement</p>
<p>Standards No. 4: Complaint management mechanisms This standard provides a mechanism for affected people to raise concerns on how they are affected by WWF projects.</p>	<p>A grievance redress mechanism that takes into account local conflict resolution practices</p>	<p>Law N° 85-09 of July 4, 1985 relating to expropriation for public utility and to the terms of compensation provides for the provisions of the Standard in part.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard applies to supplement the national texts.</p>
<p>Standard 5: Involuntary resettlement and Restriction of Access</p>	<p>This standard helps WWF identify and respond to physical resettlement, access restrictions and economic displacement or other economic impacts triggered by its projects</p>	<p>Law n° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are not fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard and Process Framework applies to supplement</p>
<p>Standard 6: Indigenous peoples and local communities This standard ensures that due attention is paid to WWF projects that may have an impact on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including free, prior and informed consent, where applicable.</p>	<p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - early recognition of indigenous peoples; an environmental and social impact assessment with the participation of indigenous peoples to assess risks and opportunities and improve understanding of the local context and affected communities; - a process of consultation with affected indigenous communities to fully identify their views and obtain their free, prior and informed consent with respect to project activities that affect them; and - developing and including elements of a project-specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) with measures to avoid negative impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits in each project 	<p>Law n° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>
<p>Standard 8: Protection of natural habitats This standard guarantees the mitigation of any potential negative impact on natural habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation for biodiversity - Protection of legally protected areas and internationally recognized areas - No introduction of invasive alien species 	<p>Law No. 94/01 of January 20, 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fishing provides for these provisions in Title II</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>

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<p>Standard 9: Community Health, Safety and Security This standard ensures that the health, safety and security of communities are respected and protected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WWF should avoid or minimize the risk of community exposure to health, safety and security risks, paying attention to disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable groups or individuals. - Any security arrangements to safeguard personnel, property or project-affected people must be proportional and consistent with applicable national laws and good international industry practices. 	<p>Law N ° 96/06 of January 18, 1996 revising the constitution of June 2, 1972 - Guarantee the right of all citizens to a healthy environment</p> <p>Law n ° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>Some aspects of the provisions of the Standard may not be fully satisfied. In this case, the WWF standard and associated plan applies to supplement the national regulatory text.</p>
<p>Standard 10: Cultural Resources This standard ensures that cultural resources are appropriately considered, respected and protected and their destruction, damage or loss is avoided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure full understanding of the tangible, intangible and natural cultural resources of the landscape as perceived by IPLCs - Analyse tangible, intangible and natural cultural resources in relation to project interventions and assess potential negative impacts on these resources - Inform project-affected parties of their rights under national law when a project involves the commercial use of cultural resources; arrange for fair and equitable sharing of benefits - Avoid financing and/or implementing projects that could significantly damage or modify cultural resources. 	<p>Law N°.2013/003 of April 18, 2013 governing cultural heritage in Cameroon repealing Law N°. 91/008 of July 30, 1991 on the protection of cultural and natural heritage. Promotes knowledge, conservation, protection, enhancement, promotion and transmission of cultural heritage, for public interest in the perspective of sustainable development.</p> <p>Law n ° 96/1 2 of August 5, 1996 establishing the framework law on environmental management provides for the respect of the commitments of stakeholders in its articles, 72, 73 and 74.</p>	<p>The provisions of the Standard are fully satisfied by national regulatory texts</p>

This chapter reviewed the environmental and social policies, regulations and directives which govern the assessment; it also carried out a comparative analysis of the management standards of the environmental and social safeguards framework of WWF and the national regulatory texts. Where any discrepancies arise, the WWF ESSF will be applied.

Chapter 5: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Several institutions are concerned by this ESMF, whether in terms of its realization or at the level of implementation of its various requirements. In this regard, technical and financial partners, various ministerial departments as well as civil society organizations and traditional authorities are involved in the project and are described in more detail in the institutional framework diagram in Chapter 2, section 2.4 of this ESMF.

5.1. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility of the project, with WWF GEF Agency providing oversight as the GEF Agency. As the main **Executing Agency (EA)**, MINEPDED will be responsible for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and the effective use of GEF resources for their intended purposes and in line with WWF-US and GEF policy requirements.

In addition, WWF-US will enter into a Grant Agreement with WWF Cameroon, the Financial Administrator (FA) for the project which spells out the terms and conditions under which the GEF funding is being received, disbursed and accounted for project funding.

As the EA, MINEPDED will nominate a **National Project Director (NPD)** who will be the contact point for the project within the government of Cameroon and responsible for coordinating project activities with national bodies related to the different project components as well as with the project partners. Coordination for the implementation of the project with other ministries will be managed via the National Project Director and approval of the annual work plan and budget via the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The NPD will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Manager (PM) on government policies and priorities.

A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be co-funded by the GEF and established within MINEPDED. The main functions of the PMU, and under the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/B). The Safeguards Specialist in the PMU will ensure compliance with and proper and efficient implementation and monitoring of the ESMF, with the support of the M&E Specialist.

The PMU will be composed of the following full-time staff: Project Manager (PM); Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist; Safeguards Specialist; Gender and Social Development Specialist; Project Assistant; Finance Manager; Procurement Specialist; accountant; two Landscape Operational Assistants; and four project drivers.

The **Project Manager (PM)** will be in charge of daily implementation, management, administration, and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the PSC.

5.2 SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION

Specific arrangements and responsibilities related to the implementation of environmental and social safeguards requirements, as stated in this ESMF/IPPF/PF are as follows:

Lead Executing Agency (MINEPDED):

- Overall responsibility for ensuring environmental safeguards are implemented.

Project Steering Committee:

- Overall oversight and monitoring of compliance with safeguards commitments.
- Support and specific recommendations on specific safeguard issues if needed.

WWF GEF Agency:

- Overall oversight and monitoring of compliance with safeguards commitments.
- Support and specific recommendations on specific safeguard issues if needed.

Project Management Unit:

- Ensuring that bidding documents and contracts include any relevant particular clauses or conditions relevant to environmental and social safeguards as set out in this ESMF. It is particularly important to include in bidding documents requirements related to safeguards.
- Implementing and supervising ESMF and other safeguard plans;
- Provision of safeguard reports to the Executing Agency;
- Supervision of ESS specialist;
- Implementation of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM);
- Disclosure of safeguards documents;
- Reporting on safeguards implementation and compliance to the PSC and WWF GEF Agency.

Landscape Operational Assistants (LOAs):

- Overall responsibility for compliance with ESMF Safeguards and other annexed documents of this report;
- Screening all project activities to identify social and environmental impacts;
- Contributing to the preparation of safeguards documents (site-specific ESMPs or Livelihood Restoration Plans [LRPs]) as needed;
- Ensuring the inclusion of safeguards requirements in all project bidding documents and contracts;
- Monitoring contractors' compliance with safeguards requirements;
- Conducting consultation meetings with local stakeholders as required, informing them, updating them on the latest project development activities;
- Carrying out regular site inspections;
- Reporting on safeguards implementation and compliance to the Safeguards Officer and the PMU Director.

- Ensuring implementation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and dissemination of information regarding the GRM among local communities.

The Safeguards Specialist:

- Review annual work plans and budgets and analyze planned community/individual sub-projects and their environment/social impacts, in order to identify safeguards risks and initiate screenings of activities;
- Support Landscape Operational Assistants in the implementation of safeguards commitments and screening project activities;
- Prepare and contribute to safeguards documents as necessary in accordance to the ESMF/IPPF/PF, and in close collaboration with the PMU and LOAs.
- Ensure that consultations with local communities are carried out in an inclusive and participatory manner, and are well documented;
- Monitor the state of safeguards implementation, and ensure that sub-projects are implemented in accordance to best practices and guidelines set out in the ESMF/IPPF/PF;
- Provide oversight and coordinate the socioeconomic surveys to identify Project Affected People;
- Identify and liaise with all the stakeholders involved in environment and social related issues in the Project;
- Operate the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), including compiling and reporting on project-related grievances, monitoring grievance resolution, and closing the feedback loop with the complainant.
- Carry out field visits as necessary to monitor the implementation of project activities and their compliance with safeguard requirements;
- Provide capacity support to the PMU, LOAs, and other project-related stakeholders on environmental and social issues;
- Provide execution assistance and advise the Project Manager as necessary on safeguards related issues including adaptive management.
- Report on overall safeguards performance to the Project Steering Committee, WWF GEF Agency and other stakeholders as necessary.



Chapter 6: ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MEASURES

This chapter discusses anticipated negative environmental impacts and risks as well as their associated mitigation measures. While risks relating to the protection of natural habitats have been surfaced in relation to Component 3, the project activities have been designed in such a way as to avoid or minimize these risks. However, these risks and their associated mitigation measures are also discussed below.

Description of potential negative environmental impacts

1. Potential disappearance of some NTFP species

Forest landscapes are in the throes of unbridled use of several species, including NTFPs. The establishment by the Cameroonian legislature of several types of forests (community forest, FMU and others) is a positive approach to reduce unsustainable natural resources use. However, the lack of proper management and enforcement of these various legislatures, added to illegal logging, contributes to the disappearance of several species.

The high level of poverty in IP communities undoubtedly justify their intense use of NTFPs, thereby contributing to the potential unsustainable use of certain NTFP species. This impact was identified during public consultation meetings with IP groups, particularly in Salapoumbé and Yenga (TNS landscape).

2. Potential use of invasive species or pesticides in plantations

In addition, negative environmental impacts may arise through the creation of plantations, the promotion of agroforestry and production/cultivation of NTFPs and in the Ebony Project activities, as pesticides may be used and forested land may be ploughed to make room for plantations.

Mitigation measures

To mitigate the above potential impacts, the following measures have been proposed and incorporated into project activities:

- Raise awareness among local populations on the need for the sustainability of NTFPs;
- Train local populations on techniques for sustainable exploitation of NTFPs;
- In the event that plantations, agroforestry, and/or cultivation of NTFPs require the use of pesticides, ensure that they are not on the exclusion list and create a Pesticide Management Plan;
- Ensure all plantations are created on already degraded lands, avoiding the use of forested lands, HCV areas, etc.

Chapter 7: ANTICIPATED SOCIAL IMPACTS/RISKS AND MEASURES

This chapter mainly presents the social risks of the project and their mitigation measures.

Table 8 : Social impacts table

Activity with the Risk	Impacts/Issues	Mitigation/Enhancement Measures	Timeframe and Frequency	Target Area	Budget Required	Responsible Party
Activity 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 – These project activities under output 2.1.1 will contribute to the increased management effectiveness of CMNP and LNP by strengthening the management and governance frameworks of these protected areas.	In improving the management effectiveness of the parks, biodiversity will be better protected, leading to potential increases in wildlife populations, which may lead to increases in already identified issues with human-wildlife conflicts.	Assessments to identify and implement proven best practices (including traditional local methods) used in the Congo Basin and elsewhere to address and decrease human-wildlife conflicts.	From year 1-6	CMNP and LNP	Budgeted within output 2.1.1	PMU; project partners involved in this component
Activities in Component 3 - Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector reduce the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and deliver benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLCs) in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes	Increased deterioration in the health of IPs due to alcohol and drug abuse which may result from household revenue increase from participating in project activities focused on improvement of NTFP value chains.	As part of the capacity building efforts undertaken within this project component, topics such as the detrimental health effects of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as income management will be included in skill building workshops, to help raise awareness and try to address the health issues associated with alcohol/drug abuse.	From year 2 of project	All 3 project landscapes	Already budgeted within Component 3	PMU; project partners involved in this component.
Activity 2.3.1.3 - The project will work with local NGOs to expand awareness raising campaigns on health issues related to gorilla tourism (i.e., hygiene measures, risk of disease transmission and preventive measures) to	Increased risk of STIs/HIV/AIDS in the CMNP communities as the tourism industry improves through project initiatives; this destination becomes attractive and more tourists visit the site;	Capacity building workshops are conducted on disease prevention, among other topics, including the mode of transmission of STIs/HIV/AIDS and how to prevent infection.	From year 2 of project	Campo Ma'an National Park landscape	Part of the budget for Activities 2.3	PMU; project partners involved in this component

target civil society, government authorities, private workers, and IPLCs bordering CMNP.	potential for community members (especially the most vulnerable - women and youth) to come in contact with outsiders.					
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8.1.1.1. Description of negative social impacts

8.1.1.1.1. Increased deterioration in the health of IPs due to alcohol and tobacco abuse which may result from revenue increase

- **Description of the impact**

One of the objectives of the project is to increase the economic opportunities and the livelihoods of forest dependent populations. This will manifest itself in the increase in income. Indigenous Peoples would risk investing their income in alcohol and tobacco as they currently do. The consumption of alcohol at home is a real scourge. Everyone consumes it, including infants. A woman who drinks whiskey easily gives the rest to the baby she carries on her back. Consumption is made easier by the low price of local alcohol and whiskey in sachets. This type of whiskey is sold at a price (50 FCFA, or 0.09 USD/sachet) which is within everyone's means. However, joint decree N^o. 6011 MINMIDT/MINCOMMERCE/MINSANTE of 12 September 2014 prohibits the production and marketing of whiskies in sachets and containers. Unfortunately, it is not enforced³⁵.

The consequences of alcohol consumption for IPs range from health deterioration, to household-level dysfunction, leading to premature death. Likewise, a study has been found that their race is threatened, as the combination of high deaths with lower fertility rates result in population decline (Ramirez Rozzi FV., 2018)³⁶.

If nothing is done to support a change in the behaviour of IPs, the project will certainly increase the livelihoods of forest dependent peoples, however, the positive long-term impacts of the project on IPs may be affected by this chronic problem they are facing.

- **Mitigation measures**

To mitigate this impact, the following measures are proposed :

- raise awareness among IPs about the harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco abuse;
- sensitize the IPs on revenue management;

8.1.1.1.2. Increase in human/wildlife conflicts

- **Description of the impact:**

³⁵ Since MINAS has a cofinancing in this project, it could seize the opportunity to call upon its counterparts of MINMIDT, MINCOMMERCE and MINSANTE to implement the order.

³⁶ The study conducted between 2007 and 2017 in Moangue le Bosquet in the Eastern region showed that there was a correlation between reduced fertility and alcohol consumption.

Wildlife such as the buffalo, elephant, gorilla, and duiker etc. often venture out of the protected areas and end up in the outskirts of villages. Not only do they destroy crops in farms, but also prevent IPLCs from collecting NTFPs making that activity unsafe for communities.

One of the objectives of the project is to guarantee the biological integrity of the three forest landscapes. Consequently, its implementation will lead to better conservation of fauna with the corresponding increase in its population.

This impact is already noticeable in the field. It was also identified during public consultation meetings with the IPLCs, in particular in Akanga, Campo (CMRC landscape), Assok, Ngoyla and Assoundélé II (TRIDOM landscape) and Moloundou, Salapoumbé and Yenga (STN landscape).

- **Mitigation measures**

To mitigate this impact, the following measures are proposed:

- sensitize, train and support IPs on the development of mechanisms on traditional methods and best and proven practices to repel wildlife;

8.1.1.1.3. Increased prevalence of STIs/HIV/AIDS

- **Description of the impact:**

The South and East Regions of Cameroon, which are home to the three project landscapes, are the areas where the prevalence of STIs/HIV/AIDS is highest with 6.3% and 5.9%³⁷ respectively. The implementation of the project will induce social influx, especially workers and their families as well as job seekers. Over time, increased contact of local IPLCs with these outsiders may lead to increased transmission of STIs/HIV/AIDS. As the serological status of people is not known, a risk of infection and an increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is likely to occur.

Likewise, the development of sustainable tourism as foreseen in component 4 of the project will promote the influx of tourists into the CMRC landscape. These tourists could be agents of transmission or receptors of the disease.

- **Mitigation measures**

To mitigate this impact, the following measure has been proposed: Sensitize the IPLC and the personnel of the project on the methods to prevent STIs/HIV/AIDS.

8.2. ANTICIPATED SOCIAL RISKS AND MEASURES

8.2.1. Social risks analysis table

The intersection of the probability of occurrence with the severity of a risk made it possible to determine the level of risk of each activity. For some risks, measures have already been taken into consideration in the project; however for others, measures have been proposed. The following table presents the results of the project risk analysis; in addition, the WWF standards

³⁷ CAMPHIA, 2017. *Assessing the impact of HIV on populations in Cameroon*

triggered, the activities that cause the risk and the mitigation measures are presented for each risk.

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Table 9: Social risk analysis and mitigation measures

WWF standard triggered	Source activities/situations of risk	Designation and description of the project risk	N°	Taken into account or not	Probability of occurrence	Severity	Risk level	Measures taken into account in the project	Measures not taken into account in the project
Environmental and social risk management	Cameroon's political, economic and security instability	Risk of disruption in the implementation of project activities.	2	Yes	Medium	Serious	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continuously monitor the political, economic and security situation and manage it adaptively; ✓ The key instruments for adapting to this risk where appropriate are the inception workshop, quarterly and annual review and planning meetings. 	
	Global health situation due to COVID-19	Risk of disruption of overall project operations.	3	Yes	Medium	Moderate	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrate adaptive management instruments into the project design; ✓ Use the annual reporting process to ensure the project is able to adapt in a timely manner. ✓ Follow all national and WWF safety protocols related to Covid 19 as appropriate. 	
	Complexity of the project and the large number of stakeholders	Difficulty of effective project implementation	4	Yes	Medium	Serious	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Establish a strong management unit and relationships with key stakeholders and their representatives to facilitate coordination of project implementation. 	
	Poor governance, corruption and weak government engagement	Low potential for effective project implementation	5	Yes	High	Important	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of the project's own internal control mechanisms, including working closely with Landscape Assistants assigned to each landscape. ✓ Strengthen open and transparent dialogues and 	

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									increase recognition of rights, helping to tackle problems of poor governance and corruption.	
Environmental and social risk management	Sectoral and development priorities taking precedence over the project's sustainable forest management objectives.	Risk of raising the project's sustainable forest management objectives to the background to the detriment of sectoral development priorities	6	Yes	Medium	Serious	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project development in consultation with the main stakeholders and alignment with national priorities; ✓ Cooperation and coordination between sectors; ✓ Improve recognition of customary rights over resource use. 		
	Threats to biodiversity due to sectoral activities / population growth	Risk of not achieving overall project objectives	7	No	Medium	Important	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promotion of integrated land use planning; ✓ Establishment of alternatives to unsustainable practices; ✓ Strengthening of governance systems in and around protected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lobby for the re-exploitation of inactive forests; ✓ Raise awareness among councils on the management of their forests. 	
Indigenous Peoples	Development of planning and decision-making processes.	Risk of marginalization of target groups (IPLC, youth, women) in the project decision-making framework.	8	Yes	Medium	Moderate	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Incorporation of participatory approaches and consultations with IPLCs in all relevant activities of the work plan; ✓ Development of an action plan for gender equality; ✓ Incorporation of IPLCs and gender representatives in the steering committee. 		

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Indigenous Peoples	Identification of NTFPs and project strategies	Risk of non-identification of valuable NTFPs for IPLCs and negative impacts of project strategies on the livelihoods of IPLCs	9	Yes	Medium	Important	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Consideration of sustainability in the development of strategies to strengthen or develop a number of value chains of NTFPs; ✓ Establishment of participatory monitoring systems to enable stakeholders to capture the environmental and social impacts of project strategies; ✓ Regeneration of certain species of Non-Timber Forest Products. 	✓
Community stakeholder engagement	Low private sector engagement	Risk of limiting the development potential of sustainable value chains.	10	Yes	Medium	Serious	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify private sector partners and co-funders in the results regarding the development of sustainable value chains for ebony and ecotourism; ✓ Consider the private sector as a key stakeholder group to consult and engage with in the process of developing strategies to develop sustainable NTFP value chains. ✓ Raise awareness and involve project stakeholders as part of its communication actions, in particular, to examine sustainability issues and identify opportunities for collaboration / partnership with IPLCs. 	
Environmental and social risk management	Unfavourable conditions for tourism in Cameroon and/or internationally.	Risk of mixed achievement of the expected result of the project linked to the	11	Yes	Medium	Important	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Align the project strategy on the development of ecotourism in and around the CMNP with policies and planning at national and local levels; 	

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		development of sustainable tourism						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Focus initially on increasing tourism capacity (i.e. creating key products, building institutional capacity) and strengthening dialogues between key stakeholders already working to develop the CMNP as a tourist site ✓ Strengthen dialogues to address some direct challenges that will not be included in this project (e.g. actors are already considering how best to answer access questions) and to support adaptive and long-term thinking and planning concerning the tourism strategy in and around CMNP. 	
	Climate change or high climate variability during the lifespan of the project	Increased loss and deterioration of forests.	12	Yes	Medium	Important	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthen SFM systems by responding to the concerns and needs of IPLCs in order to help improve resilience to climate change; ✓ Contribute to maintaining the connectivity of the rainforest ecosystem in the Congo Basin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sensitize the populations of the three forest landscapes on the harmful effects of climate change.
ADDITIONAL RISKS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THE ESA AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION									

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Community stakeholder engagement	Non-definition of the specific responsibilities of MINFOF as the ministerial department responsible for the project sector	Risk of difficulty in collaborating MINFOF services at the local level for the effective achievement of project objectives The eco-guards who are the guardians of the resource are under the responsibility of MINFOF. They work with the PIB, which is difficult to mobilize	13	No	Medium	Important	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Appoint the Technical Advisor from MINFOF instead of MINEPDED as provided for in the project organization chart; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sensitize local MINFOF staff in each forest landscape on the beneficiaries of the project and on the organization of the GEF fund.
Consultation and disclosure	Poor popularization of project achievements	Risk of mixed perception of the impact of project activities at the local level. Stakeholders at the local level do not sufficiently perceive the impact of the activities carried out in the previous six projects.	14	No	Medium	Important	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure good visibility of the activities carried out under the project; ✓ Sensitize stakeholders on the achievements of the project. 	

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		There is a risk that this perception will persist.						
Consultation and disclosure	Failure to link project objectives to development plans for forests with high conservation value in different landscapes	Risk of mixed perception of the impact of project activities on the implementation of management plans for forests with high conservation value in the different landscapes	15	No	High	Serious	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Match each project activity to a specific budget line in the development plan of protected areas.
Community stakeholder engagement	Poor governance at the level of local NGO project partners	Low potential for effective project implementation	16	Yes	High	Important	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implementation of the project's own internal control mechanisms, including designate the Landscape Assistants in each landscape to support project monitoring and implementation. ✓ Strengthen open and transparent dialogues and increase recognition of rights, helping to tackle issues of poor governance and corruption.
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Remunerate NGOs through performance-based contracts (NGOs must be paid after service rendered, evaluated and certified by mixed commissions including among others, the representative of the beneficiaries)

Chapter 9: GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

This chapter addresses guidelines for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) Development, it provides an analysis of institutional capacities to implement the ESMP and the synthesis of environmental and social measures and risks.

9.1. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ESMP

The implementation of measures contained in the ESMP shall be carried out either by the PMU or by the Project Technical Consultants as part of the activities established in their contracts.

9.1.1. Project Management Unit

Some staff whether at the level of the National Director or at the Project Implementation Unit (PMU) shall have the following roles to play:

- the National Project Director and the Project Manager have to master what is present in the project in terms of environmental and social issues;
- the Technical Advisors should also have a broad knowledge of environmental and social safeguards in the project;
- the Safeguards and Gender/IP Specialist shall be in charge of the implementation of ESMP measures in Campo Ma'an Landscape since there is no Landscape Technical Assistant for this landscape;
- the Landscape Operational Assistants shall be in charge of most of the environmental and social safeguards measures. For activities like awareness raising, their capacities have to be reinforced;
- the Administrator is supposed to prepare the recruitment and contracts of Technical project Consultants. The Administrator has to make sure that environmental and social concerns are incorporated in procurement documents and subsequently in their contracts.

From this analysis it appears that all technical staff need training on environmental and social safeguards and the landscape operational assistants in all project area landscapes need to be trained on awareness raising techniques and issues.

9.1.2. Project Technical Consultants

The Project Technical Consultants shall have to implement some activities related to the ESMFs and ESMPs within their contracts. For this reason, they should receive the appropriate level of training on environmental and social safeguards to become familiar with the subject matter and be able to address safeguards issues as part of the implementation of activities.

9.2. SYNTHESIS OF MEASURES

The measures proposed were synthesized into one main mitigation measure, namely: awareness raising.

9.2.1. Awareness raising for behaviour change

In many project activities, awareness raising has been planned. It needs to be organized and a designated staff with the proper training needs to carry this out. This person must be trained to do the work. The following table shows how this activity can be organized.

Table 10: Organization of awareness raising events

Designation of the measure		Awareness raising for IPLCs behavioral change
Objective		Encourage behavior change with regard to forest management among neighboring populations.
Target audience		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indigenous Peoples, - Local communities; - Civil society organizations; - Transporters (travel agencies, logging truck drivers, etc.); - Local elected representatives (mayors, municipal councilors, deputies, senators); - Traditional authorities; - Community radios to provide special reports on the project subject matter; - Educational institutions; - Religious congregations.
Tasks and implementing actors	Project Manager with support from technical staff	- Produce awareness-raising materials (leaflets, posters, stickers, signs, banners, brochures) on each theme ;
	Communications, Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation specialist /Landscape Operational Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop materials appropriate to promote messages in local radio stations; - Organize major campaigns during certain events; - Carry out infomercials and insert in the media.
		<p><u>A) INDICATIVE THEMES OF AWARENESS BY TARGET GROUP</u></p> <p><u>i) Indigenous Peoples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income management; - Securing their lands by creating agricultural plantations; - Guidance for parents to encourage their children to engage in careers by training them in the conservation of protected areas; - Texts governing forestry activity (flora and fauna); <p>NB. For Indigenous Peoples, the Landscape Operational Assistants should use a method adapted to their specific needs.</p> <p><u>ii) Local communities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidance for their children by training them in the conservation of protected areas; - Texts governing forestry activity (flora and fauna); - Rights of local communities ; - Income management; - Importance of wildlife. <p><u>iii) Transporters (travel agencies):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles of transporters in the fight against poaching and illegal logging of forest products; - Texts governing forestry activity (flora and fauna) - Penalties incurred by a transporter of illegal forest and wildlife products. <p><u>iv) Civil society organisations :</u></p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of actions that can be implemented by CSOs in the project; - Identification of potential sources of funding for projects in the three forest landscapes. <p><u>v) Religious congregations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of conservation; - Rights and duties of the resident populations vis-à-vis the three forest landscapes; - Penalties incurred by violators of the wildlife law; - Roles that religious congregations can play in the protection of forests and promoting this among their congregations. <p><u>vi) Schools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Notions of the environment, forests, protected areas, world heritage, right of use; - Protected species, opening and closing periods for hunting, authorized hunting equipment; - Threats to the various forest landscapes; - Different support that conservation can bring to education; - Career opportunities in conservation and the environment; - Roles of pupils in the protection of nature. <p><u>vii) Local elected officials:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecotourism activities that can be organized in the different forest landscapes; - Supervision of peasant forestry committees/vigilance committees in the fight against poaching; - Roles of a tourism office in the municipalities; - Legal and regulatory provisions relating to wildlife and the environment. <p><u>viii) Traditional authorities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles of traditional authorities in the fight against poaching. <p><u>ix) Community radios:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roles that local media can play in the conservation of different forest landscapes; - Legal arsenal necessary for a local media in the field of conservation and the environment. <p><u>x) Local staff of MINFOF</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The structure of GEF ; - Co-financing of MINFOF and other organizations cofinancing in the GEF-7 project.
Monitoring actors	Internal	- Social safeguards/gender specialist.
	External	- Departmental ESMP monitoring committees.
Objectively Verifiable Indicators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presence of awareness posters and leaflets; - Number of radio programs produced; - Number of people sensitized.
Means and sources of verification		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscapes Operational Assistants Reports; - Surveys administered among stakeholders.
Implementation schedule		All through the lifespan of the project.
Cost of the measure (FCFA)		The cost is included in the cost of every activity concerned and in the salary of Landscapes Operational Assistants.

Chapter 10: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE PLANNING FRAMEWORK (IPPF)

This chapter summarizes the Indigenous People Planning Framework (IPPF). This framework comprises 8 sections, including an introduction describing the different components of the project; review of the legal framework relating to indigenous peoples; a monograph on Indigenous Peoples; the potential positive and negative effects of the project on Indigenous Peoples; a plan for carrying out social evaluations for programs/sub-projects; a framework to ensure FPIC and consent processes with affected Indigenous Peoples at each stage of project preparation and implementation; institutional arrangements (including capacity building if necessary) for the selection of activities supported by the projects, the assessment of their effects on Indigenous Peoples, the preparation of the Indigenous Peoples Plan and the consideration of any grievances; arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project; and the provisions for the disclosure of the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) to be prepared as part of the document.

10.1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

The Cameroon Integrated Forest Landscape Management Project in the Congo Basin is a national project of the Global Impact Program for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin (CBSL IP). Over a six-year period, it should help strengthen the integrated management of Cameroon's globally significant forest landscapes in the Congo Basin to ensure its biological integrity and increase economic opportunities and the livelihoods of forest-dependent populations.

The project will be implemented on the Cameroonian segments of three cross-border landscapes: (i) the Campo Ma'an-Rio-Campo landscape (CMRC) (769,446 ha), (ii) the Tri-National Dja-Odzala – Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape (4,949,174 ha) and (iii) the tri-national landscape of Sangha (TNS) (1,490,552 ha). Project activities are grouped into five (05) components, namely, (1) planning and integrated management of land use (**1,133,968 \$**); (2) amelioration of effective management and governance of high conservation value forests and targeted interventions to protect threatened species (**3,152,803 \$**); (3) enhance Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through value chains of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber (**3,288,030 \$**); (4) increases in benefits related to biodiversity through the development of sustainable tourism (**1,189,751 \$**); (5) project and knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation (**1,200,903 \$**).

The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and benefiting from the technical support of WWF, its implementation has to comply with the social safeguard policies, notably the WWF principles declaration which aims to ensure that indigenous rights are respected in the activities of WWF, that Indigenous Peoples do not suffer negative effects from projects and that they receive culturally appropriate conservation benefits. This policy requires the screening of Indigenous Peoples; an environmental and social impact study with the participation of Indigenous Peoples to assess risks and opportunities and improve understanding of the local context and affected communities; a consultation process with affected Indigenous communities to fully identify their opinions and obtain their Free, Prior and Informed Consent to project activities that affect them; and the elaboration and inclusion of elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) specific to the project with measures to avoid negative impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits in each project.

Description of the Indigenous Peoples groups found in the three project landscapes:

The Bagyéli and Baka are considered part of the hunter-gatherer groups of indigenous peoples in Cameroon, primarily living in forested areas.

The Baka – Located primarily in southeastern Cameroon, were until relatively recently highly mobile and depended almost exclusively on hunting and gathering, regularly exchanging goods with Bantu-speaking farmers. This started to change in the 1950s-1960s when there were government led initiatives to promote more sedentary lifestyles and the establishment of permanent dwellings, as well as significant changes in the occurrence of large game. As a result, Baka increasingly abandoned forest camps and established more permanent settlements along logging roads. These changes increased the access of indigenous peoples to public services (although they continue to have limited access to education, health and other services), and led to increasing adoption of agriculture (e.g., cocoa, coffee). Many Baka communities remain highly dependent on forest resources and come and go between villages and forest camps in consideration of the agricultural calendar and the extraction of NTFPs (Leclerc, 2012).

The Bagyéli - Traditionally hunter-gatherers, the Bagyéli have also undergone significant changes in their lifestyles with increased sedentarisation due in large part to acute and increasing pressures on land and resources, including the development the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, the creation of CMNP, and the expansion of agribusiness, other extractive industries and their associated infrastructure. Despite the changing environment, many Bagyéli communities continue to rely on hunting and gathering to secure significant portions of their subsistence, while also undertaking agricultural activities and interacting with Bantu communities and other merchants. As in other local communities, there is a gender-based division of roles in IP communities. Women tend to be more involved in agriculture, fishing, gathering of food, childcare and housekeeping. Men are more involved in cash-generating activities, including agricultural activities, timber extraction, gathering of commercial NTFPs and hunting.

10.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE IPPF

In accordance with WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples and the Categorization Memo, the objective of the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework is to elaborate a framework for the design and implementation of specific actions for the Bagyéli/Baka within the GEF-7 project, in order to ensure that the development process proposed by the project can benefit these populations, in the same way as the other members of the local communities, and without having any negative impacts on their environment and nature. This includes ensuring that the benefits provided to the Bagyéli/Baka by the development plan are culturally and socially appropriate.

The WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples aims to ensure that indigenous rights are respected in WWF's activities, that Indigenous Peoples are not adversely affected by projects and that they receive culturally appropriate benefits from conservation. WWF must ensure that:

- projects respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their rights to FPIC processes and to tenure over traditional territories;
- culturally appropriate and equitable benefits (including traditional ecological knowledge) are negotiated and agreed with the indigenous communities in question; and;
- potential adverse impacts are avoided or adequately addressed through a participatory and consultative approach.

10.3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK RELATING TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The Baka/Bagyéli, according to national law and international conventions, constitute specific groups requiring special protection. While at the national level, the legislation provides this protection fairly soberly, this is not the case at the international level where there is a panoply of

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standards (Conventions, Declarations, Guiding Principles, Operational Directives, etc.) ratified, adopted, accepted or promoted and whose tendency is to recognize the fundamental and particular rights of these groups. These include the rights to be different, to land and natural resources, to citizenship, to free, prior and informed consent, to employment and vocational training, and to access to basic social services appropriately.

These rights are contained in standards such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child ; the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ; the Conventions of the International Labour Organization including 169 on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples ; WWF's Standard on Indigenous Peoples. Concretely, Cameroon does not yet have a specific policy for marginalized populations. Cameroon has not yet enacted a law to protect Indigenous Peoples. The Constitution of January 18, 1996 remains until now the only national legal reference referring to minorities and indigenous peoples. The Ministry in charge of Social Affairs (MINAS) is the main administration dealing with the issues relating to Indigenous Peoples.

10.4. POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT ON THE BAKA / BAGYELI

The potential impacts that could affect the Baka/Bagyéli have been identified and are described in the table below.

10.4.1. Adverse impacts

Adverse impacts are presented in the following table.

Table 11: Adverse impacts

Activity with the risk	Impacts/Issues	Mitigation Measures	Timeframe and Frequency	Target Area	Budget Required	Responsible Party
Activity 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2 and 2.1.1.3 – These project activities under output 2.1.1 will contribute to the increased management effectiveness of CMNP and LNP by strengthening the management and governance frameworks of these protected areas.	In improving the management effectiveness of the parks, biodiversity will be better protected, leading to potential increases in wildlife populations, which may lead to increases in already identified issues with human-wildlife conflicts.	Assessments to identify and implement proven best practices (including traditional local methods) used in the Congo Basin and elsewhere to address and decrease human-wildlife conflicts.	From year 1-6	CMNP and LNP	Budgeted within output 2.1.1	PMU; project partners involved in this component
Activities in Component 3 - Strengthened and/or established sustainable NTFP value chains that engage IPLCs and the private sector reduce the impacts of unsustainable natural resource use and deliver benefits to at least 30 communities (IPLCs) in the Cameroon segments of three transboundary landscapes	Increased deterioration in the health of IPs due to alcohol and drug abuse which may result from household revenue increase from participating in project activities focused on improvement of NTFP value chains.	As part of the capacity building efforts undertaken within this project component, topics such as the detrimental health effects of alcohol and drug abuse, as well as income management will be included in skill building workshops, to help raise awareness and try to address the health	From year 2 of project	All 3 project landscapes	Already budgeted within Component 3	PMU; project partners involved in this component

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		issues associated with alcohol/drug abuse.				
Activity 2.3.1.3 - The project will work with local NGOs to expand awareness raising campaigns on health issues related to gorilla tourism (i.e., hygiene measures, risk of disease transmission and preventive measures) to target civil society, government authorities, private workers, and IPLCs bordering CMNP.	Increased risk of STIs/HIV/AIDS in the CMNP communities as the tourism industry improves through project initiatives; this destination becomes attractive and more tourists visit the site; potential for community members (especially the most vulnerable - women and youth) to come in contact with outsiders.	Capacity building workshops are conducted on disease prevention, among other topics, including the mode of transmission of STIs/HIV/AIDS and how to prevent infection.	From year 2 of project	Campo Ma'an National Park landscape	Part of the budget for Activities 2.3	PMU and project partners involved in the component .

10.5. SOCIAL EVALUATION PLAN FOR PROGRAMS/SUB-PROJECTS

An IPP will be developed for each of the three project landscapes by the LOAs together with the Local Support Organizations (LSOs) with technical support from the Safeguards Specialist in the PMU. These IPPs will need approval from the WWF GEF Agency Safeguards Coordinator prior to the start of the activities description therein. The following table presents the activities related to the implementation of this IPPF and their costs.

Table 12: Activities and costs

Activities	Goals	Person in charge	Indicators	Item /article	Amount/ implementation period	Unit Cost (FCFA)	Total Cost (FCFA)
Development of 03 IPP	Ensure that specificities concerning Baka/Bagyéli are taken into account using FPIC	Consultant	Consultant contracts - IPP reports disseminated	Costs related to the collection of field data and fees	Year 1	3,000,000 ³⁸	9,000,000
Recruitment of a Local Support Organization (LSO) to support the Baka/Bagyéli	Ensure efficient implementation of plans in the zone	Project	Contract of LSO recruited	Costs related to the movement and at the payment of the staff of the LSO	6 years of project	MINAS co-financing	MINAS co-financing
Information dissemination Awareness raising and capacity building	Ensure the the skill building of IPs and local NGOs	Consultant	Training, information and awareness raising sessions organized	Costs related to training and awareness raising sessions	Year 1	Taken into account in the project activities	Taken into account in project activities

³⁸The details concerning the estimation of this cost are in annex 3.

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Support for the functioning of local monitoring committee	Ensure proper monitoring of actions	Project	Number of monitoring trips, monitoring reports	Costs related to the monitoring trips	6 years of the project	Taken into account in project activities	Taken into account in project activities
Mid-term evaluation of IPPF	Take stock of the evolution of actions in the field Identify the weaknesses and formulate recommendations for the future	Project	Reports mid-term evaluation produced		Year 3	Taken into account in the activities of the project	Taken into account in the activities of the project
Final evaluation of the IPPF	Conduct an evaluation at the end of the project	Project	Reports of final evaluation produced		Year 6	Taken into account in the activities of the project	Taken into account in the activities of the project
TOTAL functioning COST (FCFA)							9 000 000

The contents of an IPP for each project landscape, as described briefly in the above table, will depend on the specific project activities identified and the impacts these activities may have on Indigenous Peoples in the project area. As a minimum, the IPP should include:

- Description of the Indigenous Peoples affected by the proposed sub-project;
- Summary of the proposed sub-project;
- Detailed description of the participation and consultation process during implementation;
- Description of how the project will ensure culturally appropriate benefits and avoid or mitigate adverse impacts;
- Budget;
- Mechanism for complaints and conflict resolution; and
- Monitoring and evaluation system that includes monitoring of particular issues and measures concerning indigenous communities.

Additional elements and principles may be included in the IPP, as appropriate according to the specific nature of the sub-project. For a description of these additional elements and principles, please refer to the guidance on IPP development in WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP) manual.

10.6. FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK OF BAKA/BAGYELI

This section includes the modalities and methods of consultation with Indigenous Peoples in the project area, including the FPIC and consent processes with the affected IPs throughout project implementation as deemed necessary and compliant with WWF's Standard on Indigenous Peoples. The process to obtain FPIC will be outlined in detail in the Indigenous Peoples Plans specific to each project landscape.

10.7. CONSULTATION MODALITIES AND METHODS

Public consultation and participation in the process of implementing project activities are essential because they provide the Baka/Bagyéli an opportunity to participate in both the design and the implementation of activities.

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WWF's Standard on Indigenous Peoples applies to projects that affect Indigenous Peoples, either negatively or positively. Such projects must be prepared with care and with the participation of affected communities.

WWF's requirements include an environmental and social impact study with the participation of Indigenous Peoples to assess risks and opportunities and improve understanding of the local context and affected communities; a process of consultation with affected indigenous communities to fully identify their views and obtain their free, prior and informed consent to project activities that affect them; and developing and including elements of a project-specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), with measures to avoid negative impacts and enhance culturally appropriate benefits in each project.

10.7.1. Before the implementation of the project

The holding of public consultation meetings with Indigenous Peoples referred to the National Guidelines for obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) under REDD + in Cameroon, which are in compliance with WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard on Indigenous Peoples.

10.7.2. During the implementation of micro-projects

The Baka/Bagyéli populations in the project area will be consulted through the FPIC process as required for the following subjects (see below), as well as when deemed necessary according to the nature of the consultation required and in compliance with the WWF Standard on Indigenous Peoples:

- choice of sites for carrying out specific activities;
- choice of NTFPs;
- choice of the workforce to be recruited;
- choice of their representatives in the various decision-making structures.

Throughout the implementation of the project, the Baka/Bagyéli will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of activities. They will be informed of the progress of activities throughout the process.

10.7.2.1. Information and negotiation

The Indigenous Peoples in the project area should be contacted several days before a meeting is requested. The project team may be supported in this task by the heads of local NGO partners who work regularly with these groups. Once the contact is established, information is relayed to the representatives of IP groups to explain the specific reasons and objectives for requesting a public consultation meeting. Finally, they should be given sufficient time to consult together, in order to decide whether or not to participate in the public consultation meeting(s).

10.7.2.2. Consultation

Indigenous Peoples and their representatives benefit from enough time to decide on their participation in the public consultation meeting(s). The consultations should occur without any external manipulation, interference, or coercion.

10.7.2.3. Organization of meetings

Once Indigenous Peoples give their consent to hold public consultation meetings, IP communities and their representatives are free to decide how they wish to be consulted which may differ between landscapes, depending on the scope of the project activities and the landscape context.

To ensure IP groups are consulted in a culturally appropriate manner and in the language of their choice, before the start of each meeting, a translator should be mobilized to facilitate communication between them and the project team.

10.8. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

10.8.1. Grievance at the national level

This grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is inspired by the mechanism elaborated in Mambéle around the Lobéké National Park. The latter was subject of consultation and consensus between stakeholders including Baka and Bantu leaders, local Civil Society Organizations, RACOPY, NCHR, judicial, traditional, administrative and municipal authorities, Ministry of Social Affairs and others. This process consists of 13 steps³⁹, which are elaborated in detail in Chapter 13 of this ESMF document.

10.8.2. Grievance at international level

At international level, WWF's Standard on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism has provided a complaint reception service. The Project Complaints Officer (PCO) is in charge of receiving and responding to grievances. This person is a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer
Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/fr/wwf>.

10.9. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

10.9.1. Institutional arrangements

The Safeguards Specialist in the Project Management Unit will be responsible for the implementation of the IPPF and the IPPs subsequently developed during project implementation. The MINAS Social Focal Point in charge of supporting the integration efforts of the Baka/Bagyéli will ensure the implementation of IPPF/IPP activities in collaboration with MINEPDED and other relevant ministries, local administrative, municipal and traditional authorities, international partner organizations engaged in the project (AWF, Tropical Forest, FEDEC, FTNS, Jengi Tours, Taylor Guitars, Rain Forest Alliance) and the national and local NGOs partners of the project (RACOPY, OPED, CAMECO, AIWO-CAN, etc.), the facilitators and relays within local communities and the Baka/Bagyéli themselves.

MINAS, through its Social Focal Point, will ensure both national and local levels of proper monitoring of the implementation of the IPPF/IPP. In order to do this, it will rely on the main public administrations concerned by the implementation of the IPPF/IPP, civil society organizations and development partners, not involved in the implementation of IPPF/IPP activities in the field.

³⁹ CIFAID, _undated. CEFAID, étapes du processus de règlement des cas d'abus/violation des droits

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This institutional arrangement is proposed as an alternative to past approaches to the implementation of IPPFs/PPs in Cameroon and aims to propose an institutional framework for the execution of the IPPF/PP likely to facilitate the achievement of program results. In any case, the project will, in carrying out the activities of the IPPF/PP, pay particular attention to the Baka /Bagyéli culture, in all its complexity, particularly, the existential dependence on the forest and its resources. The coordinators and the peripheral and central relays in the indigenous environment will play the role of interface between the project and the Baka/Bagyéli.

10.9.2. Capacity building plan

The implementation of the IPPF will require capacity building for all stakeholders, including project beneficiaries. The capacities required are at the same time human, institutional and financial. The priority of the project will be to build the capacity of all the public administrations responsible for the implementation of the Project, of those in charge of the Project, of the Decentralized Territorial Collectivities, of the international, national and local NGOs, development partners, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, traditional authorities and project partners on WWF Safeguard Standards, the merits and rationale of the planning framework in favor of Indigenous Peoples and the Pygmy Populations Participatory Approach Method (MAPAPPY). The activities proposed to this effect are contained in the Capacity Building Plan for project stakeholders within this environmental and social management framework (ESMF), in Chapter 14.

10.10. MONITORING-EVALUATION SYSTEM FOR ACTIONS IN FAVOR OF THE BAKA/BAGYELI

The monitoring and evaluation of the IPPF implementation will include both internal and external monitoring as described below.

10.10.1. Internal monitoring

It will be biannual and will be the responsibility of the Social Safeguard Specialist and Gender and Social Development Specialist of the project who will work in collaboration with the competent divisional delegates of MINAS, the municipalities concerned, and the local monitoring committees set up within the framework of the project. The objective will be to inform on the progress achieved relating to recommendations on the implementation of the IPPF and IPPs. Partner organizations responsible for carrying out IPPF and IPP activities will submit a detailed report of their activities to the Project Management Unit Team. A progress report on the activities of the IPPF and the IPP will be produced quarterly by the Project Management Unit, in collaboration with the competent MINAS Divisional delegations.

WWF-GEF as the project financial institution will carry out annual supervision missions in order to: assess the execution of the actions proposed in this IPPF and in the future IPPs; to determine compliance with the social safeguards Standard on Indigenous Peoples and to ensure that the requirements are properly implemented; and if necessary, to propose corrective action measures. WWF will prepare a supervision mission aide-memoire that will be given to the PMU for information and application of any corrective action measures proposed.

It is recommended that a local project monitoring committee be set up in each landscape to ensure that the Baka/Bagyéli are effectively involved in the implementation of the project. This local committee must have at least one Baka/Bagyéli representative. This committee will be set up with the support of the project's Safeguards Specialist and Gender and Social Development Specialist and trained by the latter for better monitoring and reporting of relevant activities. This committee will send a monitoring report to the PMU at a frequency agreed upon among these entities. To ensure better functioning of each monitoring committee, the PMU should allocate an operating budget of 100,000 CFA francs per quarter to each committee. This budget should be taken into account in component 5 of the project.

10.10.2. External monitoring and evaluation

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The external M&E will be carried out twice during the life of the project, including one mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the project before the end of the third year, and the other just six months before the end of the project (terminal evaluation - TE), each sanctioned by an evaluation report. Each evaluation will be carried out by an independent consultant to give the level of progress on the recommended actions in the IPPF and IPPs. Each evaluation report will be presented, discussed and validated by the PMU and by WWF. The cost of each evaluation will be taken into account in component 5 of the project.

A process of recording lessons learned from IPPF and IPP implementation will be carried out in the last year of the Project and the lessons learned will be transmitted to the public administrations dealing with issues concerning Indigenous Peoples in Cameroon and in Central Africa. These actions will be recorded and documented in a final project report.

10.11. DISCLOSURE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLANNING FRAMEWORK (IPPF)

The version of the IPPF which will be produced after validation by the stakeholders, will be disclosed for a minimum of 45 days in a language, manner and format understandable to project stakeholders (especially indigenous peoples), in all project intervention areas with the authorization of the government via WWF.

Following this disclosure, and if comments are obtained from the disclosure systems, a final version of the IPPF will be prepared and will be disclosed and applied as part of the implementation of the project. In the event that no comments are noted, the latter will be implemented.

10.12. IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET OF THE IPPF

Most of the activities of the IPPF are already taken into account in the overall project budget. Some activities will be supported by co-funding institutions such as MINAS. Moreover, the additional cost to be allocated to the IPPF is 9,000,000 FCFA (nine million CFA francs) or approximately \$16,364 USD.

Chapter 11: PROCESS FRAMEWORK

11.1. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The GEF-7 Cameroon project stems among other things from the growing crisis of loss of nature in the Congo Basin and more generally in the world. Specifically, the idea of managing Cameroon's forest landscapes in the Congo Basin stems from a specific environmental and social context. Indeed, Cameroon is very rich in biodiversity. In Africa, Cameroon ranks 4th in terms of flora and 5th in terms of wildlife (UNEP, 1997). According to the "Cameroon Biodiversity Information Exchange Center", most of African ecosystems (92%), are represented in Cameroon and studies indicate that this biodiversity is abundant and highly endemic, widely diversified and marked by frequent new discoveries. However, this resource is also subject to threats and overexploitation of coveted species.

The proper management of forest landscapes of Cameroon in the Congo Basin is therefore of significant stakes worldwide, and the Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) residing in the region should benefit from the conservation of the biological integrity of these landscapes. The International Conservation Community in 2003, during the 5th World Congress on National Parks held in Durban, affirmed as follows: *"Protected areas generate important economic, ecological and social benefits at local, national and global levels. Unfortunately, local communities bear a disproportionate share of the cost of protected areas. As with other forms of large-scale land use, many local communities have been marginalized and excluded from protected areas. As natural and cultural wealth is often an important asset for local communities, denial of their rights to these resources can exacerbate poverty. We cannot allow the creation and management of protected areas to worsen poverty"*.

The GEF-7 project could potentially lead to restriction of access to natural resources for some IPLCs, thus to the economic displacement of these affected populations, which could lead to loss of livelihoods and means of subsistence and result in exacerbating poverty. Even though this restriction is legal in Cameroon's law, in the case of one of the concerned forest landscapes, a participatory process with IPLCs must first be conducted to identify any access restrictions from the implementation of project activities, discuss and develop potential mitigation measures and compensation if restrictions occur. Therefore, in the absence of appropriate, well-planned and properly implemented measures, the restriction of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) on access to resources, would risk having negative consequences for these populations and long-term repercussions on the very environment the project seeks to protect. Consequently, WWF Standard on "Access Restriction and Resettlement" is triggered, in particular to manage the potential issues related to restrictions on access by IPLCs to landscape resources, in the event these occur. For this purpose, the Process Framework is required.

This chapter constitutes **the Process Framework (PF) developed within the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project - *Integrated Forest Landscape Management of Cameroon***. The WWF Standard on "Access Restriction and Resettlement", deals with issues relating to restrictions on access to resources, relating to the economic displacement of populations.

11.2. OBJECTIVE OF THE PROCESS FRAMEWORK

The Process Framework describes how groups or communities will be involved in determining measures that will assist affected persons in managing and coping with impacts from agreed restrictions, if they occur. The common objective is to improve or restore, in real terms, to pre-

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displacement levels, their livelihoods while maintaining the sustainability of the park or protected area. However, in some circumstances affected communities may agree to restrictions without identifying one-for-one mitigation measures as they may see the long-term benefits of improved natural resource management. They may also forego practices in place of obtaining more secure land tenure and resource use rights.

11.3. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT AND ITS COMPONENTS LIKELY TO INVOLVE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE CONCERNED FOREST LANDSCAPES

This following information is elaborated upon in detail in Chapter 2 of this ESMF:

- Objectives of the project;
- Source of funding and project timeframe;
- Project execution agencies;
- Institutional arrangements for project implementation;
- Scope of the project;
- Project stakeholders;
- Target groups;
- Project components.

11.4. PROJECT AREA PROFILES

The landscapes overlap with multiple administrative units within Cameroon and fall across two of the countries five identified agro-ecological zones (AEZ), as defined by Cameroon's Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD). Significant expanses within each of the three project landscape segments have also been designated as protected areas, many of which have been recognized at international level because of their globally significant contribution to biodiversity. They are also all part of transboundary clusters of protected areas that form the core of the transboundary landscapes. The elements of this section are developed in Chapter 3 of the ESMF.

11.5. LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON THE RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES OF FOREST LANDSCAPES IN THE PROJECT AREA

11.5.1. National provisions on access to natural resources in protected areas and their peripheral zones

The national provisions of reference regarding access to natural resources in protected areas and their peripheral zones are contained in Law N^o. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fishing as well as in the Framework law N^o 96/12 of August 05, 1996 relating to environmental management. These laws are supplemented by all subsequent amending or complementary texts.

The forest resources of the three landscapes are governed by the Forestry Law with its three application decrees, in particular Decree N^o. 95-53-PM of 23 August 1995 setting out the modalities of application of the forestry domain; Decree No. 95-466-PM-of July 20, 1995 to lay down the terms of application of the wildlife regime; and Decree No. 95/413 / PM of June 20, 1995 to lay down the terms of application of the fishery regime.

The law N^o 94/01 of January 20, 1994 on forestry, fauna and fishing recognizes two forest domains, which are: **i)** the permanent forest estate (it includes land definitively assigned to the forest) and/or wildlife habitat (this is the case of the Dja Biosphere Reserve in the TRIDOM); **ii)** the non-permanent forest estate (it includes forest land likely to be assigned to other uses: council forests, community forests, ZCI, ZICCM).

Section 1: Access restrictions to resources in the Campo, Lobéké National Parks and the Dja Biosphere Reserve.

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With regard to the Campo, Lobéké National Parks and the Dja Biosphere Reserve, article 17 of Decree n° 95-466-PM-of July 20, 1995 to lay down the application modalities for wildlife prohibits the exploitation of resources found therein. However, the local populations have the right of use, that is to say the right to exploit certain forests, flora, fauna and fishery products with the exception of protected species for personal use.

However, the exploitation of these resources remains regulated because when conservation objectives are set on a park, these rights of use become limited.

Section 2: Benefits to populations from the fall out of forest and wildlife resources management

As forest landscapes are made up of protected areas and their peripheral zones, the regulations in force provide that the populations benefit from the fall outs from resources exploitation, in particular as regards the Forest Management Units (FMU).

Section 3: Involvement and participation of local populations in the sustainable management of the environment

In order to involve and enable the participation of the local populations in the sustainable management of the environment, the forestry law gives indications, concerning the : i) free access to environmental information, subject to the imperatives of national defense and state security; ii) consultative mechanisms to collect the opinion and input of the populations; (iii) the representation of the populations within consultative bodies on environmental matters; iv) production of environmental information; and v) sensitization, training, research and environmental education. Furthermore, the law authorizes local communities and collectivities to create council and community forests, ZCI and ZICCM.

Although the access of local residents to protected areas resources is very limited, the populations can nevertheless participate in the management and benefit from the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources. The implementation of the project's Process Framework should, among other things, be based on these indications regarding the participation of the populations.

11.5.2. WWF instrument on the restriction of access to natural resources in protected areas

The GEF-7 project is likely to result in restricted access to the natural resources on which the survival of the local communities depend, in each forest landscape in the project area. Therefore, WWF Standard on "Access Restriction and Resettlement" applies as it identifies and responds to potential restricted access to resources and economic displacement and other economic impacts that may be caused by the project.

WWF's Standard on Access Restriction and Resettlement is applicable to all project components that result in resettlement or access restrictions. In the case of this project, restriction of access to natural resources may occur in the framework of the land use planning activities and improvement in the efficiency in the management and governance of protected areas.

The main requirements of this standard as they apply to restriction of access are, among others, the following:

- when a proposed project is likely to result in restriction of access to resources, a Process Framework will be prepared that will dictate how Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs) will be prepared in the event of access restriction;
- if access restriction is to occur in a project, a baseline assessment must be conducted to determine who is eligible to receive compensation and how much compensation should PAPs receive (this can be monetary or in the form of capacity building, training on alternative livelihoods, etc.);
- the project ensures that restriction of access will not occur until the necessary measures for restriction of access are implemented;

- all Livelihood Restoration Plans must be fully implemented before the project is officially concluded;
- the compensation, assistance and benefits are designed to improve or at least restore the livelihoods of all economically displaced persons in real terms with respect to pre-project conditions and to improve the living standards of the poor experiencing restriction of access and other vulnerable groups.

11.6. IMPACTS OF POTENTIAL RESTRICTION OF ACCESS IDENTIFIED

Consultations conducted with local populations and administration authorities revealed some potential negative impacts. These impacts and their mitigation measures are described briefly in the table below:

Table 13: Summary of identified potential negative impacts and proposed mitigation measures for IPLCs

Identified negative impacts	Mitigation measures proposed
Decrease in access to natural resources due to land use planning process; restrictions may affect access to hunting areas therefore reducing availability of game meat for consumption and for cultural celebrations.	Needs assessment should be conducted to evaluate opportunities and compensation measures in consultation with project-affected people, on the most context-appropriate and desirable alternative livelihoods to support and promote as a mitigation measure to address any restriction of access to natural resources, should these occur.
Destruction of crops and farmlands by wildlife as a result of more efficient biodiversity protection from improved natural resources management through land use planning, among other approaches, leading to increased wildlife populations, consequently leading to higher risks of human-wildlife conflicts (HWC).	Evaluate the most context appropriate mechanisms to address human-wildlife conflicts, including proven traditional methods used by IPLCs; Train and support affected IPLCs on the use of these mechanisms to reduce HWC.

11.6.1. Eligibility criteria for people affected by restricted access to resources

The implementation of GEF-7 project may result in some restricted access to natural resources in the forest landscapes. It is worthy of note that the various IPLCs consulted within the framework of the project development phase will be affected differently and to varying degrees or levels. It is therefore necessary to clearly define the criteria for eligibility for compensation of the project-affected people, should the restriction of access occur as a result of the project activities.

The Process Framework describes how the local communities will participate in establishing criteria for eligibility for assistance to mitigate adverse impacts or otherwise improve livelihoods. The criteria developed in the Table above needs to be refined, during implementation when site-specific plans are prepared. The eligibility criteria determine which groups and persons are eligible for livelihood support and mitigation measures. The criteria also distinguish between persons utilizing resources opportunistically and persons using resources for their livelihoods, and between groups with customary rights and non-residents or immigrants.

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A cut-off date for eligibility for compensation needs to be established early in the process to prevent a subsequent inflow of people into the project area. This date will be established with the government of Cameroon and could be the start of a census taken as part of the development of the Livelihoods Restoration Plan (LRP), that will address the compensation and rehabilitation measures for each type of access restriction.

The affected people in the project area are mostly IPs whose rights are not formal or legal, who do not have land titles or exploitation licenses but who enjoy the right to usage (they have inherited, occupied, and utilized the land as well as exploited forest resources for generations). In the case of other local communities who may be affected, they have usufruct rights over the land they farm. In such a case, official testimony of village elders or town councils is proposed to determine eligibility for compensation.

The exact number of people affected by the restricted access to resources will become clear during project implementation, notably during the site-specific diagnostic phase.

11.6.2. Identification of vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups are those at risk of becoming much poorer due to restricted access to resources. These people meet at least the following "human development" criteria: i) lack of permanent income; ii) food insecurity; (iii) source of income entirely linked to natural resources; iv) the lack of decent housing; v) inability to send children to school; and vi) lack of access to primary health care services.

In this regard, the vulnerable groups within the framework of this project are essentially made up of **Indigenous Peoples, namely the Baka and Bagyéli communities**. The other groups are:

- the elderly, especially in situations where they live alone;
- households headed by women;
- households whose heads are without or almost without a source of revenue;
- widows and orphans;
- the physically or mentally disabled;
- people with HIV/AIDS, or other serious or incurable diseases.

11.7. RESTRICTED ACCESS OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES INTO THE FOREST LANDSCAPE

The activities subject to restricted access in the three forest landscapes are:

- hunting (except within the framework of a development). The ban on hunting activities inside the park is formal. However, in the buffer areas, hunting is regulated;
- industrial activities;
- extraction of materials;
- pollution of all kinds;
- agricultural, pastoral and forestry activities;
- straying of domestic animals;
- overflight by aircraft at an altitude of less than 200 m;
- the introduction of native or imported botanical and zoological species, except for scientific purposes or as part of management operations.

Project activities do not envisage any physical displacement of the populations living in the targeted areas but rather integrating them into the process of participatory and integrative management of natural resources.

However, the project, through Component 1 – Mainstreaming Land Use Planning and Management - is likely to lead to certain restrictions on access to parts of the natural resources on which the survival of the indigenous populations, notably the Baka, depends. According to Component 1, the project expects as a result, participatory, informed and integrated land use management processes, establishing a framework for planning, monitoring and adapting land management on approximately 1,200,000 ha of the transboundary TRIDOM landscape.

The impact that may result from activities in Component 1 includes potential access restriction which may primarily lead to increasing the **poverty situation of forest dependent communities subjected to the restriction** if left unmitigated or uncompensated. This would likely lead to other impacts, notably:

- **an upsurge in poaching.** Poverty may encourage communities to illegally engage in the hunting of wildlife (protected and non-protected species) because their commercialization is rapidly profitable;
- **reduction/extinction of wildlife species.** Regularly practiced hunting activities are also likely to cause a loss of wildlife/endemic species;
- **loss of plant biodiversity** through the activities of deforestation for farmland.

11.8. GUIDELINES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIVELIHOODS RESTORATION PLAN (LRP)

11.8.1. Mitigation/compensation measures to be applied to communities and people affected by the restriction of access to resources

The potential mitigation/compensation measures proposed for people affected by access restrictions should, at a minimum, include the following points described below. Other more specific measures may be developed following consultations with the people affected by the restrictions upon project implementation:

- Identify all people affected by access restrictions as a result of the project;
- Consult with the people affected by access restrictions, including the most vulnerable (women, IPs, others), to identify their needs and aspirations as it relates to mitigation measures, including alternative livelihoods;
- Build the capacity of people affected by access restrictions on the sustainable management of natural resources – conservation agriculture, sustainable harvesting and processing of NTFPs, etc.;
- Support technically and financially micro-projects in sustainable agriculture, harvesting and processing of NTFPs, and other sectors related to conservation, to be identified during the implementation phase of this activity;
- Support technically and financially the CIG and local development associations on the promotion of income generating activities (IGA);
- Support technically and financially communities in community forest management, as well as the ZCI and ZCICM;

11.8.2. Principles of engagement with stakeholders applicable to the restriction of access to resources

The principles applicable to the restriction of access to resources result from the different regulations and the local context, in order to avoid conflicts and misunderstandings. These principles include:

- informing the people concerned before, during and after the implementation of the GEF-7 project;
- consultation of the populations in the identification of the impacts of the activities and in the identification of the appropriate mitigation measures;
- operationalization of mitigation measures before the restrictions are applied;
- exclusion from eligibility for persons/group of persons identified as acting illegally for purposes beyond subsistence;

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- integration of representatives of the populations and trades in the project management bodies;
- transparency in the process;
- equity in the choice of eligible people and in the allocation of compensation or assistance to people aimed at supporting them in restoring their livelihoods;
- attribution of responsibilities and management authority to the institutions which are closest to the resources in question.

11.8.3. Livelihoods Restoration Plan development process

The Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) comprises a number of stages, notably:

- **information dissemination and gathering among the population of villages bordering the different landscapes in the project.** This should be done before the implementation of the project and within the framework of local meetings.
- **analysis of impacts of the project as well as mitigation planning.** This must be done following the physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural levels analysis.
- **identification of mitigation measures regarding the limited or restricted access to resources.** The responsibilities of each stakeholder for the implementation of the mitigation measures formalized in the document will be clearly defined; as well as the budget and the implementation schedule. The LRP should also include all the questions and concerns raised by the populations during the consultations.
- **definition of responsibilities, budget and calendar of implementation of the LRP.** Before being implemented, the LRP must be approved by the various people affected by the access restriction, the MINEPDED ministerial department, WWF-Cameroon and WWF GEF Agency Safeguards Team. To this effect, meetings bringing together the actors involved will be organized in the form of **validation workshops**.
- **implementation of the LRP.** It will be as planned, subject to possible amendments through an adaptive management process.
- **monitoring and evaluation of the LRP.** Monitoring will be participatory and must involve all stakeholders: WWF Cameroon, MINEPDED, councils, people affected by the restriction of access and elected to compensation.

11.8.4. Public and participatory consultation process for the identification and choice of measures and options

The methods of consultation and participation must be in a form consistent with local practice. Methods to be used for public consultation will include:

- *information of the concerned:* for this, the note will be given one month to up to two weeks at least before the holding date, so that village leaders could meet other people in advance on this basis in order to share information;
- *the organization of local meetings* during which the project will specify the outlines of the activities to be carried out, provide the necessary information and begin the social evaluation. The use of local languages may be necessary to ensure that messages are understood by all. The meetings may also lead to the creation of local representative structures.

Meeting attendance sheets should be filled to serve as a means of verifying physical attendance at meetings. The minutes of the meetings will be issued for the synthesis of the concerns raised by stakeholders and the recommended mitigation measures.

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Local organizations, NGOs, local development committees associated and working with communities will participate in the management of resources within the framework of "management plans" according to a work plan that will be developed with the active participation of all stakeholders.

11.9. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

11.9.1. Nature of complaints/conflicts currently registered in the project area

Conflicts are of many kinds and are found in the three forest landscapes as follows:

- conflicts between the IP communities and the Bantu populations;
 - land conflicts;
 - conflicts related to the management of benefits from community forests;
- human-wildlife conflicts.

11.9.2. Types of conflicts and complaints likely to arise with the project

The GEF-7 project aims to strengthen the integrated management of forest landscapes of global importance in Cameroon in the Congo Basin, to ensure continued richness in wildlife and plant species, its implementation may lead to restrictions on access to natural resources for some communities. As a result, the project may raise the types of conflicts as follows:

- **land conflicts between the project and the IPLCs.** These people risk being deprived of some land on which they hitherto exercised their farming activities;
- **human-wildlife conflicts.** The integrated management advocated by the project will contribute to better conservation of landscape wildlife species, which may lead to changes in their populations. Elephants for example, because of their abundance, can easily be found in human environments (places of dwellings, agricultural fields, etc.) and this is likely to lead to human-wildlife conflicts;
- **the conflicts between the indigenous populations and local communities on the expectations of the project.** Indeed, another project objective is to increase the economic opportunities and the means of subsistence of forest dependent populations. If people do not feel satisfied with the results of the approaches implemented, this could result in conflicts with the project.

11.9.3. Procedures to be applied within the framework of the project

Grievance at the national level

This grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is inspired by the mechanism elaborated in Mambéle around the Lobéké National Park. The latter was subject of consultation and consensus between stakeholders including Baka and Bantu leaders, local Civil Society Organizations, RACOPY, NCHR, judicial, traditional, administrative and municipal authorities, Ministry of Social Affairs and others. This process consists of 13 steps⁴⁰, which are elaborated in detail in Chapter 13 of this ESMF document.

Grievance at international level

At international level, WWF's Standard on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism has provided a complaint reception service. The Project Complaints Officer (PCO) is in charge of receiving and

⁴⁰ CIFAID, _undated. CEFAID, étapes du processus de règlement des cas d'abus/violation des droits

responding to grievances. This person is a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer
 Safeguards Complaints,
 World Wildlife Fund
 1250 24th Street NW
 Washington, DC 20037

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/fr/wwf>.

11.10. ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROCESS FRAMEWORK

The implementation of the Process Framework is the responsibility of the GEF-7 Project that will be supported in this task by MINEPDED, municipalities, administrative authorities and local populations. The project includes a Safeguards Specialist and a Gender and Social Development Specialist. They will work in collaboration with all the other actors involved in the process. The actors and their roles in the process are presented in the table below:

Table 14: Actors and their roles in the implementation of the Process Framework

ACTORS	ROLES
Main Actor (s)	
Safeguards, Gender and Social Development Specialist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inform the communities of the PF and its contents; - conduct and/or commission any necessary studies aimed at identifying the effects of project activities on the restricted access of populations to resources in the landscapes and the corresponding mitigation measures; - assist in the implementation of mitigation measures, directly or indirectly by other actors, both on technical and financial aspects; - monitor the implementation of measures; - facilitate vertical and horizontal collaboration between the different actors; - ensure follow-up with affected people in their new conditions.
Other Actors	
MINEPDED Divisional Delegations in the three landscapes concerned, including the LOAs	Coordinate the implementation and monitoring of all the measures retained in the ESMF.
Municipalities in the project area in the three landscapes concerned	Participate in conflict management, monitor the implementation of mitigation measures, and recruit people affected by the project.
Administrative authorities	Administratively coordinate project activities as well as dispute and conflict resolution.
Local populations	Participate in identifying the various restrictions they will experience and formulate mitigation measures adapted to their situation. They will intervene through their representatives in conflict management within

	the framework of the project, as well as in the implementation of mitigation measures.
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11.11. PROCESS FRAMEWORK AND LRP IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS - MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROCESS FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS OF STAKEHOLDERS

11.11.1. Process Framework and LRP implementation mechanism

For the implementation of the Process Framework, the mechanism used consists on the one hand, in ensuring the involvement of the populations in the process of implementing project activities and any mitigation measures that would be outlined in the LRPs; and on the other hand, to support the population in the improvement of their living standards.

Regarding the Livelihoods Restoration Plan (LRP), its implementation mechanism rests upon the completion of all activities planned under the restrictions of access to resources of the affected forest landscape.

11.11.2. Process Framework implementation monitoring and evaluation mechanism

The monitoring and evaluation will be provided by the "Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management Officer" who is part of the PMU, with assistance from the Safeguards Specialist as necessary. On the basis of the monitoring plan and the indicators, he/she will essentially make regular field visits in order to:

- know the state of progress of the LRP implementation;
- assess the effectiveness of the measures, and by extension, take the necessary corrective measures in order to continue the implementation of the LRP towards the achievement of its previously defined objectives.

The M&E and Knowledge Management Officer will work in close collaboration with local MINEPDED officials, administrative and traditional authorities, and local populations. In addition, he/she will work closely with the PMU Safeguards Specialist and Gender and Social Development Specialist and will make use of the WWF GEF Agency Safeguards Specialist when necessary. These indicators will be supplemented within the framework of the action plan to restrict access to forest landscape resources.

The environmental and social components which will need to be monitored include the following:

- vegetation and flora (council and community forests, protected areas, ZCI, FU, etc.) preserved and restored;
- means of subsistence and standard of living of the IPLCs;
- living conditions of the affected population;
- conflict management between the different actors;
- impacts of restricted access to resources on affected communities.

11.11.3. Awareness-raising needs of IPLCs

For good implementation of the project, including the access restrictions likely to occur, a need for awareness-raising of the IPLC is important. This awareness-raising should be provided by the Safeguards Specialist and the Gender and Social Development Specialist, supported by each LOA. The sensitization themes are as follows:

- the WWF environmental and social safeguards standards, particularly on access restriction;
- the National Forestry Policy;
- Environmental Policy;
- Land tenure rights and laws/regulations;

- the importance of conservation as well as an awareness of their problems, their potential and how to use and manage their available resources.

11.12. DISCLOSURE OF THE PROCESS FRAMEWORK

The disclosure of the Process Framework will be done at local, national and international level.

- at the international level, this disclosure will be through the WWF GEF Agency's website;
- at the national level, this disclosure will be done through the websites of MINEPDED and the project;
- at the local level, the PF and the LRPs will be made public through culturally appropriate and context-specific approaches determined in consultation with affected stakeholders; these methods may include various press and posters installed in the Divisional offices, the sub-divisional offices and the councils concerned for each of the three forest landscapes. MINEPDED should ensure that the broadcast is effective and accessible to all stakeholders.

Similarly, information meetings will be organized in villages bordering each landscape in order to explain the content and importance of the document to the IPLCs. A copy of the Process Framework and LRP will be filed in the chiefdom involved. The Process Framework (PF) will be disclosed at a minimum for 45 days, but ideally for the length of the project. After 45 days of disclosure, the PMU and those responsible for the LRP will finalize the PF taking into account all inputs and changes from IPs and local communities and will then be made accessible , will

The deadline for publication of the Process Framework is set at three months (90 days) at least after the preparation of the ESMF; which will allow the populations concerned to file complaints to the Project.

11.13. BUDGET AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE OF THE LRP FOR THE FIRST YEAR

11.13.1. Budget of the LRP implementation

The overall budget of the LRP implementation amounts to 6,000,000 CFA (\$10,880 USD). The different items and their respective costs are summarized in the table below.

Table 15: LRP budget

Designation	Unit	Amount	Unit price (FCFA)	Total cost (FCFA)
1. Information dissemination and awareness-raising	/	/	/	Included in the Project budget
2. Preparation of the LRP if restriction of access occurs	Unit	1	6,000,000	6,000,000
3. Capacity building of people affected by the project, particularly on WWF's environmental and social safeguard standards, national forestry and environmental policy, income-generating activities, sustainable management of natural resources, etc.	/	/	/	Included in the Project

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4. Internal participatory monitoring of the Process Framework implementation	/	/	/	Included in the monitoring and evaluation component of the Project
TOTAL				6,000,000

1 CFAF = 0,00181325 USD

1 USD = 551,497 CFAF

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11.13.2. Implementation timeline of LRP for the first year of project

Table 16: LRP implementation schedule for the first year

Objective	Activity	Indicator	Person in charge	Month												
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1. Involve the populations affected by the project	Information/ awareness raising of the IPLCs on the project and the principles of access restrictions	Affected IPLCs informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguards Specialist and LOAs; - Conservation services for the protected areas of each affected forest landscape; - COVAREF. 													
2. Identify access restrictions and corresponding mitigation measures	Preparation of LRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LRP developed; - Mitigation measures developed with IPLCs 	LOAs supported by the Safeguards Specialist													

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Objective	Activity	Indicator	Person in charge	Month													
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
3. Validate resource access restriction plans	LRP validation	LRP validated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Populations; - GEF-7 project team (at the level of WWF and MINEPDED); - WWF GEF Agency 														
4. Help affected people and communities to maintain/improve their living conditions	LRP implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of people affected by the access restriction; - Number of assistance measures; - Number of people compensated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LOAs; - MINEPDED. 														
5. Ensure that LRP is well applied	Monitoring of LRP implementation	Number of follow-up missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LOAs; - Safeguards Specialist; - M&E Officer; - MINEPDED 														
6. Ensure that all affected IPLCs are taken into account and are compensated	Monitoring of compensation and taking into account of IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of registered complaints of IPLCs - Number of compensated IPLCs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LOAs; - Safeguards Specialist; - M&E Officer; - MINEPDED 														

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Chapter 12: MONITORING

This chapter contains the operationalization of the monitoring, the monitoring frequency and monitoring indicators.

12.1. OPERATIONALIZATION OF MONITORING

Monitoring has been carved to be an activity of the project (activity 3.2.2.1) which consists of developing an expanded monitoring system to track and assess the economic, social and environmental impact of the project, train and cover costs for communities to participate in its implementation.

The monitoring should be carried out by the Communications, M&E, and Knowledge Management Specialist. He/she shall need to have a focal point at the level of each landscape to collect necessary data. The focal points shall be trained in the necessary skills to conduct these tasks. The focal points shall be the Landscape Technical Assistants for TRIDOM and TNS, and the Safeguards Specialist and Gender/IP Specialist.

12.2. MONITORING FREQUENCY

Monitoring reports shall be produced on a semester basis. They shall contain the indicators defined to assess project impact as prescribed in the project results framework.

12.3. EVALUATION PROVISIONS

Two independent project evaluations, a mid-term review within 6 months of the mid-term and a terminal evaluation (TE) within 6 months of the financial close out of the project, will be carried out. The WWF GEF Agency will organize both the mid-term review and the TE in consultation with the National Project Director and the Project Management Unit, and both evaluations will be conducted by independent consultants. The mid-term review will be carried out to review the progress and effectiveness of the implementation in terms of achieving the objectives, outcomes and outputs of the project. The MTE will provide a systematic analysis of information on the progress of the project in achieving the expected results in relation to budgetary expenditure. It will refer to the project budget and the approved Annual Work Plan and Budget.

An independent final evaluation will be carried out three months before the final report meeting. It will aim to identify the impacts of the project, the sustainability of the project results and the degree of achievement of the long-term results. The independent final evaluation will also aim to indicate the future actions necessary to expand the results of the existing project, integrate and upgrade its products and practices, and disseminate information to management authorities and institutions responsible for the management of protected areas, land use planning and livelihood improvement of IPLC to ensure the continuity of project initiatives. The independent final evaluation appraisal report will be shared with project stakeholders and the donor and is a public document. The mid-term review and the independent final evaluation will pay particular attention to performance indicators, including core GEF indicators. Monitoring constitutes a very important component since, it shall permit to assess the impact made by the project and address any adaptive management issues over the life of the project.

Chapter 13: GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

13.1. WWF STANDARD ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

Conflicts constitute very important impacts which form an integral part of the projects and more particularly the conservation projects in forest landscapes. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has established a mechanism to admit and respond to issues raised by stakeholders who may be affected by the conservation activities promoted by WWF. This mechanism will help to strengthen the implementation of WWF's Social Safeguards Standards and Policies. According to this organization, the rapid and efficient handling of complaints helps to resolve conflicts, improves mutual understanding, strengthens accountability and provides the basis for better collaboration⁴¹.

However, within the Framework of the GEF-7 project, conflicts may arise, notably concerning issues of land and natural resource management. These conflicts necessitate that some special attention be paid to them in order to guarantee social cohesion and better integrate the project into the landscape. In this regard, the setting up of a grievance redress mechanism is imperative.

13.2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Redress Mechanism is to provide Project Affected People suffering adverse impacts, with the opportunity to be heard and assisted. It intends to identify the root causes of the conflicts and find options for the resolution of grievances.

13.3. TYPES OF CONFLICTS WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

The different types of conflicts likely to occur within the framework of the GEF-7 project are among others:

- **IPLCs/wildlife conflicts**

With the implementation of component 2 of the project consisting of improving management effectiveness and governance of high conservation value forests, there may be increases in wildlife likely to destroy IPLCs' crops and livestock. They can also threaten the lives of these people while working in their fields or while collecting NTFPs.

- **Indigenous Peoples - Local Communities conflicts**

These conflicts arise from land management but also from the violence perpetrated on Indigenous Peoples by the Bantus as well as on the inequitable sharing of the benefits.

- **IPLCs – Project conflicts**

This type of conflict arises over the customary rights on natural resources. IPLCs will consider project personnel (as they always see any other conservation personnel) as people who prevent them from eating bushmeat. In some cases, conservation personnel abuse of IPLCs by preventing from enjoying of their users rights.

- **NGOs-IPLCs conflicts**

⁴¹ WWF, 2016, *Project Complaint Resolution Process*

The lack of transparency and information in the activities carried out by NGOs on behalf of IPLCs is a major source of conflicts.

- **Conflicts between NGOs**

Locally based NGOs are likely not to welcome other NGOs that are locally based to carry out activities for the project even if they have the required skills.

- **Generational conflicts**

The youths complain that their opinions are not taken into consideration in projects, be it at the inception or at the execution stage. They add that only the opinion and views of their parents are usually considered. This also constitutes a source of conflict.

- **Conflicts between institutions**

Since the GEF-7 is a multi-institutional project, conflicts are likely to occur among some of these institutions. For example, conflicts could happen between MINEPDED and MINFOF. The first is the GEF executing agency while the second is the supervising ministry of the project.

- **Management conflicts**

These are the conflicts arising from the management of community assets and more mainly from community forests.

13.4. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM) PROCESS

13.4.1. Grievance at national and local level

This complaints redress mechanism is inspired by the GRM elaborated in Mambéle around the Lobéké National Park, following a successful model implemented in the Dzanga-Sangha PA, which is part of the TNS landscape. The latter was subject of consultation and consensus between stakeholders including Baka and Bantu leaders, local Civil Society Organizations, RACOPY (*Réseau Recherches Actions Concertées Pygmées*), National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR), judicial, traditional, administrative and municipal authorities, Ministry of Social Affairs and others. This process consists of 13 steps⁴².

1) Information

When a case of rights abuse or violation arises, IPLCs notify the local organization responsible for receiving complaints. This organization can be a local NGO or a local complaints registration committee set up by the project. It will be important to set up a toll free number to allow parties affected by the project to easily raise a complaint, and that other means are developed to access this complaint mechanism to ensure easy accessibility to all stakeholders.

2) Information verification/Analysis

Before the complaint is registered, the information should be verified or analyzed by the local NGO for clarification.

3) Compilation/recording of the case in a database

After all the information checks, the local NGO records the data in a register or in its database.

4) Information shared with the competent authorities and other actors

⁴² CIFAID, _undated. CEFAID, étapes du processus de règlement des cas d'abus/violation des droits.

The competent authorities are informed of the case of abuse registered by the local NGO. This information can also be given to the project management unit.

5) Information of the victim on the remedies, their strengths and weaknesses

Several avenues of appeal exist in conflict resolution. When the complainant does not find satisfaction at the local level, he/she can refer to the following higher authorities:

In this regard, the following can be mentioned:

- the mayors of the concerned municipalities or a local committee;
- the Project Management Unit (PMU) ;
- administrative authority;
- judicial authority.

Therefore, the victim must be informed of all these remedies. The local NGO must clearly explain to the victim the strengths and weaknesses of all these appeal bodies.

6) Support for the victim in choosing the remedy

IPLCS may not have the capacity necessary to make an informed decision on a choice of remedy. Thus, local NGOs must support them in their choice.

7) Support to the victim for the preparation of the file/complaint

Putting together a complaint file requires an expertise. Therefore, victims of abuse must be supported by local NGOs in putting together the case to ensure its compliance with applicable regulations.

8) Filing and follow-up of the file/complaint

The complaint must be followed up after it has been lodged at the level of the chosen appeal body. The monitoring of the complaint can be carried out by the complainant himself/herself. But given the situation of IPLCs, they must be supported by local NGOs.

9) Monitoring in the implementation of the decision

As soon as the decision is taken, it must be implemented in the field. This implementation requires the monitoring of local NGOs to ensure the effectiveness of the decision.

10) Assessment of the victim's satisfaction level

The decision rendered may be for or against the complainant. Therefore, the level of victim satisfaction must be assessed by local NGOs.

11) Constitution and follow-up of the repair recovery file

The Complainant who won the case has to constitute a damage recovery file. The successful complainant must put together the file and follow it to cover the repair. As in the other stages, the complainant can do it himself/herself or be accompanied by local NGOs.

12) Support for the development of the repair cost management plan

After winning the case, the complainant may be awarded a monetary compensation (as relevant for the case) as a means for repair of the damage caused. This stage must be supported by a local NGO or focal points to develop a management plan for the compensation.

13) Case reporting

At the end of this whole process, a report containing all of the relevant case data should be written and archived for continuous learning.

13.4.2. Grievance at the international level

At international level, WWF's Policy on Accountability and Grievance Mechanism has provided a complaint reception service. The Project Complaints Officer (PCO) is in charge of resolving grievances. This Officer is a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer
Safeguards Complaints,
World Wildlife Fund
1250 24th Street NW
Washington, DC 20037

The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Stakeholders may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/sw/wwf>.

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Chapter 14: CAPACITY BUILDING

Project activities include capacity building, to ensure a smooth implementation of the ESMF. This chapter proposes capacity building activities for the PMU staff and special training for Landscape Operational Assistants and the Social Safeguards Specialist and the Gender/IP Specialist.

14.1. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE PMU STAFF

The following actors to support project implementation should receive capacity building in the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework. These actors are:

- National Project Director (NPD);
- Technical Advisor;
- Partnerships/Transboundary Landscapes Advisor;
- The Project Manager (PM);
- Landscape Operational Assistants (2);
- Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist;
- Safeguards Specialist; and
- Gender/IP Specialist.

These staff who shall be recruited for the project may not have the necessary skills for ESMF implementation. They therefore need capacity building at the onset of the project implementation phase.

The training sessions organized for the project technical staff shall contain, to a minimum, the following modules :

- WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework;
- Typology of environmental assessments;
- What constitutes an ESMF;
- Implementation of an ESMF and related safeguards documents;
- Environmental and social monitoring of a project.

14.2. CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE LANDSCAPES OPERATIONAL ASSISTANTS AND THE SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST AND GENDER/IP SPECIALIST ON AWARENESS RAISING

During the ProDoc validation workshop, it was recommended that awareness raising should be carried out all through the lifespan of the project. To make sure it is properly done, the landscape operational assistants should be trained in awareness raising techniques. They shall be trained by the Communications, Knowledge Management and M&E Specialist(s) and the Safeguards Specialist and Gender/IP Specialist. The training session shall comprise the following modules:

- fundamentals of adult education;
- success factors and best practices for behavior change;
- information transmission techniques;
- essentials of report writing of awareness raising meetings/workshops/campaigns;
- preparation, organisation and conduct of awareness raising events;

- understanding how to gather information and document properly meeting notes/workshops for disclosure as needed.

The cost of this measure is included in the project implementation already through the salary of the trainers, among other budget items.

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Chapter 15: DISCLOSURE

Disclosure of information on the project is very important as it allows the various project stakeholders and the general public as well to be informed about the project at various stages of the project lifecycle. The dissemination of project related information is provided for by both the WWF SIPP as well as the national legal framework. However the national environmental law remains mute regarding ESMF disclosure.

According to WWF policy standard and procedures, the standard on public consultation and disclosure provides for the dissemination of information concerning environmental and social issues related to the project with respect to decision points related to the project life cycle. For a given project it provides for disclosure of project information as follows:

- disclosure of Safeguards Project Categorization Memo;
- disclosure of final safeguards reports, including management plans; and
- disclosure of Safeguards Compliance Memo.

For Special Considerations projects, such as this GEF-7 project under consideration, on completion of the Environment Social Safeguards Lead Specialist's review of the Safeguard Screening Tool (SST), a Project Categorization Memo is drafted and approved by the Senior Director of Public Sector Support, Policy and Government Affairs of WWF-US.

All key safeguards documents, such as the final Project Categorization Memo, Compliance Memos, ESMFs or other mitigation plans for WWF GEF and GCF projects are publicly disclosed on the WWF Safeguards Resource webpage (<http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/safeguardsresources>). These documents will be disclosed for at least 45 days prior to project concept finalization since Indigenous Peoples exist in the project area.

In addition to this, these final safeguards documents are published via the mass media that is the print media and the radio, as deemed necessary. It shall also be published on the national websites of the Executing Agency which in this case is MINEPDED and on the website of MINFOF as well and made available locally in the three forest landscapes (the TRIDOM, STN, CMRC) in specific locations accessible to affected communities. These are the sub divisional office, the concerned traditional chiefdoms, local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. Since project-affected people may not have reasonable access to a WWF office or to the Internet, the Project Team is also required to make the hardcopies of documents available in the latter cases. These are translated into the local language and in a culturally appropriate manner, to facilitate awareness by relevant stakeholders that the information is in the public domain for review.

Only after all steps of the safeguards process, including all public consultations and all required disclosures, are completed and verified (and a Compliance Memo issued) can the project be considered for agency approval by WWF GEF.

Chapter 16: BUDGET

The following table presents the cost of measures proposed in the ESMF. These costs in the table below are additional to the costs already budgeted in the PMU for a safeguards specialist and the usual costs of project implementation and monitoring, including those associated with safeguards.

Table 17: Cost of the proposed measures

N°	ITEM	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price (CFAF)	Total (CFAF)	Total (USD)
1	Capacity building					
1.1	Training of the ESMP on Environmental and Social Safeguards	F	1	2 165 000	2 165 000	3936,4
1.2	Training of Landscape Technical Advisors	F	1	1 055 000	1 055 000	1918,2
2	IPPF	Lump sum	1	9 000 000	9 000 000	16 363,6
3	Process Framework	Lump sum	1	6 000 000	6 000 000	10 909,1
TOTAL					18,320,000	33,127

The total budget for the ESMF is **18 320 000 CFA** (eighteen millions three hundred and twenty thousand), that is **\$33,127 USD** (thirty three thousands one hundred and twenty seven).

This cost is moderate since most of the activities of the ESMF are included in the project budget already.

Recommendations:

The following are issues identified during project development phase and the ESA study for this ESMF. These proposed measures were identified through consultation with stakeholders, however they have been identified as going beyond the scope of this project. Therefore, during the course of project implementation, the following recommendations could be addressed through co-financing, if deemed relevant and necessary.

Potential negative impact: Decrease in game meat for food and for cultural celebrations

- Description of the impact:

The project aims, among other things, to guarantee the biological integrity of forest landscapes. As a result, it is likely to lead to some restriction of access of IPLCs to resources in order to guarantee this biological integrity. One of these important resources is game meat, the consumption of which is part of the eating habits and customs of IPLCs.

By its aim, the project is likely to mitigate one impact (pressure on wildlife biodiversity), but may exacerbate issues relating to poaching present in the project area. To help prevent IPLCs finding themselves in this situation and to ensure they understand the value in biodiversity conservation and have alternatives to game meat, co-financing of a number of initiatives promoting production and consumption of alternative sources of proteins are recommended in the mitigation measures proposed below.

- Mitigation measures proposed

To mitigate this impact, the following measures have been proposed :

- support the IPLC in "free breeding;
- support the IPs in small scale fishing;
- lobby MINFOF so that wildlife remains hunted in private hunting concessions are intended only for local populations.

Potential negative impact: Environmental risks and mitigation measures

Climate change or high climate variability during the lifespan of the project can lead to increase loss and deterioration of forests. If this happens, it may jeopardise efforts engaged in the project. It is therefore recommended to strengthen sustainable forest systems by responding to the concerns and needs of IPLCs in order to help improve resilience to climate change. For this risk to be better mitigated, the IPLCs need to be sensitized on climate change, particularly of the effects of deforestation and forest loss on climate change.

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