Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Report

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANAFOR	National Forestry Development Agency
BAU	Business as Usual
E&S	Environmental and Social
EHSGs	Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
FEICOME	Special Fund for Equipment and Inter-council Interventions
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
GAC	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GIZ	German Technical Cooperation
GHG	Green House Gas
IAPs	Impact Assessment Protocols
IFAD	International Finance Corporation
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IRAD	Agricultural Research Institute for Development
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Industries
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINMIDT	Ministry of Mines and Technological Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Fauna
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions

NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ONAC	National Observatory on Climate Change
ONCC	National Cocoa and Coffee Board
PAPs	Project Affected People
PFAs	Permanent Forest Areas
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REFACOF	African Women's Network for Community Forest Management
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
TLLG	The Landscapes and Livelihoods Group
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change
UNESCO	United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organization
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement

Executive summary

IUCN is currently preparing a project for submission to the Green Climate Fund on securing permanent forests to combat climate change and enhance sustainable national and local economies in Cameroon. This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been undertaken in accordance with Cameroon legislation and IUCN and the GCF operating safeguards.

With regards to the risk of the project, the one high risk issue identified is related to Indigenous Peoples, and principally that Indigenous Peoples could stand to be excluded from the project benefits due to the nature of the socioeconomic context and the project activities themselves. This issue is exacerbated by the limited representation of Indigenous Peoples in formal natural resource management committees and forums. A number of moderate risk issues were also identified, including the risk of access restrictions, adverse gender impacts, community health and safety (due to potential to exacerbate existing social conflicts), and legacy issues in the landscapes in terms of historic physical and economic displacement, and land tenure conflicts. Finally, in terms of safeguard provisions, there was a risk that the project does not implement a meaningful stakeholder engagement process or seek FPIC, partly due to the scale of the project landscapes, requiring.

Typically, an analysis of alternatives is conducted for high-risk projects where the identified impacts are very significant. In this project, as the project will implement a site and District level ROAM methodology, which includes understanding existing land use practices, assessing costs and benefits of different restoration options, and substantial stakeholder engagement, the analysis of alternatives was not deemed necessary during the ESIA. The safeguards-enhanced ROAM plan, one of the project's safeguard plans, includes details on how the ROAM will be implemented, leaving ample opportunity for avoiding risks and impacts should they be identified on a site or district level.

Finally, through the ESIA process, an ESMP has been developed with a set of measures for avoiding and minimizing risks and impacts and provisions to assure their effectiveness. Please refer to the ESMP, and the associated safeguard plans for more information.

1. Policy, legal and administrative framework

This section describes the policy, legal, regulatory and administrative framework within which the project takes place and identifies any laws and regulations that pertain to both the project, and environmental and social matters relevant to the project. This includes regulations about environmental and/or social impact assessments to which the project must adhere as well as laws implementing host country obligations under international law. The section includes national legislation, international law and standards, and a gap analysis between national legislation and international standards.

IUCN is committed to full compliance with Cameroon's legal requirements, and international good practice standards listed below.

2.1. Institutional Framework

2.1.1. National level

There are a number of government Ministries with a mandate over key components relevant to this project, as illustrated in Table 3. The most important of these from the point of view of forest landscape restoration are MINFOF (Ministry of Forests and Wildlife), and MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development). While MINFOF have a mandate over the management of the forestry sector, including the Permanent Forest Areas within this project, MINEPDED have a mandate over issues relating to climate change and the environment, including the National REDD+ strategy. Each Ministry listed below also has a regional delegation at the landscape level as explained latter in this section of the report.

Table 1: Relevant government agencies and other relevant actors at the national level and their role and responsibilities

Government (ministries and agencies)	**Role and responsibilities (including how they can influence the project)**
MINFOF (Ministry of Forests and Wildlife)	Plays a key role in the forestry sector; regulates issues related to forest conservation and the sustainable management of forest resources; implements relevant policies on forests and wildlife in Cameroon; develops and manages forest protected areas; develops and monitors forest regeneration programs, reforestation, forest management, and compliance monitoring in the exploitation of forest and wildlife resources. Has a key role to play in the identification and implementation of project activities. All these roles and responsibilities portray that this ministry could greatly influence the project
MINEPDED (Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development)	This ministry can influence the project in the following ways: It is the main ministry in charge of climate change, it is in charge of environmental protection in forestry, conservation, and management of biodiversity in production forests and protected areas, as well as the recovery and use of forests to combat climate change. The ministry is also responsible for the operationalisation of the National REDD+ Strategy thus influencing the project.
MINEPAT (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development)	Plans different land use patterns in Cameroon through a zoning plan and coordinates foreign aid by signing all foreign aid agreements. This ministry therefore is relevant in defining activities related to land use plan and could influence the project.
MINEPIA **(**Ministry of Livestock and Animal Industries)	Provides technical guidance and oversees the implementation of activities related to livestock and fisheries. It define policy related activities related to agro-sylvo-pastoral systems in the context of emission reduction and climate change resilience thereby influencing the project.

MINADER (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)	Designs and implements national agricultural policies. Indeed, this ministry can influence the project because it plays a role in the promotion of agriculture value chains.
MINMIDT (Ministry of Mines and Technological Development)	Responsible for the coordination of mining and industrial activities, as well as technological developments and transfer and therefore influence the project since the project has mitigation of mining related activities as a strategy to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.
National Climate Change Observatory (ONACC)	Can greatly influence the project because this government agency is responsible for the evaluation of the socio-economic impacts as well as environmental measures of prevention, mitigation, and adaptation to harmful effects and risks to climate change in the country.
FEICOM (Special Fund for Equipment and Inter-council Interventions)	Facilitates investments by providing funding to councils for sustainable forest management and local development in general. It is therefore a potential Project partner and can influence the project since a fundamental component of the project relates to sustainable forest management of permanent forest in the country
IRAD (Agricultural Research Institute for Development)	Lead institute for agriculture research and development in Cameroon. Promotes environmentally friendly agricultural and agroforestry practices. That therefore influence the project since the project has a component on climate smart agriculture including agroforestry practices.
The National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC)	As coffee and cocoa authority in Cameroon, the agency is responsible for the promotion of deforestation-free cocoa production and regulates cocoa and coffee commercialisations. It is also responsible for developing a national living income strategy for cocoa producing communities and can therefore influence the project.

On a national level, there are a number of civil society organisations important to the project's goals, and listed in Table 2. These include platforms and organisations representing civil society and Indigenous Peoples' interests in forest issues, and REDD+.

Table 2: Relevant civil society organisations at the national level and their role and responsibilities

Civil society organisations (including IP networks)	**Roles and responsibilities (including how they can influence the project)**
REDD+ and climate change Civil Society Organisation Platform	Actively involved in the national REDD+ process in Cameroon and represents CSOs' interest in the REDD+ process.
National platform for Indigenous Forest People in Cameroon	Represent Indigenous Peoples interest in the project and ensure that roles and responsibilities for both the IPs and the project are clear and respected

On a national level, there are a number of private sector groups that have been identified as important actors' level due to their interests and expertise that align with the objectives and components of the project (Table 3).

Table 3: Relevant private sector groups and other relevant actors at the national level and their role and responsibilities

Private sector	**Role and responsibilities (including how they can influence the project)**
Afrilands First Bank	Provide green credit lines and microfinancing to local communities, women groups, youth groups, and other common initiative groups that are involved in sustainable value chain development including the

	collection, transformation, and commercialization of NTFPs and other agricultural produce.

2.1.2. International level

On an international level, there are a number of institutions that work closely with the government Ministries listed above. Some are donor institutions funding government, others are NGOs (National and international) working on forest conservation, sustainability and human rights.

Table 4: Relevant international institutions and their role and responsibilities

International Technical	Role and responsibilities (including how they can influence the project)
GIZ	Provides technical (and financial) support to MINFOF and MINEPDED to promote sustainable forest management of natural resources in the development and implementation of policies in Cameroon; communal forestry; REDD+ initiatives. Highly engaged in restoration and sustainable NTFP value chains development.
ICRAF-CIFOR	Build capacity and supports the generation of knowledge products especially in the domain of climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, value chain development, and forestry.
IUCN	Prepare the safeguard enhanced ROAM process (ROAM 2) for the three project intervention sites.

Table 5. Relevant financial partners and their role and responsibility

Financial Partner	Role and responsibilities (including how they can influence the project)
KwF	Provides financial support to promote restoration activities, sustainable NTFP value chains development, REDD+ activities and sustainable forest management of natural resources across different landscapes.
Government of Cameroon	Provide technical staff and fund forestry and natural resource management activities in the different project sites
IUCN	Fund and support conservation, restoration and community-based natural resource management and capacity building activities.

2.1.3. Landscape level

In each landscape, there are regional delegations for each region, including for MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPAT, MINMIDT, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINDCAF, MINAS, MINPROFF, and MINTOUR. These deconcentrated regional delegations are responsible for the sectoral strategies and plans at a regional level. Furthermore, at regional level in each landscape, there are councils as well as ANAFOR (National Forestry Development Agency). ANAFOR is responsible for reforestation of deforested and degraded landscapes. IRAD is also present at the regional level in each landscape and is responsible for supporting agriculture research and development at the regional level. GIZ offices at the regional level are also present in all the three landscapes.

At the divisional level in each landscape, there is MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPAT, MINADER, MINAS, MINPROFF, MINTOUR. These institutions are responsible for forest related sectoral strategies, plans, programs, and projects at the divisional level.

At the local level in Ngoyla/Lobeke landscape, there are National Park conservation services (Lobéké, Boumba Bek, Nki, Kom, Mefou), Fauna reserve/sanctuary management services (Dja, Ngoyla, Mengame) that are responsible for forest conservation while associations, groups, cooperatives are involve in the agriculture value chain (production, transformation, commercialisation). Still at the local level in Ngoyla/Lobeke, there are traditional rulers who are the traditional custodian of the forest, while

local NGOs and Indigenous People group like Gbabandi platform, OKANI, ASBABUK work to defend the interest of indigenous people.

At the local level in the Sudano-Sahelian landscape, there are Associations, groups, cooperatives involve in the agriculture value chain and NTFPs value chain (production, transformation, commercialisation) as well as traditional authorities that are the traditional custodians of the forest at the local level. Local NGOs and indigenous people groups at the local level who are responsible for defending the rights of indigenous people include MBOSCUSDA - Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, ACEEN, ACODED, CADEPI and CARPA.

At the local level in the Western highland landscape, there exist National Park conservation services (Bambotous, Kimbi Fungum) as well as Fauna reserve/sanctuary management services that are responsible for advancing sustainable forest management at the local level. Still at the local level in this landscape, there are Associations, groups, cooperatives involve in the agriculture value chain and NTFPs value chain (production, transformation, commercialisation). Traditional rulers are also present at the local level in this landscape and are responsible for protecting the cultural value of the forest. Finally, NGOs like MBOSCUSDA - Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association also exist in this landscape and are responsible for defending the rights of indigenous people in the landscape while other NGOs like ERUDEF are present in the landscape at the local level and are responsible for ssupporting biodiversity conservation (cross river gorillas, amphibians and birds, gazettement of protected areas, and tree planting).

2.2. Legal Framework

Cameroon's formal legal system has been inherited from its former colonial powers and consists of English common law and French civil law. The Cameroonian Constitution distinguishes between parliamentary power to legislate (le pouvoir législatif) and the governmental power to issue rules and regulations (le pouvoir réglementaire) for implementation.

The key legislation relevant to the project as well as Environmental and Social Management System include the following:

- **National Development Strategy**

The objective of Cameroon’s National Development Strategy (SND 30) are (i) to establish conditions favorable for economic growth and accumulation of national wealth and ensure that the structural changes indispensable for the industrialisation of the country are achieved, (ii) improve the living conditions of the population and their access to basic social services by ensuring significant reduction and unemployment, and (iii) strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure environmental management that assures sustainable and inclusive economic growth, societal development, and improve governance to enhance policy performance toward achieving developmental goals (Republic of Cameroon, 2020).

- **Cameroon’ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**

The long-term goal of Cameroon’s NDC is to achieve a reduction of 35% of its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions compared to a baseline scenario for the target year (2030). To accomplish this goal, the country plans to implement some of the following fundamental climate change adaption and mitigation strategies (Republic of Cameroon, 2021): (i) Improving productivity and competitiveness; (ii) Sustainable forest management through the exploitation and development of productive forests within the framework of management plans; (iii) Contribution to economic growth and poverty alleviation through the retrocession of part of the tax revenue to communities, job creation, the creation of communal forests in the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) and community forests in the Non-Permanent Forest Estate (NPFE); (iv) Biodiversity conservation through the reinforcement of the national network of protected areas; (iv) Ensuring coherence in the land tenure system through zoning plans; and (v) Increasing the use of renewable energy in electricity production, especially in areas that are difficult to connect to the electricity grid.

- **Cameroon’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change**

Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change addresses the impacts of climate change in the country by proposing acts such as reducing population vulnerability by increasing the resilience and quality of life, as well as, increasing adaptive capacity to new opportunities for country development (UNFCCC, 2015). The Plan also demonstrates steps to achieve these goals including improving education on climate change, informing, distributing, and mobilising population on climate change adaptation, increasing population climate resilience to climate change in primary and agroecological sectors, and integrating climate change adaptation in strategies and national policy strategies. Pertaining to the forestry sector directly, the plan proposes better education and research of the positive and negative effects of climate change, installation of a monitoring system for forest fires, implementation of forest health, and support and reinforce REDD+ implementation strategies and policies (MINEPDED, 2015).

- **Cameroon's Country Programme for GCF investment**

In November 2017, the Government of Cameroon received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources for its preparatory support program aimed at strengthening the capacity of its Designated National Authority. Cameroon's Country Program for GCF investment was developed to better leverage this funding mechanism, and to help build a low carbon and climate resilient economy (Republic of Cameroon, 2019). It represents the framework of strategic relationship of Cameroon vis-à-vis not only the GCF, but also with the accredited entities intervening in Cameroon. In this country program, a total, 12 priority programs were selected in Cameroon including (Republic of Cameroon, 2019): (i) Securing, conservation and sustainable management of forests; (ii) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation; (iii) Development of integrated and resilient agriculture in response to the effects of climate change; (iv) Reducing the vulnerability of livestock and the fisheries sector to the effects of climate change; (v) Promotion of low-carbon public transport offers and systems in the sector; (vi) Development of energy production from renewable sources; (vii) Promotion of energy efficiency in the industry and infrastructure sector; (viii) Cities resilient to climate change; (xi) Protection of the coastline from the effects of climate change; (x) Establishment of an observation; (xi) Information management and warning system on climate risks in Cameroon;
(xii) Forest ecosystems resilient to climate change; and (xiii) Populations, infrastructure, and resilience to climate change.

- **Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy**

Since the institution of the Cameroon's 1994 forest law, the forest sector has witnessed substantial efforts towards sustainable forest management. However, deforestation and land degradation continue to be a principal threat to the forest ecosystems. The Cameroonian government therefore identified environmental protection and ecosystem preservation as key challenges in its national program for economic emergence by 2035. Restoration and sustainable management of forest resources are therefore important to ensure that ecosystems remain functional (MINEPDED-MINFOF, 2019).

Within the framework of the AFRI100 initiative and the Bonn Challenge framework, in 2017, the Republic of Cameroon set a target to restore 12,062,768 hectares of degraded land by 2030. This target is an important contribution to the national development and conservation objectives.

In 2020, the government elaborated a strategic framework for the restoration of forest and degraded lands in Cameroon. The objective of the strategic framework was to map out policy options for a National FLR Strategy (NFLRS). This strategic framework laid out a vision and an operational action plan to achieve the goal of restoring 12 million hectares of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030 (MINEPED-MINFOF, 2020).

- **REDD+ Strategy**

The objective of REDD+ is to use financial incentives and market instruments to mitigate carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to promote conservation efforts in developing countries (Streck, 2016). In June 2014, Cameroon launched the process of developing its National REDD+ Strategy, which covers the country's five agro-ecological zones (AEZ). Technical documents were development to present the reference situation and explore efforts needed to reverse the deforestation and forest degradation curve.

- **National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP)**

Cameroon as a CBD member state, and given the importance of biodiversity to its economy, to adhering to the provisions of the CBD convention officially validated its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2000. After 10 years of implementation, faced with major evolving trends and emerging issues, including among others, emerging threats from climate change, biophysical changes, and socio-economic pressure with devastating effects on species and their habitats, the strategy became inadequate in stimulating the urgent and dynamic response required on biodiversity issues. In this view, the government decided to revise and updated the 2000 NBSAP which served as an important planning instrument for biodiversity.

- **Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)**

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is a European Union's program aimed at reducing illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance, and promoting trade in legally produced timber. It works through a Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), which are legally binding trade agreements between the European Union (EU) and a timber-producing country outside the EU. The purpose of the VPA is to make sure that timber and timber products exported to EU are legally sourced. It also aims at stopping illegal logging in timber-exporting countries by improving regulations and governance of the forest sector[1].

On May 6th, 2010, the Government of Cameroon and the European Union concluded negotiations of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement. The aim of this agreement with the Cameroon was to strengthen forest governance, promote Cameroonian timber products, and improve the country's competitiveness in the international marketplace. The VPA also considered strengthening the capacity of Cameroonian forest stakeholders and encourage investment in sustainable management of forests (EU, 2010). It provided the necessary framework of legislation, systems and controls and verification procedures to ensure that all timber imports from Cameroon into the RU market are legally acquired, harvested, transported, and exported. This is shown through the FLEGT license issued for each shipment.

- **1994 Forestry Law**

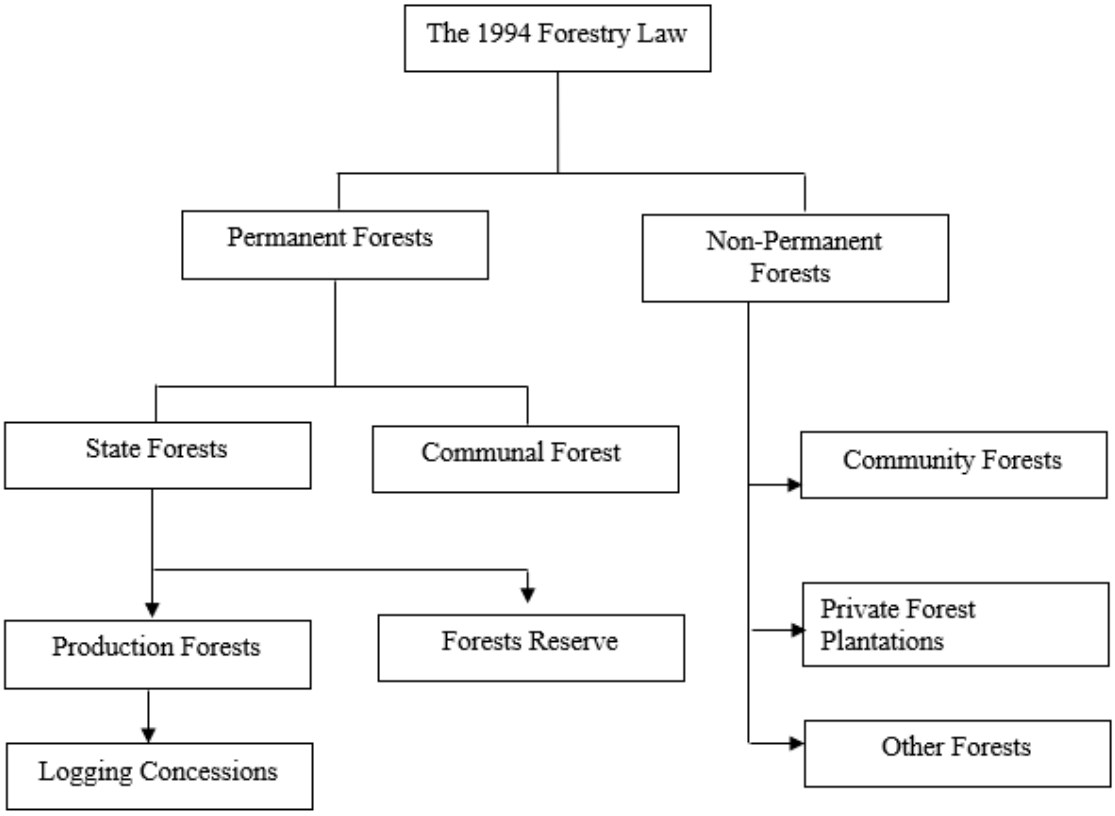
Cameroon undertook a several reforms to protects its environment since the 1992 UN conference on Environment and Development in Rio, which were influenced among other factors by the outcome of the Rio conference on the importance of the rainforest (Ndombe, 2019). In addition, the dwindling revenues from the oil and agriculture sectors, resulted to the government seeking to alternative income sources, in a period when timber demonstrated a steady increase in terms of contribution to the GDP (increase from 3.5% in 1989 to 12% of GDP in 2000). Taking all these into consideration the Cameroon National Assembly adopted Forestry Law in 1994 with the aim of achieving the following:

  - Rationalising the use of forest land;
  - Enabling communities including indigenous people to benefit more significantly from their right to use forest resources;
  - Allocating harvesting rights with greater transparency and efficiency;
  - Supporting sustainable forest management; and
  - Reforming the forestry and wildlife taxation system.

The law divided forest into permanent and non-permanent forest as shown in the diagram below. A key innovation in the development of the 1994 law, considering the concept of deforestation, was the division of the forest in to two categories (article 20): The first category involves the permanent Forest Estate- which comprise lands that are used solely for forestry and or as a wildlife habitat" and cover at least 30% of the country's national territory and need to consider the country's ecological diversity. It also includes strict ecological reserves, flora reserves, protection forests, recreational forests, research and teaching forests, production forests, reforestation areas and botanic areas. The second category involves the Non-Permanent Forest Estate which comprise forest lands that may be used for other purposes than forestry" as well community forestry (Ndombe, 2019). The forestry law embodied accepted development and environmental concepts including inter alia the involvement of NGOs, indigenous people, the private sector, village communities and other stakeholders, recognizing the

[1] https://www.wwf.org.la/projects/flegt/

rights of indigenous people and calls for the introduction of pre-emptive rights over community forest (FAO, 2002)



Forest tenure in Cameroon as per the 1994 forestry law

- **Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995**

Laid down the procedures for implementing the Forests System. It defines the different forest sub classes and highlights nature and biodiversity protection. It provides clarity on the 2 forest domains and provides orientation on forest use, inventory, and operational arrangements.

- **The 1996 National Environmental Management Plan and the Environmental Management Framework Law**

The overall objective of the Plan was to develop policies, strategies and actions for environmental protection and the rational management of resources to contribute to sustainable development with 5 priority areas:

- Participatory land use management;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Restoration of degraded land and improvement of soil fertility;
- Capacity building; and
- Concerted management of shared resources at the sub-regional level.

- **Decree Nº 95/678/PM of 18 December 1995 Establishing an indicative framework of land use in southern forest areas.**

Under the first national inventory carried out with the support of Canadian Cooperation between 1984 and 1987; this Decree provides Standards of different types of forest inventories for management, operations, recognition, and pre-investments.

- **ESIA and EIA legislation**

In Cameroon Environmental and Social study is required by national. Legislation. Three pieces of legislations govern EIA in Cameroon namely Decree No. 2005/0577/PM of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon which enacts the process and procedural framework governing EIA in Cameroon, Ministerial Order No. 0069/MINEP which prescribes the different categories of projects that would require an EIA and Law N° 96/12 of 05 August 1996 that lays down the general legal framework for environmental management in Cameroon including ESIA Cameroon. According to Ministerial Order No. 0069/MINEP this project requires an EIA.

Other laws relevant to the project include:

- **National Gender Machinery**

Cameroon has made key strides toward gender equality and women's empowerment through major international commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Declaration of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Equality Between Women and Men, and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, though these international and regional commitments take precedence over Cameroon's national laws, customs, and traditions, the preference for customary laws remains, and means that discrimination against women continues in Cameroon, especially in rural areas. Further, the Preamble of the Constitution of Cameroon includes several provisions that enshrine gender equality. But many questions about ending inequalities faced by women continue to linger, such as the recognition of rape between husband and wife, protection for unemployed women, pension for widows, the continuation of child marriage, breast ironing, and other issues.

The project will contribute to the objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and ratified by Cameroon, provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. On the other hand, the Objective 5 of the SDGs aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide.

Cameroon has made substantial advances in gender equality over the last two decades. Institutional advances include the creation of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, geared at geared at reducing poverty among urban and rural women in the country**.** Cameroon has acknowledged a number of international women's rights commitments. Cameroon has ratified and/or signed many key international conventions, treaties and plans of actions on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. There are other national policies, laws and legislation frameworks which also support gender equality and women's empowerment in Cameroon. This includes the 1994 Forestry Law, the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy, the REDD+ Strategy and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP).

- ***Divorce and Early and Forced Child Marriage***[2]

The Cameroon Penal Code was updated in 2016 and now gives equal rights to men and women to sue for divorce. In practice, however, the courts are dominated by men, who may undermine gender considerations, such as lengthening proceedings and making the process unaffordable for women. The penal code also criminalizes early and forced child marriage and demands consent as a condition of marriage, and advises that consent cannot be obtained by force. However, the Cameroon Civil Status Registration Ordinance allows the marriage of girls under the age of 15 if for "serious reasons a waiver has been granted by the president of the Republic." There is also an urgent need to enact the draft

[2] Ending Inequality Against Women in Cameroon | unfoundation.org

Child Protection Code and Family Planning Code, which stipulates the age of marriage for girls as 18 years old and establishes other protections for women and girls. These laws, though enacted, are published mostly in French and sometimes in English, though many of these most affected women speak neither of these languages.

- ***Education***

Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. However, though the Cameroonian Penal Code penalises families that have the financial means to send children to school but do not, there is no tracking mechanism for girls who are in school. Further, there is no scheme to support girls who cannot afford secondary education. With more than 65.4% of the rural population living below the National Poverty Line, there is a need for the Government of Cameroon to prioritize a swift, effective transition of students to the secondary level of school, in addition to ensuring universal access to primary education for all, with a particular emphasis on rural areas, where child marriage is prevalent.

- ***Legal Support***

With regards to legal support for women, Cameroonian law recognizes the right to legal assistance for all unemployed persons who lack resources, or those abandoned by their spouses. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family focuses mostly on women in urban and semi-urban towns, where they have offices, and disregards rural women, who form the bulk of women with limited financial means. The rule of law and implementation of policies is moving Cameroon in the right direction and toward ending inequality against women. However, there must be an improvement in awareness and accountability. Laws must be understood at the local level and accompanied by meaningful rural programs to ensure that we don't leave rural women behind.

Regarding FPIC:
In addition to national laws, Cameroon officially adheres to a number of international covenants and charters that call for the respect of FPIC principles, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1976, 58 the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981, 59 the Rio Convention 1992, 60 and the Convention on Biologi- cal Diversity 1992.61

Cameroon is not signatory to ILO 169, but**:**
"However, two groups - the Mbororo pastoralists and the so-called "Pygmy" groups, which include Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli and Bedzang, have officially completed the process of self-identification as indigenous, as their cultures and lifestyles differ significantly from those of the dominant society, and the survival of their tradition- al lifestyles depends largely on their rights and ac- cess to customary land and natural resources. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has recognized these groups as indigenous.

2.3. International requirements

IUCN ESMS

The IUCN ESMS, including the four key Standards, and the ESMS principles, will apply to this project. IUCN's mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." IUCN projects aim to achieve positive conservation and social outcomes, including benefits for forest dependent communities that depend on natural resources. However, unwanted negative impacts on the environment or on local communities may occur. Within the context of its mission, IUCN intends to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to avoid or minimise negative environmental and social impacts while stimulating positive impacts.

To put this intention into practice, IUCN has established an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) as an intrinsic part of IUCN's project cycle. It provides systematic steps and operational tools for managing the environmental and social performance of projects implemented or supported by IUCN. The system allows IUCN to screen potential projects for negative environmental or social impacts and develop suitable measures to avoid, minimise, or compensate for these impacts. It also ensures

that the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures are monitored and that any impacts arising during execution of the project are addressed.

The ESMS is guided by eight overarching principles and four standards that reflect key environmental and social areas and issues that are at the heart of IUCN's conservation approach. The four Standards are published as stand-alone documents (ESMS Standards), the principles as well as the ESMS review procedures are described in the ESMS Manual[3]. The latter also depicts the institutional and operational arrangements including the ESMS Grievance Mechanism.

Safeguard framework of the GCF

The project will also align with the safeguard requirements of the Green Climate Fund. With IUCN being an accredited agency to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the ESMS has been rigorously examined by these two entities and found compliant with the entities' relevant policies – specifically with the GEF Policy for Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as relevant to the nature of projects implemented by IUCN.

2.4. Gap analysis

The project conducted a gap analysis, reviewing Cameroonian legislation against the international standards, and concluded that there were the following potential gaps:

- While there is legislation on Environmental Impact Assessments (2005), there is no specific provision for social impact assessments of environmental projects, and no provision for collection of adequate socioeconomic information prior to such impact assessments;
- Public consultation processes rarely translate materials or communications into local languages, reducing public participation, and timings of consultations are often at the discretion of the project proponent, rather than the public;
- There can be potential for coercion during some forms of public consultation;
- There is no legal requirement for Protected Areas or forest concession holders to operate a Grievance Mechanism for affected communities;
- No legal requirement to identify impacts on cultural heritage;
- No legislation on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (although national guidelines exist);
- No legal requirement to compensate people for economic displacement related to PFAs, including loss of access to natural resources (legal or illegal use).

[3] All ESMS system documents are available through the Union Portal.

2. Stakeholders and Project Affected People

This section of the ESIA summarises the key stakeholders, and the project affected communities and people. More information on stakeholders can also be found in the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

3.1. Stakeholders

Key project stakeholders are included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. In summary, key stakeholders include:

- Government stakeholders
  - National level: MINFOF, MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPAT, MINMIDT, MINADER, MINEPIA, MINDCAF, MINAS, MINPROFF, MINTOUR.
  - Government – Regional delegations and Divisional delegates of the same Ministries
  - ANAFOR – the National Forestry Development Agency
  - National Climate Change Observatory (ONACC)
  - FEICOM (Special Fund for Equipment and Inter-council Interventions)
  - IRAD (Agricultural Research Institute for Development)
  - The National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC)
  - National Park conservation services
  - Fauna reserve/sanctuary management services
  - Councils at the regional and department level
- Civil society organisations
  - REFACOF (African Women's Network for Community Forest Management)
  - CEFDHAC
  - REDD+ Civil Society Organisation Platform
  - Indigenous People REDD+ Platform
  - FODER[4]
  - Cameroon Ecology
- Private sector organizations
  - GFBC (Cameroon Timber Industry Association)
  - GROUPE ROUGIER
  - SCABOIS
- International Technical and Financial Partners, such as GIZ, KfW, IDH (sustainable trade initiative), a full list provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including customary and formal village leaders, men, women, youth, as detailed in the section below on Affected Communities. Indigenous Peoples include the Baka (South East) and Mbororo (Bamboutous and Waza).
- Associations, groups, cooperatives involve in the agriculture value chain (production, transformation, commercialisation) and NTFP value chain
- Vulnerable groups

In addition to these stakeholders, generalised across the three key sites, the Stakeholder Engagement Plans identifies additional stakeholders in each site, such as the Gbabandi platform in the Ngoyla-Lobeke site, and such as MBOSCUSDA (the Mbororo social and cultural development association) at the Waza site.

3.2. Project Affected Communities and People

In general terms, all people living within the identified Project Areas are defined as Affected Communities in this project. These are communities who could be affected (positively or negatively) by the forest landscape restoration and market-livelihood activities promoted by the project.

At this stage in the project, prior to the application of ROAM on a site and District level, it is not possible to define Project Affected Peoples (PAPs) more precisely. Following from best practice, Project Affected

[4] https://rainforestjournalismfund.org/stories/restoration-degraded-land-cameroon-alternative-bamboo-forest-preservation-french

Peoples will include persons with formal legal rights to land or assets, persons who do not have formal rights to land or assets, but who have a recognised or recognisable claim under national law or international regulation (such as UNDRIP or ILO 169), and finally, persons who have no recognisable legal right or claim to the land or assets they occupy or use. For example, this latter group will include any local communities or Indigenous Peoples residing within, or using natural resources within, a Permanent Forest Area, even if it is deemed illegal.

More specifically, Project Affected Persons are likely to include, in this project:

- Individuals, households of a community or community within or adjacent to a Permanent Forest Area, who are affected by the reinforcement of existing access restrictions (due to the project), the introduction of new access restrictions, or, changes in land use practices which affect access to benefits from ecosystem services
- Individuals, households of a community or community within or adjacent to a Permanent Forest Area, who are affected by the other risks and impact issues identified during this ESIA such as escalation in human wildlife conflict.
- Those individuals or households identified as particularly vulnerable to access and use restrictions, or the other risks and impacts identified.

4. Environmental and Socio-economic Baseline Conditions

The Project is located in Cameroon, with project sites situated in Dja-Lobéké in South-East Cameroon, Bamboutos Highlands in West and North- West of the country, and Waza in the Far North of Cameroon.

To carry out the socio-economic analysis, a four-phase research methodology was developed:

- -The preparatory phase: In this phase there was literature review of relevant secondary data or documentation including Communal Development Plans, Development Plans, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), relevant Socio-economic documents.
- The field survey phase: Three data collection methods were used to carry out the field surveys. This included group discussions with local communities, individual interviews with resource persons and in situ observations in the categories of permanent forests targeted.
- The data processing and analysis phase: This phase began with a digitization of data from community consultations and interviews with resource persons in the different landscapes of the project, as well as data formatting. Then followed the processing and analysis of these data. The processing and analysis of these data were carried out using Excel 2013 and SPSS Statistics 20 software. to analyze the dynamics of forest cover change in the Business As Usual (BAU) scenario for other components of the project.
- The validation phase: A technical workshop was organized on March 12, 2022 at the Departmental Hotel of Mbalmayo for a restitution of the first results of socio-economic analysis in the three landscapes. During this workshop, orientations and recommendations were formulated in order to better characterize the context and the socio-economic environment in the intervention sites selected for this project.

The following results were obtained:

a) Dja-Lobéké

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is located in the South-East of Cameroon (Figure 2) with a total area of 6,537,230.49 ha. It is integrated into an impact area of this project that covers the entire South-East of the country. It is a bimodal forest landscape that includes several categories of permanent forests and represent a total area of 7,540,411 ha, including 5 national parks, 02 wildlife reserves, 01 wildlife sanctuary, 40 communal forests and 83 Forest Management Units (UFAs).

The human densities of the Dja-Lobéké area (about 1 inhab/km²) are among the lowest in Cameroon. Several ethnic groups are present in the Dja-Lobéké landscape. The Baka pygmies are the main minority ethnic group in the landscape. They are deployed in nearly 75% of the villages in the landscape and constitute a kind of "transversal" ethnic group. The Bantu, on the other hand, are the majority ethnic group. They are subdivided into ethnic subgroups: Bangando, Mboman, Bimo, etc. The Baka are a nomadic people. But there has been a gradual sedentarization of the Baka in recent decades. The Baka can move and settle in a locality without any resistance from the Bantu as long as the latter know that the Baka do not appropriate land or forests, their movements being motivated by the abundance or scarcity of resources they need. Among the Bantu, gender aspects are taken into account. For example, if a woman from a village is not yet married, she has the same right to land as the men. The choice of land for agriculture is made on the basis of certain indicators relating to soil fertility. Also, the presence of specific fruit trees such as cheese trees.

In Dja-Lobéké landscape, the climate is Guinean equatorial type characterized by the alternation of rainy and dry seasons namely: i) The small rainy season from mid-March to June; ii) The short dry season from June to mid-August; (iii) The heavy rainy season from mid-August to mid-November; (v) The long dry season from mid-November to mid-March. The average annual temperature is 24°C. The relief of the Dja-Lobéké landscape is quite diverse. Its topography presents areas of plains, valleys and hills. It is usually a plateau relief, flat and weakly wavy. It is not very rugged with a slope between 0 and 3%, reflecting a low sensitivity to erosion. The average altitude is 500 to 850 m. Several types of soils are particularly found in the Dja-Lobéké landscape, including red ferralitic soils representing most of the soils in the area. The hydro graphic network of the Dja-Lobéké landscape is very dense and composed of an abundance of rivers which, in some sectors, feed swamps that are sometimes very developed. The Dja-Lobéké landscape consists of several plant formations. There are more than 1000 species of species with a diameter of more than 10 cm. These plant formations are rich in marketable species and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

Table 6: Some NTFPs exploited in the Dja-Lobéké landscape

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
1. Sapelli	*Entandrophragma cylindricum*	11. Framiré	*Terminaliaivorensis*
2. Moabi	*Baillonelatoxisperma*	12. Eyong	*Sterculiaoblonga*
3. Doussiérouge	*Afzeliabipindensis*	13. Ebenier	*Diopyros crassiflora*
4. Ayous	*Triplochytonscleroxylon*	14.Ilomba	*Picnanthus angolensis*
5. Sipo	*Entandrophragmautile*	15. Djangsang	*Ricinodendronheudolettii*
6. Kosipo	*Entandrophragma candolei*	16. Kotibé	*Nesogordoniapapaverifera*
7.Iroko	*Chlorophoraexelsa*	17. Bubingarouge	*Guibourtiademeusei*
8. Fraké	*Terminalia superba*	18. Bosséclair	*Guareacedrata*
9. Beté	*Mansoniaaltissima*	19. Dibétou	*Lovoatrichilioides*
10. Acajou	*Khayaspp*	20.Tiama	*Entandrophragma angolense*

Source: Fokabs, 2022

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is endowed with an important fauna richness divided into several categories, including small rodents, chiroptera, insectivores, more than 100 species of mammals including primate species, about 150 species of fish, almost 80% of forest species of butterflies, around 100 species of lepidoptera, more than 500 species of birds; and many species of freshwater shrimp; ungulates, carnivores; reptiles and amphibians.

Several ethnic groups are present in the Dja-Lobéké landscape divided into several localities (villages). For example, we find the Baka and generally the Bantu subdivided into ethnic subgroups (Bangando, Mboman, Bimo, etc.). The Baka more specifically, are a "transversal" ethnic group that has spread to nearly 75% of the villages in the landscape. The Baka and Bantu are forest peoples living in common in the Dja-Lobéké landscape. The Baka inherited clan formation from their Bantu neighbours. The Baka

have become attached over time to Bantu clans through blood pacts. The signing of the blood pact implied that the Baka family belonged to the clan with which they were making a pact and demanded that this Baka family leave the forest to settle with their new Bantu family. Through this pact the Bantu family becomes "owner" of the Baka family. This explains the usual language "my Baka".

Agriculture is the main activity practiced by the population of the Dja-Lobéké landscape. Agriculture is developed according to the itinerant slash-and-burn technique with the practice of rotation and a periodic rotation of fallow land. The population mostly practice subsistence agriculture. About 75% of the harvest is dedicated for household consumption and 25% for commercialisation. These proportions vary according to the type of crop. The practice of livestock farming in the Dja-Lobéké landscape has a very low added value. Almost all (95%) of the animals are left wandering. Poorer households own few animals (small livestock and poultry). The wealthiest inhabitants have large herds (30 to 60 goats, sheep; 15 to 30 pigs, poultry, but no cattle) that are more for sale than for household consumption (FEWS NET, 2019). Hunting activity in the Dja-Lobéké landscape is exclusively practiced by men and boys in the forest and around plantations. Hunting takes two forms: controlled hunting and traditional subsistence hunting.

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is traversed by the Dja, Boumba, Ngoko and their tributary networks. It is in these rivers that the populations of this area practice fishing which is a secondary activity. Fishing is practiced intensively in the dry season (December-March and July-August), a period during which canoe travel is less dangerous. It is both a traditional and modern activity: poor households are those who engage in traditional fishing rods using rudimentary fishing rods and the wealthiest households practice quasi-modern fishing insofar as they have a considerable range of fishing tools and are even equipped with equipment. In times of decline and low water, dam fishing (scoop and trap), especially practiced by women and children, is a traditional activity that is very popular. Collection of fish, shrimp, mussels, oysters, crabs, and turtles is almost entirely for consumption, and represents a significant food supplement. The agro-industrial sector in the Dja-Lobéké landscape is dominated by the small-scale artisanal processing of food products. This is the case of the transformation of cassava into couscous and "tapioca".

The habitat appears grouped and the houses are installed along the main road, all along the edge. In the South-East intervention site, the places of life are dispersed in the form of street villages, and isolated dwellings or hamlets. Two systems of land appropriation prevail in the Dja-Lobéké landscape: the traditional mode of appropriation and the modern mode of appropriation. Although the traditional collective appropriation of land varies between Bantu and Baka Pygmies, it is fundamentally based on customary law or right of use and remains the dominant mode of land holding.

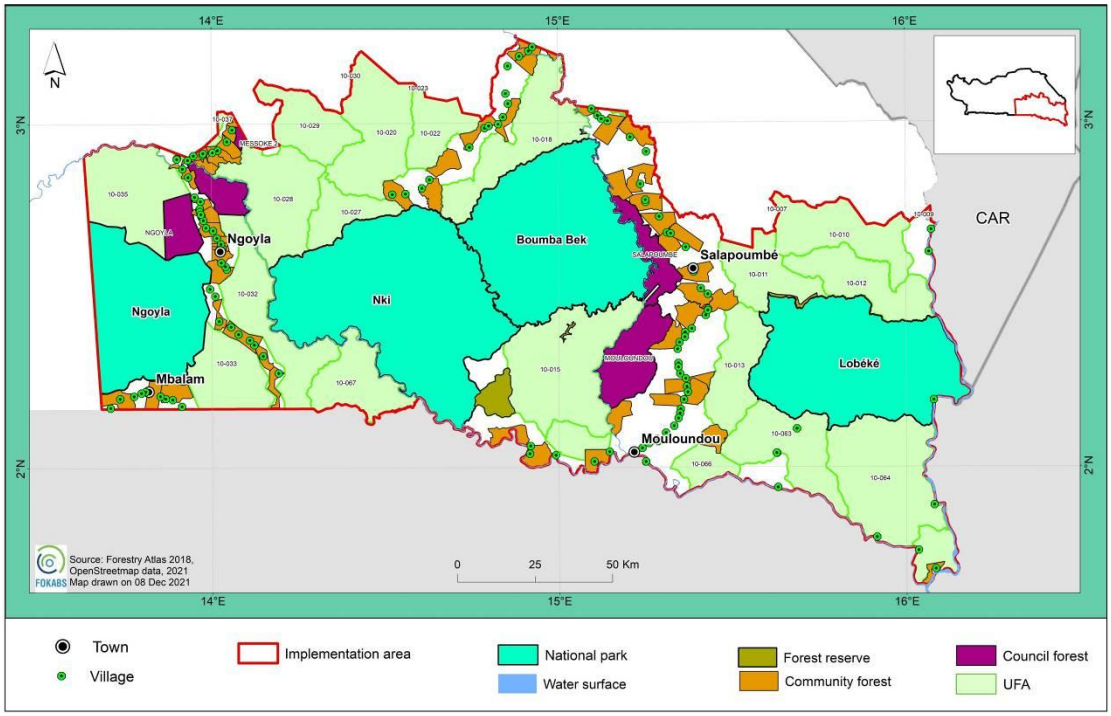


Figure 2: Geographical boundary of the Dja-Lobéké intervention site

b) Bamboutos Highlands

The Bamboutos landscape extends over 3 regions: South West, North West and West; and covers an area of 704,412.72 ha (Figure 3). The human density of the Bamboutos landscape is about 261 inhabitants / km2 on average. Several ethnic groups are present in the Bamboutos landscape and they are divided into several communities. About 56 communities inhabit and are bordering the Bamboutos Highlands, consisting of the Mbororo (also called Fulani) and the local communities. The Mbororo are essentially pastoralists and are one of the main minority ethnic groups in the landscape. Indeed, the Mbororo community grazes cattle in the area, and herders light bushfires in grazing areas between January and March. This practice, which aims to repel new grass at the beginning of the wet season, is illegal (Decree No. 95/531/PM OF 23 August, 1995). The other communities bordering the Bamboutos Mountains are engaged in forestry, fish farming, poultry, even artisanal, and especially agricultural activities, the main driver of deforestation and degradation in this landscape.

In the Bamboutos landscape, there is a strong linguistic and socio-cultural diversity. This multicultural and multi-linguistic mix is at the origin of certain mistrusts within the populations. By way of illustration, there is mistrust between Francophones and Anglophones. The Mbororo do not trust the communities on the French-speaking flanks of the Bamboutos Mountains, but are much more inclined to socialize with the communities on the English-speaking side. Communities in the Bamboutos landscape derive their livelihoods from forest resources including water, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and other activities based on biological biodiversity, and the exploitation of non-timber forest products and wood resources.

Income-generating activities include agriculture, livestock, fishing, NTFP collection, mining, logging, wood energy, handicrafts and small trade. Unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn cultivation are also present in this landscape. Income-generating activities are carried out throughout the year at certain intervals. Major cultivable food crops include plantain, macabo, taro, yam, groundnut, sweet and irish potato, beans, cassava, maize, etc.). Potatoes is grown in mountain area and in irrigated lowlands. Tree crops and fruits trees include safout, mango, kolatier, coffes and raffia. The main cash crop is coffee, although production is on the decline due to price fluctuations. Animal husbandry consists of goats, pigs, sheep and cows. Poultry farming is universal and this area is famous for egg production.

Intensive livestock farming is practiced mainly by the Mbororo people. Other animal species raised are sheep, goats, poultry, pigs, guinea pigs, bees, fish, dogs, cats, etc.

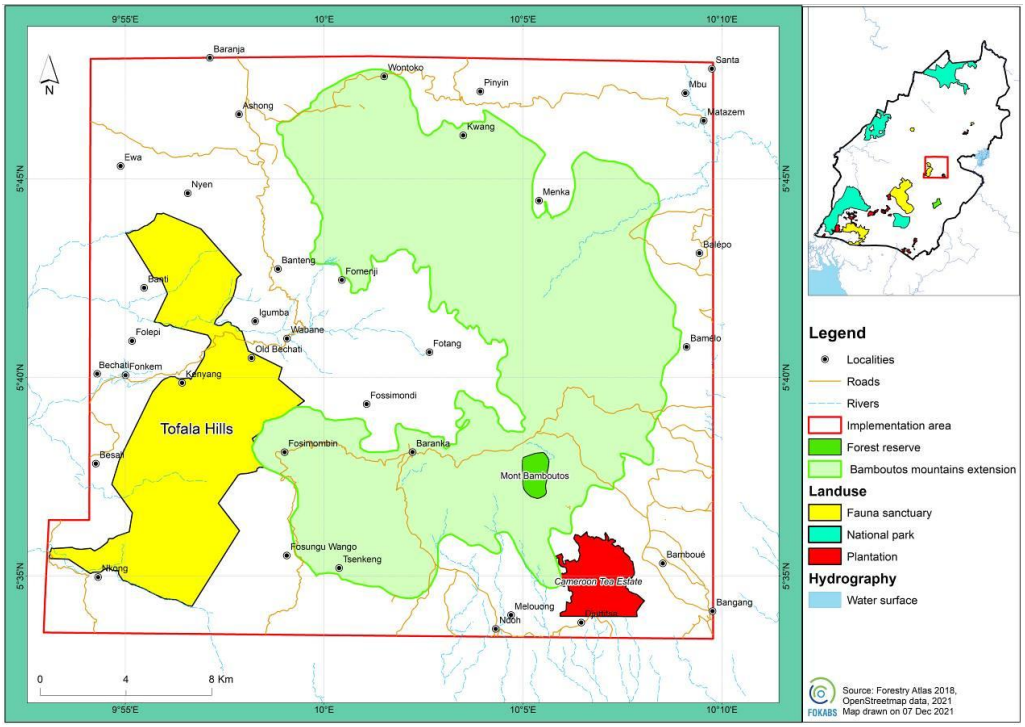


Figure 3: Location of the Bamboutos intervention site (Source: Fokabs, 2022)

The Bamboutos Mountains give rise to many rivers whose volume increases during the rainy period. These include: Metché, Tsdédeng, Matazem, Falifo, Nkoo, Ko'okwalé, Doji, Tousson, Meloung, Maleou, Madjui, and To'odza, etc. These rivers are characterized by periods of flooding in the rainy season and periods of low water in the dry season. Low water levels are aggravated by multiple catchments that are estimated in thousands and that are carried out by gravitation and pumping.

The Bamboutos landscape is dominated by a herbaceous savannah (pennisetum, impérata, huparaténia, clotalaria) shrub and also wooded with a dominance of eucalyptus towards the summits, especially in the areas of cultivation and breeding. However, eucalyptus populations have drastically declined, giving way to agriculture. Along the many rivers that originate at the tops of the mountains, there are gallery forests that extend from the top to the foot of the mountains according to the flow route of the waters.

The Bamboutos landscape has two distinct seasons: a rainy season 8 months long (March to November) and a dry season, short of 4 months (mid-November to mid-March). Temperatures in the area decrease as we move towards the summits. The minima vary between 12°c and 15°c, the averages between 22°c and 24°c and the maximums between 28°c and 30°c (ITTO, 2014). Rainfall is heaviest towards the peaks, with August and September being the rainiest months reaching peaks of more than 330 mm/month. Towards the foot of the mountains, there is an abundance of fruit trees (avocado, orange, guava, grapefruit, safoutier, mango, lemon, canarium, kolat, lemon ...) and many other wild species in addition to food crops of all kinds. The Bamboutos Mountains in particular have a dominance of eucalyptus which are generally aligned and serve as hedges. Although the eucalyptus population has declined, this dominance is justified by the multiple uses of this silvicultural species, particularly in the delimitation of cultural plots, the materialization of barriers to avoid agro pastoral conflicts, use as windbreaks, use as timber and firewood and many other smaller uses.

The Bamboutos Mountains contains few NTFPs. However, there are a few that are prized in this landscape, including Raphia palm wine, black fruit, kola and *Prunus africana*. The landscape is essentially formed of hills, valleys, plateaus, and lowlands made of more or less marshy plains. The wildlife is that of the savannah consisting of game (hedgehogs, rats, squirrels, monkeys, porcupines, rabbits, deer), birds (partridge, sparrowhawk, owl, bat, sparrows,), reptiles and insects (snakes, lizards,

centipedes, margouillats, bees, wasps, flies, locusts, termites, earthworms, crickets and other beetles). In terms of road infrastructure, the municipalities of Batcham and Mbouda are the municipalities that have the largest road networks in the peripheral area of the Bamboutos Mountains. Agriculture is the main activity practiced by the population. The agrarian system is characterized by small farms (0.2 to 3 ha), with an average of 1.5 ha. Agriculture is developed according to the itinerant technique on slash-and-burn with the practice of rotation. About 75% of crops cultivated are subsistence and 25% for commercialisation. These proportions vary according to the type of crop (food or rent). There is an intensive and permanent development of the soils. All soils are cultivated, including marginal soils such as mountain pastures and shallows, all year round due to the introduction of water-intensive off-season crops. Eucalyptus serves primarily as border trees for these fields while being a source of lumber.

c) Waza landscape

The Waza National Park (WNP) extends between latitudes 11° 03' and 11° 30' North and longitudes 14° 28' and 14° 56' East. It is located in the Far North region of Cameroon (Figure 4), in the Waza Arrondissement, Logone and Chari Department. Its periphery extends into the arrondissements of Zina (Department of Logone and Chari) and Pétté (Department of Diamaré). It has been part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve sites since 1982. This evolution in status reflects the importance given by international environmental bodies to this protected area on the basis of its specific richness and the benefits of its sustainable management for populations and ecosystems. As far as housing in rural areas is concerned, the character grouped in family concessions (Saré) is very noticeable. There are also hamlets of nomadic and sedentary farmers or herders along the communication routes. In urban centers, especially in Maroua, the density of housing is remarkable with a gradual relaxation of the central core towards the periphery.The Waza landscape is located in the Far North region of Cameroon with a total area of 655,789.50 ha. It is an integral part of an impact zone that covers the entire Sudano-Sahelian zone. This impact zone is a formation of wooded, shrub and grassy savannahs that encompasses several categories of permanent forests representing a total area of 3,506,344 ha, including 9 parks, 2 protection forests, 26 areas of hunting interest, 5 hunting areas managed by the community.

The human density in the Waza landscape and its peripheral area is about 118.2 inhab/km2. The Waza area is a "crossroads" locality in the Far North region and it is one of the most populated area of Cameroon, but also of the Sudano-Sahelian zone. It includes 13 ethnic groups: Kanouri or Bornoi or Sirata, Arab, Kotoko, Mousgoum, Peuhl, Mafa, Toupouti, Moufou, Mada, Moungang, Hausa, Sara and Kera) distributed in forty-eight villages and the city of Waza (MINFOF, 2014). The creation of the protected area has led to the eviction of several villages and camps of fishermen and herders that remained inside the Park, once heavily populated. Only the Baram village remains inside the park. In recent years, due to strong population growth, the population bordering the protected area has increased considerably. In the Waza landscape, the main food crops are: cereals, including rain fed sorghum, millet, muskuwari, maize, cowpea, groundnuts, okra, Guinea sorrel, voandzou, sesame, rice and legumes. The practice of these crops is strongly correlated with rainfall in this area. At the same time, rice cultivation and groundnut cultivation have particularly declined in favour of the emergence of other sectors such as onion, yam, cowpea whose production has doubled in the last decade (Republic of Cameroon, 2021).

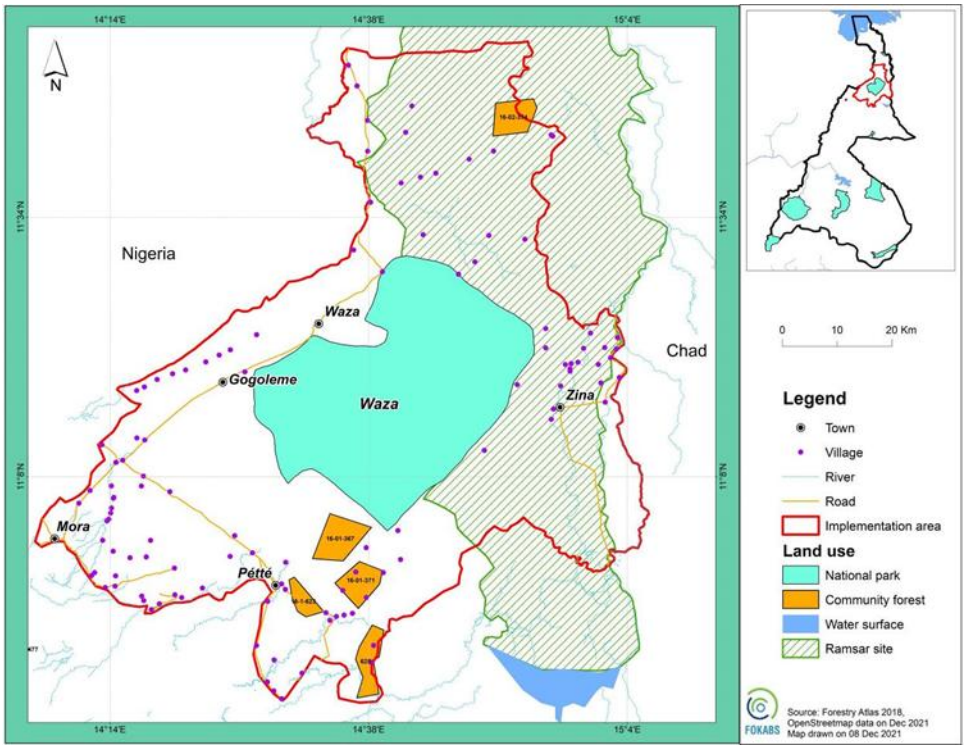


Figure 4: Waza Intervention Site (Source: Fokabs 2022)

In addition, conflicts between farmers, herders and park authorities are recurrent in the region due to population pressure, deforestation and pasture occupation (MINFOF, 2014). As far as pastoralists are concerned, the conflicts stem from the damage caused by cattle seeking grazing in fields with standing crops (FEWS NET, 2019). This situation is also justified by the general transhumance observed in the dry season of cattle herds from the North. In addition, Waza water front communities collect various NTFPs in the park. The main NTFPs collected around the Waza National Park and in the Yaérés include straw (e.g. *Andropogon* sp.) useful for roof covering, making seccos; doum palm leaves (*Hyphenae thebaica*) for making mats, fences, and ropes, etc.; fruits such as jujube (*Zizyphus mauritiana*), wild date (*Balanites aegyptiaca*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) for local consumption; honey, and gum arabic. In addition, gum arabic and honey can boost the local economy. In terms of wildlife, Waza National Park has an exceptional and diverse concentration of wildlife. There are herbivores, carnivores, rodents, primates, insects, reptiles and birds, etc. In addition, the park is full of a large avifauna composed of more than 370 species of birds including more than 71 species of water birds among which about twenty are migratory (Dodman et al. 1996).

5. Risk and Impact Assessment

This section of the report presents the results from the E&S screening, conducted prior to the fieldwork, and the ESIA fieldwork findings. The IUCN ESMS questionnaire and screening report can be found in **Annex 1**, and the findings are also summarised below. The ESIA fieldwork findings, from each site, are summarised here, and the full findings are included in **Annex 2-4**.

5.1. Methodology

The ESIA started with an E&S screening, which was followed by a remote scoping exercise, and then followed by the fieldwork. The specifics of the fieldwork methodology are described below.

5.1.1. E&S Screening

The preliminary screening report can be found in the IUCN ESMS questionnaire, **Annex 1**. The project risk category was categorised as moderate at preliminary screening stage. Based on IUCN and GCF

requirements, and Cameroonian legislation (the 1996 law relating to the environment[5]), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. The ESIA focused on the pre-identified environmental and social risks and impacts, with a particular focus on social impacts. A summary of the Preliminary Screening Report risks and impacts is provided in **Box 1** below, and **Annex 1** includes the full ESMS questionnaire.

Box1: Screening report conclusions on E&S risks and impacts

The environmental impacts of the project activities are anticipated to be highly positive as described in the project proposal. In terms of social impacts, the overall theory of change is that the project will have beneficial impacts as it aims to improve land management practices and production in and around Permanent Forest Areas and includes a major component on market chain development and livelihood support. The project also adopts the ROAM methodology, which is designed to be participatory and inclusive.

E&S risks and impacts
The introduction of new practices and measures of land and forest management can reinforce or even exacerbate unequal gender relations and negatively affect vulnerable individuals or groups. There is a risk that the project leads to disproportionate impacts (eg. access restrictions) on women and vulnerable groups, and that these groups are not effectively engaged or involved in decision-making, meaning that they are unable to access project benefits, or project benefits are inappropriate for their needs. While the project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment, the assessment focuses on the vulnerability of natural ecosystems, rather than social vulnerability per se. There is limited information available on a site by site basis on the characteristics of social vulnerability, and issues which could interact with the project activities. The project's socioeconomic baseline would need to explore these aspects to better understand the potential risks, including completion of a gender analysis.

The project operates in sites where there are existing tensions between upholding people's human rights and the management of Permanent Forest Areas. For example, in the southeast, access restrictions continue to affect the Baka (indigenous peoples), in terms of their access to customary forest areas and natural resources. In other sites, there could be issues related to land rights and customary user rights. There are documented human rights allegations in the southeast in relation to law enforcement, although it is noted that this project will not support law enforcement directly or indirectly, including no contribution to Protected Area operational budgets.

In relation to Community Health and Safety, there are contextual risks include a) security issues at two sites, and b) pre-identified conflicts over forest and water resources, between arable and pastoral farmers, which could be exacerbated in any land use planning and change. The project is not providing technical or financial support to law enforcement, but would be linked to (not contributing to, but linked through the project partnerships, and through the fact that certain restoration activities within PFAs will rely on law enforcement to be successful) any human rights violations by law enforcement agents working for the executing entity. Project risks related to labour, resource efficiency, biodiversity and sustainable use, were all estimated to be low.
The project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment, and is focused on climate adaptation and mitigation, and this risk is integrated into project design.

Further information from the project's socioeconomic baseline assessment is required to understand the potential risks and impacts better. This should be part of the ESIA. Assessment should aim to understand how vulnerable groups and women will be represented in the project's engagement and activity design, and ensure that engagement methods will be suitable. Assessment will aim to understand the potential impacts on vulnerable groups and women at each site. Assessment will aim to understand the nature of existing conflicts and potential to exacerbate these conflicts, and strategies required.

Main conclusions: The project will require a Gender Action Plan, will need to identify and work with vulnerable groups as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and project design will have to include a participatory methodology for deciding on restoration activities within and outside of PFAs as part of the project's approach.

[5] Loi N° 96/12 Du 5 Aout 1996 Portant Loi-cadre Relative A La Gestion De L'environnement

Box 2: Screening report conclusions on E&S risks and impacts relating to IUCN Standards and safeguard provisions

Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions
The project will be providing technical support for the establishment and improvement of management plans in PFAs, and the specific climate adaptation and mitigation activities to be integrated in the PFA management plans are to be decided during the project. The specific restoration activities outside of PFAs are still to be decided (the ROAM report was not available at time of screening), and in one landscape the establishment of a Protected Area (Bamboutous Mountains Extension) could be considered and supported by the project.

This being the case, the gaps and risks are unclear and require further assessment. Assessment will look to better understand the existing access restrictions and impacts at project sites, the potential restrictions related to restoration activities within and adjacent to sites, and the degree to which the proposed market and value chain work will offset any impacts of access restrictions for project affected people, particularly women and vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples.

It is not clear what safeguard plans are required. Typically, a Process Framework would be required for Protected Areas, but considering the project's focus on restoration, and the project approach, it could be feasible to integrate safeguard requirements into the ROAM methodology, so when ROAM is applied on a site by site basis, the components of a Process Framework are applied systematically. This will be decided during the ESIA.

Standard on Indigenous Peoples
The Standard is triggered due to the presence of either the Mbororo or Baka hunter–gatherer communities in all three landscapes. There is a need for socioeconomic baseline information on the indigenous communities in all sites, including settlement and movement patterns and livelihoods and rights conditions. There is need for consultation with legitimate representatives of these groups both during the ESIA, to validate willingness to participate in the project (not consent to the project activities, but willingness to work with the Executing Agency on the types of activities included in the project proposal). There is a need for closer examination of potential risks and impacts and solutions and strategies the project might adopt, as a basis for the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) (including the establishment of a process of consultation and protocols to be agreed by indigenous peoples' representatives) to be developed during the ESIA.

Standard on Cultural Heritage
The Standard is triggered, as there is a risk that the project affects access to cultural resources, for example in case the project involves enforcing access restrictions in PFAs, or establishing a new PA, and modifying land use and access in areas adjacent to PFAs. Furthermore, ecotourism activities could have an adverse impact on the intangible cultural heritage of local and in particular of indigenous communities (e.g. their values, norms etc.).
The assessment of access restrictions above, should therefore include assessment of cultural heritage risks, and also include assessment of potential for impacts of ecotourism.

Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
The project's impact on biodiversity is expected to be highly positive as demonstrated above. The only minor concern relates to the risk that the development of the NTFP value chain might lead to unsustainable harvest rates. This risk will need to be managed through adequate control/monitoring system. This will be established in the project's ESMP.

Safeguard provisions
While the latest round of fieldwork in Cameroon (the feasibility study) included a number of field consultations, including separate meetings with men and women, and a clear strategy for sampling sites, it has become clear that the nature of the project will require more comprehensive stakeholder engagement to identify vulnerable groups, conduct gender analyses, and ensure meaningful consultation with all affected stakeholders around the PFAs. A methodology for this consultation is should be built into the stakeholder engagement plan.

The screening concluded that the following safeguard plans will need to be developed for the project:

1. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
2. Gender Action Plan (GAP)
3. Grievance Mechanism (GM)

Furthermore, considering that there are Indigenous Peoples in each project landscape, the need for an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework was also considered. It was also clear that a Process Framework, or the components of a Process Framework, would be required, due to the potential for both voluntary and involuntary access restrictions. Lastly, considering the presence of Indigenous Peoples, and Cameroon's National Guidelines on FPIC, how FPIC would be sought during the project would also need clarification. In regards these three key safeguarding issues, one option considered

was the establishment of separate safeguard plans (Process Framework, Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework, and FPIC Protocol). The other option was that these plans are integrated into the project's ROAM procedures, as ROAM includes a participatory process to assess costs and benefits with local stakeholders. This second option, a 'safeguard-enhanced ROAM' was preferred, as it would enable operationalisation of safeguards through the project methodology.

However, this decision was left for the ESIA fieldwork. In order to understand what the participatory ROAM process will entail, the ESIA fieldwork was planned to work with communities in two different situations:

1) communities with current use within Permanent Forest Areas (eg. sites where communities are currently defined as 'encroaching on PFAs'), to understand the use types, the conflict, and what kind of process the project could follow to decide on and implement restoration measures within these areas. For example, "reforestation" has been identified as one restoration option for areas within PFAs (ROAM report, Page 25, Table 4), so the question will be how the project will uphold the E&S standards (which recognise even 'illegal' use of PFAs), through a participatory process with those users, resulting in the FPIC of those users.
2) Communities with current use outside of PFAs, not depending upon or using land or forest resources within PFAs, where the ROAM process will be based upon a community-project decided participatory approach, based on FPIC.

In relation to the IPPF, it was agreed that if the impacts of the planned project on indigenous peoples are solely related to access restrictions, then the contents of the IPPF could be integrated into the safeguards-adapted ROAM, with specificities relating to indigenous peoples covered in the adapted ROAM methodology.

Finally, it was clear that the adapted ROAM, if this was chosen as the option, then this would need to include the project's FPIC guidelines. While there are clear FPIC guidelines provided in the Cameroon National FPIC Guidelines (2015), these would need to be tailored and adapted to the context of this project. Further information on the purpose of these safeguard instruments is described further below.

5.1.2. ESIA scoping

5.1.2.1. E&S standards (reference framework)

The ESIA was designed and implemented in accordance with IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS, 2016), the Green Climate Fund Environmental and Social Policy (2018), Cameroonian legislation, and all other relevant international laws and conventions.

5.1.2.2. Landscapes/ sites to be included

The ESIA included the three project landscapes in Cameroon, and described in the project documents. At scoping stage, it was clear that there is a need to further refine the priority implementation area, and particularly the pilot sites, to ensure that the project can start the ROAM process as soon in project inception as possible. While restoration options per site, and which land use categories these restoration options might be suitable for, have been identified, the geographical sites have not yet been determined.

5.1.2.3. Key environmental and social risks and impacts to be assessed

The key risks and impacts identified during the Screening are indicated in Box 1 and Box 2 above. These have been summarised for planning purposes in Table 7, which has also included the risk rating for each landscape for those risks and impacts where there is likely to be variation between landscapes.

The ESIA was planned to focus on the high-risk issues relating to indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups, including the broad design of the project's FPIC process. The ESIA will also include assessment of the moderate risk issues, listed in Table 7.

No risks or impacts of physical displacement or support for law enforcement (and therefore human rights and community health and safety) have been identified, and this will not be included in the ESIA plan unless new information comes to light.

Table 7: Key risks and impacts identified during the E&S screening to be considered in the ESIA.

Risk or impact	Summary	Project risk rating	Ngoyla-Lobéké	Bamboutous	Waza
E&S risks and impacts					
Indigenous Peoples, inc.FPIC	Ips in all three sites; FPIC process to be planned.	High	High	High	High
Vulnerable Groups	To be defined; risk of disproportionate adverse impacts	High	High	High	High
Gender equity	Rep in decision-making; access to benefits; risk of SEAH	Moderate	High	High	High
Access Restrictions	Existing restrictions; changes in land use practices	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Cultural Heritage	Sites require identification during proj.	Moderate	tbd	tbd	tbd
Community Health and Safety – exacerbation of existing conflicts	Arable-pastoral conflicts; council-community conflicts, documented in SE report	Moderate	tbd	tbd	tbd
Community Health and Safety – human wildlife conflict	Restoration within and outside PFA could exacerbate existing HWC	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate
Human Rights	Human rights violations, including due to law enforcement agents, rights to subsistence, procedural rights	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Low
Contextual risks	Legacy resettlement and economic displacement from PFAs; land and tree tenure; security.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Climate change – project design	Project activities do not consider CC/ not climate resilient; CVCA assessed this	Low	Low	Low	Low
Biodiversity and sustainable use	Introduction of alien spp; promotion of NTFP use.	Low	Low	Low	Low
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	No examples identified	Na	Na	Na	Na
Labour and Working Conditions	Working conditions for project workers, inc. community volunteers; security risks at Waza and Bamboutous site; avoidance of damaging forms of labour, child labour in supply chains promoted	Low	tbd	tbd	tbd
Safeguard provisions					

Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Management	Identification of local stakeholder groups, local partners, design project GM; consider between the IPs (Baka/Bantu, Mbororo); local communities and MINFOF; within communities and between communities.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

5.1.2.4. Completion of the socioeconomic baseline

During the ESIA fieldwork, some residual gaps in the socioeconomic baseline were also planned to be completed. While some baseline data collection can be included in the project implementation phase, a gender analysis, identification of vulnerable groups, and maps of settlements of indigenous peoples are required as a basis for impact assessment. These activities were planned to run in parallel with the impact assessment activities.

5.1.2.5. ESIA aims and objectives

The aim of the ESIA was to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts that the project could be linked to, contribute to, or even cause, and to develop a strategy for managing risks and impacts which has benefited from stakeholder, particularly project affected peoples (PAPs), inputs. The specific objectives of the ESIA were to:

1. Provide a brief and interactive training on the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) to the project proponent, IUCN country personnel, and consultants on the field team, covering ESMS principles, processes, results of the ESMS screening, and in-field assessment approach and methodology
2. To better understand, and where possible, inform, the design of the project, including contributing to further refinements in the project concept from a safeguards perspective, including defining the project area, stakeholders, potentially affected communities and groups, and understanding the social and environmental context of the project
3. To consult with local stakeholders, particularly project affected peoples, indigenous peoples, vulnerable groups and women, to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts outlined in Table 7 above, and to develop measures (following the mitigation hierarchy) to mitigate these risks and impacts
4. To develop safeguard plans based on these field findings, including an overall ESMP, a GAP, a GM, and IPPF, and either a CEPF or PF, depending on the field results.

5.1.2.6. ESIA approach

The ESIA was designed to be commensurate with the risks and impacts, and in line with the Principles for Social Impact Assessment (Vanclay 2003). Considering that the specifics of the project activities are to be decided during the project implementation, the ESIA will look to understand contextual risks, and risks and impacts related to similar interventions in the project landscape. As the feasibility assessment in 2022 included substantial stakeholder engagement with government Ministries, and both decentralised and deconcentrated government administrations at each landscape, the focus of the ESIA was based on consulting directly with project affected peoples, and in particular with indigenous peoples, vulnerable groups and women, due to the identified potential risks and impacts of the project.

5.1.2.7. ESIA methodology

The ESIA methodology was based on TLLG's ESIA methodology, which has been developed in alignment with best practice for ESIA (eg. IAIA) and IUCN's guidance on ESIA. Within this methodology,

TLLG has developed impact assessment protocols (IAPs) for each key risk or impact area (eg. access restrictions, FPIC, etc). For each of these risk/impact areas, the IAP considers four key aspects:

- Context
- Compliance
- Risk significance
- Mitigation measures

The typical topics and questions from each IAP are being tailored to the project context, and topics and questions are then included in the methods for each stakeholder (eg. interviews, focus group discussions etc).

Considering that the feasibility assessment has been completed, and taking into account the experience of the Project Proponent in working in the project landscapes, the focus of the assessment was focused on filling gaps in information related to risk significance, and most importantly, developing a suitable risk management strategy.

Risk significance included the likelihood of a risk or impact occurring, and the consequence of that impact, as illustrated in Table 8. Consequence is composed of severity, scale, degree of reversibility, and sensitivity of receptors, with more details on the risk and impact framework provided in this final ESIA report.

Table 8 : Risk and impact significance matrix

		Likelihood of occurrence				
		Very unlikely to occur (1)	*Low likelihood (2)*	*Moderately likely– could occur (3)*	*Known to occur - almost certain (4)*	*Common occurrence (5)*
Impact	*Severe (5)*	Substantial	Moderate	High	High	High
	Major (4)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Medium (3)	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Minor (2)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Considering the vast extent of the landscapes under consideration, particularly the Ngoyla-Lobéké landscape, the ESIA used a sampling strategy, described in more detail in Section 5.4 below. The sampling strategy enabled the field team to work with some stakeholders on a landscape/site level, and some stakeholders on a village level, and to develop case study village profiles that provide relevant detail and solutions for the project's safeguard plans.

A standard list of stakeholders consulted is included in Annex 5,. Note that for the community stakeholders, these categories apply equally to indigenous peoples as to local communities, and where indigenous communities are included in the ESIA, this targeting of stakeholders within the community should be considered.

5.1.3. Sampling strategy

The sampling strategy accounted for:

- selection of site-level stakeholders;
- selection of case study villages;
- and selection of community stakeholders within those villages.

Site-level stakeholders
The sampling strategy accounts for selection of stakeholders on the level of a site/landscape, in order to engage with relevant stakeholders with an understanding of the overall site, or who represent particular social, economic or cultural groups within that landscape. As above, the focus of these

meetings were stakeholders who have not been engaged during the feasibility assessment, and particularly those with insights into the risks and impacts identified.

In particular:

- In relation to gender:
  - local civil society organizations working on gender issues;
  - women's groups;
  - gender experts.
- In relation to indigenous peoples:
  - Indigenous peoples' organisations, associations or customary authorities that operate at a landscape/ site level;
  - Civil society organisations working on indigenous peoples issues;
  - Indigenous peoples experts.
- In relation to vulnerable groups:
  - Any organisations or experts working with particularly vulnerable groups (who stand to be affected by the project).

These meetings helped us to identify key issues on a site level, and identify opportunities to empower women, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups to support project success and sustainability. These meetings ensure that even though the ESIA sampled only a handful of villages within the project site, a broad perspective of the issues and solutions can be provided on a site/ landscape level. Furthermore, these meetings can identify potential partners and collaborators for the project implementation.

The potential stakeholders were finalised during the ESMS training (13-14 May 2022),.

Selection of villages

The selection of villages within each site took into account the following selection criteria:

- **Criteria 1**: Villages that are located within the planned project intervention area, and are very likely to be included in the project implementation;
- **Criteria 2:** The dependence of the villages on the PFA areas, splitting villages into two categories:
  - Villages that are dependent and use PFAs (ie. rely on natural resource use within PFAs) whose access might therefore be restricted involuntarily based on the selected restoration options within the PFA (eg. protection); these villages are to be included to understand the use, the conflict, and what can be done as a negotiated solution (following FPIC). These villages are probably located very close to PAs, and should be known to the PA authorities. – eg. 1-2 villages/ site.
  - Villages that use land and resources 100% outside of PFAs, ie. are not reliant on PAs, where the process ROAM would be voluntary. – eg. 1-2 villages/ site.
- **Criteria 3**: Villages with indigenous peoples representing at least 50% of the sample of villages (eg. 2 villages of 4 in a landscape).
- Additional criteria: Villages that are known to have some of the identified risk and impacts , ie. ensuring coverage of these risks and impacts within the landscape.

The villages selected were finalised during the workshop are shown in Table 9 below.

Table 9 : Village selection for the three sites

Sites	Village	Rational	Other comments
Dja-Lobéké	1. Mimbo-Mimbo	- Presence of Baka community; - Communities with use inside and outside the PFA;	
	2. Mikel	- Women discrimination - Abondance of NTFP	

		- Presence of Baka community;	
	3. Yenga	- Women right abuses - Presence of Indigenous people	
Bamboutos	1. Mbororo Bangang	- Presence of Mbororo; - Dependance on the protected areas - Human wildlife conflicts	
	2. Mbororo balatchi	- Presence of Indigenous people - Dependance on the protected area - Human wildlife conflicts	
	3. Femock	-	
Waza	1. Diguina	- Located within the project area - Very proximity to the NPW - Firewood	- Indigenous peoples settlements (Bororo) - Dependence on park resources
	2.Djeguere	- Located within the project area - Very proximity to the NPW - Carbonization activity	- Human wildlife conflicts - Dependence on park resources
	3. Lougouma	- Located within the project area - Very proximity to the NPW - Carbonization activity	- Human wildlife conflicts - Dependence on park resources
	4. Waza	- Located within the project area - Very proximity to the NPW	- Dependence on park resources - Human wildlife conflicts

Selection of community stakeholders in each village

These included:

- Community leadership – indigenous peoples
- Natural resource users – men – indigenous peoples
- Natural resource users – women – indigenous peoples
- Vulnerable groups – indigenous peoples
- Community leadership – local communities
- Natural resource users – men – local communities
- Natural resource users – women – local communities
- Vulnerable groups – local communities

The key principles for the meetings within the selected villages are:

- there are separate meeting with men and women in each village;
- there are separate meetings with indigenous peoples; 50% of ESIA effort or more is dedicated to consultations with indigenous peoples;

- meetings account for location, availability, time of day, and where people are most at ease; see the National FPIC guidelines for more guidance;
- meetings are organised well in advance (see National FPIC guidelines);
- clear criteria for participation are provided (or if it is an open community meeting, this is also communicated); this includes for example targeting of particular natural resource users groups, for example pastoralists, NTFP collectors, rather than assuming that everyone in the meeting can represent these diverse activities.

More guidance on the methods was provided in the training alongside field protocols. At the end of every day there was a de-brief and planning session with the whole team.

The following methods was used during the ESIA:

- Desk-based review (underway)
- Project proponent meetings (remote; and in person0
- Key informant interviews (semi-structured, informal)
- Focus group discussions
- Direct observations

More details on these methods, and the specific topics and questions, is provided in the KoBotoolbox survey.

5.1.4. Field team

There were two field teams. Two teams went to site 1, and then the teams were split for the remaining two sites. For each of the 2 teams someone focusing on gender; and one IP team member as well; (ie. an IP expert; a gender expert; E&S expert, per team).

5.1.5. Community mobilisation

FOKABs was responsible for the community mobilisation and organising all of the consultations, in line with national FPIC guidelines. These meetings were organised by a local facilitator (gate keeper or community leader to help mobilise communities and identify key informants), building on relationships established with the community/leaders/local facilitators during the first field visit in Jan-Feb 2022.

5.1.6. Data collection, entry, and analysis

Data collection was based on the agreed methods and stakeholders per site, and used the survey forms (which are largely qualitative, open-ended questions/topics) developed by TLLG with FOKABs.

These forms suggested topics and questions to be discussed with each stakeholder and can be adapted for interviews or focus group discussions. The forms were designed in KoBotoolbox, and the topics and questions included all generated information that is required for the ESIA report, and the safeguard plans, based on the templates provided to IUCN and FOKABs previously.

Data collection was paper-based, using these forms as a template, and data entry was conducted when a computer was available. Data entry followed the same structure of the survey form, and data was uploaded to KoBotoolbox automatically when the device was online.

Data outputs from KoBotoolbox was organised by risk/impact issue, stakeholder, or question, and allows for multiple responses to the same topic to be analysed alongside. The data output is an excel file (with text responses). The information can then be cleaned and verified.

5.1.7. Write up

When the data output was produced from KoBotoolbox, information was e analysed and summarised for the ESIA reports and safeguard plans. This does require an awareness of why certain information is important, and where to write it up. Considering the limited timeframe to develop the ESIA report and safeguard plans, and the limited TLLG time on the project, responsibilities for analysis and write up was carefully defined.

5.1.8. ESIA training

There was a two-day ESIA training. The training agenda was drafted and is included in Annex 2. This was updated once the sampling and methodology was finalised.

Training included site description, risks/impacts identified; safeguard plans/instruments; data collection tools and approaches; team organisation; travel plans; field data management and report writing; discuss outlines for different deliverables (safeguard plans) and linkage to data collected.

Seven people participated in the training, including seven people (E&S, gender and IPs), one from TLLG, and six from FOKABs.

5.1.9. Ethics

Respondents were promised full anonymity regarding their identity.

5.2. Identification and assessment of risks and impacts – fieldwork findings

5.2.1. Overview

The table below (table 10) provides an overview of the ESIA fieldwork results from the three project sites. The fieldwork was orientated by the results from the E&S screening (**Annex 1**, ESMS questionnaire). The E&S screening identified a high risk related to Indigenous Peoples, and a high risk of affecting vulnerable groups (**Annex 1**). The E&S screening also identified six moderate risk issues, and rated the project as a moderate risk project, as listed in Table 10 below. However, through the fieldwork and collection of primary data, the risk ratings were updated, with some risks remaining the same, some being reduced, and some increased, as illustrated in Table 10. Only one high risk issue remained related to Indigenous Peoples, and principally that Indigenous Peoples could stand to be excluded from the project benefits due to the nature of the socioeconomic context and the project activities themselves. This issue is exacerbated by the limited representation of Indigenous Peoples in formal natural resource management committees and forums, or the project governance structure.

During the fieldwork, a number of moderate risk issues were also identified, including the risk of access restrictions, adverse gender impacts, community health and safety (due to potential to exacerbate existing social conflicts), and legacy issues in the landscapes in terms of historic physical and economic displacement, and land tenure conflicts. Finally, in terms of safeguard provisions, there was a risk that the project does not implement a meaningful stakeholder engagement process or seek FPIC, partly due to the scale of the project landscapes, requiring careful planning.

The full results are provided in **Annexes 2-4**.

Table 10. Summary results of the ESIA field work

Risk or impact	Summary (ESIA results)	Initial E&S screening (pre-fieldwork)	Project risk rating (overall)	Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké	Bamboutous	Waza
	E&S risks and impacts					
Access Restrictions	Moderate risk that the project reinforces existing access restrictions in some forest areas or introduce changes in land use practices that modify access regimes. Specifically: **Bamboutous** Mbororo women voiced concerns over access to streams and watersheds due to project-supported restoration activities (tree planting, hedgerows, and fences). Mbororo men voiced concerns over loss of access to grazing land for the same reasons. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** De jure access now permitted to Baka to all Protected Areas. There are de facto access restrictions to Baka due to fear and concerns over reprisal from the authorities (Ecoguards in particular) of entering Protected Areas. Bantu population prohibited to access Protected Areas. For both the Baka and Bantu there are no project-supported access restrictions or restoration activities that will reinforce existing restrictions or introduce new restrictions. Council forests have natural resource quotas and licensing in place, with some issues of operationalising the system, but no project supported restrictions. **Waza:** Some communities live within Protected Areas, dependent upon natural resources within the Protected Area. Potential further restrictions related to grazing, fodder, and other NTFPs, and fishing activities.	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium impact. Moderate risk
Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous Peoples are found in all three sites including Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké, Bamboutos Highlands, and Waza. In the Bamboutous Highlands and Waza, Indigenous Peoples are the Mbororo pastoralists, and in the Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké landscape, Indigenous Peoples are the Baka hunter-gatherers. In Waza, the Mbororo are integrated into local communities and do not live in separate settlements as is the case in the Bamboutouts Highlands. The key issue identified was if Indigenous Communities will benefit from the project, due to constraints to engaging in and benefiting from restoration activities and proposed market/ livelihood activities. There was concern that project activities (restoration and livelihood) will not benefit from substantial input from IPs themselves, partly due to the additional efforts required by the project to work with IP communities, rendering activities ineffective. Key questions to be considered include: **1) Bamboutos**: concern over how Mbororo women will access project benefits when they are not involved in land/ natural resource management, and potential	High risk	High risk	Known to occur; major High risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk

	for exclusion from the project-supported market/livelihood interventions if women are not directly involved in natural resource management; concern over how male pastoralists will benefit from planned restoration activities, when interest is in improving fodder and grazing; 2) **Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké** landscape there were questions as to how restoration activities, eg. shade cocoa, will benefit the Baka, who do not have land for agriculture; and if the market and NTFP interventions are going to benefit the Baka; and if the project approach is suitably adapted. No direct consultations with solely Mbororo were held in Waza. Furthermore, there is a risk of IPs not fully participating in Project activities due to lack of representation. For example, in the Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké area, most IPs do not have National Identification Documents (NID) and in all sites IPs are not very involved in village institutions in-charge of forest management.					
Cultural Heritage	The potential for impacts on cultural heritage requires site-level identification during the project implementation. ESIA findings indicate that: 1) **Bamboutous** Several sacred sites for rituals and cultural activities exist around homegardens, agroforestry farmlands and across the entire landscape, from one village to the next, and to be fully mapped out during ROAM 2. Initial indication is that there is a strong alignment between restoration / conservation activities of the project and the cultural heritage sites. 2) **Ngoyla-Lobeke** Several sacred sites for rituals and cultural activities (notably the jengi rituals of the Baka IPs) exist within the PFAs and forest areas adjacent; there appears to be alignment between the project design and cultural heritage sites; 3) **Waza:** Several cultural activities exist. To be fully mapped out during implementation.	Moderate risk	Low risk	Known to occur; low impact Low risk	Known to occur; low impact Low risk	Not known to occur; low impact Low risk
Biodiversity and sustainable use	There is a potential risk of overuse/ unsustainable use through the Project's promotion of NTFP use through the market/value chain/livelihood activities promoted as part of the project. Project interventions aim to focus on sustainable management of NTFPs from collection to commercialization, but the potential for overuse remains. **In all sites:** High reliance of wood and trees as source of household cooking energy, causing forest and land degradation. Very strong reliance on NTFPs collection and commercialization for livelihoods. Potential for the introduction of alien species was quite limited. Some of the species included Bocassa; Latana;"L'herbeepineu";and Susongo. Potential for species such as Eucalyptus to affect water dynamics and flows.. Emphasis was on the use of improved varieties of plant species.	Low risk	Low risk	Low likelihood; low impact Low risk	Low likelihood; low impact Low risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk
Vulnerable Groups	Vulnerable groups identified in all three sites included handicapped people, elderly people, widows, and internally displaced people. Project activities were not perceived as affecting their daily lives or discriminating against these groups. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: vulnerable groups were mainly handicapped, elderly people, widows and internally displaced people. Project activities are generally perceived not to interfere with their daily activities. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** The vulnerable groups were mainly the handicap people, elderly people and widows. Project is perceived to help vulnerable groups increase their adaptive	High risk	Low risk	Low likelihood to occur; Low impact Low risk	Low likelihood to occur; Low impact Low risk	Low likelihood to occur; Low impact Low risk

	capacities directly through their involvement or indirectly through the involvement of the relatives whom they depend on. **Waza** The vulnerable groups were mainly the handicaps, elderly people and widows. There will be little or no project interference with current livelihood activities.					
Adverse gender impacts	Key issues were related to limited representation in decision making, access to benefits, and may be sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH). Moderate risk that the project reinforces or even exacerbates women's limited role in formal natural resource use decision making and excludes women from project activities/ benefits related to both restoration activities and the market/value chain/ livelihood activities. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: Women have minor presence in community / village decision making bodies and their contributions or views are not often considered. Women have access to land through their husbands or father. SEAH is very uncommon. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** Women have minor presence in community / village decision making bodies and their contributions or views are not often considered. In general, women have access to land, but not ownership. SEAH is very uncommon. **Waza:** As per the culture, men are the heads of the family and take the decisions on behalf of women. Women have access to land but cannot sell land or build on it. SEAH is very uncommon.	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium impact Moderate risk
Community Health and Safety – exacerbation of existing conflicts	Moderate risk of the project exacerbating existing stakeholder conflicts, particularly arable-pastoral conflicts (Bamboutous, Waza), council-community conflicts (eg. Ngoyla-Lobeke), as documented in the ESIA report. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: Conflicts between farmers and herders due to access to and use of grazing land and water for livestock and access to freshwater. Conflict due to the setting of bush fires by livestock owners to regenerate fodder grass. **Ngoyla-Lobeke**: Conflict is common between communities and their respective councils regarding exploitation of forest resources, mainly around logging interests. **Waza**: Several recurrent community conflicts: First type is due to the use of natural resources within the PFAs by farmers and livestock owners especially access to drying water points, and tree fodders. Second conflict is between the local fishing Mousgoun community and Arab Choa livestock owners who are in search of productive grazing land.	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk
Community Health and Safety – human wildlife conflict	Restoration within and outside PFA could exacerbate existing human wildlife conflict. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: no human wildlife conflict identified; **Ngoyla-Lobeke**: Very common between communities and wildlife such as monkey's, Gorillas, and elephants in search for water to drink especially during harvesting seasons; **Waza:** First, shortage of water in PFAs, exacerbated by climate change especially during the dry season forces wildlife such as elephants, and lions to go search for water beyond the park or protected area, causing conflict with local population. Second conflict is related to the movement of the population in Protected Areas in search of fish and other NTFPs such as gum arabic.	Moderate risk	Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Moderate risk	Very unlikely to occur; negligible Low risk	Known to occur; medium moderate risk

Human Rights	Human rights violations, including physical abuses of community members due to law enforcement agents, are possible in the Ngoyla-Lobeke site (and have occurred in the recent past), but the project is not supporting law enforcement activities (and therefore noted as low risk). The is a low likelihood of impacts on peoples right to land and natural resources, to cultural survival, and adequate standard of living, due to access restrictions explained above. There is a risk of undermining peoples procedural rights (decision-making in relation to land and natural resources), also covered above. No human rights violations by potential project partners were identified in Bamboutous or Waza. However, there are known and documented human rights violations of Baka in the Ngoyla-Lobeke landscape due to law enforcement agents working for MINFOF.	Moderate risk	Low risk	Known to occur; low Low risk	Not known to occur; negligible Low risk	Not known to occur; negligible Low risk
Legacy and contextual risks	Legacy resettlement and economic displacement from PFAs; issues with land and tree tenure; security risks.	Not included in the original E&S screening	Moderate risk	Known to occur; medium Low risk	Known to occur; medium Low risk	Known to occur; medium Low risk
Climate change – project design	There is a low risk that project activities do not consider climate change. **Bamboutous** Events related to climate and rainfall variability, changing unpredictable agricultural calendar, water shortage in the aquifers and watershed, increasing temperature and increasing forest/land degradation. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** Water shortages in the aquifers and increasing forest degradation. Project activities consider CC, climate resilience and CVCA. **Waza** Events related to drought, low precipitation, high temperatures and forest/land degradation are common. Project activities consider CC, climate resilience and CVCA.	Moderate risk	Low risk	Known to occur; minor impact Low risk	Could occur; minor impact Low risk	Could occur; minor impact Low risk
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	No risks identified.	Low risk	No risks identified			
Labour and Working Conditions	Working conditions for project workers, inc. community volunteers; security risks at Waza and Bamboutous site; avoidance of damaging forms of labour, child labour in supply chains promoted. Overall estimated to be low risk. Occupational	Low risk	Low risk	Very unlikely; negligible	Very unlikely; negligible	Very unlikely; negligible

	health and safety (OHS) risks are mostly linked to both project employees, and project executing partners. The OHS is deemed to be low as IUCN will be engaging sub-contractors for specific activities and building on IUCN's several years of experience working in similar remote conditions. The sub-contractors and other stakeholders/ community members will be working in remote conditions, challenging terrain and difficult environments (the risk of HWC is deemed very low). To manage risks, measures have been incorporated into the **ESMP** and in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.			Low risk	Low risk	Low risk
	Safeguard provisions					
Stakeholder Engagement, FPIC and Grievance Management	Risk of non-identification of stakeholder groups, local partners, and poor design of a project Grievance Mechanism which takes into consideration issues of access between the IPs (Baka, Mbororo); local communities and MINFOF. Out of Cameroon's 10 step FPIC, the steps 1 to 5 are pre project (design) while steps 6 to 10 happen during project implementation**.** **All sites:** All categories of stakeholders have been identified and engaged through two national and two field consultations, following Cameroon's FPIC guidelines; local mechanisms exist and sort to reach a consensus beyond which the gendarmerie, sub/divisional officer or the court is involved. Project Grievance Mechanism design will build on existing mechanisms. However, the coverage of local communities has been limited, so the FPIC process will have to start from Step 1 in some villages/ Districts. i.e. while most stakeholder categories have been involved, this is not the same as community engagement or FPIC, due to the limited sample. The unit of analysis for community engagement and FPIC will be the village, and so it is important to recognise that in most sites the project will be starting from scratch, despite the good studies that have been conducted to date.	Stakeholder engagement rated as 'not sufficient' during E&S screening.	Moderate risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk	Could occur; medium impact Moderate risk

6. Analysis of Alternatives

Typically an ESIA includes an analysis of alternatives to identify other options to achieve the project objectives and compare impacts, including the alternative of not implementing the project. This analysis systematically compares feasible, less-adverse alternatives to the proposed project site, technology, design, and operation—including the "without project" situation—in terms of their potential environmental impacts; the feasibility of mitigating these impacts; estimates on cost implications (capital and recurrent costs); their suitability under local conditions; and their institutional, training, and monitoring requirements. The purpose of the analysis of alternatives is to identify other options, including not implementing the project, to achieve the project objectives and compare their impacts with the original proposal.

Typically, an analysis of alternatives is conducted for high-risk projects where the identified impacts are very significant. In this project, as the project will implement a site and District level ROAM methodology, which includes understanding existing land use practices, assessing costs and benefits of different restoration options, and substantial stakeholder engagement, the analysis of alternatives was not deemed necessary during the ESIA. The safeguards-enhanced ROAM plan, one of the project's safeguard plans, includes details on how the ROAM will be implemented, leaving ample opportunity for avoiding risks and impacts should they be identified on a site or district level.

7. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Through the ESIA process, an ESMP has been developed with a set of measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts and provisions to assure their effectiveness. Please refer to the ESMP, and the associated safeguard plans for more information.

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Annex

Annex 1: ESMS Questionnaire and Preliminary Screening Report

Brief summary of the main findings: main risk issues, their significance and justification of the overall project risk categorization; assessments and measures / plans to address risks and to meet provisions of the ESMS Standards and timing of each	In December 2020, the GCF approved a Project Preparation Facility (PPF) from the Government of Cameroon and IUCN to prepare the project "*Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon*". The overarching goal of this project is to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions due to deforestation and forest degradation and better promotion of their natural productivity as stated in the Forest Investment Plan. The project will use a landscape approach to promote and transform Cameroon's REDD+ payment mechanisms in sustainably managed Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) and supporting governance systems outside permanent forests. It is expected that this will catalyse and influence private sector investments in private concessions, communities and buffer zones outside PFA since this will generate economic and socio-cultural benefits and incentives for private sector, communities and government to protect and sustainably manage PFAs. The overall goal is to mitigate climate change by sequestrating 9.14 million tons CO2 equivalent and enhance the resilience of 500,000 people living around PFAs. The project will conduct activities both within and outside PFAs. The environmental impacts of the project activities are anticipated to be highly positive as described in the project proposal. In terms of social impacts, the overall theory of change is that the project will have beneficial impacts as it aims to improve land management practices in and around Permanent Forest Areas and includes a major component on market chain development and livelihood support. The project also adopts the ROAM methodology, which is designed to be participatory and inclusive. **E&S risks and impacts** The introduction of new practices and measures of land and forest management can reinforce or even exacerbate unequal gender relations and negatively affect vulnerable individuals or groups. There is a risk that the project leads to disproportionate impacts (eg. access restrictions) on women and vulnerable groups, and that these groups are not effectively engaged or involved in decision-making, meaning that they are unable to access project benefits, or project benefits are inappropriate for their needs. While the project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment, the assessment focuses on the vulnerability of natural ecosystems, rather than social vulnerability per se. There is limited information available on a site by site basis on the characteristics of vulnerability, or prevailing gender norms and issues which could interact with the project activities. The project's socioeconomic baseline would need to explore these aspects to better understand the potential risks, including completion of a gender analysis. The project operates in sites where there are existing tensions between upholding people's human rights and the management of Permanent Forest Areas. For example, in the southeast, access restrictions continue to affect the Baka (indigenous peoples), in terms of their access to customary forest areas and natural resources. In other sites, there could be issues related to land rights and customary user rights. There are documented human rights allegations in the southeast in relation to law enforcement,

	although it is noted that this project will not support law enforcement directly or indirectly, including no contribution to Protected Area operational budgets. In relation to Community Health and Safety, there are contextual risks include a) security issues at two sites, and b) pre-identified conflicts over forest and water resources, between arable and pastoral farmers, which could be exacerbated in any land use planning and change. The project is not providing technical or financial support to law enforcement, but would be linked to (not contributing to) any human rights violations by law enforcement agents working for the executing entity. Project risks related to labour, resource efficiency, biodiversity and sustainable use, were all estimated to be low. The project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment, and is focused on climate adaptation and mitigation, and this risk is integrated into project design. Further information from the project's socioeconomic baseline assessment is required to understand the potential risks and impacts better. This should be part of the ESIA. Assessment should aim to understand how vulnerable groups and women will be represented in the project's engagement and activity design, and ensure that engagement methods will be suitable. Assessment will aim to understand the potential impacts on vulnerable groups and women at each site. Assessment will aim to understand the nature of existing conflicts and potential to exacerbate these conflicts, and strategies required. **Main conclusions**: The project will require a Gender Action Plan, will need to identify and work with vulnerable groups as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and project design will have to include a participatory methodology for deciding on restoration activities within and outside of PFAs as part of the project's approach. **Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions** The project will be providing technical support for the establishment and improvement of management plans in PFAs, and the specific climate adaptation and mitigation activities to be integrated in the PFA management plans are to be decided during the project. The specific restoration activities outside of PFAs are still to be decided (the ROAM report was not available at time of screening), and in one landscape the establishment of a Protected Area (Bamboutous Mountains Extension) could be considered and supported by the project. This being the case, the gaps and risks are unclear and require further assessment. Assessment will look to better understand the existing access restrictions and impacts at project sites, the potential restrictions related to restoration activities within and adjacent to sites, and the degree to which the proposed market and value chain work will offset any impacts of access restrictions for project affected people, particularly women and vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples. It is not clear what safeguard plans are required. Typically, a Process Framework would be required for Protected Areas, but considering the project's focus on restoration, and the project approach, it could be feasible to integrate safeguard requirements into the ROAM methodology, so when ROAM is applied on a site by site basis, the components of a Process Framework are applied systematically. This will be decided during the ESIA.

	Standard on Indigenous Peoples The Standard is triggered due to the presence of either the Mbororo or Baka hunter–gatherer communities in all three landscapes. There is a need for socioeconomic baseline information on the indigenous communities in all sites, including settlement and movement patterns and livelihoods and rights conditions. There is need for consultation with legitimate representatives of these groups both during the ESIA, to validate willingness to participate in the project (not consent to the project activities, but willingness to work with the Executing Agency on the types of activities included in the project proposal). There is a need for closer examination of potential risks and impacts and solutions and strategies the project might adopt, as a basis for the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) (including the establishment of a process of consultation and protocols to be agreed by indigenous peoples' representatives) to be developed during the ESIA. **Standard on Cultural Heritage** The Standard is triggered, as there is a risk that the project affects access to cultural resources, for example in case the project involves enforcing access restrictions in PFAs, or establishing a new PA, and modifying land use and access in areas adjacent to PFAs. Furthermore, ecotourism activities could have an adverse impact on the intangible cultural heritage of local and in particular of indigenous communities (e.g. their values, norms etc.). The assessment of access restrictions above, should therefore include assessment of cultural heritage risks, and also include assessment of potential for impacts of ecotourism. **Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources** The project's impact on biodiversity is expected to be highly positive as demonstrated above. The only minor concern relates to the risk that the development of the NTFP value chain might lead to unsustainable harvest rates. This risk will need to be managed through adequate control/monitoring system. This will be established in the project's ESMP. **Safeguard provisions** While the latest round of fieldwork in Cameroon (the feasibility study) included a number of field consultations, including separate meetings with men and women, and a clear strategy for sampling sites, it has become clear that the nature of the project will require more comprehensive stakeholder engagement to identify vulnerable groups, conduct gender analyses, and ensure meaningful consultation with all affected stakeholders around the PFAs. A methodology for this consultation is should be built into the project design.

Annex 1: ESMS Questionnaire – *This is the preliminary risk screening on which the ESIA was based. The full ESMS Screening report is attached as an Annex with the ESMP.*

Project summary

To be completed by project proponent *Please summarise the project briefly using no more than one page. The summary can be in form of bullet points. Include goal/objectives, expected results/outcomes, outputs (project deliverables) and in particular the project's main activities. Please also describe the project sites and the project area of influence*[6].
The rate of deforestation and forest degradation in Cameroon is remains extremely high. It is reported that Cameroon lost about 752,000 ha of forest between 2001 and 2015, which represents an average rate of deforestation of 0.16% per year over 15 years equivalent to 163,500,000 tonnes of carbon. Indeed, this is one of the highest rates in the Central African region (the average rate in Central Africa being estimated at 0.16%). It is important to underscore that this rate has increased significantly over the past year (from 0.03% to 0.08 and 0.06 to 0.07% respectively between 2001 to 2015. Furthermore, projections highlight that this rate and trends may double by 2028 and triple by 2035 (Hansen et al., 2013). With regards to forest degradation, it has been reported that about 75 per cent of the forest in Cameroon has been subjected to exploitation and is degraded. The government of Camerron has taken a series of fundamental steps to conserve and protect forest ecosystems in the country. For example, about 12.6 million ha of permanent forests which is about 26.5% of national territory have been classified. However. about 19.5 million tons of carbon are released each year from permanent forests due to deforestation and forest degradation. The root causes of this deforestation and forest degradation in permanent forest areas (PFAs) in Cameroon are the incessant encroachments and illegal activities carried out by land users including mining, wood exploitation for energy, development of infrastructure like roads, dams, deep-sea ports, agro-industries and other extractive groups. Most conversion of PFAs to other land uses in recent years has been driven by rapid expansion of agro-industrial plantations especially palm oil, mining, extraction of timber resources for commercial purposes and wood energy. Agricultural expansion into PFAs for the cultivation food crops (like maize, Millet / Sorghum, banana etc.) as well as cash crops like cocoa, cotton, and rubber is also endemic in Cameroon.

[6] The project area of influence is the area likely to be affected (positively or negatively) 1) by direct impacts from project activities and 2) by indirect project impacts (see definition in the 3 footnotes hereinafter.

Assessment of social or environmental impacts

Please consider not only direct environmental and social impacts but also potential indirect impacts such as induced[7], cumulative[8] impacts as well as impacts of associated facilities[9]			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question and describe how the project will **assess, avoid or manage the identified risks***	*Comments, additional considerations*
B1: Adverse gender-related impacts (including gender-based violence)[10]			
Is there a risk that the project may **discriminate** against women or other groups **based on gender** with regards to access to resources, services, or benefits provided by the project? *Note that equality in the process of designing the project is discussed in section D*.	Yes	The project will avoid the production of agricultural products, as well as the harvesting of NTFPs that women are not allowed to produce or harvest in the Bamboutos region	Yes, there is a risk that the project discriminates based on gender, in a) the planning of any access restrictions in areas inside or outside PFAs, particularly affecting women and women's resources; b) in the selection of activities and benefits from the project (eg. the livelihood activities). This risk exists in all 3 sites. It is understood from this response that in the Bamboutos region, where in some communities women cannot produce or sell agricultural products, or harvest NTFPs, the project livelihood strategy will have to be adapted to fit with the prevailing gender norms. Simply not doing a project activity (the project component 4 refers to NTFPs value chains and climate smart agriculture) does not manage the risk, particularly if

[7] **Induced impacts** refer to impacts on areas and communities from unplanned but predictable developments induced/enabled by the project (incl. impacts that might occur later or in different locations). Example: Equipment intended for species monitoring (camera traps) could be used for law enforcement actions.

[8] **Cumulative impact** means the collective impact of a project's impact added to the impacts of other relevant past, present and reasonably foreseeable future developments. Example: Investments in tourism development by the Government leads to substantial increase in number of tourists that frequent a site and turns a project-funded PA access road into a major cause for disturbance for wildlife.

[9] **Associated facility or activities** means a facility or activity not funded as part of the project but which is necessary for the financial and/or operational viability of the project, and would not have been constructed or expanded if the project did not exist. Example: a visitor centre built by the project might require an access road as associated facility – the construction of which might trigger environmental impacts.

[10] IUCN defines Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as any harm or potential of harm perpetrated against an individual or group on the basis of gender. GBV has many expressions, including physical, sexual, psychological and economic, which can be underpinned by legal, social and institutional norms and systems. Examples include but are not limited to: physical assault; sexual violence including sexual exploitation / abuse, forced prostitution and rape; domestic violence; trafficking; early/ forced marriage; female genital mutilation; honour killings; property grabbing; and widow disinheritance.

			livelihood activities are designed to offset restrictions.
Is there a risk that project activities inadvertently **create, exacerbate or perpetuate gender-related inequalities** or have **adverse impacts** on the situation of women and girls?	No	The project will not create, exacerbate or perpetuate gender-related inequalities or have adverse impacts on the situation of women and girls.	No project activities yet identified to create or exacerbate gender-related inequalities, but there is potential to perpetuate existing inequalities in all projects working with local communities in all three sites.
Is there a risk that project activities affect or restrict women's ability to use, develop or protect **natural resources**, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	No	The project is designed to address inadequate participation and involvement of women, local and indigenous peoples and youths in forest restoration. Specific gender guidance is developed for the ROAM process. Capacity building under component 2 will focus in particular on women	Agreed that the project objectives and outcomes are designed to account for gender; this will require that the project gender strategy to be included in the Gender Action Plan. ROAM addresses some aspects of the project, and gender guidance in ROAM will be part of the GAP.
Is there a risk that the project might aggravate risks of **gender-based violence** (including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation or sexual abuse)? Is there a risk that persons employed or engaged by the project executing agency or through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project might engage gender-based violence? Have any such incidents been reported in the past in the context of the project (e.g. partner organization, in project sites etc.)?	May be	All IUCN staff working for the project abide to the IUCN Policy on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment.. The Executing partners will be screened on past incidents and by signing the partner contract with IUCN warrant that they have policies or procedures in place substantively equivalent to the IUCN policy. In addition, the Project procedures Manual will establish concrete actions for avoiding incidents such as communication and awareness raising and provide a mechanism for addressing incidents (including a special grievance mechanism).	Agreed. Partner DD or screening to be conducted prior to contracting.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on[11] Risk of perpetuating existing gender inequalities in relation to access to natural resources (within and outside of PFAs), local decision-making and involvement of women (eg. dependence on formal decision making structures when working with LCs and IPs). While this is known to occur in similar projects and programmes (likelihood 4), the impact is somewhere between minor (2) and medium (3).		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 4	Estimated impact (1-5): 3
B2: Risk of affecting vulnerable groups[12]			

[11] Please see guidance given above for estimating the **likelihood** of the event to occur and its **impact** (consequence) on the receptor. It is understood that there might still be a considerable degree of uncertainty at this stage of project preparation.

[12] Depending on the context **vulnerable groups** could be landless or elderly people, children, ethnic minorities, displaced people, people living in poverty, marginalised or discriminated individuals or groups, among others. Particular emphasis should be given to risks for persons with disabilities which are often overlooked.

Has the project site been assessed on the **presence** of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals (including persons with disabilities)? Are their livelihood conditions and needs sufficiently understood? Please name the groups; ensure that those referred to in the footnote were considered in the analysis.	Yes	Vulnerable groups here include the Baka in South-East Moist Forest Region and the MBororo people in the Soudano-Sahelian region. Their livelihood conditions and needs have been understood	In addition to Indigenous Peoples (covered below), identification of more vulnerable groups within Local Communities will be required. For example, the project Concept refers to "*The high levels of poverty, deforestation and land use patterns combine to make the people highly vulnerable to climate variability and extreme weather events. The poorest groups are most affected by climate change particularly women as they have limited resources and abilities to cope with disaster and climate change impacts*". Therefore lower-income groups within these communities are already recognised to be potentially more vulnerable. This should be accounted for in the a) identification of these groups (eg. a project working definition of vulnerability), b) engagement of these groups during the development of project activities.
Is there a likelihood that project **risks** and negative impacts fall disproportionately on disadvantaged or **vulnerable individuals** or groups? Consider impacts on material and on non-material livelihood conditions. Also consider changes in **land use** and/or **tenure arrangements** with a risk of disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including people coming from outside the project area such as internally displaced people.	Yes	In the village of YENGA, BATEKE, KIKA, MIKEL, MIMBOM-MIMBOM, NGATTO, NGOYLA VIL and ZOULABOT I in the South-east Moist Forest region, it was revealed that the wellbeing of IPs (the Baka people) have been threatened in the past by land or natural resource management initiatives.	Agreed on potential impacts on Baka in SE. More generally, in other sites, there needs to be a characterisation of the vulnerable groups, beyond solely referring to indigenous peoples. In some contexts those people who are most dependent upon illegal access to PAs are also the poorest/ most vulnerable groups, in other contexts the most resource dependent or landless groups can be most vulnerable. Certain livelihood activities are also often linked to vulnerability. The socioeconomic studies and secondary data will be helpful in this regard.

			Note that the ESMS questions refer to all sites under consideration, not only those that were visited during the feasibility study.
Is there a risk that the project might **discriminate** against vulnerable groups with regards to access to resources, services, or benefits provided by the project? *Note that inclusiveness and non-discrimination in the process of designing the project is discussed only in section D.*	Yes	In the YENGA village, NGOYLA and ZOULABOT I in the South-east Moist Forest area IPs (Baka people) have access to land, forest and forest resources. Their access to land, forest and forest resources might be restricted because the project is a conservation project and involves landscape restoration.	Also consider the other sites, and other vulnerable groups.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on Vulnerable groups exist in the project sites, and include both the identified Indigenous Peoples groups (Baka in SE, and Mbororo in the Bamboutous), plus other groups within local communities who are potentially more vulnerable due to lower income / higher poverty. Vulnerable groups needs to be better characterised for the project, and risks/impacts include disproportionate impacts of access restrictions from restoration inside and adjacent to PFA, non/low participation in decision-making forums, lack of access to project benefits.		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 4	Estimated impact (1-5): 4
B3: Risks of undermining human rights			
Could the project lead to **adverse impacts on the enjoyment of human rights** (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of individuals or groups through measures that **reduce the level or effectiveness of the protection of rights** by governments and agencies or that **weaken the respect of the rights** by other stakeholders (e.g replacement of customary authorities and institutions, weakening traditional systems of political representation, authority and decision-making and therefore the political rights of communities etc.)?	No	The project aims at strengthening local stakeholder's capacity and rights in the process of managing natural resources. It also aims at adressing basic needs (e.g. fuelwood, income etc.)	The project aims at empowering and protecting the rights women, men, vulnerable groups and IP. However, in the SE landscape, there are contentious access and rights issues between the Baka and the PFA authorities (eg. access to customary forest areas traditionally used by the Baka), representing a serious legacy in relation to Baka rights. Any work in this landscape has the potential to reinforce existing access-rights issues. In the Bamboutous, any modification in land tenure or formal status of land to allow for restoration activities could affect the Mbororos and other LCs customary rights.
Is there a risk that project activities affect individuals or groups in their ability to **fulfill economic and social rights**, i.e. the rights that guarantee the ability of people to meet their **basic needs** (e.g.	No	The project will instead improve the livelihood of people in the projects sites through the production and marketing of agricultural products and NTFPs	Agreed, although see response above.

health or education, drinking water, productive resources, sources of income, subsistence); consider restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to services or resources essential to meet the basic needs, in particular for vulnerable groups or individuals, including persons with disabilities?			
Is there a risk that project activities lead to a deterioration of **procedural rights**; consider project activities that lead to exclusion of individuals or groups from **participating in decisions** that may affect them (e.g. on natural resource management, land use etc.) or that affect their ability to **access information** that is important for their informed participation?	Yes	In the YENGA, BATEKE, KIKA, MIKEL, MIMBOM-MIMBOM, NGATTO, NGOYLA VIL and ZOULABOT I in the South-east Moist Forest region, respondents stated that the interest of IPs (that is the Baka) have not been considered in past land or natural resource management initiatives. This conclusion calls for an IP assessment and action plan	Yes, this is a risk. For example in the SE, Community Forest committees and other local institutions are not representative of Baka. In Bamboutous, the equivalent is possible. Note that in the Southeast there is an MoU signed between MINFOF and IPs although there are implementation issues. Thus, IP are involved but their level of involvement is generally not sufficient /low. Examples from other sites required.
Is there a risk that activities lead to **unjustified preferential treatment** of individuals or groups in terms of access to resources or services provided by the project; also consider elite capture that might lead to discrimination of vulnerable people, or formal or de facto restriction or exclusion of groups from access to such resources or services[13]?	No	After preliminary field work, it can be stated that there will not be unjustified preferential treatment of individuals or groups in terms of access to resources	There is potential for elite capture in many PAs in the selected sites. Plus the project has not yet identified vulnerable groups (other than IPs) meaning the risk of preferential treatment is already real world.
Is there a risks that project activities contribute to the **discrimination** on the grounds of ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographic origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority?	No	This is not likely given the project's consultative approach and the use of Stakeholder (SH) analysis approach	No further comments
Is there any history of **human rights conflict or injustice** in the project area/s, including evictions and failure to compensate people for their land and/or assets when the protected area was established[14] and is there a risk that the project might perpetuate or aggravate such situations?	No	There are conflicts over land use in some of the landscapes visited. However, there are no human rights conflicts.	Disagree. Severe human rights abuses in the SE landscape, documented in the Pillay report (here), and linked to proposed project partners. Past issues of resettlement and ongoing conflict in the SE.

[13] Examples for *de facto* restriction or exclusion are: information is not made available in appropriate languages, individuals with no/low income or without tenure rights (or registered titles) can't access services (e.g. agricultural extension services, persons with disabilities are confronted with physical barriers that block their access; certain groups are stigmatised by society and thus have no access services.

[14] In cases of past resettlement processes in the project area/s, the proponent should seek evidence that demonstrate that international good practice was adhered to and appropriate compensation provided.

			Requires clearer understanding of the landscapes facing land use conflicts (eg. Bamboutos) and the nature of conflicts; requires better understanding of the project activities and if these will further reinforce existing issues.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on Moderate. There are risks of reinforcing existing land use practices that undermine Indigenous Peoples customary rights (eg. SE), there are documented human rights violations in some sites (SE) that are not recognised by the project proponent despite national and international attention, and there is potential for procedural rights to be undermined if vulnerable groups and IPs are not systematically engaged through the project.		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 4
B4: Community health, safety and security			
Is there a risk of **increasing exposure of communities to security and safety risks**, in particular for vulnerable groups, through direct and indirect impacts when operating in areas of conflict or post-conflict (civil war, inter-ethnic conflict etc.) or areas affected by organized poaching, drug cultivation or trafficking, organized crime or trafficking in persons or illegal migration?	Yes	Some areas of the far North Region of Cameroon have been subject to the insurrection of boko haram; and the Bakossi area in the South west region of Cameroon with Anglophone crises. The situation in the far North is now relatively stable. All areas where conflicts are present will be avoided as project sites.	Additional issue to consider: The Waza site is found in the far North region. How will the Project avoid conflict areas/communities in the Waza area? The statement that "---all areas where----project sites", should be revisited since two project sites are found in conflict areas and although there is relative stability , the re-occurrence of conflicts is unpredictable.
Is there a potential risk that the project could inadvertently exacerbate **existing conflicts** or **generate conflicts** within or between communities including through weakening community institutions, disrupting social interactions or the risk of inadvertently escalating personal or communal conflicts and violence?	Yes	In Mora in the Soudano-sahelian region, it was revealed that there is conflict over land and other natural resources like forest and water. In addition, in the Tchédé village in the Soudano-sahalian region for example, there are often conflict that exist between fishermen and animal breeders over water and pastural areas. In the village of YENGA, BATEKE, KIKA, MIKEL, MIMBOM MIMBOM, NGATTO, NGOYLA and ZOULABOT I in the South-east Moist Forest region, it was revealed that there are often conflicts between communities over access to forest and the resources therein. In the Pette village in the Soudano-sahelian region, oftentimes, there exist conflict between herders and farmers over land use especially	No further comments

		access to pasture. The project might further exacerbate these conflicts. Thus, the root cause of these conflicts must be understood and project should avoid regions where these conflicts are prevalent	
Will the project provide support for **law enforcement activities** (e.g. in a PA)? If yes, please briefly describe relevant project activities and answer questions a-d. Otherwise, skip to question 17	Yes	Eco-guards are responsible for protecting permanent forest areas (PFAs) where restoration activities of the project will be implemented. The Project is not involved in law enforcement activities. No training, finance, or other support will be provided to Protected Areas for law enforcement activities as part of this project.	No further comments
Which agencies are responsible for law enforcement in the project area? Do they include any community organizations or private companies? Will the project provide support them (e.g. through funding, equipment etc)?	Yes	Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF).	No further comments
Do park rangers or other law enforcement personnel carry firearms in the course of their duty?	Yes	Eco-guards carry firearms	No further comments
Has there been any conflict between the management of the protected area/s and local people in the last 5 years? If so, what were the causes of the conflict (e.g. poaching, logging, disputes over access rights, artisanal mining)?	Yes	Conflict over poaching and access rights especially in the Southeast moist forest region.	No further comments
Have there been any formal complaints, investigations or press reports relating to law enforcement activities in the project area? In addition to own knowledge of the site, please also conduct a web search and check sites of the OHCHR regional or national office.	Yes	WWF have been accused by local populations on the abuses during law enforcement activities in some sites in the South – East Moist Forest	MINFOF is the agency with mandate over law enforcement in the SE area, including Lobeke, Boumba Bek, Nki, Ngoyla, and Dja, supported by WWF and funding from government and numerous donor sources (some from the TNS). Allegations, and responsibilities are documented in Chapter 4 of the Pillay report which should be fully reviewed during the ESIA.
Could the project cause or exacerbate community exposure to security risks through inappropriate law enforcement practices and trigger violence between people that lose access and guards responsible for enforcing restrictions (e.g. during arrest, interrogation, detention etc.)	No	As above: The Project is not involved in law enforcement activities. No training, finance, or other support will be provided to Protected Areas for law enforcement activities as part of this project.	No further comments
Is there a risk of injury or loss of life among people triggered by an increase of **human wildlife conflicts** that may be elicited directly or indirectly from project activities, with particular attention to vulnerable and/or forest-dependent groups? Also consider loss	No	In the contrary, the project will help to reduce human wildlife conflicts	There might not be a risk of injury or loss of life but there will certainly be loss of assets. The loss of assets is already occurring in the project sites, and the

of assets (e.g. crops, livestock) which might escalate conflicts (e.g. retaliatory killing)?			project's support to restoration inside and outside of PFAs could increase wildlife habitat, and HWC. No specific HWC measures are included yet in the project concept, although this is potentially a source of vulnerability for local communities.
Is there a risk that activities inadvertently affect provisioning and regulating **ecosystem services** including risks of increasing communities' **exposure to natural hazards or disasters** (e.g. by exacerbating floods due to cleared vegetation for project construction or by changing flows into water infrastructure etc.) giving particular attention to current or projected impacts from climate change?	No		No further comments
Is there a likelihood that project activities lead to **accidents** and exposure of communities to **hazardous substances**, including accidents involving vehicles and equipment and risks related to infrastructure built by the project, in particular in areas subject to natural hazards (floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.).	No		No further comments
Could the project cause or exacerbate community exposure to **health and safety** risks including by triggering **water-**born or -based **diseases** (e.g. through creation of stagnant water bodies, livestock affecting quality of portable water), increasing the spread of other vector-borne diseases or **communicable infections** (e.g. by failure to provide precautionary measures during epidemics or seasonal diseases) or through reduction in **local air quality** (e.g. through generation of dusts, burning of wastes, or burning fossil fuels and other materials in improperly ventilated areas)?	No		No further comments
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on The focus on restoration and livelihood development will still require planning of land use activities in context where there are existing conflicts between and within stakeholder groups. The ROAM methodology, with it's participatory approach, is well suited to understanding these issues are not exacerbating conflict, but this is still a potential risk. Furthermore two sites have security issues.		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 3
B5: Labor and working conditions affecting project workers – please see definition for project workers in footnote[15]			
Is there a risk that project workers would potentially face working conditions that do **not meet national labor laws** and regulations	No	Measures will be taken with executing partners (in the contract and execution procedure manual) to	No further comments

[15] Project workers refer to (i) people employed or engaged **directly by the project executing entity** to work specifically in relation to the project, (ii) people employed or engaged through **third parties** to perform work related to core functions of the project, (iii) individuals engaged by the project in public or **community work programs or as volunteers**.

and/or are not consistent with International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (e.g. discriminatory working conditions, lack of equal opportunity, lack of clear employment terms, failure to prevent harassment or exploitation, failure to ensure freedom of association etc.)?		ensure that people working with the project have contracts that comply with national labour laws and international commitments	
Will the project work with local **volunteer** (community patrols etc.) or engage individuals in public or **community work programs**? If so, for what kind of activities? Is there a risk that working conditions might not meet national/international labour standards?	Yes	Community-based organisations are beneficiaries of some of the project activities, but they are also Partners in the planning of activities and of the restoration process (e.g. ROAM).	No further comments
Are project workers (including **rangers** and community patrols) exposed to the **risk of violence or security risks** in the course of their duties (e.g. exposure to actions of human wildlife conflict, armed poachers or to criminal groups involved in drug trafficking)?	No	Project activities will not involve rangers, community patrols or any type of security provision	No further comments
Is there a risk that project workers might be exposed to **occupational health and safety** (OHS) risks including through hazardous working conditions (e.g. risks related to vehicles, equipment or heavy machinery, working at heights or with hazardous materials, exposure to infectious and vector borne diseases)? Including rangers or community patrols being exposed to higher risk to malaria due to long period of exposure. Also consider specific threats to women.	No	At this stage of planning, the project does not foresee community work programs. If this were changing, the working conditions for such programmes would be designed in a way to avoid OHS risks.	Requires further assessment, as will depend on the project staff activities. Basic H&S protocols would need to be in place for fieldwork, vehicle travel, responding to the security context etc.
Are there any circumstances in which the project may be involved or implicated in **forced labor** (e.g. any work or service which someone has not volunteered for and is forced to do) or **harmful child labor**[16]? Child labor would be considered harmful if it interferes with a child's education or could be detrimental to a child's health or mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Please consider direct and indirect work relationships established by the project as well as work relationships of project stakeholders, including farmers and other enterprises that receive benefits or services from the project.	Yes	In the Sudano-Sahelien, the collection of NTFPs is done by women and children. The project will ensure that children ae not involved in the collection of these NTFPs	Agreed that this is no to forced labour. For the agricultural and NTFP supply chains, and livelihood activities to be supported, a screening of the livelihood activities would be required to check for basic E&S risks and impacts, including damaging child labour.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 2	Estimated impact (1-5): 2

[16] IUCN follows ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age that sets the general minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 years (13 for light work) and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions). It provides for the possibility of initially setting the general minimum age at 14 (12 for light work) where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed. For more information on the prevention of harmful Child Labour, please see the Guidance Note on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks available at www.iucn.org/esms.

B6: Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions			
Is there a risk that project activities might lead to releasing **pollutants** (chemicals and other hazardous materials) to the environment due to **routine** or **non-routine circumstances** (e.g. accidental releases) with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No	Rather, impact of the project is reduced emissions from land use, deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks	No further comments
Is there a probability that project activities cause significant amounts of **waste or waste water** or generate **hazardous waste**? Is there a risk of inappropriate disposal of waste?	No		No further comments
Might the project involve the use of **chemicals or other hazardous materials**? If yes, explain how risks are managed. Is there any probability that among them are substances, chemicals or hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phase-outs due to high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential depletion of the ozone layer?[17] Please note that the use of pesticides are covered in the Biodiversity Standard (Section C4).	No		No further comments
Will project activities involve or lead to a significant consumption of **energy, water or other resources**? If yes, explain how it will be ensured that resources are used efficiently.	No		No further comments
Will the project lead to significant emissions of short- and long-lived **greenhouse gases** or to a substantial reduction of carbon pools (e.g. through loss in vegetation cover or below and above ground carbon stocks)?	No	Rather, impact of the project is reduced emissions from land use, deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks	No further comments
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 1	Estimated impact (1-5): 1
B7: Climate Change (risks of project design failing to take climate change into account)			
Have the historical, current, and future trends in climate variability and change including **climate sensitivity**[18] been analysed in the project area?	Yes	A report has been produced. See report for details	Reviewers do not have access to report at the time of screening.
Are changes in biophysical conditions in the project area triggered by climate change expected to impact people's livelihoods? Are some groups more **vulnerable** than others (e.g., women or marginalized/ vulnerable groups)?	Yes		Agree, but "Yes" should be substantiated. For example changes in the availability and occurrence of NTFPs caused climate change affect the livelihoods of vulnerable groups (IP) and women who rely on them for livelihoods.

[17] For instance, substances listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

[18] Sensitivity is the degree to which a system can be affected, negatively or positively, by climate-related stimuli. IPCC, 2001

			Also, water scarcity is as a result of climatic and non-climatic factors and with consequent effects on women and vulnerable groups.
Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might affect the **effectiveness of project** activities or the sustainability of intended changes? If yes, explain how the project intends to lower such risk.	No		Agree. Climate variability and change will affect the sustainability of intended changes which include improving the livelihoods of forest dependent communities, poverty reduction and sustainable forest management. Project interventions could be affected.
Is there a risk that project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of **local communities** or the **local ecosystem** to climate variability, temperature increases or climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc)?	No		If project activities are not carefully planned, and screened for climate resilience, this is a risk (eg. preventing access to a particular grazing area which is important during the dry season, preventing access to the forest which is important during the hunger season, encouraging the uptake of a climate-vulnerable activity). Not likely that this will occur if there is careful planning
Explain whether the project seeks opportunities to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystem to climate change?	Yes	The project has activities that will contribute to enhance the livelihood support systems of communities, thus their adaptive capacity e.g. access to climate information and markets, improve cook stoves etc	Additional issue to consider: Please refer to the Project components and activities/outputs to better justify the "Yes"
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 3
B8: Other environmental or social risks			
Please list in the row(s) below any other identified direct, indirect (induced or cumulative), and transboundary environmental and social risks, and the risks and impacts of associated facilities:			
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):	Estimated impact (1-5):
Overall conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on negative Social and/or Environmental Impacts			
Have negative environmental or social impacts been identified? Are assessments required to better understand the impacts?	The introduction of new practices and measures of land and forest management can reinforce or even exacerbate unequal gender relations and negatively affect vulnerable groups. There is a risk that the		

What specific topics are to be assessed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?	project leads to disproportionate impacts (eg. access restrictions) on women and vulnerable groups, and that these groups are not effectively engaged or involved in decision-making, meaning that they are unable to access project benefits, or project benefits are inappropriate for their needs. While the project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment (yet to be reviewed), there is limited information available on a site by site basis on the characteristics of vulnerability, or prevailing gender norms and issues which could interact with the project activities. The project's socioeconomic baseline would need to explore these aspects to better understand the potential risks. The project operates in sites where there are existing contentions between people's human rights and the management of Permanent Forest Areas. For example, in the southeast, access restrictions continue to affect the Baka (indigenous peoples), in terms of their access to customary forest areas and natural resources. In other sites, there could be issues related to land rights and customary user rights. There are documented human rights allegations in the southeast in relation to law enforcement, although it is noted that this project will not support law enforcement directly or indirectly, including no contribution to Protected Area operational budgets. In relation to Community Health and Safety, there are security issues at two sites, and there are pre-identified conflicts over forest and water resources, between arable and pastoral farmers, which could be exacerbated in any land use planning and change. The project is not providing technical or financial support to law enforcement, but would be directly linked to any human rights violations by law enforcement agents working for the executing entity. Project risks related to labour, resource efficiency, biodiversity and sustainable use, were all estimated to be low. The project has conducted a climate vulnerability assessment, and is focused on climate adaptation and mitigation, and this risk is integrated into project design. Further information from the project's socioeconomic baseline assessment is required to understand the potential risks and impacts better. Assessment would aim to understand how vulnerable groups and women will be represented in the project's engagement and activity design, and ensure that engagement methods will be suitable. Assessment will aim to understand the potential impacts on vulnerable groups and women at each site. Assessment will aim to understand the nature of existing conflicts and potential to exacerbate these conflicts, and strategies required. The project will require a Gender Action Plan, will need to identify and work with vulnerable groups as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and will have to include a participatory methodology for deciding on restoration activities within and outside of PFAs as part of the project's approach.

Potential impacts related to ESMS standards

C1: Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions[19]

[19] The term "**involuntary resettlement**" refers to project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use which have adverse impacts on communities and persons. Project-related land acquisition or restrictions on land use may cause physical displacement (relocation, loss of residential land or loss of shelter), economic displacement (loss of land, assets or access to assets, leading to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood), or both. Resettlement is considered involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in displacement (World Bank ESS5)

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question and describe how the project will **assess**, **avoid or manage the identified risks***	*Comments, additional considerations*
Will the project involve resettling people or communities involuntarily and/or acquiring their land (e.g. for the creation of a strict nature reserve or reducing the threat of wildlife related incidents for communities living in reserves)? **if yes, answer a-b below**	No	*Shaded cells do not need to be filled out*	*Shaded cells do not need to be filled out*
Describe the project activities that require resettlement.			
Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?			
Is there a risk that the project will involve forced eviction[20]?	No		No further comments
Does the project include activities that might cause economic displacement by **restricting peoples' access** to land or natural resources? Please consider the following activities: establishing new protected areas (PA) or extending the area of an existing PA, improving enforcement of PA regulations (e.g. training guards, providing monitoring and/or enforcement equipment, providing training/tools for improving management effectiveness), constructing physical barriers that prevent people accessing certain places; changing how specific natural resources are managed to a management system that is more restrictive; **if yes, answer a-h below, if no justify your answer in this row**	Yes		Agree. Note that: 1)No project funds will be channelled to the implementation of management plans of PFA areas, only the technical support for the establishment and improvement of management plans; 2) The specific climate adaptation and mitigation activities to be integrated in the PFA management plans is to be decided during the project; the specific restoration activities outside of PFAs are still to be decided (ROAM report was not available at time of screening); 3) In one landscape the establishment of a Protected Area (Bamboutous Mountains Extension) could be considered and supported. No funds will be provided for direct support to law enforcement (salaries, training, equipment).
Answer only if you answered yes to item 3			

[20] It is important to understand that Involuntary resettlement is different from "**forced eviction"**; the latter being defined as the permanent or temporary removal **against the will** of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal and other protection (WB ESS5). Forced evictions is an extreme form of involuntary resettlement and "constitutes a gross violation of human rights, in particular the right to adequate housing" (Commission on Human Rights, Resolution 1993/77).

a. Indicate the project **activities** that (might) involve restrictions and the **respective land or resources** to be restricted including communal property and natural resources (e.g. marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, fresh water, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds and grazing and cropping areas).		Under component 1 the project aims to reduce illegal logging in logging concessions, Council Forests and PAs and develop and implement management plans in PFAs	Technical support to existing and revised management plans will reinforce existing restrictions in the PFA management plans, and potentially expand a PA in Bakossi Highlands. In addition to technical support to management plans that support restrictions within PFAs (logging, hunting, fishing, NTFP extraction), the project will also facilitate the restoration process outside of PFAs, which could include restrictions to grazing, agricultural expansion, and access to natural resources, all to be decided on a case by case basis through applying ROAM at the specific sites under consideration.
b. Based on a thorough analysis of the legal framework regulating land tenure and access to natural resources, please explain whether individuals / groups who might be affected by restrictions introduced and put into effect by the project: (i) **have formal legal rights** to the respective land or natural resources, (ii) have **no formal legal rights**, but a **claim** to the land/resource that is recognized under national law, (iii) have **no recognizable rights** or claim to the land/resource they occupy but are highly dependent on the land/resource?		From a customary point of view communities and indigenous people have the legal right to forest and land and the resources therein. However, statutory law over right customary law and statutory law have provisions for access restriction	Agreed. In a legally plural system, there is an overlap in many cases between customary rights and statutory rights, with statutory rights including restrictions on local community and IP access to land and natural resources within PFAs. Adjacent to PFAs, in some cases the land use is Community Forests (eg. the south east), or customary land as in the Bakossi Highlands.
c. Do any of the individuals/groups potentially affected by restrictions have the right to refuse restricitions on land use? Please use the distinction introduced above [(i)-(iii)]		No they do not have the right to refuse restriction on land use	No further comments
d. Is there a risk that project induced access restrictions will negatively affect people's livelihoods? Consider impacts due to • Loss of access to natural resources in a particular area, • Loss of access to social services such as schools, health care etc, • Change of quality/quantity of resources a household can access, • Change in seasonal access to a resource, • Change in types of assets needed to access resources; If yes, please elaborate on the different livelihood elements that are affected, explain who might be affected and describe impacts. Distinguish between social groups (incl.		Yes. More details to be provided as soon as we agree on the activities	Very limited information on the project ROAM activities available at the time of screening. This aspect requires further consideration.

vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples), men and women; also consider impacts of restrictions on people coming from outside of the project area. **If yes, answer d-h below; otherwise skip to question 4**			
e. Have strategies been considered to **avoid restrictions** by making changes to project design? If yes, explain.		No yet. This will be provided latter on	To be considered during the ESIA.
f. If it is not possible to avoid restrictions, will the project include **measures** to minimize or compensate for impacts from loss or restrictions of access? Please describe the measures.		Yes the ESIA will provide measures to mitigate restriction	The ESIA will assess potential mitigation measures at the case study sites.
g. Are **eligibility criteria** established that define who is entitled to benefit from these measures? Are they transparent and fair (e.g. in proportion to their losses and to their needs if they are poor and vulnerable)?		To be determined latter	Further information on potential restrictions and mitigation measures needed.
h. Are these measures culturally **appropriate** and gender inclusive? Does the geographical scale of the measures match the scale of the restrictions (e.g. will measures be **accessible to all groups affected** by the restrictions)?		To be determined latter	Further information on potential restrictions and mitigation measures needed.
i. Has a process been implemented or started to obtain **consent** from groups that are likely to be negatively affected by restrictions? Please describe the process (who has been consulted and how).		Not yet	Initial steps towards consent to be included in the ESIA. Some information has been disclosed during the feasibility study, and
1. Will/might the implementation of certain project activities require the **acquisition of land** through purchase, expropriation or acquisition of access rights)? E.g. for building (communal) infrastructure (development of water tanks, irrigation canals, access roads etc.). Also consider acquisition of unoccupied or unutilized land, whether or not the landholder relies upon such land for income or livelihood purposes, or repossession of public land that is used or occupied by individuals or households. If yes, describe the legal status/ownership of the land that might be subject to land acquisition. Will the land owners have the right to refuse the acquisition? If voluntary donations are considered, explain how it will be ensured that no pressure or coercion is involved.		No. Instead, the project will secure and restore woodland dedicated to exploitation for fuelwood to meet the needs of local communities.	No further comments
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions			

What are the main gaps with regards to the provisions of the Standard? *What are the main risks and who are the main groups potentially affected?* *Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?* *Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What safeguard tools are to be prepared (e.g. Process Framework)?* *When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)? When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?*		The project will be providing technical support for the establishment and improvement of management plans in PFAs, and the specific climate adaptation and mitigation activities to be integrated in the PFA management plans is to be decided during the project. The specific restoration activities outside of PFAs are still to be decided (the ROAM report was not available at time of screening), and in one landscape the establishment of a Protected Area (Bamboutous Mountains Extension) could be considered and supported by the project. This being the case, the gaps and risks are unclear and require further assessment. Assessment will look to better understand the existing access restrictions and impacts at project sites, the potential restrictions related to restoration activities within and adjacent to sites, and the degree to which the proposed market and value chain work will offset any impacts of access restrictions for project affected people, particularly women and vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples. It is not clear what safeguard plans are required. Typically, a Process Framework would be required for Protected Areas, but considering the project's focus on restoration, and the project approach, it could be feasible to integrate safeguard requirements into the ROAM methodology, so when ROAM is applied on a site by site basis, the components of a Process Framework are applied systematically. This	
Standard triggered? Yes		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 4	Estimated impact (1-5): 3

C2: Standard on Indigenous Peoples

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question and describe how the project will **assess**, **avoid or manage the identified risks***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Does the project site[21] overlap with lands or territories that are under traditional ownership, under customary use or occupation or that are claimed by indigenous peoples, tribal	Yes		

21 The project site is defined as the project's area of influence. This is often larger than the site where actual project activities are located as it considers the area impacted by the activities. For example, a project that intervenes in a PA through strengthening law enforcement will also impact groups that live just outside a PA but have historically hunted inside the PA, even before it was created.

peoples or other traditional peoples[22]? **If yes, answer questions a-i**			
2. Even if indigenous groups are not found at the project sites, is there still a risk that the project could affect the rights and livelihood of indigenous peoples? **If yes, answer questions a-i**	No		
Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.			
a. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the project's area of influence.		The indigenous people found in the three landscapes are the Baka and Bagyeli Pygmies (South – East Moist Forest), the Mbororos (Bakossi – Bamboutos Highlands and the Far North Region (Soudano-Sahelian).	Additional issues to consider: Information still required on customary lands and areas of resource use of these indigenous peoples in relation to project area of influence. Re-confirm presence of Bagyeli in the project area, as the Bagyeli are thought by the reviewers to be located in western Cameroon, not the south east.
b. What are the key characteristics that qualify the identified groups as indigenous groups? Do these groups identify themselves as indigenous? Please also refer to the characteristics listed in footnote 24 and select the ones that reflect the situation best. Also explain how the host country's Government refers to these groups? Does it recognize them as indigenous people?		Mbororos are mainly nomadic herders with principal occupation cattle husbandry rearing. The Baka Pygmies are largely forest dwellers and gatherers living within dense humid western Congo basin forest of southeast Cameroon. Both groups widely identify themselves by their unique socio-cultural characteristics and commonly called Pygmies and Mbororos. The Government uses the term Indigenous people ("autochtones" in French), although it is also increasingly common to refer to the name of the tribes in a particular area.	Agreed. Note that the term Pygmy is not accepted by all groups referred to by this name, and can carry derogatory connotations.
c. Explain whether communities have traditionally lived in the project site or whether there are groups or some households		The above mentioned Ips communities have traditionally lived in the project site	Additional issue to consider: Further clarification as to the degree of

22As per IUCN Standard coverage of indigenous peoples includes: "(i) peoples who **identify themselves as "indigenous"** in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions **distinguish them from other sections of the national community**, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their **own customs or traditions** or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose **livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems** and their goods and services". Other characteristics include: Collective and close attachment to a geographically distinct area or ancestral territory, a distinct language or dialect, often different from the official language; a state of subjugation, marginalisation, dispossession, exclusion, or discrimination because these peoples have different cultures, ways of life or mode of production than the national hegemonic and dominant model"

who have moved from their traditional area to the project site (e.g. for economic reasons).[23]			overlap between the Mbororos and the site in the far north.
d. Are there any indigenous peoples organizations and/or regional associations? Will the project work with them?	Yes	To be identified during the next field visit	Addition: The socio-economic and desk review should already provide some insight before ESIA. Use site documents and management plans for the different sites.
e. Will the project involve **partnerships** with governments, private sector or other actors that (may) impact negatively on indigenous territories or rights?	Yes	The project will be implemented with relevant government institutions especially the ministry of forest and fauna	Additional issues: Refer to Concept Note for partners. Known conflicts between PFA in the South East and Baka interests.
f. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood through **physical or economic displacement**? While this is covered in section C2, if yes, please specify the indigenous groups affected. For projects promoting protected areas, distinguish between communities whose traditional resource use areas overlap with the PA, even before it was created, from those who have a recent history and presence there.	No	The project will support resource use and enhance livelihood through development of subsistence activities. But further investigations risks will be made ,atter during field work	Current restrictions on Baka movements and livelihoods are known of in the PFAs in the south east. While the direct implementation of these PFAs will not be supported, technical support to the management plans means the project is making a contribution to these existing restrictions on indigenous peoples customary land and resource use. Potential restrictions on the Mbororo pastoral activities is possible, considering the potential PA expansion. In all sites with Ips, the restoration activities outside of PFAs could potentially affect Ips.
g. Is there a risk that the project affects indigenous peoples' **rights or livelihood** by using or commercially developing natural resources on lands and territories claimed by them, by affecting their traditional livelihood, their self-	Yes	In all these villages in the East region visited during the first filed visit, respondents stated tha IpS have restricted access to land, restricted access to the	To be confirmed.

23 It is important to bear in mind that the Standard is seen to generally apply to the community and not to an individual that may have left the community.

determination, cultural identity, values and practices, or their development priorities?		forest and restricted access to forest resources.	
h. Is there a risk of affecting the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples by using or contributing to the **commercialisation** of indigenous peoples' **traditional knowledge** (including ecological) or practices?	Yes	In village of Ngola located in the South-east Moist Forest region, respondents revealed that the forest in the village have cultural sites called "Megenge" and "Akoua". The sites could be affected by the project. If this is the case, then these sites should be avoided	Additional issue to consider: Ecotourism contributes to the commercialisation of IP traditional practices/knowledge.
i. Are any indigenous groups living in **voluntary isolation**? If yes, how does the project respect their rights (paying attention to national laws on the matter) and avoid any negative impacts?		To be determined during the next field visit	Additional issue to consider: The IP often migrate to new locations for security reasons maybe linked to the influx of people in villages. ESIA to clarify issue.
j. Explain whether and how legitimate representatives of indigenous groups have been **consulted** to discuss the project and better understand potential impacts upon them? Has a process been started or implemented to achieve their free, prior and informed consent (**FPIC**) to activities that might affect them (positively or negatively)?		Preliminary consultation have been done but more consultation is expected in the next and final field visit	Additional issue: Provide some information on how IP were consulted during the socioeconomic survey, to provide visibility for ESIA
k. Explain whether opportunities are considered to provide **benefits** for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in a way agreed with them and is culturally appropriate and gender inclusive?		One of the project's output is aimed at organizing and strengthening priority NTFPs value chains products to ensure their sustainable production. It is expected to support forest-dependent communities living around permanent forests to develop NTFPs value chain that will help to support their livelihoods. The Ips constitute 10% of NTFP collectors in the moist forest intervention area.	Additional issues to consider: refer also to the selected ROAM activities.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Indigenous Peoples			

What are the main gaps with regards to the provisions of the Standard? *What are the main risks and who are the main groups potentially affected?* *Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?* *Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What safeguard tools are to be prepared (e.g.Indigenous Peoples Plan)? When would the plans need to be available (complete and accepted)?*		The Standard is triggered due to the presence of either the Mbororo or Baka hunter–gatherer communities in all three landscapes. There is a need for socioeconomic baseline information on the indigenous communities in all sites, including settlement and movement patterns and livelihoods and rights conditions. There is need for consultation with legitimate representatives of these groups both during the ESIA, to validate willingness to participate in the project (not consent to the project activities, but willingness to work with the Executing Agency on the types of activities included in the project proposal). There is a need for closer examination of potential risks and impacts and solutions and strategies the project might adopt, as a basis for the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) to be developed during the ESIA.	
Standard triggered? **Yes**	Yes	Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 4	Estimated impact (1-5): 4

C3: Standard on Cultural Heritage[24]

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question and describe how the project will **assess**, **avoid or manage the identified risks***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near a site officially designated or proposed as a cultural heritage site (e.g., UNESCO World Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites, or Cultural Landscapes) or a nationally designated site for cultural heritage protection? **if yes, answer a-c below**	Yes	This project sites include the following cultural heritage sites: The Lamidas (Traditional Rulers' residences) in the North and the Dja Biosphere Reserve in the East which is a UNESCO World heritage site. The Reserve includes a population of Baka pygmies who live in a relatively traditional manner and confer a recognized cultural value to the site. All these sites will be avoided during project implementation	Clarification on what 'avoidance' means in the context of this project will be required.

24 Cultural heritage is defined as tangible or intangible, movable or immovable cultural resource or site with paleontological, archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community, or natural feature or resource with cultural, religious, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature.

2. Does the project site include important cultural resources such as burial sites, buildings or monuments of archaeological, historical, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value? **if yes, answer a-c below**	Yes	These will be avoided during project implementation	Clarification on what 'avoidance' means in the context of this project will be required
3. Does the project area site include any natural features or resources that are of cultural, spiritual, or symbolic significance (such as sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas, or sacred species)? **if yes, answer a-c below**	Yes		Descriptions required from the socioeconomic baseline.
a. Will the project involve development of **infrastructure** (e.g. roads, building, dams) or construction of buildings (e.g. visitor centre, watch tower)?	No		No further comments
b. Will the project involve **excavation** or movement of earth (e.g. for slope restoration, landslides stabilisation), flooding or physical environmental changes (e.g., as part of ecosystem restoration)?	No		No further comments
c. Is there a risk that physical interventions described in items a. and b. might affect known or unknown (buried) cultural resources?	no		No further comments
4. Will the project restrict local users' **access** to cultural resources/sites or natural features/sites with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance (e.g. sacred sites)?	no		No further comments
5. Is there a risk that project activities might affect **in-tangible cultural resources** of local communities such as values, norms, practices, traditional knowledge, language, literary or artistic creation? Also consider the risk of neglecting customary management?	no		No further comments
6. Will the project promote the use of or the development of economic **benefits from cultural heritage** (including traditional knowledge) or natural features/sites with cultural significance to which local communities have recognized rights (legally or customarily defined)? Is there a risk that this might affect their ability to control access to these resource and that benefits might not be shared equally?	Yes	Ecotourism might be promoted around cultural areas alongside other sustainable traditional practices. This will be specified during the PPF phase.	No further comments
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Cultural Heritage			

What are the main gaps with regards to the provisions of the Standard? *What are the main risks and what are the main receptors (groups, resources) potentially affected?* *Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?* *Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What are the safeguard tools to be prepared (e.g. Chance Find procedures)? When would these need to be available (complete and accepted)?*		The Standard is triggered, as there is a risk that the project affects access to cultural resources, for example in case the project involves enforcing access restrictions in PFAs, or establishing a new PA, and modifying land use and access in areas adjacent to PFAs. Furthermore, ecotourism activities could have an adverse impact on the intangible cultural heritage of local and in particular of indigenous communities (e.g. their values, norms etc.). The assessment of access restrictions above, will include assessment of cultural heritage risks, and will also include assessment of potential for impacts of ecotourism.	
Standard triggered? Yes		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 3

C4: Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question and describe how the project will **assess**, **avoid or manage the identified risks***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near areas • legally protected or officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • recognised for their high biodiversity value and protected as such by indigenous peoples or other local users • which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value[25]	Yes	The project focuses on securing permanent forest areas. Within the Cameroon context, these include protected areas, forest management units, council forests and forest reserves. The first category (protected areas) fall within IUCN protected area management categories. They include National Parks, Forest reserves, Biosphere reserves etc.	No further comments
2. If there are any project activities proposed within or adjacent to areas high of biodiversity value or critical habitats	Yes	The project will support sustainable tourism in Protected Areas and Forest Reserve which might	No further comments

[25] Areas important to threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, important to endemic or restricted-range species or to migratory and congregatory species; areas representing key evolutionary processes, providing connectivity with other critical habitats or key ecosystem services; highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems (e.g. to be determined in future by the evolving IUCN Red List of Ecosystems); areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and subsets such as important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), important Plant Areas (IPAs), important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity or Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

described above, is there a risk of causing **adverse impacts** to biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems? Consider activities such as infrastructure works (e.g. watch tower, facilities, access roads, small scale water infrastructure) or ecotourism activities and impacts from inadequate waste disposal, disturbance of nesting sites, slope erosion through hiking trails etc. Consider both construction and use phases.		have negative impacts if not well managed. this will need to be addressed in the PPF phase.	
3. Is there a risk of **significant adverse impacts** on biodiversity **outside areas of high biodiversity value**, through infrastructure development, plantation development (even small scale) or other activities e.g. through the removal of vegetation cover, creation of soil erosion and/or debris deposition downslope, or other disturbances? Consider both construction and use phases.	no	The project will engage with Logging Concessions and Council Forests (PFAs), but this is not expected to cause adverse impacts on biodiversity as these are existing concessions and the project will push them towards sustainable forest management practices. The project will also be working with major industries (palm oil, rubber, forest concessions etc) to ensure zero deforestation commodities. Recognizing the adverse impacts these industries might have on biodiversity the aim is to facilitate their transformation through clear principles and good practice recommendations	No further comments
4. Is there a risk that the project affects areas of high biodiversity value **outside the project area**, e.g. by procuring natural resource commodities from other geographies (e.g. timber used for watch towers etc.)? If yes, explain whether appropriate industry-specific sustainability verification practices be used.	No		
5. Will the project introduce or use **non-native species** (flora and fauna), whether accidental or intentional? Consider activities such as reforestation, erosion control or dune stabilisation or livelihood activities (e.g. aquaculture, farming, horticulture etc.). If yes, explain how the risk of the species developing invasive characteristics is managed?	Yes	In the village of BATEKE, KIKA, MIKEL, MIMBOM-MIMBOM, NGATTO, NGOYLA and ZOULABOT I located in the South-east Moist Forest region, it was revealed that there has been the introduction of invasive alien species affecting the biodiversity of these villages as a result of past restoration/conservation activities. Some of these species that were cited by the respondents included the following: Bocassa; Latana;“L'herbe epineu”; and Susongo. These species should be avoided during project implementation	No further comments
6. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading **invasive species** (e.g. through creation of corridors, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?	No		No further comments

7. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects **water dynamics** or **water flows** through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities and as such affects the hydrological cycle, alters existing stream flow and/or reduces seasonal availability of water resources?	No		No further comments
8. Is there a risk that the project affects **water quality** of surface or groundwater (e.g., contamination, increase of salinity) through irrigation/ agricultural run-off, water extraction practices, influence of livestock or other activities?	No		No further comments
9. Will the project involve or promote the application of pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (**biocides**)? Also consider the use of integrated pest management.	No		No further comments
10. Will the project involve handling or utilization of **genetically modified organisms**/living modified organisms?	No		No further comments
11. Does the project promote the use of **genetic resources** from natural habitats (e.g. harvesting, market development)? If yes, explain how the project will avoid **unsustainable harvest rates**? Also explain what are the measures for **access and benefit-sharing** relating to these?	No		No further comments
12. Is there a risk that the project could give rise to an increase of incoming **migration** and population increase, which could put a strain on the existing natural resource base?	No		No further comments
13. Could the project result in **noise and vibration** from construction and maintenance equipment, traffic and activities, which may disturb sensitive fauna receptors, including underwater noise impacts on fish and marine mammals?	No		No further comments
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources			
What are the main gaps with regards to the provisions of the Standard? *What are the main risks and what are the main receptors (areas, species etc.) potentially affected?* *Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?* *Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What are the safeguard tools to be prepared (e.g. Pest Management Plan, Protocol for Species Selection)? When would these tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?*		The project's impact on biodiversity is expected to be highly positive as demonstrated above. The only minor concern relates to the risk that the development of the NTFP value chain might lead to unsustainable harvest rates. This risk will need to be managed through adequate control/monitoring system.	
Standard triggered? No		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 2	Estimated impact (1-5): 2

A. Adherence to ESMS Principles

The below table reviews the project and its design process on adherence to the ESMS Principles. The principles are described in the ESMS Manual. Please note that the Guidance Note on Stakeholder Engagement[26] represents a new policy provision and delineates further requirements for consultation and involvement of stakeholder during project design and implementation.			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, maybe, n/a	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Has a **Stakeholder Analysis** been done and documented identifying a project's key stakeholder; assessing their interest in the project; ways in which they may influence the project's outcomes and how they might be impacted by project activities (positively and/or negatively)?	Yes	•	Additional issues to consider: Please provide more grounds for this response. The draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan does not include a stakeholder analysis, but does include a stakeholder list.
2. Does the analysis differentiate by **gender**, and along other key axes of sociocultural differentiation, including consideration for **vulnerable groups** and individuals?	Yes		No. Vulnerable groups are not clearly identified in the draft SEP, and while there is reference to gender sensitive approaches, there is no gender disaggregation in the consideration of local stakeholders in the draft SEP.
3. Have **consultations** been held with relevant groups to discuss the project concept and risks? Were consultations conducted in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way? Provide details about the form of consultations and the groups involved. Explain how this has influenced project design.	No		The feasibility assessment included a field visit and consultation with a sample of villages within the sites. The ESIA will also include a sample of villages. The stakeholder engagement plan will need to be strengthened to ensure that thorough engagement is conducted during the project itself.
4. Have disadvantaged or **vulnerable groups** or individuals been **consulted** or other peoples that might be negatively affected? Please provide details about the groups, the consultations and results of the consultations.	Yes	Some preliminary consultation has been done. More to follow in the next field visit	Additional issues to consider: No definition of vulnerable groups to date (only reference to indigenous peoples as vulnerable groups); no definition of working groups at each site, or the methodology to identify these groups; Note that there is a climate vulnerability report that has been produced as part of

[26] Available at www.iucn.org/esms

			the project's feasibility assessment, that could provide further information in this regard, but was not available at the time of screening.
5. Have **women and men** been provided **equal opportunities** in terms of participation and decision-making throughout the identification and design of the project? Have provisions been made to ensure the same for implementation (including staffing), monitoring and evaluation of the project? Please provide details.	Yes	During the first field work, separate women groups and women resource persons were consulted	Additional issues to consider: Please document the consultations from the first round of fieldwork in the SEP.
6. Has a **gender analysis**, socio-economic assessments or the equivalent been applied to inform gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?	No		Technically the gender analysis should have been completed during the socioeconomic baseline which formed part of the feasibility assessment fieldwork: to be confirmed.
7. While gender risks have been covered in section B, briefly describe how the project is likely to **improve gender equality** and **women's empowerment.**	No	To be done latter after the next field visit	Gender risks have been identified, and the project requires a Gender Action Plan. A review of the project logframe, and assessment of the gender analysis completed to date will be required prior to the ESIA. The ESIA will clarify, validate or further develop issues relating to gender
8. While risks of discrimination and in-equality have been covered in section B, briefly explain how the project is likely to provide **opportunities** for **persons with disabilities** to participate in and benefit from projects and programs on an equal basis with others;		The project will ensure that the harvesting and commercialisation of NTFPs is done by disadvantaged people including people with disabilities	No further comments
9. While risks of affecting human rights have been covered in section B, briefly explain how the project is likely to **further the realization of human rights** e.g. by supporting governments to adhere to their human rights obligations or by supporting the 'rights-holders' to claim their rights (where relevant and feasible within the context of the project).		The rights of all indigenous people will be respected during project implementation	No explanation provided as to how people's rights will be upheld during the course of the project. Consider for example the ROAM methodology and approach, which is designed to be participatory and inclusive; consider the application of FPIC in the project.
10. Is the project in **compliance with laws and regulations** of the host country relevant for E&S matter e.g. provisions for impact assessment, disclosure and consultation) and with	Yes		The project has analysed policies and legislation internationally, regionally, and in Cameroon ("Baseline policies

those regulations implementing obligations under international laws? In case licenses or environmental permits are required for project activities, explain how this will be ensured.			and initiatives_V April 2022") to endure alignment between the project and national legislation. The project is conducting a legal gap analysis between national legislation and the international standards.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer			
Are ESMS requirements on stakeholder engagement, disclosure and grievance fulfilled to satisfactory level? What additional actions need to be carried out and by when? What actions to be implemented during the project should be included in the ESMP or the Stakeholder Engagement Plan?	No, ESMS requirements fulfilment is inadequate. While the latest round of fieldwork in Cameroon (the feasibility study) included a number of field consultations, including separate meetings with men and women, and a clear strategy for sampling sites, the project is yet to identify vulnerable groups, conduct gender analyses, and consultation with all affected stakeholders around the PFAs to be included is not feasible given the time and resources available for the development of this project. This requires that this consultation is conducted during the course of the project, and built into the project methodology.		

Annex 2: ESIA fieldwork findings for Dja Lobeke

1. Grievance Management

Indigenous People, Third Parties and local community respondents were asked if the Protected Area already have a grievance mechanism (GM). The Table below indicates that most respondents (15) are not aware of the existence of a GM especially respondents from the local community. Also, most respondents (13), especially from the local community (11) and few IPs (01) said there are grievances against project proponents.

Knowledge of existence of a Grievance Redress Mechanism

	GM	IP	LC	TP	Total
Yes	0	1	1	0	02
No	0	4	7	4	15
Don't know	0	1	0	0	01

Existence of grievances against any project proponent

	GM	IP	LC	TP	Total
Yes	0	1	11	1	13
No	0	5	5	1	11
Don't know	0	1	0	0	01

The existence of a grievance mechanism was reported by members of Indigenous and local communities in two villages: Yenga and Mambele. The grievance mechanism managed by CEFAID, a local NGO. Conflict cases are reported to CEFAID who registers and submits them to the administration for deliberation. However, the grievance mechanism only targets cases concerning Indigenous Peoples. It is free and accessible since CEFAID has an operational office in Mambélé. Protected area managers suggested that the IUCN project if validated, should create a platform on conflict management in partnership with independent third-party CBOs (Okani, CEFAID and Mandella Institute, FPP), coupled with relevant government ministries, such as those managing Social Affairs; Human Rights and Justice.

1.1 Community grievance management

1.1.1 Indigenous People

The IPs reported that local grievances are managed customarily by the chief and his councillors or notables. The chief and his council listen to the complainant and the alleged culprit is summoned and reprimanded, if necessary, but serious cases are entrusted to formal administration. Some IPs in Mambele were of the opinion that the existing customary system of resolving conflicts could be applied to the project, it should be but it should be representative and transparent in order to be effective. They suggested that project grievances be gathered both by themselves and a community representative.

1.1.2 Local Community

Within the local communities grievances are managed by the chief and notables. The village chief calls upon his notables, the victim, and the accused with witnesses to the customary council. They then examine the arguments of all parties, including their witnesses, and pronounce the verdict. Generally, the chief and notables tend towards reconciliation. However, in the event that they are unable to resolve the case or either party is unsatisfied with the

verdict issued, the chief and his notables refer the case to the higher administrative authorities (Sub-divisional officer) to resolve the issue. Some respondent's suggested that the chief and the village council could be used in resolving conflicts within the framework of the project. Contrarily, some women in Yenga and Mambele were in favour of the establishment of an independent conflict management committee to ensure neutrality. The local community members prefer to report grievances themselves instead of using a community representative.

1.1. 3 Submission of grievances

Indigenous Peoples and local communities were asked how project related grievances should be submitted. Generally, most respondents (7) said grievances should be presented in project meetings consisting of IPs (06) local community (01). Followed by 04 respondents who said a community member should be responsible for gathering and presenting grievances. Both Baka and local communities identified the village as being the best place to submit grievances, as some noted that it is cost-effective for them to do so. Reporting grievances to the sub-divisional officer is costly. Key considerations for access to the grievance mechanism amongst Baka and local community respondents include the location and language of grievance submission. Some local community respondents raised anonymity as being important aspects of consideration, as well as the importance for the possibility of verbal communication in local languages when submitting grievances.

Submission of grievances

	IP	LC	Total
Grievance boxes	0	0	0
Reporting to an extension worker/project staff	0	3	3
Having a community member who will gather and present grievances	0	4	4
Presenting them in project meetings	6	1	7
Presenting them to the customary authorities	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0

1.1.4 Language for submission of grievances

Local communities and IPs said French and local languages should be used for submitting grievances. The Table below reveals that more respondents said grievances be submitted in French, followed by 8 respondents for local language. Specifically, IPs suggested oral communication of grievances. The use of videos, pictures or recordings was also cited by an IP respondent in Mabam village. The Baka women in Mabam suggested that the communication of grievances be carried out using common practices on the ground in each village. Respondents proposed that awareness-raising sessions, and phone calls should also be employed.

Preferred language for submission of grievances

Language to submit grievances	IP	LC	Total
English	2	1	3
French	5	7	11

Local Language	3	5	8
Any of the above	0	0	0

2. Human Rights

This section of the results aims to identify any human rights violations due to proposed project partners, and understand stakeholders' perspectives on the potential for human rights violations due to the proposed project activities.

Some communities especially Mambele and Yenga were aware of the occurrence of one human rights violation incident stemming from project partners' activities. Respondents cited that there have been some cases where villagers had been tortured by MINFOF Eco guards for hunting wildlife for home consumption. Also, third-party respondents (the protected area management entity and CSOs) mentioned that there have been cases of human rights violations linked to the implementation of project partners' activities, namely WWF and MINFOF. In this situation, the Bakas, backed and manipulated by some Bantus, were involved in poaching and trafficking of wildlife, leading MINFOF Eco guards using more force than necessary to apprehend the perpetrators. The Bakas involved were released while the Bantus who were behind the manipulation of the Bakas where judged and sectioned by the administration. The Eco Guards involved where sanctioned and a number of people lost their jobs from both MINFOF and WWF. In response, WWF stopped funding MINFOF Eco guards and also hired a number of new experts and trained several internal and external staff on human right issues to be able to better deal with IP and community issues in the future. These issues are documented in the WWF Pillay report (Pillay et al. 2020).

When asked if there were any project activities that could undermine social and economic rights, most respondents (77%) said 'No', and about 23% 'did not know'. Similarly, when asked if the project could influence land use decisions or land tenure arrangements with a risk of this adversely affecting peoples' livelihoods or rights, 71% of the respondents answered 'No' while the remaining answered 'did not know'. Mitigation measures for any adverse impacts on human rights suggested by the respondents include: avoiding conflict, meting of sanctions and disciplinary measures on violators of human rights, capacity building and sensitization on human rights, establishment of a project conflict management committee, and observing human rights in relation to the Baka people.

3. Livelihoods and Access Restrictions

This section of the results aims to identify any existing or potential access restrictions which could cause social or economic impacts on Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Furthermore, stakeholders views of the proposed livelihood /market development activities to improve resilience of PFA-adjacent communities (activities that were defined through consultation during the feasibility study), are also sought.

The survey data revealed that the IPs and local communities' (Bantu) do not have the same access rights to areas within and outside protected areas. The Bantus have de jure access and user rights outside PFAs while IPs have de jure rights to both inside and outside PFAs without any authorization, for their personal use and livelihoods (subsistence, not sale). For Bantus to access PFAs for parks and forest reserves, they need to apply and get authorization from the MINFOF. For other forest areas such as communal forests and forest management units, the Bantus have access and user rights to collect NTFPs. According to a protected area management entity, before the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the IPs and MINFOF, the IPs did not have access to the parks interior. Recently, the

MoU was signed to address this situation by providing IPs access to PFAs for the collection of NTFPs in order to enhance their livelihood. Some IPs in Mambele said they were forcefully displaced during the park creation. However, despite these existing legacy issues, respondents across all Indigenous and local communities agreed that project activities would neither reinforce any existing issues nor introduce any new issues regarding land allocation and access rights. Respondents from Yenga and Mambele mentioned that many activities of the project are geared towards enhancing the livelihoods of the local population. The IPs and local community respondents did not raise any concerns about regarding access restrictions induced by project activities. They perceived that project objectives will be favourable to them.

3.1 Effectiveness and feasibility of proposed livelihood development measures

The IPs provided some positive responses relating to the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed project measures for livelihood development. The respondents believed that the proposed measures will impact them in the following ways:

- **Micro-enterprise Development**: this will provide support to microenterprises to become organisationally and economically sustainable. Individuals will have access to funds and training to set up or nurture their own micro-enterprise;
- Training: to be provided will be beneficial to women. IPs are also expecting some financial, material and technical supports for the project activities to be very beneficial to them; and

The IPs also expressed that for project activities (eg. restoration activities) to be successful; there is a need for their opinion and needs to be taken into account, as well as constant monitoring of the progress of activities and provision of extension support to communities.

Some respondents from Yenga expressed that the project measures are effective given the situation in the project sites. It involves assessing restoration progress in relation to initial objectives, and refining interventions where required in order to increase their effectiveness. For success of the measures, local communities mentioned the need for the following:

- Planning with the beneficiaries and providing them with the necessary means for implementation of activities;
- Capacity building of community members;
- Taking into account the opinions of all community members regarding the restoration of their community forest;
- Measures regarding value chain development should ensure electricity access in the village to boost microbusinesses or transformation activities. There is already a solar farm in the community that is malfunctioned and will therefore need some repairs, upgrades and maintenance;
- Provision of agricultural and forest inputs and extension support to communities; and
- Continuous monitoring throughout the project to ensure that communities are able to do things on their own successfully before the project ends.

3.2 Suggested livelihood development measures

The IP suggested some livelihood development measures that should be considered by the project, including education and training, construction of market (Mambele), construction of a secondary technical school, and implementation of community-based programs providing income-generating activities to low-income households.

Additionally, local community respondents suggested a wide range of measures including:

- Training of community members, youth girls, community support and rehabilitation of water infrastructure;
- Construction of market and a secondary technical school (Mambele); and

- Implementation of a programme to catalyse the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity and ecosystem services for the benefit of the rural poor.

4. Community Health and Safety

This section of the results aims to assess the potential for community health and safety issues related to the two main issues identified at E&S screening: human wildlife conflict, and social conflict linked to land and natural resources. Furthermore, the effectiveness of existing conflict resolution and measures is also examined.

4.1 Occurrence of HWC and damages

Respondents' were asked if they had witnessed any human-wildlife conflict (HWC) in the landscape and village. All respondents (IPs, local community leadership, protected area authorities) expressed that human-wildlife conflicts exist. Fauna species involved in HWC include monkeys, gorillas, elephants, and chimpanzees. No fatalities or injuries were expressed by respondents in the last three years. In all communities, respondents illustrated economic impacts on crops, livestock and property damage resulting from HWC. The following examples were provided:

- Mambele: A group of respondents belonging to the Indigenous community stated that there are some economic losses and they cannot take any action without the authorization of the conservation service.
- Yenga: A local community leader stated that these incidents happen every year.
- Mambele: A group of respondents belonging to local communities stated that the frequency of incidents is about 70% of the time because it is prohibited to hit or kill wildlife in and around conservation areas.
- Mambele: A group of respondents from the protected area management entity stated that the frequency of incidents is very high. They added that destructions are mainly linked to animals eating crops such as plantain, banana, cassava, and cocoa bean. With increasing population and farmlands, the conflicts are projected to continue in the future.
- Mabam: A group of respondents belonging to a protected area management entity/authority stakeholder group stated that there is frequent destruction of crops as wildlife search for food such as plantains or during elephants' movement through farmlands. Most of the destructions are on a small scale in most of the cases but they happen repeatedly.

Furthermore, no respondent said HWC has led to resettlement or movement to other areas for fear of wildlife attack or destruction. But during discussions with the local community leadership in Mambele, respondents said some people have moved from their settlements because they killed wildlife that destroyed the crops on their farmlands.

4.2 Groups affected by HWC

The data revealed that all communities are affected by HWC. But the Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities stakeholder group in Mambele stated that communities and villages that are within 12km of PFAs, especially Lobeke National Park and other forest reserve, are affected the most. Also, the local communities (Bantus) are most affected because they own most of the farms.

4.3 Perceived effects of project activities on HWC

Respondents were asked how planned project forest restoration activities within and outside of PFAs and community land could influence the level of HWC in the area. The following responses were provided by different stakeholders:

- Indigenous Peoples: Community leadership stakeholder group in Mambele and Mabam stated that the level of HWC will stay the same and that they are impatiently waiting for the project to start so that their livelihoods can be improved.
- Local Communities: Community leadership stakeholder group stated that HWC levels will stay the same during this project if permission to hit wildlife is granted to famers.
- Respondents from the Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities stakeholder group stated that the level will stay the same.

Respondents said all villages around the national park are affected by HWC but the Mambele people said they are most affected since the presence of eco-guards is significant in the village. Most respondents said HWC is of low concern to them

4.3 Mitigation of HWC

The focus group discussions with both the IPs and local communities revealed that the Dja-Lobéké area does not have a HWC reduction strategy.

However, IPs respondents in Mambele proposed that the project should provide financial assistance to enable them buy food and improve their homes. They want to be able to educate their children in schools, get their national identity cards and birth certificates, and raise livestock such as poultry, piggery, pisciculture and apiculture. This group of respondents further stated that the project needs to create more employment for the Baka community. Also, large farms should be created to ensure that even after destruction from wildlife; they will still be left with some food for the family.

Local community leaders stated that there is a planned initiative by WWF aimed at using beehives to deter elephants from farms and community living spaces. Also, Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities expressed that many small-scale individual initiatives at organizational levels are ongoing, concerning the prevention and reduction of HWC. WWF is working on a tool composed of beehives to scare particular animals such as elephants from farmlands and community settlements. MINFOF intends to use a collaborative approach to manage and minimize HWC. The establishment of beehives to scare particular animals such as elephants from farmlands and community settlements is a strategy to fight against HWC. MINFOF intends to use a collaborative approach to manage and minimize HWC.

4.4 Effectiveness of mitigation measures against HWC

Indigenous Peoples Community leadership and Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities in Mambele expressed that HWC prevention /mitigation measure were not effective so far. Local community leadership stakeholder group in Yenga opined that it is too early to determine if the measures were effective because the initiative is yet to be rolled out. Another group of respondents from the Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities stakeholder group in Mabam stated that the implementation of these measures is not effective. They noted that many people including some conservators are unaware of the measures. They further stated that procedures are very complex from the time a farmer reports a complaint to the time of processing and coming back with a verdict from the administration.

Respondents said to render existing HWC prevention and compensation measures effective it would be better to have farms near the villages to ensure good monitoring and MINAT should

ensure that compensation measures are effective. The project should assist the community to establish their national identity card to enable them to travel freely. Respondents in Yenga expressed that farmers should increase their farm sizes so that in case wildlife eat part of their crops they will at least have some left for them to harvest. Also training to prevent HWC and information resources should be prepared and disseminated in appropriate channels, languages and formats. Moreover, some MINFOF staff have been trained in the past and a dedicated department exist to deal with HWC issues.

4.5 Conflicts relating to land and natural resources management

The Table below illustrates that conflicts exists with other communities and within communities in relation to land and natural resources management. Conflicts were expressed by local community leadership, protected area authorities and 3rd party groups.

Management of land and natural resources conflicts

	3rd party groups: CSOs, advocacy groups, gender/IP experts, research institutions with specialised expertise, private enterprises	Indigenous Peoples: Community leadership	Local Communities: Community leadership	Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities
Yes	1		2	1
No	1	2		1

Regarding conflicts between communities or within communities in relation to land and natural resource management respondents from Mambele stated that there have been conflicts between the wildlife and the Bantu people. They noted that wildlife destroy women's food crops, men's cocoa fields and banana plantations in the forest. Furthermore, in and around the village, monkeys eat the mangoes and sweet bananas and other fruits. Additionally, the Bantu have no follow-up on the complaints they file with the conservation authorities and with the Subdivision Officer. Furthermore, there are conflicts between poachers and eco-guards that often end in the use of firearms at the expense of human lives due to the power struggle. There are also conflicts between the Baka and the Bantu peoples concerning the theft of food from their fields. In addition, conflicts stem from communities always wanting to increase their space towards PFAs and community or buffer lands to extract more natural resources.

Respondents were asked to where these conflicts are most intense (names of villages or areas in the landscape. A group of respondents from Mambele stated that conflicts are most intense in the forest, which is the buffer zone between the landscape and the villages, and at the same time the community use zone for populations. These group of respondents noted that the conflict could be located approximately between 11 to 13 km from Mambele village. The respondents further added that in this area, local people collect NTFPs, and grow food crops and cocoa.

4.6 Conflict management institutions and processes

Respondents from Mambele described that firstly, the complainant writes a complaint and files it with the traditional leader. The latter forwards the complaint to the Conservatory accompanied by the focal point of the village conflict management committee. WWF and the Conservator make a field visit to establish the facts. However, the damage is usually not repaired after this report due to a lack of follow-up. The complainant has no option but to wait for the verdict which is never reached. The complainant can also directly contact the

Subdivision Officer of Salapoumbè, which is nearer to Mambélé than to Moloundou. The chief of the land organizes a field visit with his team to establish the facts, and makes a report that he transmits to the Divisional Officer. The Divisional Officer transmits the report to the Governor and then to the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife. However, in both cases, no action is ever taken in favor of the complainant. A group of IP respondents in Mabam stated that within the community, conflicts are managed in the chiefs place, and outside at the subdivision level by the Sub-divisional officer.

Respondents in Mambele and Mabam cited that conflict management is the responsibility of the traditional council made up of the Chief (3rd degree traditional chief) and notables. Also, human rights abuse cases pertaining to the Baka people are managed by CFAID. Furthermore, in Mabam respondents expressed that PERAD, a local NGO, assists people for free regarding the administrative procedure for conflict management. In Yenga conflicts are managed the Chief and his 14 notables (including 1 woman and 2 IPs).

Furthermore, respondents were asked to state the gender representation of these conflict resolution institutions. The following results were obtained.

- Mambele - one woman among eleven men, 30 % women and 70 % men
- Mabam - No woman is represented, all are men
- Yenga – About 7% are women and the rest men

4.7 Landscape security concerns

Respondents were asked to state if there any security issues in this landscape and if yes describe any sources of insecurity, including relevant recent events. Both IPs and local communities expressed that there are no security issue in their landscape. However, Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities in Mambele revealed that there were security issues in the village as a lot of firearms are in circulation and in the hands of poachers who are hunting and trafficking wildlife. Many of the firearms come from the neighbouring Central African Republic. The protected Area Management Entity / Authorities in Mabam stated that security issues in neighbouring countries have resulted to situations where firearms and armed rebels from Central African Republic are crossing the boarders and are involved in poaching and wildlife trafficking.

Respondents added that planned project activities will not exacerbate existing conflicts. Respondents from Mambele declared that capacity building on conflict management for local communities, and the creation of a committee for conflict management, together with the traditional council and chiefs will aid the conservator and local NGOs specialized in this area to resolve conflicts. Respondents from Mambele answered affirmatively that conflict will be resolved if the project has a strong conflict management mechanism. Another group of respondents from the IPs in Mambele stated that the project has the potential to reduce existing conflict by improving existing conflict resolution procedures and mechanism. The Table below reveals that most respondents had no concerns that the planned project will bring about social conflicts.

Concerns of project exacerbating social conflicts

	3rd party groups: CSOs, advocacy groups, gender/IP experts, research institutions with specialised expertise, private enterprises	**Indigenous Peoples: Community leadership**	**Local Communities: Community leadership**	**Protected Area Management Entity/ Authorities**

No concern			2	1
Low concern	1			1
Moderate concern		1		
High concern				

Respondents also proposed measures to improve on and resolve the existing land, natural resource and social conflicts. Respondents from Mambele suggested that the IUCN project should bring together all stakeholders involved in the resolution of conflicts on the landscape and all social representatives for local communities in order to build a representative committee with mechanisms established through common agreement. This will help to resolve conflicts without going to the level of the territorial administration except in case of human death. Another group of respondents from the Indigenous Peoples: Community leadership stakeholder group in Mabam declared that at the level of the chieftaincy in case of conflict due to natural resources, we must write a statute of the rules/procedures to be able to strengthen the process. Community leadership from Yenga stated that with regards to family conflicts the Chief and his notables should counsel families to reduce, prevent or address family conflicts. If problems can't be solved like those relating to witchcraft, the Chief should send it to the hierarchies to the Sub-Divisional officer.

4.8 Suggestions/measures to ensure restoration activities do not lead to conflicts

Respondents from Mambele stated that it will be necessary to establish the requirement and sign a collaborative agreement with each stakeholder for the implementation of project activities. Also, there should be consultation and involvement of the communities. A group of respondents from Mabam stated that there was a need for an integrated commission between different stakeholders. Respondents from Mambele also opined that the stakeholders must respect the project management rules, roles and responsibilities, and that the project must include the local communities in all stages of the Project as well as respect Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines.

5. Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

This section of the results aims to understand stakeholders understanding of FPIC, clarify the rightsholders and potential representatives, and seek input into how the project should undertake FPIC. This information will inform the safeguard-enhanced ROAM plan.

Respondents were asked to state their understanding of FPIC. Respondents from the IPs community leadership group in Mabam stated that FPIC is a good instrument that permits the local community to take part and give their opinions on a project. Also, IPs vulnerable groups in Mabam stated that the FPIC includes all the stakeholders. Stakeholders include any individual or group who may have a direct or indirect stake in the project, anyone who can be affected by it, or who can have an effect on the actions or decisions of the organization or government. Yenga vulnerable groups said FPIC is about getting the opinion and involvement of the communities into project design and implementation.

5.1 Local decision making institutions and processes

Village institutions and structures include:

- Mambele - Chief and his notables, village traditional council
- Mabam – traditional council, chief and notables

- Yenga – Chief and 14 notables

Respondents from Mambele and Mabam stated that the chief mobilizes his notables to consult and discuss specific issues before making any decision. Other respondents from Mambele stated that the customary decision-making procedures are usually made through extensive collective discussion and consultation. These decisions are also often open to on-going negotiation. This is called consensus decision making. Other respondents from Mabam stated that when someone files a complain to the chief, he will call his notables to inform them and they will listen to both the accuser and accused before passing a judgement. The cost of complaining and deliberating is 2000 francs cfa.

Respondents were asked to describe the formal local administrative structures in their village. The following results were obtained.

- Mambele - Chiefdom constituting of a chief and his notable, MINFOF in charge of forestry and wildlife management
- Mabam – Sub-Divisional officer, Mayor, and formal local administration is elected by municipalities. Cities, towns and villages and are represented by a council, elected by residents
- Yenga - The chiefdom is not yet formally recognized, the formal local administration structures are constituted by the village chief assisted by notables

Natural resource users (men) opined that MINFOF takes formal decisions on PFAs especially parks and forest reserves. Communities make decisions on community-led forest management while communes make decisions on communal forest management and exploitation.

5.2 Land tenure, ownership and user rights

Indigenous Peoples (Community leadership) from Mabam stated that communities have customary access and formal user rights to natural resources in the village. Other respondents from Mabam belonging to Indigenous Peoples: Natural resource users (men) stakeholder group stated that an MoU exists that gives the formal right of the Bakas to use the PFAs for their livelihood activities, especially the collection of NTFPs. IPs from Mambele (natural resource users (men) stated that every villager has right to natural resources and that the land belongs to the first occupant. Yenga local community members (community leadership) expressed that Bantus and IPs have customary access rights to land. IPs have formal user rights to NTFPs both inside and outside PFAs while Bantus have formal user rights to NTFPs mainly outside PFAs.

5.3 FPIC precursory consultations

Respondents were asked which organisation or entity is executing the precursory consultations on FPIC. No answer was provided by the respondents. They were also asked about the experience of an executing agent in executing precursory consultations on FPIC however no response was provided. Local stakeholders or rightsholder group who participated in this precursory consultations include:

- Mabam - Chef, his notable, and community leaders, Baka IP groups (men, women, leadership., vulnerable groups), Conservator, Traditional Chief and Husband and Wife,
- Mambele - indigenous and Bantu peoples without distinction, Chief, his notables and community leaders, Bantus community members: men, vulnerable groups and handicaps.

- ❖ Yenga - indigenous and Bantu peoples as well as conservation and locally-based NGOs.

5.4 Local perception about the project and right to FPIC

Respondents from Mabam stated that the project is good, so the community is waiting for the implementation. Other participants welcomed the project and look forward to the implementation. A group of respondents from Mambele stated that the project was receptive but they were worried about the long time it would take before implementation. In Mambele, participants' feedback was welcoming; they appreciated the project for selecting Mambele as one of the three sites for the in-depth consultation. Other reactions where directly linked to development challenges they hope the project will take into account. This was related to the Mambele Community Multifunctional Center, where the existing infrastructure is fallen apart due to lack of resources to carry out proper maintenance of water supply and solar farm battery. In Yenga, a group of respondents noted that the project team was receptive and wanted the project to start sooner rather than later if the funds are secured.

Respondents were asked to explain and validate the purpose of FPIC which is: to seek in principle consent for "willingness to participate" in the project as described, including the design and implementation of restoration activities a) within PFAs; and b) outside of, but adjacent to PFAs. The Baka Chief and his notables were very willing to participate in the project. Another group of respondents in Mabam stated that they are willing to participate in the project. If the basics of the FPIC regarding restoration activities are done with our consent, it will allow them to take the project more seriously. They added that this consultation shows that the project is on good track regarding the FPIC process. Respondents in Mambele stated that the whole community is willing to participate in the project to improve their living conditions.

Furthermore**,** respondents were asked to identify rightsholders or people in the village with the right to FPIC and whether there are any social groups that do not have the right to FPIC. Some respondents noted that the FPIC right is applicable to the communities of Mabam that are predominantly or exclusively Bakas. Some noted that both Bakas and the Bantus have the rights to be involved in the FPIC process. Others noted that social groups, all Indigenous peoples within the project area with land or territory within the project area, and local communities will be considered as right-holders. Another group of respondents noted that right holders are the communities, social groups and individual with the right to FPIC. Furthermore, they noted that in project working with local communities, the rightsholders would need to be clearly defined based on the purpose of FPIC. Others noted that it was the Bakas and Batus only. Some noted that it was local community members. Finally, others noted that it was the entire group.

5.5 Village land and forest use decision making processes

Indigenous Peoples (community leadership stakeholder group) in Mambele noted that the Chief in consultation with his notables and general community members makes decisions. Also, in Mambele, decisions are made by men and women who participate in decision-making regarding land and forest use planning based on mutual understanding. Others in Mabam stated that decisions are made through the decision-making committee which is made up of the chief and his notables. In Yenga, some respondents noted that the Chief and his notables come together to consult and then the Chief makes the decision.

Next, respondents were asked what mechanisms and actions could be introduced to ensure that women, youth or vulnerable groups are better represented in the FPIC process if they are

not already included. A group of respondents from Mambele stated that a new group will be set up including all classes of people in the village concerning the project. Others in Mabam stated that the mechanism will consist of broadening out the representatives to introduce women, youth and vulnerable groups. Others in Yenga noted that a new group will be set up including everyone in the village concerning the project.

Respondents also provided their viewpoint on how non-resident, or itinerant natural resource users with legitimate rights and claims to natural resources (such as itinerant fishers, transhumant herders) are represented in the FPIC process. A group of respondents from Mambele stated that other community members from the anglophone region, the Hausa, Bamileke and Maaka are long present in this community and are sometimes integrated in community initiatives. Another group in Mambele noted that the FPIC includes all the stakeholders. Stakeholders include any individual or group who may have a direct or indirect stake in the project, anyone who can be affected by it, or who can have an effect on the actions or decisions of the organization or government. Others in Mabam noted that only the Bakas and Bantus have the legitimate rights. Others from Yenga stated that they should participate in consultations and sensitization. Another group still from Yenga stated that they are represented by the household (men or women or both).

5.6 Perception of 10 FPIC steps

Furthermore, respondents were presented the project's planned 10 steps to FPIC (from national guidelines) and asked for feedback on this. In Mambele, respondents appreciated the FPIC and mentioned that if respected, the FPIC process can really help them in the project implementation. Moreover, respondents appreciated the FPIC approach which seemed to be very participatory and integrated their voice and views in the design and implementation phases. In addition, after presenting the 10 steps, it was clear that the participants were just hearing it for the first time in Mabam. In Yenga, the chief was very comfortable with the 10 steps presented to him and had already heard about it via an NGO called Erudef. Additionally, after the presentation of the 10 steps, some respondents really appreciated the FPIC approach in Yenga.

Respondents were asked how consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation, and note any feedback. IPs (community leadership) in Mambele stated that in practice the Chief will give his decision, which represents that of his people or community. In most cases the Chief will consult with his notables and other members of the community. Respondents belonging to the Indigenous Peoples: Natural resource users (men) stakeholder group noted that the elements of informed consent are usually described as disclosure, understanding, decision-making capacity.

Respondents from Mabam said in order for information provided prior to seeking consent to be accessible, objective, and complete; copies of the brief project document should be given to the communities and explained using French and local languages through local facilitators. At the end, a consent form was signed by the participants to show that the project information has been shared with them and that they fully understand the project activities, objectives and other relevant project information. In Mambele, a group of respondents noted that the project was presented in French or English according to the landscape area, and translated by a local leader and facilitator. A copy of the project summary was handed to the representative of the community. In Yenga, respondents noted that the project summary and document was shared with the Chief and the community in a community gathering and consultation in January 2022 and in May 2022.

In Mabam, Yenga and Mambele respondents respondents stated that consent is ensured by the Chief who provides the final consent to represent the broader community. Stage 7 of FPIC will result in the signing of a consent in the form of an agreement on roles and responsibility of the community within the project implementation, and steps 8 to 9 will follow through on implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Respondents proposed capacity development to enable participation in the FPIC process. The following results were obtained:

- Mambele - Trainings and technical support
- Mabam - training or information sharing on FPIC, Training and sensitization
- Yenga – Training

5.7 Proposed restoration activities for the PFAs

Respondents did not provide any feedback on suggested restoration activities in PFAs or encroached areas and the kind of agreement that could be reached with the encroachers/resource users who currently use the area inside the PFA.

6. Cultural Heritage

This section of the results describes if there is potential for the project to negatively affect cultural heritage, and how this could be managed.

The IPs and PA management authorities both indicated the Baka-Jengi traditional right as important for the Baka people. Respondents from Mambele stated that cultural sites are located in community land outside of PFAs and inside PFAs. Another group of respondents from Mambele noted that the Jengi sites are both inside and outside PFAs. Respondents from Mabam stated that the cultural sites are in the community forest and PFAs.

Respondents from Mambele expressed that project activities will not affect cultural sites either positively or negatively because they are protected. A group of respondents from Mabam stated that the project activities will affect the sites positively because the project will further protect and conserve them. Some respondents in Mambele stated that there should be the identification and protection of sites, which is the current practice by all other actors intervening outside and inside PFAs on the landscape. Some respondents in Mabam noted that there should be the identification and integration of the sites into project activities planning and implementation.

Respondents from Mambele also mentioned cultural practices (activities, ceremonies, livelihoods, norms) important to them and their community. They said some parts of the rivers that are set aside for the women who give birth to twins and the sacred rites of Jengi, Dio and Beka. Others stated that there are traditional dance, circumcision and initiation sites (Jengui). Some stated the Njengi ritual practices by the Bakas. Others in Mabam stated that there are cultural practices like the "mokonji, ejingui, and nganga". Others in Yenga stated that there is the Jengi Initiative aimed at worshipping the God of the Baka.

Furthermore, respondents in Mambele said cultural practices were conducted on community or communal land outside or inside of PFAs. They noted that these cultural practices are conducted on community land outside of PFAs (for example the Mbanjani River located400m from the village), and inside PFAs (Djengi, Dio and Beka) once a year. Another group in Mambele stated that the practices are conducted both inside and outside the PFAs. Some

respondents in Mabam stated that the practices are conducted outside the PFAs. Almost all the respondents stated that the project will affect these practices positively. Moreover, respondents were asked what can be done to ensure that there are no negative impacts on their cultural practices. A group of respondents from Mambele stated that nothing should be done and that the cultural practices will continue with or without the project activities. Another group in Mambele noted that these cultural practices have nothing in common with the project activities so the project will not affect them at all. Others in Mabam noted that no project activities should be done around the sites.

7. Biodiversity and Sustainable Use

This section of the results describes if there is potential for the project to negatively affect biodiversity or the sustainable use of natural resources, and how this could be managed.

Respondents were asked if the project restoration activities will have a positive or negative impact on biodiversity. Respondents from Mambele stated that restoration will maintain wildlife and increase its shelters and corridors. Restoration activities, particularly reforestation, will have positive impacts because the multi-purpose species will be very beneficial to the community. The project should align with the conservation services to have a positive impact on biodiversity. Additional plants such as fruit trees, medicinal plants should be considered as well as list of key species to be conserved. Others from Mabam answered that restoration activities will have positive impacts on biodiversity because more NTFPs will be produced from them. Those from Yenga stated that the project will fight against climate change through restoration activities, and there will be no impact on animals. Respondents from Mambele noted that all the project activities mentioned will improve the environment, biodiversity and the livelihood of local populations and IP.

Respondents from Mambele said that because MINFOF is one of the lead of the project, they have to discuss with the director of conservation regarding the cancellation of UFA 10013, which has just been assigned to a logging company, and to send it elsewhere. Considering the project activities, such as the improvement in market linkages, NTFP enterprises, etc, respondents were asked whether they foresee the potential for natural resources to be used unsustainably (over-harvested). Respondents from Mambele opined that all techniques and practices that will be used will be sustainable and environmentally friendly. Others from Mambele stated that this could lead to a slight increase in the removal of these products as they are found in large quantities throughout the landscape and even where the project activities could not be implemented. Respondents were asked if there is potential for unsustainable resource use due to project support to markets or enterprises), and what they propose to prevent this. Respondents from Mambele said the project should plan the harvesting of natural resources in a sustainable way and organize periodic markets with the beneficiaries and the forest administration.

8. Labour and Working Conditions

This section of the results describes if there is potential for the project to negatively affect project workers labour and working conditions, including project partner staff, sub-contractors, and community volunteers.

Considering the project activities (restoration activities, enterprises and market linkages), respondents were asked whether they foresee the project supporting any damaging forms of

labour. All respondents from the villages stated that the project will not support any damaging forms of labour and will not engage in labour abuses.

Proposed community members and institutions to engage in project activities (eg. tree planting, fencing, enterprise development etc) include: project staff (project partners); consultants, contractors; community volunteers. Others noted that members will be appointed by a committee set up at the chiefdom. Respondents in Mambele said that there will be no health and safety risks attached to this project because they will work in the same conditions in which they are always used to.

9. Gender and Vulnerable Groups

This section of the results describes if there is potential for the project to negatively affect vulnerable groups, or to have adverse gender impacts.

9.1 Vulnerable groups

Local accounts in the Dja-Lobéké region revealed the existence of gender and vulnerable groups within the local and Indigenous communities including:

- **Vulnerable groups in local communities:** Elderly men and women, disabled, handicaps, the blind, deaf and dumb, widows and widowers, pregnant women, pregnant teenagers, orphans, infants/children, single women, young girls, single mothers, senior citizens, ethnic minorities, internally displaced people, albinos
- **Vulnerable groups in Indigenous Peoples**: Internally displaced women, young single girls, young single mothers, elderly men and women, widows, disabled persons, children, pregnant women, single women, young girls, women
- **Identification vulnerable groups by third party groups**: Elderly people, disabled people, the blind, the crippled, the deaf and dumb, pregnant women, orphans, widows, obese women

The Table below illustrates that frequently mentioned vulnerable groups in the Dja-Lobéké area include: elderly people (16), disabled people (12), widows (7), young single mothers (5).

Vulnerable groups in the Dja-Lobéké landscape

Group type	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party groups	Total
Elderly (old) men and women	5	7	4	16
Disabled (handicap)	7	4	1	12
Widows	2	3	1	6
Pregnant women	1	2	0	3
Orphan	0	2	0	2
Children	2	2	1	5
Single women	2	2	1	5
Young girls	0	0	1	1
Internally displaced	0	3	0	

9.2 Reasons for vulnerability

The focus group discussion participants also gave reasons why the groups are considered vulnerable.

Reasons for vulnerability

Group type	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party
Elderly	They are poor, advanced in age, degraded health condition, their exposure and adaptive capacity is weak; rely on family members to meet their needs; advanced age	They cannot perform their tasks; they have little or no means of livelihood; their cost of care exceeds their income	Limited adaptive capacity; inability to support one's self
Handicaps	physically/mentally handicapped, visually impaired or crippled -deaf, dumb, blind or mentally ill -degraded health condition -unphysically fit	-they lack the force to engage in many activities; -because of their dependence on others for care and support;	
Widows	-they lost their husbands who are part of their support system	-they lost their loved ones/support system; -do not have support from their husbands -they face psychological challenges	
Ethnic minorities	they are relegated to lower echelons	-They are relegated to the lower echelons, or outer edges of opportunities and progress -they experience relative disadvantage as compared to members of a dominant social group	
Orphans	-they have no one to care for them	-they face deprivation of basic needs, care and protection and disadvantaged relative to their peers -they face psychological challenges	
People living with poverty		-they are not able to afford or easily access healthier foods and opportunities for activity and recreation -they are exposed to health hazards, economic down-turns, natural catastrophes and even man-made violence	
General (group not specified)	-vulnerable groups have less opportunities and possibilities to live like others in their community especially when faced with climate impacts -they are vulnerable due to incapacity to do so many things including taking care of themselves		-inability to support one's self

	-they have poor health, are unable to cultivate land for the most part, lack of mobility and have financial poverty for the most part -these are mainly the poorest group in the village who are in most cases physically unable to carry their livelihood activities like before -lost someone in their family -due to their exposure		

9.3 Socio-economic characteristics of vulnerable groups

The Table below presents the socioeconomic characteristics of vulnerable groups as expressed by the respondents from the local community, IPs and third party groups.

Socio-economic characteristics of vulnerable groups

Local community	Indigenous community	Third party
-Handicaps cannot see, hear or talk or have lost part of their body and are less likely to carry out their activities normally like others; -Elderly are usually older than 60 years and have less mobility, more health issues and ability to conduct their daily activities; -Vulnerability related to age, livelihood activity, less mobility to work; -Less livelihood opportunities and limited capabilities and resources to conduct their daily activities; -Inability to fully carry out income generating activities themselves; -Food insecurity, less access to healthcare, low income, less education	-They do not have the necessary economic resources to improve their livelihoods; -Vulnerability related to age, livelihood activity, less mobility -Rely on family members and the making of handcraft items like basket and thatch roof; -Less income, education, employment, community safety and social support significantly affect their ability to make healthy choices, afford medical care and housing, manage stress and more; -No longer have the capacity to generate income, can no longer actively intervene in the management of their family and other's needs; -Deprivation of health, education, food knowledge, influence over one's environment;	-Age, physical health, financial and material means, gender and social access;

9.4 Natural resources and capitals important for the livelihoods of vulnerable groups and women

The Table below shows natural resources vital for the maintenance of vulnerable groups in the Dja-Lobéké area. This include: fish, prawn, NTFPs, water, wood, wildlife, land, trees. More emphasis was laid on water, NTFPs, trees and land. The local community focused more on trees while the indigenous community emphasized more on NTFPs.

Natural resources and importance for livelihoods of vulnerable groups and women

Natural resource	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party
Land	-Vital for local livelihoods		-They are given to satisfy their hunger
Firewood / fuelwood			-They need it to warm themselves -To prepare food
Water	Drinking		-They need it for drinking to be alive;

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs)		-Used for making baskets, mats and thatch roof products	
Trees	-Firewood to cook and for warmth -Eat fruits from the trees and use medicinal herbs to heal themselves		
Wildlife			
Fish			

Capitals critical for maintenance of women and vulnerable groups

Capital type	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party
Social factor	-Family support -Members to social groups (Moloso, PAEM, RAPLO, CODUMA, OR-VERT, etc) -Social groups where they contribute financially(tontin) -children, partners, self-help groups	-Health -Leisure areas for handicaps -The value of social relationships and networks e.g. associations, joint intervention grouping, church, political party, football, land, NTFPs and waterfall) -Family	-Children, wife or husband, family in general -The place of leisure and relaxation
Economic factor	-Revenue from sales of cocoa, njangsang, prawn and other NTFPs -Land and trees to generate income, water to maintain health and to process products or prepare food	-Finance -Work -Economic and financial capitals, the commercial benefits from the sale of NTFPs -Wildlife, fish and forest	-Land and trees -Money to access certain services -Finance -House
Physical factor	-House -Land -Trees -Healthcare and community basic infrastructure	-House -Infrastructure -Health condition	-Free access to health center and public transportation
Natural factor	-Land -Forest -Water	-NTFPs	
Human factor	-health situation	-family members	
Institution	-Primary and secondary schools		
Cultural assets	-“Jengi” traditional ceremonies		

9.5 Gender and vulnerable groups’ perception of planned project activities

The most cited positive impacts of the planned project were land restoration, preservation of the ecosystem, reforestation and the impacts on the livelihoods of vulnerable groups. They however perceived no fear regarding the potential impacts of the project activities, as they did not discuss or cite any negative perceptions of the planned activities. The local communities saw positive impacts of the planned project activities in terms of forest restoration, preservation and increase flow of NTFPs, as well as improvement of the livelihoods and well-being of the community.

The Indigenous community also cited the positive impacts of the planned project activities including restoration, and the provision of more resources that are needed by the vulnerable groups. Regarding the negative impacts of the project, the IPs cited no impact, as the activities will not interfere with the assets of the vulnerable population.

Perceived effects of project activities on the use of natural assets for women and vulnerable groups

Perceived effects	Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party
Positive	-Yes if the project develops part of the activities to focus on benefitting the vulnerable group -Restoration, preservation and flow of forest ecosystem services such as water, NTFPs -Positive impacts through people who assist them daily and beneficiaries of project activities, environmental improvement and quality of life	-Yes if the project develops some of the activities that can be done by or involve the vulnerable groups -The project can only positively affect vulnerable people in terms of restoration, as it will provide more resources needed for livelihoods	-Multiplication of forest resources through reforestation to increase their livelihood opportunities
Negative	-No negative impact is envisaged because they do not have access and user right restriction to these resources because of the project activities	-No, as there will be a site chosen for the project and there will not be any interference with their assets	-Project will not negatively impact the vulnerable people, even those who take care of them, because all activities planned in the project contribute to improve their well-being

This section explains proposed activities vital to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups in local and indigenous communities and the frequency of mention for each activity.

Livelihood activities for improvement of gender and vulnerable groups

Activities	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party
Provide aid/support	-Support family members on whom the vulnerable depend -Advice and support in all directions -Improve the livelihoods of helpers, grant them donations and multiform aid and constant follow-up	-Provide vulnerable groups with support such as food, household needs, clothes etc	-Provide grant and multiform aid to vulnerable groups and improve their own vulnerability and living conditions, and environment;
Education / Training	-Training of the vulnerable people to gain skills that can help them work -Create a training center and train young mothers on different skills such as sewing and hair dressing and equip them to go operational -Women and young girls in general do not have identity cards so it will be great to do it for them to ease their movement	-Specific training for each vulnerable group -Provide identity cards for women, young girls and children to help them engage in school or official initiatives	

	and engagement in official initiatives		
Access to medical care/ special care		-Special care for vulnerable groups; -Access to medical facility;	
Technological support		-Machines to crack and press NTFPs to produce oil from njangsang for example;	
Water		-Repair dysfunctional water infrastructure (wells)	
Improvement in quality of life		-Improving rural quality of life	
Agriculture/farming inputs	-Farming inputs provision: matchets, fungicide, improved seed/plant varieties, agriculture and forest extension services -Develop the value chain for NTFPs to obtain better price, sustainable transportation, conservation and official procedures to transport NTFPs to the market - Widows and elderly: support their individual farms of about 2 to 5 ha by providing farming inputs related to land preparation, seed/seedling purchase among others -Encouraging women and youths into agriculture	-Farm input support to the family members taking care of vulnerable groups	
Job creation	-Generating employment opportunities	-Increasing incomes -Encouraging women and youths into agriculture -Reducing unemployment by utilizing more of the	

		community's productive workforce -Generating employment opportunities	
Community infrastructure		-Build community meeting house for the Baka people -Construction and equipping of a health center and recruit staff e.g. nurse and other medical experts	

The Table above illustrates that in local communities, priority activities to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups consist of providing aid and support to vulnerable groups and their family members, education and training to young women and mothers, job creation or generating employment opportunities, provision of agricultural or farming inputs. In Indigenous communities, gender and vulnerable groups cited support and aid in their daily living such as food, education and training, access to medical care, technological support, improvement of water infrastructure, provision of community infrastructure, and job creation by encouraging women and youth to undertake agricultural activities. Third party organizations mentioned the provision of support and aid to gender and vulnerable groups, so as to improve their vulnerability, living conditions and their environment.

Frequency distribution for livelihood improvement activities for gender and vulnerable groups

Activities	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party	Total
Aid / support	1	0	2	3
Education / training	3	1	0	4
Access to medical / special care	2	2	0	4
Technological support	2	1	0	3
Water	0	1	0	1
Improvement in quality of life	1	2	2	5
Agriculture / farming inputs	2	4	0	6
Job creation	3	3	0	6
Community infrastructure	2	1	0	3

9.6 Forms of disabilities and local and public recognition

The Table below presents the different forms of disability that are present in the village or landscape, as described by the different stakeholder groups. The most recognised forms of disability are blindness (11 responses), deafness (8), being dumb (8), limited mobility (8) and physical disability (8). The local community, the indigenous community and even third-party organisations mostly cited these as forms of disabilities present in the area.

Forms of disabilities present in the village or landscape

Disability	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party	Total
Blind	4	5	2	11
Deaf	5	1	2	8
Dumb	5	1	2	8
Limited mobility	4	2	2	8
Physical disability	4	3	1	8
Mental instability	2	0	0	2
Elderly	3	1	0	4
Widows	0	1	0	1
Albinos	1	0	0	1
Recognised by ministry as disabled	0	1	0	1

This section examines whether the disabilities mentioned in the previous section are formally recognised by the local community or state. The responses indicate (Table below) that most respondents from the local community and the indigenous community feel that the identified disabilities are recognised only by the local community in an informal way. In some cases, respondents specified that they were recognised not by the state but by the community only.

Local community and the state recognition of disabilities

Response	Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party	Total
No	2	3	1	6
Yes formally	1	0	0	1
Yes but not formally	2	1	1	4
Yes by local community only	3	0	0	3

9.7 Perceived effect of project activities on vulnerable groups

Third party organizations mostly answered “No” (2), and local community groups mainly said No (7). The indigenous community had a mix of answers – No (6) and Yes (1).

When asked to describe and explain how vulnerable groups could be disproportionately affected by project-supported activities, the Indigenous community mostly cited positive benefits of the project to the community such as improvement of livelihoods (2 responses) and also said that vulnerable groups will not be disproportionately affected as the project will not interfere with their natural resources (2). The local community stated that on the contrary the project will positively impact the families of vulnerable groups by providing support for them and also improve on the environment through planting of crop and fruit trees, which will support family members on whom the vulnerable groups depend. Third party organizations did not respond to this question.

The local community provided some suggestions for preventing disproportionate impacts of project-supported activities on vulnerable groups, including:

- Project activities should plant agroforestry fruit and crop trees on farmlands and reforestation species in community forest, backed by farmers and community-led nursery initiatives that provide additional income to those engaged in raising trees in their private nurseries.
- Women should be trained and coached not to be afraid and be able to express themselves in public
- Find some activities in the project which requires little physical effort or aligns with the skills of vulnerable groups so that they are involved in the project.

The Indigenous community on the other hand suggested that:

- A site should be chosen and there will be no interference with the assets of the vulnerable groups.
- Strengthen capacities on restoration and include them in decision-making committee
- Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

Third party organizations suggested monitoring the measures to be provided by the project to the disabled people. Furthermore, respondents were asked whether there is potential for discrimination against vulnerable groups, including risk of discrimination in selection of project beneficiaries, lack of representation of vulnerable groups and unequal benefit distribution due to project-supported activities. The local community cited (Table below) the possibility of discrimination from the notion that vulnerable groups are not accepted by people who are not part of their family and some of them are considered as social outcasts. The indigenous community (Table below) raised the point of discrimination against the IPs by the Bantu during decision-making and benefit sharing. Third party organizations said the reason why there is potential for discrimination is because vulnerable groups are only accepted and supported as they are by their families, people from other families look at them with contempt and disregard.

Potential for discrimination against vulnerable groups

Response	Local community	Indigenous community	Third party	Total
Yes	0	1	1	2
No	7	6	1	14

Mitigation measures advanced by the local community for preventing discrimination against vulnerable groups include:

- Should involve and work directly with families on whom the vulnerable groups belong.
- All the social groups should be taken into consideration in the project
- Raise awareness of the community to pay more attention to vulnerable people and to treat them as full members of the community by bringing them a warm smile
- Find some activities in the project which requires few physical effort, so they feel also involved and helpful to the project
- Maintain an active and continuous dialogue with vulnerable groups
- Ensuring vulnerable groups have on an equal footing with others, an effective access to health care
- Ensure that all children of vulnerable groups continue to access adequate schooling
- Taking adequate measures to protect employees of vulnerable groups

- Focus on preventing and combating violence against vulnerable groups, including domestic and gender-based violence and providing victims with the necessary psychological, social and legal support.

The Indigenous community suggested that the project should:

- Promote equality and counter discrimination through laws and institutions
- Encourage rights-based and inclusive public narratives
- Give particular attention to discrimination against women, person with disabilities and migrants
- Combat hate speech in the digital space
- Adopt a human rights response to discrimination and inequality, ensuring that no one is left behind
- Consider this group as a whole community and help them to feel that they are helpful with their knowledge
- Legalisation or official recognition of the Baka Chiefdom by others especially the Bantus

Third party organisations suggested educating and sensitizing the population to accept and integrate these vulnerable people as full members of their community and not entirely outside.

No stakeholder group believed that there will be any potential for people with disabilities to be negatively affected by project-supported activities and changes in land/forest use practices. In order to prevent project impacts on persons with disabilities, the indigenous community suggested developing a written policy that defines procedures and rules, educating people about discrimination, considering more than one option for communication channels, implementing an anti-retaliation program, conducting team-building activities, and focus groups. They also suggested that Baka people have traditional knowledge so the project could help them to do some activities which need traditional technology and less physical effort. Third party organizations, simple practices and small activities that do not require much effort may be adapted to allow vulnerable groups to participate in the project implementation as well.

9.7 Relationship between men and women in the community

The local community mostly answered “good relationship, good relationship in general, collaborative” though some went further to describe how the relationship was structured as outlined in the Table below; while others described the relationship as conflicting. The Indigenous community indicated that the relationship is not very good while the third party organizations also saw the relationship as conflicting. **Perceived relationships between men and women in the community**

Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party
-Good relationship	-good relationships	-in general, there is not a very god relationship because women are more imposing in terms of relationships, there are many women’s associations and none for only men are found
-Harmonious relationship, however, harmony for men’s interests because women are the ones who contribute more to the food supply at home.	-the relationships are sometimes difficult but not conflicting	-often conflicting relationships due to the lack of dialogue within the couple, leadership issues or selfishness in the management of incomes and the abandoning of the children’s responsibilities

		to one partner, mainly to women in view of their status or when funds are involved.
-Men do not assist women in their farm work but they strongly request food from women	-their husbands go with them into the bush to protect them against attacks by wild animals during harvesting of NTFPs. Otherwise, husbands don't contribute to the food ration and the education of the children, they use brutality for sexual intercourse	
-The financial income is not shared between the couple, each one manages individually.	Both of the couples do not know how to keep the money to plan the expenses	
-The children's schooling is supported at the primary level by the women and it is from the secondary level onwards that it is supported by both husband and wife.	-there is overall good relationship between men and women in the community	
Conflicting relationship	-not very good relationship exist between men and women. This is because most Baka women drink a lot and are drunk most of the times, which makes it difficult for women to take care of the children and provide food for the house	
Lack of sincere dialogues		
Lack of transparent and participatory management of finances		
No care given to widows and young mothers		
Lack of collaboration in the upbringing of children		

- **Factors that shape the relationship between men and women in this community.**

Local community:

- Living peacefully together, between cultures, religion and between Bakas and Bantus
- We are from the same ethnic group
- When the family members have good health and are not hungry
- The culture encourages and promotes good relations between men and women
- Men and women are often from the same ethnic group
- Co-parenting
- Taking care of women
- Management of family issues
- Co-management and co-planning of investments
- The culture encourages and promotes good relations between men and women
- Men and women are often from the same ethnic group
- When the family members have good health and are not hungry

Indigenous community:

- More love
- What links women to men is childbearing and nutrition
- Basic education, because respect is taught to everyone from the ground up

- We are of the same ethnicity
- Language is a factor that also reconciles us
- Relationship is good because men and women work together on many things
- Men work together with the women to take care of the family
- Men protect women during the collection of NTFPs such as bush mango that is equally sought after by gorillas. Potential of conflict becomes eminent and men are there to protect their women
- Education at the family level shapes the education between men and women in the village
- The increased consumption of alcohol (sold in small sachets, local known as "gologolo:aki"). Either the sellers increase the price from 100 to 1000 francs CFA or stop selling it because it is destroying the relations of the Baka men and Baka women.

Third party organizations:

- Education and demand from women to keep up with fashion
- Dialogue inside the couple
- Child education starting from second cycle
- Management of incomes and profits from the sale of cocoa
- Management of family events
- Acceptance and taking care of vulnerable family members.

9.8 Customary laws and women's rights

When questioned on the customary laws or traditional user rights that affect women's access to and control over (natural) resources, the local community claimed that: i) women have access to land and user rights to NTFPs outside Protected Forest Areas (PFAs), but also that there are no customary or traditional laws that affect women's access to and control over natural resources; ii) land belongs to men and their wives and daughters automatically access and cultivate the land, but for NTFPs, access and user rights is open to everyone outside PFAs while inside PFAs only the Baka have a special access right to collect NTFPs; iii) family succession .or heritage; iv) bride price paid to the father of the girl; v) widowhood; and vi) access and control of natural resources.

The Indigenous community on its part, cited that there are no customary laws that affect women's access to and control over natural resources but there is a customary practice like "Jengi" which a woman is not allowed to participate if she is not initiated. The woman is called through: family succession or heritage, bride price paid to the father of the girl, widowhood and access and control of natural resources.

Third party organizations cited customary matrimonial practices that defend certain parts of a river inaccessible to other women to celebrate the woman who gave birth to twins. Access to the sacred sites is also forbidden to women who are not yet initiated though very few are not initiated.

9.9 Natural resources and capitals significant for the maintenance of women and girls

The Table below shows that water (15) and land (12) were of utmost importance to the communities especially to the local community while fuelwood (7) and NTFPs (6) followed suit in terms of importance in the maintenance of livelihoods for girls and women.

Table 19: Natural resources significant for the maintenance of women and girls

Resource	Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party	Total
Land	6	4	2	12
Water	7	6	2	15
Forest	1	1	1	3
Firewood	3	4	0	7
NTFPs (njangsang, bush mango, fuelwood, condiments such as mingeye and mbalaka)	2	4	0	6
trees	2	2	1	5
Animals	0	1	0	1
Fish	0	1	0	1
Microbusiness such as basket making	0	1	0	1

Also, the following social, economic, physical and other factors (capital types) were cited as critical to the maintenance of women and girls.

Capitals critical for the maintenance of women and girls

Capital type	Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party
Social / cultural	-Belonging to associations such as GIC, church, political party, football. -Training of women to learn new skills and work -Community associations and support groups -Social education -Family, children, self-help groups	-Membership in Baka cult -Schools for education -Associations -Joint intervention grouping -Training of women to have special work -Valorisation of women, gender in the public work -Jengi and traditional health knowledge -Family	-Children -Family -Support groups -Local languages and -Customs
Economic / financial	-Sales of NTFPs from the forest -"Tontin" contribution -farming inputs such as matchets, hoes, planting materials -Scholarship -Jobs for women -Technical and financial support for the development of some activities -Njangi -Commercial benefits from sales of NTFPs	-Local contributions -Work for women -Sale of NTFPs -Jobs in Bantu farms	-Njangi contribution -Money
Physical / natural	-Land, water and forest -House, farming, building and infrastructure -Access to land, trees and other natural resources Drilling and health care -NTFPs, cocoa and food crops -Market and good health	-Farm land and house -water for drinking -NTFP collection for sales -land for farming	-Land, trees, health -basic community infrastructure e.g. health centers, drinking water wells -peace

Factors that will improve the livelihood status of women and girls

Local community	-improve existing activities such as farming and collection of NTFPs -training of women to learn new skills, trades e.g. sewing, beauty shop etc. and work -farming, good quality inputs; improved varieties and equipment -trainings; new skills on alternative livelihoods such as small business and provide scholarship to brightest girls and boys to go to high school and university to get better jobs in the future -valorisation of the skills of women

	-development of NTFP value chain e.g. njangsans including the transformation and commercialisation -tree planting on farmlands (agroforestry) and other lands -organize group sales -build a warehouse -create a periodic market to sell NTFPs -grant an essential oil extraction machine to women -training for the production and formal transformation of njansang into oil -support training of young girls in soap making process and dyeing clothes and materials -encouraging women and youths into agriculture -utilizing more of the community's female productive workforce -increasing incomes through agricultural transformation which is non-existent in the community -generating employment opportunities
Indigenous community	-improved farming techniques -build a warehouse -trainings to acquire new skills -NTFPs – bush mangoes, condiments -water and fuelwood -microbusinesses such as basket making Small loans to advance entrepreneurship -promoting community education and ownership -prohibiting gender discriminatory pay differences in the workplace -promoting gender equality by training girls and women in skills for sustainable livelihoods (locally relevant skill course, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, environmental issues and climate change) -valorisation of women -training of women to have special work -support to grow cassava, peanuts, plantains, pistachios and corn -group sales for women to better sell their harvest
3rd party	-capacity building in mainly thematics, -support for the identification and development of income-generating activities across the value chain -creation and equipping of a health center in Mambele -construction of boreholes in the 5 community settlements -organization of Baka and Bantu women for group sales -resources and means of empowerment -livelihoods monitoring set up in the project

9.10 Women and vulnerable groups' representation in community decision making

The local community gave different answers, but all pointed to the fact that women are not as involved in the decision-making processes on natural resource management as expected. Their responses indicated as follows:

- 1/14th of women (7%)
- The vulnerable groups represented are only old people, and the women are 30%
- Decision making is managed by the Chief and his notables. Out of the 10 notables that are involved in decision making in the Chiefdom, 3 of them are women (30%)
- The representation of women in decision-making is 3 women out of 10 people (30% women) and that is because they are busy with farm work and their women's associations
- Only 1 woman is part of the village council
- There is no notable woman in the chiefdom
- There is a community forest that belongs exclusively to Baka with 2 women against 5 men members of management committee
- Women and vulnerable people always participate in community decision-making at disproportionate levels, because women are always busy with housework and vulnerable groups are discouraged. There may be sometimes 2 women, 3 vulnerable persons over 25 participants.

The IPs had mixed responses accepting that women actively participate in decision-making in the Baka community and in associations, but they also indicated that men and women participate in different meetings in a disproportionate way, fewer women participate in natural resource management in the village, as the women are always busy with housework. Their responses are shown below:

- Women actively participate in decision making in the Baka community and associations
- Women do not participate in decision making concerning natural resource management
- Chief and his 4 notables constitute 2 men and 2 women, the chief consults with them in times of decision making
- Women and vulnerable people participate in a disproportionate way, there may be 2 women and 3 vulnerable persons among 25 participants.
- There is no woman in such a committee
- There is no community forest committee in the village but men and women participate disproportionately in different meetings and few women and vulnerable groups participate in it.

Among the third-party organizations, they cited a 44.4% representation rate for women in Mambele as well as an association whose board is entirely composed of women. However, one woman against 11 men is notable in the traditional council of the Mambele chiefdom. It also became clear that it is very rare to see women well represented while some senior citizens are often represented.

Reasons for under-representation **of** women and vulnerable include:

- Women are always busy with housework and vulnerable groups are always discouraged from participating in decision making;
- Women are less represented because they underestimate themselves, not trust each other and are ashamed to speak in public
- The chief decides on women's representation although there is no clear justification why?

The IPs indicated that women need capacity building to show what they can do for their children and to show the public that they have traditional knowledge and are able to help their family, and that women have no ability to lead and convince men to include them in decision making. The IP however cited that women are not represented in decision making because of the custom of the village but that could be improved by sensitization.

Third party organizations said that customary practices most often exclude women in decision-making council as well as vulnerable people who are not considered in the society. The Baka were cited as not being represented because they are marginalised by the Bantu people as well as the chiefdom. Women, according to third party organizations are rather limited by tradition and are not very interested in decision-making.

9.11 Gender based violence

The following responses were provided concerning the occurrence of incidents of gender-based violence at the project site(s) and how they vary between social groups. Responses on this issue differed though there were recent instances cited by some groups.

Incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) at the project sites

Response	Local community	Indigenous community	3rd party
No	6	3	0
Yes (incident)	1 – physical aggression by unknown person happened one week ago -physical violence by a husband to the wife and it resulted to injuries (3 weeks ago)	2 – frequent drunkenness of the men, women and youths due to excessive alcohol / local whiskey usually leads to abuses on both sides - every day with their husband when they drink alcohol	- a wife was badly beaten by her husband two weeks ago while drinking palm wine -another woman who was married went to her farm very early in the morning a week ago and then was attacked by a masked man in her field when she had just left her home because of disagreements with her husband -there is sexual abuse and sexual harassment by Baka men towards Baka women because the parents of young Baka girls do not supervise them enough and there is neglect
NA	0	2	0

The local community explained that GBV is usually perpetrated by persons who hold a position of power or control others (intimate partners, members of the extended family, or friends. They made it clear that both women and men experience GBV but the majority of victims are women and girls. They also pointed that the aggression was carried out by unknown persons, the lady that was beaten in one incident was an anglophone couple who moved into the community but much is not known about the incidence.

Indigenous community members explained that Baka men perpetrate GBV and also confirmed that it is usually perpetrated by persons who hold a position of power or control others. Some respondents within the group claimed that there were no real cases of GBV noted and others answered “No” (1) and NA responses were also recorded (2).

The third-party organisations cited that Baka girls and women are 90 percent represented in terms of rape, and that among the Bakas, there are more fights which leads to homicides. It is explained that before, there weren’t such incidents of violence apart of between married people and one reason cited for the incidence of GBV is excessive consumption of local whisky in sachets which is extremely common among the Baka men, women and youths.

Suggestions for preventing discrimination against women include:

Local community:

- respecting cultural and racial differences in the workplace
- being professional in conduct
- refusing to initiate, participate in and condone discrimination and harassment
- avoiding race-based or culturally offensive humor or pranks
- prohibit alcohol that causes violent reactions and aggression by young people especially in the Baka community

Indigenous community:

- developing a written policy that defines procedures and rules
- educating women about discrimination
- considering more than one option for communication channels
- implementing an anti-retaliation program
- conducting team-building activities

- help the Baka have their own field and avoid going to work as labourers to the Bantus
- defend the sachets of alcohol that the Bantu give them which makes them aggressive
- sensitization and respect the rights of women is important

Third party organizations:

- involve women in all the decision-making institutions and at all stages of the implementation of all project activities,
- share equally and separately the benefits of the project

Only the third-party organizations cited that women are still marginalized when it comes to projects in this landscape, all other participants did not answer. Suggestions to prevent the creation, exacerbation and perpetuation of gender-related inequalities include: i) raise awareness and sensitize men and women on their rights and obligations in the presence of the administration and ii) strengthen the capacities of women on their rights and encourage the chief to integrate notable women into his chiefdom.

The IPs suggested that wages and benefits should be separately distributed between men and women, and IPs and Bantus when work is done together. The project should educate, listen and empower girls and women, supported them with the resources and opportunities needed to be agents of change in their own lives and for a better world. Also, women should be equally represented in decision-making bodies and free from harassment and violence. Third party groups suggested establishing the principle of good governance in the inclusive and transparent management of project activities and involving women in all decision-making committees. In response to the potential for impacts from project-supported activities on the livelihoods or rights of women and girls, all groups answered “No”. Groups all answered no in describing the potential for the project activities to impact the livelihoods of women and girls, and said that the project would rather have positive impacts on them.

In terms of suggested solutions for preventing impacts on livelihoods or rights of women and girls, the local community suggested that the project should ensure that gender issues are crosscutting including livelihoods and the respect of the rights of women and girls. The Indigenous community explained that women face several challenges in their livelihoods including vulnerability to their income, household assets, lives and health, food security, education, water sources, sanitation and transportation systems, because of ongoing climate change impacts. The suggested solutions will be to improve the livelihoods of women in the rural communities and avoiding restricting their access to PFAs for NTFP collection, water for fish and animals. The third-party groups similarly suggested avoiding restrictions of access to and use of land, trees and water in all project activities and include at least one woman in the decision-making committee. Regarding the potential for GBV due to project-supported activities including the activities of all named project partners, all groups responded with a “no”.

Suggestions for preventing GBV

Local communities suggested that i) gender roles and stereotypes that make GBV acceptable should be questioned; ii) access to information about what GBV is, its different forms, possible remedies and existing support measures should be provided; iii) professionals should be trained to identify, address and respond to GBV; iv) the scale of the problem should be

revealed, it is rarely discussed and data at a local level is often not available or is incomplete; v) awareness-raising campaigns and policies to address gender inequality and GBV should be created and vi) empowerment programmes which strengthen the self-esteem and autonomy of those sections of the population that are more likely to be at risk of violence should be organized. They also suggested the teaching of rights of girls in schools as well as sensitization and training on GBV. It was mentioned that Mama Marie from CEFAID comes from time to time to conduct sensitization of women on their rights and obligations.

The IPs suggested that prevention plays a central role in the efforts to eradicate and remove the root causes of GBV and suggested: i) working to change attitudes or questioning gender roles and stereotypes that make GBV acceptable in society; ii) providing accessible information about what it is, its different forms and possible remedies /support measures, training professionals to be able to identify, address and respond to GBV as well as revealing the scale of the problem and organizing awareness-raising and empowerment programmes.

Third party groups suggested raising awareness on GBV and the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in the project sites when signing the agreements.

Suggestions for enhance women's representation in decision making

The local community members suggested sensitization and training and encouraging women to support women leaders and candidates in different platforms and processes, and also to implicate women in the project activities and create activities that concern only women and girls.

The indigenous community suggested taking women's views and interests should be taken into consideration, giving women a voice in the community matter and access to leadership positions at the grassroot level, as they are more likely to participate if they have greater knowledge, economic assets and income-earning capacity which in turn increases their self-esteem and confidence. Support from husbands, other family members and local leaders is also essential, and they need to be made aware of the importance of women being involved in such activities. Raising awareness and providing information related to women's rights while monitoring work and decision-making committees will also be helpful. Sensitization, education (especially for the Baka women) and the distribution of positions in household activities could also improve the situation, as time-intensive household care duties and cultural norms impede women's abilities to participate in community consultations and decision-making processes about sustainable management initiatives.

For third party groups, capacity building will improve women representation in decision-making and project activities.

10. Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

This section of the results describes the results regarding potential negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, including social, cultural impacts, or impacts of Ips right to self-determination. It also aims to understand IP-specific considerations, in order to ensure that these are planned for in the project design and the project safeguards (particularly the safeguards-enhanced ROAM).

The IPs revealed that everywhere in the landscape, there is overlap between PFAs and territories used by the Baka.

When asked if there are any households, families or communities of indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation, the local community did not provide any answer while the indigenous community had diverse responses. They said there were some cases where the Baka families live about twelve months in the forest away from the village. They also stated yes, when it is time for harvesting NTFPs but after that period, they return home. The third party said the IPs of Mambele live in isolation during NTFP collection seasons, when they stay in the forests for the entire collection period, about 3 to 4 months before returning. The IPs and third party groups said there are no sub-groups (women, elderly, poor, youth, and isolated groups) among them particularly vulnerable to project impacts. The IPs described groups vulnerable to project impacts as old people and sick women, blind and widows; and third party groups said all IPs are vulnerable according to international human rights and IPs convention

10.1 Settlement history

The IP described the settlement history of the IPs in the village, saying that the Baka left another area called Ngatto attracted by the Bantu chief and settled without difficulty, when they got attracted by an NTFP called Mabam from which the village was named. They further explained that the indigenous people inhabit the project area since their ancestors used to live in the area and collected NTFPs during the high season. Another explanation from the indigenous community described the Baka people as coming from the Congo and are installed because of abundant forest resources as a means of subsistence while the Bantu people arrived later in search of better living conditions. This implies that there was no displacement within the landscape. The Baka people do not however have a good relationship with the Bantu people. According to third party groups, the indigenous people from Mambele used to live inside the forests before they were declared reserves and national parks, but they were obliged to abandon their natural living area to accommodate what was offered them by the Bantu people. Today, the Baka return to the forest to make camps for the collection of NTFPs and once that is completed, they return to civilization.

10.2 Land tenure and user rights regime

The land tenure status of indigenous people living in Mambele was described by the community groups in different ways. The indigenous community described their status in various ways:

- the Baka people have access to land and forest
- the natives have the exclusive rights to access and use the reserve as their means of subsistence
- the Baka IPs have rights and access to land for farming and collection of NTFPs both inside and outside the PFAs
- there is no land tenure status, as the land belongs to the first occupants who were mainly the Baka people
- only the indigenous population are allowed to do fishing, subsistence hunting, gathering and collecting inside and outside the reserve and have made fields
- the Baka are installed on land that belongs to the Bantu and have no land title or control over the lands they occupy. They have access to the forest even in the PFAs for the extraction of resources.
- no, the land belongs to the first occupant, we have the right to the land, we build our houses and create our fields wherever we are interested.

The third-party groups however cited that the IP have rights of access and use within the landscape, and that the forest administration gives them an accord to go inside the landscape for NTFP collection, fish and wildlife for their livelihood. It was also outlined that the indigenous populations alone are allowed to do fishing, subsistence hunting, gathering and collecting within the reserve and outside.

The IP have user rights to resources both inside and outside the PFAs, for their subsistence. It came out strongly that the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) signed an MoU with the Baka people to enable them have access to and user rights in the PFAs. Prior to that, the Baka were not allowed to get into the PFAs especially parks and forest reserves to carry out their livelihood activities. It was further explained that according to the Forest Law of 1994, the IPs live outside the PFAs but the MoU gave them user/access rights to collect NTFPs inside PFAs.

Third party groups claimed there was no law concerning the right of use, just an MoU giving user rights in parks and forest reserves to the Baka. Another school of thought said that IPs have rights of access and use because it is their natural living area where they carry out their livelihood activities. It seems that the IPs have user rights and access to the PFAs for specific activities but it is not clear. The indigenous community all indicated that there was no conflict between the IP in the village and the PFAs, while third party organisations described that conflicts as mostly related to their rights of use given that IPs have the right to hunt wildlife sufficient for their daily nutrition, not protected species or waste of species for sale.

10.3 Key issues and concerns raised by the IPs and third party groups

i) Their children don't have birth certificates to go to school and mothers do not have valid national identity cards;
ii) Their village land is not mapped and secure by territorial administration
iii) They have very reduced means of subsistence,
iv) They face poverty;
v) Less access to public services
vi) Very high alcohol consumption by Baka men, women and youths especially local whisky is a big problem that is killing the Bakas in their number. Once any money touches their hands, it's time to go get some sachet whiskies. Some participants in the group worry that the high alcoholism is tearing apart the foundation and fabric of the Bakas as a people, leading to all sorts of unpleasant violence among themselves.

In addition to reduced subsistence, poverty and limited public services, third party organisations indicated that IPs have no secure land tenure because they occupy land that belongs to the Bantu people, who give them the space while using them as "workforce" at their disposition. IPs do not cultivate food crops but spend their time working in the houses or fields of the Bantus, so at the end of the work day, they steal food from the Bantu fields for their own livelihood.

10.4 Human rights abuses against IPs

Indigenous community explained that in the last five years, there have not been any allegations or confirmed instances of human rights abuse perpetrated against IPs in the project area. The third party also alleged that there have been no cases too in the area, as the cases of IP arrests are for illegal practices by the Conservation Service where IPs are paid to hunt by the local elite at their expense and when they get caught, the IPs do not report the

elites. All parties/groups cited that there have been no instances of human rights violations linked to the project proponent or project partners.

The indigenous community and third-party groups both explained that the Baka people came from Ngatto attracted by the Bantu chief and settled without difficulty after having historically lived inside permanent forests. It is because of the creation of the PFAs that they came out and settled along the roads, they themselves say that they come from Yokadouma. Some of the Baka people were moved from the reserve where they lived to create the park.

10.5 IPs representation in forest institutions

The indigenous community indicated that the Baka chief is not legally recognised but also that there exists no natural resource management or use committee except for MINFOF who took the Baka out of the park before the classification of the Lobeke National Park. Third party groups explained that there is a community forest that belongs exclusively to Baka in the villages of Mambele and Yenga and that two IP women serve as members on the executive committee of this community forest.

The key constraints to IPs participation are marginalization and discrimination. Also, they stay in the background because they do not have any credentials to register as they should during the constitution of an executive office. IPs lack national identity cards and formally recognized representatives, they cannot be represented but are invited always. The third party groups added that the Bantus marginalize the IPs and consider them as their servants but that there are already efforts at the level of territorial administration to give consideration to the leaders of the Baka communities.

10.6 IPs concerns about the project

Indigenous communities expressed few concerns about the planned project namely:

- The Baka people expect the consultations with them to result in the approval of the project and concrete implementation on the ground
- They are concerned whether the project will be finally implemented as some projects consult the Bakas during the preparation phase but never come back for implementation
- They would like to be involved at all levels of the project

Third party groups were concerned about the funding and the effectiveness of the project related to the environmental, safety and livelihood needs of their landscape and communities, and would like to be involved at all levels of the project. Regarding any concerns about the project, IPs expect that the project helps them to understand their rights, provide them with machines to crush cassava and improve their living conditions. They also mentioned that they will wait to see the implementation of the activities before they can fully appreciate if they have any further concerns. Third party groups were concerned about how the conflict resolution mechanism will be implemented with all stakeholders that are locally represented.

The third parties feared that timber companies operating in the Lobéké area could affect restoration activities. Both IPs and third parties said land tenure and use rights (Table below) are sufficiently secure to enable project beneficiaries participate in identified restoration activities,

Relationship between land tenure and use rights and restoration activities

Response	Indigenous community	3rd party

yes	5	2 (the coming of forestry operators, there is a risk of disruption of restoration activities)
No (reason)	1 (because our lands that we cultivate and inhabit are not secure)	0

The IPs (6) proposed that the project could secure land or user rights by making the participatory mapping of these lands and have it legalized by the administrative authority. Third party (1), said land is already secured by law but it may be important to know the limits of the titles to be reassured that there is no overlapping and also to meet the people in charge of managing these assigned agreements and the services of the ministry in charge of forests.

Measures required to increase IP participation in decision making regarding natural resources, include: i) awareness-raising, education and creation of a management committee to manage the natural resources, ii) distribution of representative posts and sensitization, iii) it is necessary to increase number of participants of IPs in the decision-making process as most of the time they are represented with verbal trials where they were not “actually” represented, iv) women should be trained to teach their children themselves so that the children will love school more and go further. The third-party groups claimed that IPs are included in the management of community forest but reiterated that the number of participants in decision-making should be increased.

Annex 3: ESIA fieldwork findings for Waza

Free Prior and Informed Consent

In the first question, respondents were asked to state their understanding of 'free, prior and informed consent'. A group of respondents declared that “The population is pleased to hear all this and says that it shows that they are not neglected in any area. They know that we will seek their consent before any other thing will be done in their village”. Others stated that “FPIC is a form of sensitization, information sharing, and involvement in project activities planning and implementation”. Some said they were hearing about FPIC for the first time. It was also observed that the participants or respondents said the were happy they were informed ahead of time and especially the women and that this shows that they are very important in this project.

In the next question, respondent were asked to describe the customary institutions and structures in their village. Some respondents stated that structure is made up of “ the traditional council headed by the chief. Decisions are generally made by consensus. There is a female decision-making body that caters for things related to women directly. However, this body reports back to the male-dominated traditional council and seeks approval before implementing any decisions”. Others stated that there is a traditional council made up of 16 members. This council, which includes the village Chief, is the decision-making body of the village. Decisions are made through a consensus at the council. However, when a consensus is not possible, a vote is organized to determine the path forward”.

Next, respondents were asked about the customary decision-making procedures in their village. Some respondents stated that “at the traditional council, decisions are made by consensus. Consensus is sought through customary processes”. Others noted that in any decision making procedure the chief is always at the top , followed by his assistant and then the representatives. Others stated that “When there is a problem, we submit to the chief. And after the discussion with the council, he invites the parties to make peace. When necessary, all the villagers will be invited for the decision to be taken”.

Next, respondents were asked to describe the formal local administrative structures in their village. The following results were obtained. Some respondents stated that it was the traditional council. Others noted that “ there are no administrative structures in the village. However, Andirni is located administratively in Zina sub-division in the Logone-et-Chare division”. Others noted that “The traditional council is made up of a chief and assistant chief. Others noted that “the traditional council is made up of the chief and his different assistants with different degrees.

In the next question, respondents were asked to describe the formal decision-making procedures in their villages. Some respondents noted that “there is a village council made up of the chief, the assistant chief and then the notables (representatives) during any decision-making procedure. Others noted that “there are no other decision-making bodies in the community in the village. The traditional council makes decisions concerning everything. Some noted that “formally it begins with the chief and his assistant and depending on the gravity they can take it to the state, at Zina, which is the administrative headquarter”. Another respondent had this to say “ decisions at the council are taken through consensus. Discussions are intensified until an agreement is reached”.

In the next question, respondents were asked to state their rights, including traditional and formal rights, (such as access to and use of natural resources etc.) and obligations conferred on the community. Some respondents stated that their they have the right to access land and water resources outside of the national park. They also have the obligation to protect wildlife when they venture outside the park perimeter. Others noted that “ In this village women do not own land, but they can cultivate on those of their husbands, and only a few of them have the capacity to cultivate here". Others noted that they have the right to use community lands for farming and grazing. They equally have an obligation to not encroach into the protected area and to protect the space and wildlife within the protected area.

Respondents were asked that which organisation/ entity is executing the precursory consultations on FPIC. No answer was provided by the respondents.

Respondents were asked to describe the stakeholder / rightsholder group who participated in this precursory consultation. Again, no answer was provided by the respondents.

Respondents were informed about the project information and were ask to document any immediate feedback on the project information. Generally, the feedback was a positive one. Respondents had this to say: “Feedback is positive. This is the help that we have been waiting for a long time.” Respondents also felt it was a good initiative because they need the forest to be the way it was decades ago. Participants or respondents said some children in the community had never seen an elephant, and this was not acceptable. Some respondents said they were very happy and they spoke about the fact that they know maybe the rate of hunger in the village will reduce based on the capacity building and value chain aspects of the project. The respondents demonstrated the willingness and interest to participate in the project at all levels if possible and would like to know when the project will start and would not like it to be

like other projects that were promised but never materialized. According to the population, the need to be informed in advance before coming because they have their own occupation. Finally, it must be noted that almost all the respondents in the sampled villages were glad about this project and will be happy to have it in their community.

Respondents were asked to explain and validate the purpose of FPIC which is: to seek in principle consent for "willingness to participate" in the project as described, including the design and implementation of restoration activities a) within PFAs; and b) outside of, but adjacent to PFAs. Some respondents stated that they are fully ready to participate in this project. And they accepted us because we first asked their permission before starting the activities, which shows how free they are ready to participate. Other participants said after listening to the project objectives that they do not see any reason why they will not be willing to participate in it. They said as we have already started and so far they can say that everything is going well, they need the project to continue in that light.

In the next question, respondents were asked to identify rightsholders or people in the village with the right to FPIC and whether there are any social groups that do not have the right to FPIC. Some respondent stated that the whole community is classed as right holders. Others noted that the highest people with the right to FPIC is the village council, because they are the decision makers in the village. Some stated that there are no social groups who do not have the right to FPIC. Participants thought everyone in the village have a right to be consulted and to participate in every project in the village. The traditional council, they say, is a representation of the community and relays information from all groups to the council level. Some said it was the chief and his assistant. Some participants said they think FPIC should be done only with the chief, because he is called the voice of the village. He is able to make the best decision for everyone.

In the next question, respondents were asked to list the legitimate representatives in this village, ie. people who will represent the broader community, including affected and concerned groups, in this process. The following results were obtained. One group of respondents noted that the legitimate representative of the village is the chief and the traditional council. Another group stated that “We have the president of the women that can easily understand French and speaks French fluently, that can represent the broader community”. Others noted that “ The Village Chief is the representative of the community. Others stated that they would look for someone that can speak both french and mosghum (local language) so that the person can easily represent the broader community and later be able to share the information the person gets with them. Other group of respondents noted that this would be done by one of the chiefs that are able to speak fulfulde in addition to one of the five languages of the community so that they can exchange the information to everyone.

Respondents were further asked to describe how decisions are made in the community regarding land and forest use planning and restoration type activities. Respondents noted that “decisions at the council are made by consensus. There are no votes. Discussions are intensified when consensus is difficult to arrive at. Some opined that they always try to resolve their problems among themselves (mutual understanding). if it becomes impossible, they will take it to the level of the chief that will call the whole village council made up of 5 women, depending on the gravity of the problem. Others noted that decisions are made through a consensus at the council. However, when a consensus is not possible, a vote is organized to determine the path forward. Others noted that decisions concerning women are first made by women themselves. in case where a decision can not be made for one reason or another, the matter is then taken up to the chief.

In this question, respondents were asked whether the named legitimate representatives 'represent' different groups in the village, including women, youth or vulnerable groups. Some respondents noted that there are only elderly women involved and no youths. Others stated that the traditional council represents everybody in the community. Some noted that only the leader of the village are the representative. Some stated that it was the men.

In the next questions, respondents were asked that if the legitimate representatives do not include women, youth or vulnerable groups, what mechanisms and actions could be introduced to ensure that women, youth or vulnerable groups are better represented in the FPIC Process. One group of respondents noted that they do not need any mechanisms and actions that has to involve women or youths because it will be going against their local custom.

In the next question respondents were asked to indicate how other non-resident, or itinerant natural resource users, with legitimate rights and claims to natural resources (such as itinerant fishers, transhumant herders) are represented in the FPIC process. Some respondents said there were no non-residents in the village. Others noted that as soon as someone is a user of a village resource, they are indirectly represented by the users of the same resource because they have the same right according to the village rules. Others stated that everybody is represented by the traditional council. Others stated some of the 5 chiefs in their village are transhumant herders so this shows clearly that they are represented in the FPIC process.

In the next question, respondent were presented the project's planned 10 steps to FPIC (from national guidelines) and requested feedback on this. After presenting the different steps, some respondents said they are against the fact that they should be a technical team because it will be against their tradition, which says that only the elderly people have to accept the feasibility of anything. They said if this has to be represented it should be done only at the village council. After presenting the 10 steps, the women said “these are things that have so much protocol and we may not be of any help to women. We feel that it would be preferable for the chief and his assistants to be consulted instead and whatever decision is made will be to the best of the entire community, including women”. Some respondent stated after the presentation that the establishment of an FPIC mechanism would be effective only with the men of the community because the women do not have anything and making this mechanism legal would be necessary because they will be sure of its durability. After explaining these steps some group of men said that the mechanism would be useful only to the village chiefs as they are the ones with the capacity to decide.

In the next question, respondents were asked to discuss how consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation, and note any feedback. Some of the respondents replied that whenever there is any important information vital to them it should be said to the chief and their husband and it will permit them to participate also. Some stated that for consultations, the participants are separated into social groups (Men, Women, Vulnerable people) in order to allow everyone to express themselves without any pressure. Others noted that it will not be easy that consent should be sought by the vulnerable groups as the people said it is only better to go through the village chief and make sure the vulnerable people too can profit as much as the population. According to some respondents, the FPIC in practice resembles an exchange phase where the participant is free to give his or her point of view on a subject that concerns them. Others disclosed that receiving the information from the chief will not look like any manipulation because he is the one to decide for them.

In this question, respondents were asked to discuss how to ensure that information provided prior to seeking consent is accessible, objective, and complete. A group of respondents said that they need to know the period that the project will start and then suggested that discussion with them concerning the project will have to be done in the language that they understand like Burno or Fulfulde and not only in French. Other respondents stated that there should

maximization of awareness, especially with regard to vulnerable groups and especially women. Others noted that when information is provided in fulfulde it enables frank discussions and understanding by all. Another group opined that discussions should be held in "French", sometimes with a translation into their mother tongue to enable them to understand. One group of respondents finally noted that the information could be passed through the chiefs that speak their different languages , by the help of translators. This would ensure the that the whole village population understand the language that is appropriate for each and everyone of them.

Respondents were also asked to discuss how consensual consent of the broader community (affected and concerned groups) is ensured and note any feedback. Some respondents said that “to ensure consensual consent of the broader community we have to separate women and men before discussing”. According to them, it is their way of doing things. The women will be informed by the men. Feedback from the women is that the chief can explain it to the president of the women that will then explain everything to them. Some noted that “to ensure the consent of the wider community (affected and concerned groups) maximizes awareness, especially with regard to vulnerable groups and especially women”. Some noted that “ the broader community will be aware when the chief is aware”.

Respondents were then asked whether there are any community capacity development needs to enable participation in the FPIC process. Some respondents opined that “there is a need for a detailed training on FPIC process. This must be done in the local languages as so many information may be lost in translations. Technical capacities of these communities must be enhanced. This is necessary to enable the communities understand the project in details. A third party advise from a trusted entity is needed”. Others noted that “ Communities would require an in-depth training on FPIC process and how to monitor its effectiveness. Support would also be required to help communities understand project activities and how they can synergize these with their current activities in order to benefit the most. A third party advice would be very necessary in any FPIC process.”

In this question, respondents were asked to state which restoration measures they propose for the PFAs (particularly Protected Areas) where there is already encroachment or use by local communities/ indigenous peoples. One group of respondents explained that “There is a need to reforest the PFA by planting trees that are adapted for the landscape. Most important, there is need for proper follow-up after reforestation to ensure that more trees are not cut illegally to hamper reforestation efforts”.

In the next question, respondents were asked to describe how in cases where these proposed restoration measures prevent current use (regardless of the legalities of this use), could they foresee a participatory process with those users, to identify alternative areas, minimise impacts, or ultimately restore their livelihoods. A group of respondents stated that “in the case of restriction of use of PFA, there will be a need to set-up a framework for concertation. This can take the form of a dialogue committee between all the relevant stakeholders in the landscape. These user are well known and must be involved in such dialogues. Illegal activities within the Park have increased due to an increase in people displaced by the frequent attacks of Boko Haram in Tchad or in communities further north of the Waza landscape. The major user groups include fishermen, cattle herders, farmers and people producing illegal charcoal”.

In this last question, respondents were asked that in the aforementioned cases, what kind of agreement could be reached with the encroachers/ resource users who currently use the area inside the PFA. A group of respondents stated that “the process must be all-inclusive and enough time must be allocated to understand all actors. In the end, a written agreement between all users and State authorities must be made”.

Cultural Heritage

Respondents were first asked if there are any cultural sites around your village and if yes to list and describe them. The following results were obtained.

Are there any cultural sites around your village? Please list and describe	Local Communities: Community leadership	3rd party groups: CSOs, advocacy groups, gender/IP experts, research institutions with specialised expertise, private enterprises	Protected Area Management Entity / Authorities
Yes	3 (Graveyards)	1	1
No			

In the next question, respondents were asked to state whether these cultural sites are on community/communal land outside of Permanent Forest Areas, or inside Permanent Forest Areas and if yes to describe. Almost all respondents stated that it was outside protected area. Only one group of respondents noted that in was inside protected areas.

In the next question, respondents were asked whether they thought that the project activities could affect these cultural sites positively or negatively. On group of respondents stated that the project will affect the cultural sites positively, because the project is designed to enhance the cultures of local people. Some noted that the project activities could have a negative impact on the graveyard located within the national park.

In the next question, respondents were asked to explain what can be done to ensure that there are no negative impacts of project activities on their cultural sites. One group of respondents opined that the graveyard should be fenced to avoid any trespassing by any person. Some noted that the communities themselves already have mechanisms to protect their culture.

In the next question, respondents were asked if there were any cultural practices (activities, ceremonies, livelihoods, norms) that are important to them and their community. No answers were provided by the respondents.

In the next question, respondents were asked whether these cultural practices were conducted on community/communal land OUTSIDE of Permanent Forest Areas, or INSIDE Permanent Forest Areas. One group of respondents noted that it was conducted outside.

In the next question, respondents were asked whether they thought the project activities (facilitator to describe project activities) could affect these cultural practices positively or negatively. Some stated that it will be positive if the project respect the custom of the people.

In the next question, respondents were asked to state what can be done to ensure that there are no negative impacts on their cultural practices. No answer was provided by the respondents.

Biodiversity and Sustainable Use

In this first question, respondent were asked that considering the project restoration activities that have been discussed, do they think that these activities will have a positive or negative impact on biodiversity. A group of respondents stated that the impact will be positive and that restoration will lead to more trees, grass and other plants. Animal populations (domestic and wild) will also increase. Another group opined that " Positive impacts, as the preferred species are selected according to the environment. Indeed, we will try to introduce the species adequately to the environment". Others noted that the impact on biodiversity will be positive because restoration will enable growth of trees, maintenance of water bodies which in turn favors flora and fauna diversity and growth.
In this question, respondents were asked if they thought there are any project activities that could negatively affect biodiversity. All respondents stated that the project will not have any negative effect on biodiversity.

With regards to the next question, respondents were asked if they have identified potential negative impacts on biodiversity, they should describe what could be done to avoid these negative impacts. All respondents stated that this was not applicable.

Regarding the next question, respondents were asked to that considering the project restoration activities that have been discussed, do they think that these activities will have a positive or negative impact on ecosystem services. All respondents stated that it will have a positive impact.

Regarding the next question, respondents were asked that do they think there are any project activities (list planned restoration activities) that could negatively impact ecosystem services in the local area. All respondents stated that the project will not have any negative impact on ecosystem survives.

In this next question, respondents were asked if they have identified potential negative impacts on ecosystem services, they should describe what could be done to avoid these negative impacts. All respondents stated that this was not applicable.

With regards to this next question, respondents were asked that considering the project activities, such as the improvement in market linkages, NTFP enterprises, etc, do they foresee the potential for Natural Resources to be used unsustainably (over-harvested). A group of respondents stated that "there is always a potential for over-exploitation of resources when there is abundance. This is true for wildlife, trees for fuelwood, and fish".

In this last question, respondents were asked if there is potential for unsustainable use (due to project support to markets/ enteprises), what do they propose to prevent this. Some group of respondents stated that there should be complete integration of locals into the project and the development of market initiatives that serve as alternative to forest products. Some noted that "in addition to setting up the project, it is necessary to develop a mechanism for monitoring project activities. Establish a local natural resource management committee. Raise awareness among the population on the notion of sustainable natural resource management".

Labour and Working Conditions

In this first question, respondents were asked that considering the project activities (restoration activities, enterprises and market linkages), do they foresee the project supporting any

damaging forms of labour. All respondents stated that the project will not support any damaging forms of labour.

With regards to the next question, respondents were asked if there is potential to support damaging forms of labour, how can the project identify if there is damaging forms of labour, and avoid supporting these. All respondents stated that is was not applicable.

Respondents were also asked that considering the project activities, which community members are likely to be involved in implementing these activities (eg. tree planing, fencing, enterprise development etc). Some respondents stated that it will be men, women, youths. Others stated that it will be community members, consultants/contractors, etc.

In this next question, respondents were asked that considering the activities these community members will be performing, can they foresee any potential for issues related to their working conditions, including health and safety issues. All respondents stated that they do not foresee any issues related to their working including heath and safety issues.

In this next question, respondents were asked that if they have identified negative working conditions/ issues, they should describe what they think the project could do to ensure that community members have good working conditions for the voluntary posts identified. All respondents noted that this was not applicable.

In this next question, respondents were asked if there are any labour and working condition, including health and safety, issues that are known already to be an issue with the Executing Agency staff, particularly field staff (MINFOF). A group of respondents stated that the only issue is the safety of personnel due to the operations of Boko Haram group in the area.

Respondents were also asked to describe how these labour and working condition issues could be resolved. No answers were provided by the respondents.

In this next question, respondents were asked if there are any labour and working condition, including health and safety, issues that are known already to be an issue for other project partners and contractors, particularly field staff. No answers were provided by the respondents.

Respondents were finally asked to describe how these labour and working condition issues could be resolved. Again, no answers were provided by the respondents.

Human Wildlife Conflict

In the Waza Landscape, a substantial portion of the discussion on conflicts was in relation to human wildlife conflicts. Interviews were conducted with three local communities and one Protected Area Management entity (Conservator of WAZA National Park). All stakeholders who were interviewed described having conflicts with a variety of wildlife including elephants, lions, birds, hyenas, jackals, gazelles, wild pigs, and roan antelope. One local community in the Ndiguina village described elephants eating up and trample on crops in farms, monkeys, wild pigs, and gazelles feeding on farm crops planted by locals, birds feeding on grains and seedlings, and jackals attacking sheep and goats.

Fortunately, there have not been any wildlife conflicts that have caused human fatalities or injuries. However, the wildlife conflicts that were listed by the stakeholders have caused substantial economic impacts to these local communities in the past three years. According to the conservator, the wildlife conflicts occur mainly in the dry season and sometimes corresponds to the harvest period for farmers. This often results in the loss of crops. In fact, local communities all describe having significant impacts on their crops and livestock every year, including damaged crops, loss of grain and livestock. For instance, the local community in the Andirni village describes roan antelopes being very problematic as they eat and destroy their farm crops. And the local community in the Djeguere village have especially been impacted by birds, since they eat up to 30-70 bags of millet from each family's annual yields.

Hyenas, lions, and jackals have also problematic for local livestock such as goats, sheep, and cattle, since they are often attacked in the villages or when grazing in the forest. In fact, one local community stakeholder even records up to 20 livestock attacks from wild animals every year. According to the WAZA National Park Conservator, herders during periods of heavy transhumance are especially vulnerable to livestock attacks during the dry season.

Each stakeholders believes that all villages within the Waza landscape are affected by HWCs. The Andirni village indicated that the Zagara and Cede and their own villages are especially impacted by these conflicts. While all groups in these local communities are affected, the social groups who appear to be the most impacted by these Human Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) include the elderly, disabled individuals, women, and children.

When asked if the project land and forest restoration activities within PFAs and community lands will affect the level of human wildlife conflicts within their local communities, the stakeholders gave mixed responses. The local community at the Ndiguina village describe levels of HWC to decrease because forest restoration will mean an increase in forest cover within the park that will provide shade and thus maintain water sources all year round. The members of the village also explained that the new forest cover will limit animal movements to human settlements for water and provide more food for herbivorous animals, thus limiting the need for them to seek food in crop fields. On the other hand, the Andirni village isn't sure if forest restoration activities will decrease or increase HWCs. They mention how restoration activities may enable a convenient environment for animals to thrive in the forest, preventing the need to venture on human territories in search for food and water. However, with thriving wildlife, poaching activities might increase if not properly monitored, possibly pushing animals back into human use areas. The Djeguere village shared a similar sentiment and isn't sure how restoration activities will impact HWCs. They mention how restoration may help animals thrive in the protected forested area (e.g., water availability year-round), and improve species diversity and quantity, increasing the number of prays for park predators. This could either remove pressure from famers livestock as they feed on forest prey or increase the number of livestock HWCs since more predators would increase the chances of them venturing out of the park. The WAZA National Park Conservator does however believe that the overall levels of HWC would decrease if forest restoration activities were implemented.

While the National Park Conservator has low HWC concerns regarding the potential impacts of the planned project, all three villages expressed moderate to high concerns. The Djeguere village particularly expressed high concern because the planned project would further restrict their access to the park's land.

HWC prevention/mitigation strategy

When it comes to HWC reduction strategies, only the Djeguere village claim to have a strategy in place. Their strategy is to guard their fields and livestock to prevent bird and animal attacks on their crops and livestock respectively. While the Ndiguina and Andirni villages don't have a set strategy, they also guard their farmlands against animals. None of the stakeholders mentioned any compensation measures. As for the Park Conservator, even though he didn't claim to have a strategy in place, he listed out various measured that are currently being taken such as:

- Restoring degraded areas
- Raising awareness of the population on the respect of animal corridors
- Training eco-guards on awareness raising methods
- Mapping animal corridors and prohibiting their encroachment by the population
- Building mobile fences to secure the lions

Current prevention/mitigation measures for the three villages are only effective if the guarding of crops and livestock is conducted all day and night, which is often difficult for communities to achieve. Also, birds tend to attack farmer crops incessantly which renders constant guarding especially difficult. In order to improve HWC prevention, the villages suggest building barriers/fences around their fields or developing a new technology to scare birds away from millet and sorghum fields. The Park Conservator on the other hand suggested, reducing threats to the park's natural resources, organizing regular patrol operations, and identifying communities that are putting pressure on the park's resource to discuss potential alternatives with them.

When asked what new HWC prevention or composition measures are needed, the Ndiguina and Andirni villages suggested building fences around their farmland to prevent invading predators and livestock from venturing outside into dangerous territory. These fences would however be expensive and would require support from the authorities. The Djeguere village on the other hand suggested reducing the size of the park to give communities more grazing space for their livestock, especially since their current space is no longer sufficient for their growing population.

For experience and internal capacity of the conservation authority in relation to land natural resource management, the conservator indicated that their organisation has experience in restoring degraded areas, and raising awareness of the population on the respect of animal corridors.

Social conflicts

The only conflict with other communities that was cited from the Ndiguina village and the conservation authority. The local village indicated that they experience conflicts related to lands for agricultural purposes with the neighbouring villages Ouska and Malia (Shuwa Arab communities). They also mentioned internal land conflicts within the community, mostly between families trying to secure agricultural space. The conservation authority also cited land-related conflicts being the most recurrent conflict within communities. As an example, the conservator explained the conlficts between Mousgoum fishermen and the Shuwa Arab herders. The expert explained how these conflicts arise when fishermen dig fishing canals, since the canals act as movement obstacles for herders in their transhumant. These conflicts often take place at the floodplain level called "Yaere".

The conflicts within and outside of all three local communities are managed at the level of the traditional council headed by the village chiefs. Local institutions and structures that are involved in conflict management within these villages include the traditional council at the village level. For the Ndiguina village, the council is often made up of the chief, some notables,

Imams and some family heads, while the Andirni village council is made up of the chief and traditional elders. The process of decision making of the Andirni village is conducted through discussions, where a consensus is either reached between the elders or a decision is made through a vote. Within the Djeguere village, the conflicts are managed by 5 chiefs in the community representing the 5 different ethnic groups that make up the community. If a conflict is not resolved at the community level of either village, a complaint is then filed with the administrative government. As for gender representation within the village councils, only the Andirni village includes woman (5/16) members.

According to the local communities within the Waza forest area, the planned project could help resolve some of the existing human wildlife conflicts. The project can bring together all actors to seek a lasting solution to these conflicts and help develop local markets and value chains that would increase income of local communities. The potential for awareness and training on improved farming technics will mean that local farmers could also produce more sufficient yields, greatly reducing overall land conflicts. The project would also be implemented by people responsible in managing the park, indicating that stakeholders will now have a greater interest in resolving existing conflicts. However, some stakeholders are not sure if the project will resolve any HWCs and believe that it might exacerbate conflicts within communities (conflicts between other communities and with wildlife). The project activities would increase access restrictions, reducing grazing space for livestock, possibly leading to inter and intra community conflicts. With the project planning to implement forest restoration activities that would increase wildlife, the Djeguere village claims that it could pose a danger to their farms and livestock.

Most participants described having moderate concerns about the potential social conflicts of the planned project. Their concerns are caused by the uncertainty of effective project management, and uncertainty involving the potential satisfaction level derived by communities from the project. On the other hand, the Djeguere village expressed high concerns about the potential social conflicts since they believe that restoring and protecting forests will worsen restrictions to grazing land for farmers, increasing inter/intra community conflicts, and potentially exacerbate current wildlife damages to their crops and livestock.

According to the Ndiguina village, social conflicts between communities are often caused by land access and ownership. These conflicts are especially prominent when portions of lands with water ponds are more disputed. Therefore, it is essential for ponds to be dug for each community so that during the rainy season flood waters will fill up the ponds and each community will have its own space for fishing and for livestock to feed around. To improve social measures, the national park conservator also suggests establishing a conflict management committee and conduct regular capacity building; establishing consensual rules for community conflict management; developing a framework for conflict consultation between farmers and herders; and prohibiting the cleaning of fishing channels.

For other measures that could help avoid conflict between local stakeholders during this project, some suggestions include ensuring that restoration is conducted all over the landscape and each village should be concerned and their use areas restored; reducing the park size to allow communities more space and installing a fence around the park to prevent animals from moving into community lands; and assuring that the project is developed through a collaborative approach.

Gender and Vulnerable Groups

General information: Data was collected from three villages within the Cameroon Waza region namely Ndiguina, Andirni, Djegueré. These villages are located in the extreme north of Cameroon, situated within three subdivisions from the Waza region. These divisions include the Waza subdivision, the Mora subdivision, and the Zina subdivision.

Survey respondents: There were 12 respondents consulted about issues concerning gender and vulnerable groups in the Waza landscape, 3 of which were respondents from community leadership (local communities), 6 natural resource users (local communities), 2 vulnerable groups (local communities), and 1 was a third-party group.

Local accounts in the Waza region revealed the existence of gender and vulnerable groups within the local communities

- **Vulnerable groups in local communities:** Elderly men and women, people with disabilities, widows, women, infants/children
- **Identification vulnerable groups by 3rd party groups**: Displaced people, and elderly people

The groups who were most frequently mentioned as vulnerable in the Waza region include: disabled persons (9), elderly men and women (12), and women (5).

Frequency for mention of each vulnerable group in local and indigenous communities

Group type	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Groups	3rd party group	Total
Elderly (old) men and women	3	6	2	1	12
Disabled persons	2	6	2	/	9
Widows	/	2	2	/	4
Women	2	5	2	/	9
Children	1	3	1	/	5
Internally displaced	/	/	/	1	1

The focus group discussions in the Waza region also revealed the reasons for vulnerability of individuals in local communities as illustrated in Table below. Generally, these groups are thought to be vulnerable because their working and living capacity are limited and are unable to do accomplish certain tasks. They do not have all the capacities to work and generate the necessary income to support themselves. And if they do work, they still require support and facilitation. However, most of these vulnerable people do not have support and are usually left alone.

Reasons for vulnerability

Group type	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Groups	3rd party group
Elderly (old) men and women	-They have reduced mobility and depend on others for their livelihood. -Their reduced mobility impacts their ability for them to care themselves.	-They are considered vulnerable because they cannot do a certain number of activities freely and are sometimes left behind -Elderly people are vulnerable because they are not strong enough to	These groups are vulnerable because they are not able to do what others can do and live like others.	

		access the only natural resources available in the community by themself.		
Disabled persons	-Blind, deaf and dumb people are often discriminated. -They have reduced mobility and are unable to fully fend for themselves. -Often dependent on others for their livelihood.	-There are disabled people within these communities who are not present in discussion group, but many participants know about their conditions. -There are some that do not walk well because their legs are paining and cannot carryout activities like the others. -Deaf people cannot hear, thereby stopping them from living like others in the community. -Many disabled people that have problems with their hands, and legs, that hinders them from being effective workers. -Some lack their legs to walk and carry out their livelihood activities. -The blind no longer have sight, thereby causing them to have high restrictions.	These groups are considered to be vulnerable because they are not able to do what others can do and live like others.	
Widows		No husbands to provide for them.	These groups are considered to be vulnerable because they are not able to do what others can do and live like others.	
Women	- Are discriminated based on their gender. - Religious norms can prohibit certain activities. - Women suffer restrictions from traditional norms related to land ownership. - Can be very dependent on their husbands for livelihood.		These groups are considered to be vulnerable because they are not able to do what others can do and live like others.	

Children	Orphans have little or no support from others to access or own new land for farming.			
Internally displaced				They have settled in the vicinity of the park from neighbouring countries, in this case Chad, because of the Boko Haram crisis. Not only do they have no land, but they are economically very poor because they have lost/ abandoned everything to be here.

The socioeconomic characteristics of vulnerable groups are captured in Section P06C000c (see Table).

Natural resources vital for the maintenance of vulnerable groups (see table below) in Waza villages consist of land, water, fuel wood and forest. All local communities said natural resources are important for their livelihoods and survival and are vital for agriculture and livestock grazing. These communities use most of their land for agriculture and livestock grazing. Water was said to be vital for agriculture, household use and livestock. Forests was also said to be an important source of fuelwood for the villages. The natural resource users especially saw land, water and the forest as significant natural resources since they are crucial for the livelihood and survival.

Natural resources important for vulnerable groups

Natural Resource	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Land	These groups rely essentially on the family support system. As such the natural resource most important to them are farmlands and grazing lands for livestock.	-Land is the source of space for Agriculture and livestock. -They are the two main activities of the population, including vulnerable people -To do these activities, one needs land (the	Land is a natural resource that is essential to sustaining the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in this village/ landscape.	

		closer the space, the better) -The participants said that land for agriculture is especially an important resource since it can reduce the rate of hunger that they are facing		
Fuel wood		-People need fuelwood to always be able to cook their food, especially since it is the only affordable option -Used on daily bases		
Water	-Water is necessary for the community's livelihood - Important for livestock and for fishing.	-Water is ranked first among the resources on which vulnerable people depend -Needed in the home for drinking, cooking, bathing and even ablution. -Needed for livestock, agriculture and more.	Water is a natural resource that is essential to sustaining the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in this village/ landscape.	-In view of the high heat, it is necessary to hydrate in order to be fit and work. -Crucial for fishing
Forest		-This is the source of fuelwood. The more trees are available for fuelwood production, the better -It is used for all heating needs -Forests also produces the wood needed for fires, enclosures and house frames		With the sale of charcoal and wood as the main activity of communities, in the absence of trees, their situation will further deteriorate.

The frequency of mention of different natural resources were relatively consistent among the different stakeholders. Nearly all the groups thought that water and land were the most important resources to their communities. Generally, a significant number of respondents said water is vital for their maintenance (11), followed by land (6) and forest (4).

This section explores the capital types (social, economic, physical etc.) critical for the maintenance of gender and vulnerable groups in indigenous and local communities. The Table below presents the different capital types and reasons why they are considered vital for vulnerable groups.

Capitals critical for maintenance of women and vulnerable groups

Capitals	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group

Social networks/ Family	-A family support system is vital for vulnerable groups as their main livelihood support -Family is the first and most effective support to vulnerable groups		-Most important assets for vulnerable groups are the family support systems and social networks.	Vulnerable groups are usually abandoned even by their families, especially if they have no children. However, good care by their family, as well as the valuing of their person would be very important.
Government financial and social aid	Vulnerable groups require social assistance from government programs.			
Water		-Vulnerable groups will need pipe borne water in their area -Water points would improve access to drinking water and water for activities		
Semi-industrial facilities		-Semi-industrial plants would allow the products of farming activities to be processed with less effort -Processing plants for agricultural and pastoral products would increase income.		
Social groups	Small women community groups that help other women save money and organize manual work opportunities in members' fields.			
Money			People with disabilities do not allow them to work and earn money like others, and therefore require financial aid.	
Health centres and hospitals	Health centres are vital for the most vulnerable in these villages.	-Vulnerable people often require hospital visits, but there is a lack of hospitals in their area -Many are old and need hospitals that can offer them follow up services -Hospitals in closer proximity would allow the monitoring of patients and the prevention of new diseases		-Health centres and hospitals are also very important for those people who already have disabilities, and who may also need urgent and appropriate health assistance from time to time. -These centres can be equipped with support systems for vulnerable people.

		-Health assistance through campaigns would facilitate access to targeted health care for vulnerable cases.		
Schools	Sending children to school is a good way of assuring their future, even if they end up settling in the village when they are adults.	-Schools nearby would improve the attendance rate of young people in the village, especially girls who are less privileged -It would be easier to let young girls who are not called to go too far from home, to have access to education		
Assigned Housing		-It is easier to help someone you know where to find than someone you know nothing about. -You can better care for and assist a person whose location you know.		

Also, gender and vulnerable groups in the local communities and 3rd party group expressed the foreseen positive and negative impacts the planned project land and forest restoration activities could have on their use of natural assets.

Perceived effects of project activities on the use of natural assets for women and vulnerable groups

Impacts	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Positive	-Restoration activities will lead to possibility of having more fish in ponds and rivers and will provide enough pasture for livestock and thus improve livelihood -The potential of having alternative livelihood capacity building within communities adapted to different groups within the communities can provide a lifeline to the most vulnerable -The project will enhance the chances of vulnerable groups accessing these assets because the project will encourage parents to send their children to schools	-The project will only positively affect the use of community assets -Vulnerable people will be integrated into the groups in the different sectors of activity, while respecting Islamic and local tradition -Community members will get the best returns and incomes as a result of the training and capacity building received through the project. In the end, they will have put in very little effort and used the smallest quantity of land possible for their	The project will be beneficial to the vulnerable group if the project activities take into account their status and if their families benefit, so will they.	In addition to improving the capacity of economic activities to generate a better income, the project will build the capacity of households to make vulnerable people aware of the assistance they need. They will then feel more motivated and ready to help their own.

		activities -Processing and marketing, where possible, will provide additional income -The project will allow villages to better enjoy their activities		
Negative	The project may restrict the use of land and forest assets. If access is restricted for the whole community, then vulnerable groups will also feel the same consequences.	The project would not affect ability of people's forest use, and land use for vulnerable groups because the activity of project is not based on their rights restriction, and it would be benefit the entire community.		

The most cited positive impacts for planned project land and forest restoration activities by local communities include improving the capacity of economic activities to generate a better income, the inclusion and integration of vulnerable communities within different sectors, and improved livelihood of all community members. The only concern from the local communities is that the project may restrict the use of land and forest assets.

This section explains proposed activities vital to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups in local communities (Table below) and the frequency of mention for each activity.

Livelihood activities for improvement of gender and vulnerable groups

Activities	**Community Leadership**	**Natural Resource Users**	**Vulnerable Communities**
Training	Adapted capacity building and training to different groups to enable them to improve on their crafts or learn other alternative sources of income.	The use of modern and appropriate techniques will enable vulnerable people to improve their livelihoods. This will be achieved through the training received through this project.	
Social and community services		Improved access to basic services will enable them to stay fit and reduce health-related expenses.	
Financial capital (money)	Strengthen local economy Improving the livelihood of community members will indirectly improve that of the most vulnerable.	The Project activities can develop commercial activities that will help improve the livelihood status of vulnerable groups by independently increasing their individual income. New access to resources like wood will help	Widows require financial support and would require financial capital to start a business. Elderly people are not able to work and need financial support.

		increase the financial capacity of communities.	
Water		Some groups asked for the construction of boreholes so that they limit the water crises in the village.	
Agriculture		New agricultural opportunities like okro, millet and sorghum crops, and supporting farm inputs could help increase household income and their livelihood.	
Participation in decision making		Full community integration during decision-making processes.	
Health centres and hospitals		Communities require access to hospital services to improve their conditions. Those that are very old and unable to work, said that they can't support themselves financially, as their main concern is daily hunger.	

Table above illustrates that in local community's priority activities to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups consist mainly of financial capital. Nearly each stakeholder had different suggestions, however, improvements to basic social and community services and improvement of community's participation during the decision-making process also appear to be larger priorities.

Local accounts in the Waza region revealed the different disabilities that are present within each community.

- **Disabilities in local communities:** Elderly men and women, extremely sickly people, blind, deaf and dumb people, physically disabled (e.g., crippled limbs)

- **Identification of disabilities by 3rd party groups**: Physically disabled people, Deaf, and Dumb peoples

The groups who were most frequently mentioned (Table below) as vulnerable in the Waza region include: disabled persons (9), elderly men and women (12), and women (5).

Table ----: Frequency for mention of each vulnerable group in local communities

Group type	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Groups	3rd party group	Total
Elderly (old) men and women	/	2	2	/	4
Extremely sick	/	/	2	/	2
Blind	3	3	2	/	8
Deaf	1	4	/	1	6
Dumb	1	2	/	1	4
Physically disabled	3	/	/	1	4

Each stakeholder claim that these disabilities are formally recognized by the local community. However, many of them indicate that their community lack official documentation/ certification of these disabilities.

The number of local communities that claim their vulnerable groups will or will not be affected by project-supported activities.

Group type	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Groups	3rd party group	Total
Yes	2	0	0	0	2
No	1	6	2	1	10

All local communities and 3rd party group agree that all members of the community, including the villages vulnerable groups, will proportionally benefit from the project activities. Most stakeholders indicate that their vulnerable communities will not be disproportionately affected by the project activities as they are substantially inclusive.

All local communities and 3rd party group also agree that the project has no potential of discrimination against Vulnerable Groups, including risk of discrimination in selection of project beneficiaries, lack of representation of VGs, and unequal benefit distribution due to project-supported activities. Only one local community from the Ndiguina village indicated uncertainty regarding the discrimination of vulnerable groups.

All except for one stakeholder believe that there is no potential for people with disabilities to be negatively affected by project activities and changes in land/forest use practices. The local communities that claimed disabled people will be negatively impacted by the project explained that activities restricting access land will directly affect vulnerable groups, including disabled individuals.

To avoid disproportionate impacts, discrimination, and/or impacts on vulnerable groups, most local communities have suggested similar solutions. These solutions include:

- Taking into consideration the status of the vulnerable groups
- Ensuring that all vulnerable groups are equally represented in the project activities in accordance with Islamic laws.
- Considering vulnerable groups in all aspects of the project conception and implementation.
- Consulting and involving the communities' vulnerable groups in every step of the project and specific activities
- Adapting activities in a way that equally enhances the livelihood and socio-economic benefits of these groups.
- Involving vulnerable groups in natural resource committees

All local communities and 3rd party group believe that the relationships between men and women in their community is very good and is generally harmonious and cohesion. One local community in the Djegueré village did however mention that they can occasionally experience misunderstandings with the men.

What shapes the relationship between men and women in local community

Capitals	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Religion (e.g., Laws of Islam)	Relationships between men and women are guided by the laws of Islam.	- The populations live according to the Islamic laws. Men are heads of families and make the decisions - Women assist them in their daily duties by taking care of the house - They live with these laws and are happy with them		
Culture		- The community's culture says that the women must respect their husbands and obey everything the husband says - The men provide for the women and gives them money - Sometimes the men will not entertain any requests for financial support - They all see each other as one family	- Their husband respect them and there are all one family - Women do sometime complain that their husband turns them away when asked for money	Men and women live together while happily respecting established values.
Tradition	Relationships between men and women are guided by traditional laws.	- Traditional values make men the leaders and decision makers of the family.		

What appears to shape the relationship between men and women in these communities are religious, cultural, and traditional values/laws. For instance, the natural resource users and community leaderships all said that their gender relationships are mostly shaped by Islamic law and traditional values.

The number of stakeholders that claim their women's right to access natural resources are or are not affected by customary laws or traditional user rights.

Group type	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Groups	3rd party group	Total
Yes	1	5	1	1	2
No	2	1	1	0	10

When asked about which customary laws or traditions affect women's rights to access or control natural resources, the stakeholders gave mixed responses. The Nidiguina and Andirni leadership stakeholders among local communities indicated that there were no restrictions to natural resource usage, and that women are allowed to do all activities that men engage in. However, the Djegueré leadership stakeholder said that while some women are allowed a lot of liberty by their husbands (e.g., work in the fields, petti-trading etc.), many households restrict their women to household chores. On the other hand, most natural resource users form local communities expressed that their women have many restrictions to access of natural resources according to customs, religion and only use resources under the authority of men.

For instance, traditional laws restrict women from carrying out fishing, women don't have rights to land since their husbands are considered the main farmers, and some communities require women to stay home and only do household chores. For the vulnerable group stakeholders, one indicated that there are many women whose husbands subject them to certain cultural restrictions forbidding them to work in the field, while the other stakeholder said that women have free access to natural resources.

Frequency for mention of each natrual resource that are critical to the maintenance of women in local communities

Capitals	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group	Total
Water	3	5	1	/	9
Land	3	5	1	1	10
Livestock	2	/	/	/	2
Forest	1	2	/	/	3
Fuelwood	2	/	/	/	2

Natural resources vital for the maintenance of women (see table----) in Waza villages consist of land (10), water (9), and forest (3). All local communities said natural resources are important for women's livelihoods and survival, especially access to water foor household maintenance, and land for agriculture and livestock grazing. Forests was also said to be an important source of fuelwood for the villages.

Natural resources important for vulnerable groups

Natural Resource	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Water	✓ *	- Water is the main resource for women. - Women need water to carry out all their livelihood activities - It is the centre of the management of the house. - Water is needed for everything: drinking, cooking, washing dishes, laundry, showering, etc.	Women need a lot of water for household chores because of the lack of developed water points to satisfy a large population.	
Land	✓	- Women need land to cultivate some of their crops. - Women that are free to work said they need agricultural inputs to increase their outputs given that this is the highest activity that pays them. - Land is the source of space for agriculture and livestock. These are the main activities of the population; they help their husbands and raise food.	Women need land to improve their agricultural activities because it gives them better financial stability.	Women assist their husbands in the field and are the main users of field products to support the household. If the land is not available, they will not be able to fulfil their role.
Livestock	✓			

Forest	✓		Produces the wood needed for fires.	
Fuelwood	✓			

*Cells that are check with this symbol indicate that the resource was simply listed during the stakeholder's answer

This section explores the capital types (social, economic, physical etc.) critical for the maintenance of gender and vulnerable groups in indigenous and local communities. The Table below presents the different capital types and reasons why they are considered vital for vulnerable groups.

Capitals critical for maintenance of women and girls

Capitals	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Social networks/ Family	Family is the most important support system for women and girls.			
Semi-industrial facilities		- Processing factories for agricultural and pastoral products will increase income - They also need grinding mills to grind their different cereals		
Access to natural resources	Access to lands and water resources	- Water points would improve access to drinking water and water for activities - Water points would allow women and children to bring in water for the entire household without problems. - Women will need access to ponds, and training and support for the installation and operation of fishponds to replace ponds in the park - Women will need more seedlings to improve their agricultural activities		Improving access to lands, water and fuelwood resources.
Social groups	- Women and girls require common initiative groups in the village - These social groups help women and girls with farming the fields and other small economic activities like savings and loans.	- Women will need to be trained/capacitated and empowered - This will require organising women into groups for socio-economic activities - This will enable their activities to flourish, and women will be able to do improve their work and assist their men - The integration of women into socio-professional groups and their training in modern and appropriate practices in their activities is the key to an improved status. - Social groups will improve women's performance and income. - Women will be integrated into the management committees of the resources of which they are the main users		Promote organisation in social groups and encourage participation.

Money	- Economic autonomy will help women and girls improve their status. Most of them depend on their husbands or fathers for livelihood support - Supporting women set up small revenue generating initiatives will be very vital for their livelihood	- They need a developed market, as they mostly sell their agricultural yields. - Some of them are businesswomen, so they said they need capital to start up or improve their business - Most of their girls will need a sewing machine, that can help them generate income for themselves	Capital to improve their commercial activities.	- Strengthening women's economy through fruit products and easy access to markets - Promote organisation in economic groups and encourage participation
Health centres and hospitals	Women and girls require access to health centres	- Women and girls require access to hospitals. - The presence of the hospital will improve access to health care and prevent certain illnesses in young and old people - With the hospital nearby, there will be better monitoring of the pregnancy to prevent complications. Mothers will also be monitored and assisted	Women and girls need hospitals to get treatment.	
Education	- Training and capacity development on adapted livelihood enhancement activities.	- There's a need for a secondary school close to the village that can permit girls to go to school. - Thanks to the school, young people, especially girls, will have the opportunity to continue their studies - The nearby school will improve the attendance rate of young people, especially girls. - Girls would like training in tailoring - Parents who can afford schooling would like to continue education.		Encourage the education of girls.
Electricity		They also need access to electricity to be able to grind the maize and groundnut they produce.		
Housing		They will need storage houses because during rainy season and due to the lack of good markets they find it very difficult to sell their outputs.		

Table above illustrates that in local community's priority factors that are critical for women and girls consist mainly of financial capital, access to natural resources, and access to hospitals. The access to education, agricultural processing factories, and electricity also appear to be larger priorities for the natural resource users within local communities.

When asked if the planned project that will implement land and forest restoration activities within and outside PFAs would affect the ability to use assets for women and girls, nearly all of the local communities and 3rd party group indicated that the activities would not have any impact. Only the community leadership from the Djeguere village believe that the project activities could restrict access to the Waza park and thus restrict access to fishponds found within it.

The possible improvements to the livelihood status of women and girls are captured in this Section.

When describing the extent of women and vulnerable groups' participation in community decision making, particularly during natural resource management, the focus group discussions mostly indicated that communities in the Waza region had no women participating in any decision-making bodies or processes. The only instances where women participated in decision-making are elderly women in the Ndiguina village that represent half of the decision-making committee. However, according to members of CADEPI (from the 3rd party group), CADEPI have created and managed several dynamic projects that ensured women's sustainable living including the generation water points, fishponds, and community fields and the storage warehouses. Around 30 to 40% of the management committee members of these projects were Women.

Reasons that women and vulnerable groups are underrepresented

Capitals	Community Leadership	Natural Resource Users	Vulnerable Communities	3rd party group
Religion (e.g., Laws of Islam)	Relationships between men and women are guided by the laws of Islam.	- The non-participation of women is linked to religion - According to the Muslim religion, only men participate in community decision-making - Vulnerable people can be part of the process, even if they are not represented within the communities		In general resource management women and vulnerable groups are directly unrepresented because of religious values.
Culture	This non-representation is due to cultural laws.	Women are not evenly represented due to their respect for the local culture.		In general resource management women and vulnerable groups are directly unrepresented because of cultural values.
Tradition (custom)	This follows the local traditions.	Women do not see it as an underrepresentation, as it is a tradition for them. - This is their local custom	Women do not participate in decision-making, because according to custom, it is the man who decides for them and when the man speaks, the woman can no longer participate.	

What appears to be the reasons that women and vulnerable groups are underrepresented in these communities are religious, cultural, and traditional values/laws.

Gender-based violence at the project sites does not appear to be an issue throughout all stakeholders within the Waza region. All local communities indicated that they do not know of any incidents of gender-based violence. One of the community leader stakeholder from the Ndiguina village explained that Islamic laws prohibit violence physical and verbal abuse against any men or women. Additionally, Natural resource users from the Andirni village expressed that they don't see any gender-based violence because every community member takes care of each other, since they know that they all come from the same roots.

Only five participants from the focus group discussions suggested solutions for preventing discrimination against women within their communities. In order to eliminate all possibilities of discrimination against women, the community leaders from the Andirni village suggested conducting equal consultations between men and women within all groups, and that each group should have a say in the final decisions taken by the community. Community leaders from the Djegueré also village suggested consulting all factions of the village separately and adapting project activities to special needs. Both Vulnerable Groups also suggested having the project discussions for men and women separated.

None of the participants of the focus group discussions indicated any potential for creation, exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities due to project-supported activities within PFAs, and outside of PFAs on community land.

Three participants from the focus group discussions suggested solutions for preventing creation, exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities within their communities. Both Vulnerable Groups also suggested an increase the number and quality of participation of women in project activities, and the community leaders from the Djegueré village once again suggested separately consulting all factions of their village and adapting project activities to special needs.

Similar to section above, nearly all of the local communities and 3rd party group indicated that the activities would not have any impact on the livelihoods or rights of women and girls. Only the community leaders from the Djegueré village believe that the project activities could impact the livelihoods and rights of women and girls. Project activities can enhance access restriction into the park, restricting fishing opportunities within the park and thus the livelihood of women and girls.

To preventing impacts on the livelihoods or rights of women or girls, and local communities have suggested a variety of solutions. These solutions include:

- Involving women in every step of the project and implementing specific activities that favour their growth and livelihood
- Invest in women by giving them the capacity to be economically productive and even self-reliant in order to fully assume their role in society as promoted by social values.
- Have equal consultations within all groups, and each group should have a say in the final decisions taken by the community

- Integrate women into the development process by promoting their involvement in project activities
- Promote women's empowerment
- Build ponds for communities outside of the park that would serve as fishing points during rainy season and as drinking spots for livestock during dry season
- Reducing Park size to give communities more space for grazing
- Respecting women's tradition and how they live on daily bases

For preventing under-representation of women in decision making committees and project activities, solutions include:

- Involve women and share information in every step of the project and specific activities to favour their growth and livelihood must be implemented
- Raising awareness
- See what has changed and build on past examples
- Give targeted support to enhance existing common initiative groups led by women
- Organise into cooperatives or socio-economic groups so that women activities have weight and so that women are involved in decision-making
- Separately consult all factions of the village and adapt project activities to special needs

None of the participants of the focus group discussions indicated any potential for gender-based violence including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment (SEAH) due to project-supported activities within PFAs, and outside of PFAs on community land.

None of the participants of the focus group discussions indicated any awareness of cases involving Gender Based Violence, including sexual harassment, due to the actions of the staff of any of these institutions in this landscape, or any other human rights incidents (violations) related to project's partners/institutions (e.g., MINFOF, ONACC, ANAFOR, IRAD, WWF, FAO, CIFOR/ICRAF, IRAD, WRI), UCN national members, and FEICOM).

When asked for suggested solutions for preventing Gender Based Violence, the vulnerable communities from both Andirni and Djegueré villages recommended that project support partners should ensure to respect the customs and dignity of local communities. Members of the CADEPI group (3rd party group) also suggested promoting education and empowerment of women and girls.

No participants from the focus group discussions indicated any potential for the project to exacerbate any non-representation of women and vulnerable groups due to and/or unequal representation in local natural resource use forums/committees/institutions during the implementation of land and forest restoration activities from this project.

Livelihoods and Access Restrictions

Status of land and natural resource use rights

The communities have rights surrounding the PFAs but not within the protected areas, thus carrying out their activities outside the parks. A few respondents have expressed their

concerns towards the project restoration and enlargement is threatening their land tenures as well as physical access to these lands.

All three community leadership positions mentioned in one form or another that community restrictions have been imposed within the PFAs. The limited access to the national Waza park imposed on the communities have hindered their economic stability and livelihoods. Moreover, the natural resource users (men) have expressed concerns towards limited land access resulting from population growth as well as previously utilized ponds for fisheries or rangeland for grazing are now inaccessible. Apart from the previously mentioned concerns, there have been no mention of historical or on-going issues related to access restriction or livelihood impacts towards PFAs.

Forced evictions or involuntary physical displacement

None of the respondents have expressed or mentioned any concerns towards historical or on-going issues related to forced evictions or involuntary displacement in adjacent PFAs.

Impact of project activities on access restrictions

The respondents from communities outside the PFAs express little concerns towards the project activities, however are more concerned with the reinforcement of existing restrictions as well as the loss of grassland access. On the other hand, respondents from communities within or bordering the PFAs have expressed concerns towards the addition of restrictions resulting in access limited on grasslands, forests, water, hunting and fishing grounds, as well as the potential loss of farms and businesses.

Suggested measures to minimise access restrictions

Of the 14 respondents, 9 provided suggestions to minimise access restrictions of the project to include education, community support, and re-evaluation of park specifics.

The local communities suggested a wide variety of solutions to minimise access restrictions:

- Creation of ponds to counteract restricted access on ponds within the PFAs
- Develop activities to ensure dependence on forest
- Ensure support of communities to prevent expansion into PFAs
- Respect towards the different cultures within the communities as well as way of life
- Educate and sensitize the population about the project objectives
- Reduce the park size to provide more space for community (populations of surrounding communities have grown since the initial implementation of the park)

Concern regarding access restrictions

If you think of all of the potential impacts of the planned project, how would you describe your concern about access restrictions	IP	LC
No concern	0	2
Low concern	0	5

Moderate concern	0	0
High concern	0	4

The local communities are split between high concern and low concern due to their opposing locations in regards to the PFAs and their expansion. The respondents that expressed low to no concern towards the project access restrictions is due to their communities being located outside of the PFAs, and thus primarily only benefit from the project with socio-economic assistance.

On the other hand, the respondents that have expressed high concern towards the additional restrictions and expansion of the PFAs is because the population is either situated near or within the PFAs and thus are unsure of how the project will affect their livelihood.

Effectiveness and feasibility of proposed livelihood development measures

Based on the participation of the 10 respondents, the effectiveness of livelihood development and restorative measures by the project are mildly known by the surrounding communities. Of the 10 respondents, 7 provided their insight on the potential benefit of the development of the project and its activities, the other 3 respondents did not comment towards the effectiveness of the project. The primary benefits envisioned through the implementation of these activities is the improvement of biodiversity of the PFAs by stabilizing flora and fauna and the enhancement of socio-economic development in the surrounding communities through capacity building and education on innovation and sustainability.

In order for the project to be carried out effectively the communities will require excessive capacity building and the involvement of training for women and vulnerable groups. The project will require the establishment of organisational groups in accordance to Muslim laws where activities can be carried out by the community to ensure all measures are being followed by groups, this will determine activity locations and limitation to which the management committee members will review the recommendations. Lastly, the communities request the inclusion of livelihood development measures containing the creation of fodder fields for livestock feed, the development of the agricultural sector through fertilizer, and the promotion of artisanal activities for women and vulnerable groups.

To ensure the sustainability of the mitigation measures, it is vital to provide training in modern techniques to provide higher yield as compensation for the cost of the park's expansion. The project must respect the various cultures of the surrounding communities and must provide community training, allowing for self innovation and self establish of monitoring strategies. Economic objectives will be supported by adapted, high-yielding seeds, fertilisers, species, etc. and the reinforcement of infrastructure will improve social conditions. The established management committees will assess project sites chosen to avoid spillover. The improvements of these activities will restore parks to their previous status, allowing both flora and fauna to thrive. Additionally, fewer interactions will occur of animals and villagers exiting or entering the parks in search for food as plenty will be available in their respective areas.

Suggested livelihood development measures

A few respondents have expressed that their community's primary focus is on two major activities, livestock rearing and farming, this project must provide enhancements to these

sectors. It is recommended to ask the population's opinions before implementation any project activities, if everything mentioned above is followed, the implementation should go smoothly. It is recommended to enhance social infrastructure such as health centers and schools to improve access to women.

Human Rights

All 14 respondent did not express concerns or awareness towards human rights violations of the proposed project activities.

Of the 11 respondents, it is expressed, if the project activities are all implemented as mentioned previously, social and economic growth will proceed as usual with the only major different being community activities will be outside the park. Additionally, despite the project's heavy focus on climate objectives, its design protects the rights of individuals and aims to improve the livelihood conditions of the community, providing access to all services and to meet the population's basic needs.

A minority expressed concerns towards the projects influence towards land use decision making – 3 of the 11 respondents implied, that the project activities prevent entry and/or use of spaces in the park, but it has managed to relocate these activities outside the park. Moreover, these activities are designed to generate a better result. However, concerns are risen towards the project activities potential to exacerbate the forest restrictions, complete denial of access to the park could hinder people's livelihood.

A majority – 8 of the 11 respondents has expressed that training of better practices will allow for higher yield with smaller land, therefore, the implementation of this project will have positive implications and the project aims to protect Waza Nation Park, also providing communities with alternatives activities outside the park; meeting peoples needs with respecting cultures and traditions; and assist community achieve economic objectives more efficiently.

Respondents inferred the aim of the project is to protect Waza Nation Park, assisting the community with socio-economic opportunities. The project will respect traditions, traditional authorities will continue their work and will be trained in relation to the new activities presented by the project. The project's activities focus on park restoration and the improvement of living conditions of the surrounding communities. Therefore, with the exception of reforestation within the park, all other activities will take place outside of the park to ensure community well-being and will be supervised by various community leaders and committees.

It was expressed that the systems won't change, as the project will assist in the well being of communities, providing better income and reinforced services, providing training, assisting committee set up of infrastructure, and encourage committees made up of men, young people, women, and vulnerable to ensure input of all community groups. One respondent however, did express concerns toward income and livelihood of certain group that can be impacted with the lose of fishing bonds in protected areas.

All respondents seemed to have similar view that the project will provide and allocate resources justly between groups. One respondent did mention the heavy emphasis of vulnerable groups, indicating that these groups will be considered more than others.

The project aims to assist all social groups within the surrounding communities. Activities will be carried out ethically and respectfully towards traditions and religions.

Based on the human rights risks and impacts we have discussed today, what do you propose as solutions? Please list and describe ideas

It is recommended to provide regular educational session of park management and project staff on human rights as well as ensuring the education of communities of their human rights. Equally, there should be knowledge sessions on the sanitization of local communities' cultures and traditions to limit discrimination.

The project should develop a mechanism to reduce the negative impacts of the project on people's livelihoods, for instance, people can limit their dependence on the park. It is however difficult for communities to completely halt dependence. This is important for discussions on access right, and local livelihood. Discussions and panels should allow the attendance of both male and female groups as well as accommodations to allow for traveling to these events.

Grievance Mechanism

Does the Protected Area or management entity in question already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism, Grievance Redress Procedures, or equivalent? (Y/N)
All 14 respondents reported they were either unaware of any measures in place to communicate grievances, however felt as though communities would communicate or report to local chiefs, park management authorities, divisional officer, gendarmerie, or administrative authorities; most of the people utilizing the parks do so illegally, and therefore grievances are not always reported to the appropriate authorities.

Are there any existing grievances against any of the project proponents or the PFAs?				
	GM	**LC**	**IP**	**TP**
Yes	0	0	0	0
No	0	5	0	1
Don't know	1	6	0	1

How accessible is this mechanism to local communities and indigenous peoples (or 'are you aware of this grievance mechanism, and have you used it?'
There is no official mechanism implemented or standardized, thus certain communities are kept in the dark the appropriate authorities. On the other hand, certain communities are aware of the presence of appropriate authorities, however the lack of a standardized mechanism hinders communication.

Are there any existing grievances against any of the project proponents or the PFAs?

Are there any existing grievances against any of the project proponents or the PFAs?				
	GM	**LC**	**IP**	**TP**
Yes	0	0	0	0
No	0	10	0	0
Don't know	0	1	0	1

If yes, please describe the nature of these grievances
N/A

What are the customary and other conflict management and grievance management mechanisms that operate on a local (eg. community) level, and are currently used by Project Affected People/ local communities? Understand and describe.
The respondents explained that small-scale grievances were handled among the individuals involved, progressing more intensely towards the sub-division level, and finally to the village chief. Additionally,

the village chief can call upon other elder members as well as community members to assist in providing better judgement. This process of the traditional council meant to address basic community problems such as agropastoral conflicts, family problems, land problems, etc.

Can these customary conflict management mechanisms be used as a basis for resolving grievances (related to the project) on a local level, prior to escalating issues to the next stage of the Grievance Mechanism, and how?
The answers received from the respondents varied greatly. On one hand, respondents expressed that the traditional council does not manage the park, and thus has no authority over Waza national park, its animals, or its land, and thus has no influence over the project management. However, some respondents argued that the project is taking place on their land and thus should be treated like any other grievance issue, by consulting the chief, and only conflicts of a higher degree such as loss of life or armed fights should the community seek a higher authority.

How do you think local grievances about the project should be collected and received (lodged) on a local level? For example - a) Grievance boxes; b) Reporting to an extension worker/project staff member; c) Having a community member (local level contact person) who will gather and present grievances; d) Presenting them in project meetings; e) Presenting them to the customary authorities, Other? Please describe what you think would be most suitable and why.

	IP	LC
Grievance boxes	0	0
Reporting to an extension worker/project staff member	0	2
Having a community member (local level contact person) who will gather and present grievances	0	8
Presenting them in project meetings	0	0
Presenting them to the customary authorities, Other	0	2

At the local level, respondents exclaimed the managed and presented by project staff members, community members, and customary authorities through oral presentations as they are deemed more trust worth with the communities and have portraited an actual interest in helping the communities. Oral presentation formats would more accurately communicate ideas and would better suit the communities as they cannot understand French or writing.

Would you like to report grievances about the project yourself or via a community representative?
The respondents are accepting of both report grievances themselves as well as through community representatives. They are however more reluctant to report themselves due to the language but cannot always trust community representatives to convey their thoughts accurately due to underlying biases.

What are the key considerations for access to the Grievance Mechanism - eg. location of where grievances are submitted, technology used, anonimity? Please describe
Key considerations for access to the grievance mechanism among the participants and local communities includes submission location, network or technology stability, and trustworthiness. The respondents have identified shortcomings in grievance mechanism submissions, as the locals are at times difficult to get to, communication through telephone is not always available, and corruption through middle parties is always a possibility.

Which languages should grievances be submitted in?
The preferred languages among the respondents to communicate grievances varied, present by preference in the table below.

Languages to submit grievances	IP	LC
French	0	3
English	0	1

Fulfulde	0	5
Bornu	0	1
Arabic	0	1
Musgu	0	2

What forms of communication should be used to explain the Grievance Mechanism to local communities?
To more easily communicate information to the communities concerning the Grievance Mechanism, the respondents centralized around the 3 main forms of communication, thus being oral communication in their respective languages, visual aids such as draws, flyers, and magazines, and through meetings and large gatherings to disseminate information and allow participation.

In what language(s) should this communication be?
The preferred languages among the respondents to communicate varied, present by preference in the table below.

Languages to submit grievances	IP	LC
French	0	1
English	0	0
Fulfulde	0	7
Bornu	0	3
Arabic	0	3
Musgu	0	2

Annex 4: ESIA fieldwork findings for Western highlands (Bamboutous)

1. Human Wildlife Conflict

In the Bamboutous Landscape, which was the pilot site for the ESIA team, the focus of discussions on conflicts was in relation to social conflicts, particularly between Mbororo pastoralists and local communities practising arable agriculture.

However, in one meeting, there was a detailed discussion about human-wildlife conflict in relation to sparrowhawks by a local community group in Balatchi. The respondents described sparrowhawks targeting poultry, reducing productivity of farmers and impacting income. Sparrowhawk predation was said to affect all social groups equally. Respondents thought that the project may make this worse, as the restoration of the forest may increase sparrowhawk populations therefore the potential impacts of the project are of high concern to the local community. In order to alleviate this conflict, community members suggested that poultry farming should be practised in enclosed environments. However, they noted that this would require financial support for feed, medicine and water and training on modern chicken farming techniques. Finally, and more generally, it was also mentioned by Mbororo in Tsopeua that the regeneration of the forest may lead to increased HWC when and if wildlife populations recover and return to the area.

Social conflicts

The main conflict cited in the landscape was farmer-herder conflicts due to perceived encroachment of farmers onto Mbororo grazing lands, causing issues between the

communities on a regular basis. Conflicts were reported as happening at least every year, with local community members in Tsopeua saying there are conflicts at least 5-10 times a year in the village. This issue was mentioned by all respondents in Bamboutous. Respondents suggested that the problem stems from population increase in the area, increasing the demand for food, leading farmers expanding into arable land designated for other use (grazing) to meet the increased demand. Respondents noted that land in Bamboutous is divided into forest area, pasture and agricultural land. However, both the Mbororo and local communities recognise that farmers are utilising land which has been designated for grazing or forestry due to land scarcity. Local communities reported destruction of crops by livestock as well as the purposeful burning of plantations, crops, houses, seed banks and crop banks by Mbororo people. The Mbororos reported deliberate poisoning and stabbing of livestock (cows, sheep, horses and goats) by farmers. The Mbororos also reported incidents of Mbororos being seriously beaten and some shot with firearms by local communities, and provided photographic evidence of this to the ESIA team.

Have there been conflicts with other communities, or within this community, in relation to land and natural resource management?	IP	LC	TP
Yes	3	3	3
No			

Conflict also has arisen due to competition for water resources and land ownership. In Tsopeua there was said to be conflict between the settled Bafu population on supposed Bangang land where a tea plantation was established by Cameroon Development Cooperation who now pay taxes to Bafu people instead of Bangang, the original inhabitants.

Across all villages conflict is most intense in grazing areas where livestock is reared. Specifically this is reported to be:

- Balepo – lower and upper section of the mountain;
- Balatchi – in the village itself;
- Tsopeua - land ownership conflict on Bangang/Bafu land.

There are no reported instances of local communities needing to move due to social conflicts, however there are reports of several Mbororo families relocating to other districts or relocating cattle and paying others to look after them to avoid conflict.

Question	Responses	
Is there any social conflict in this landscape/ village?	**IP**	**LC**
Yes	2	3
No	1	
Have there been human fatalities or injuries in the last 3 years in this village due to social conflict? *		
Yes	2	1
No	1	1
Have there been economic impacts (crops, livestock, property damage) in the last 3 years due to social conflict? *		
Yes	2	2
No	1	

Are there any incidents in this landscape where people have had to move from their settlements due to social conflict?		
Yes	2	
No	1	3

Conflict resolution (mitigation measures)

In Balepo respondents suggested that farmer- herder conflict could be settled amicably with Mbororo herders compensating the farmers with material items/money for the damage caused by livestock. However, respondents noted that if they cannot reach an agreement it escalates to the village chief, then to the police, then to court. Other villages reported no process or amicable solutions, conflicts are reported directly to administrative authorities. Balatchi local community and Mbororo leadership indicate that the conflict is too complex and deep to be dealt with amicably.

Local institutions and structures involved in conflict management

Village traditional councils are most commonly reported as the first port of call for conflict resolution, other entities involved in conflict resolution include government administrative divisional and sub-divisional officers, the divisional delegate for livestock, the national gendarmerie, court of first instance, supreme court, public prosecutors, security services and police.

Gender representation

The village traditional council in Balepo is made up of 8 men and 16 women (according to two 3rd party groups), however when discussed in the village, the local community explained that the tribunal consists of 10 men with no women. Gender representation across Mbororo responses was not clear, however one respondent said that there is 'no representation [of women] because of the culture' while others stated that there was either no formal institution or did not answer the question. No female representation is reported in Tsopeua by local communities or the Mbororo, and the gender breakdown is not known for Balatchi.

Perceived impact of project on social conflicts

All respondents (except for the local community in Tsopeua) believed that the project could have a positive impact on existing conflicts due to better defined and respected land use demarcation, improved conflict resolution strategies and as a result of the training and financial support being offered to farmers. Tsopeua local community felt the project would have no effect on current social conflicts. While most respondents (8 out of 9) believed that conflict resolution mechanisms would improve as a result of the project, 2 respondents suggested that the instances of social conflict may increase if the project is not implemented correctly. For example, forests being planted on grazing land may cause herders to move into farmland. Similarly, the Mbororo in Balepo believed that the project may prevent farmers from expanding up the mountains and instead move into Mbororo lands potentially leading to more instances of social conflict.

Overall, due to the existing pressure on land, and reported increase in human population, the restoration approach will need to account for how to ensure productive land use can continue synergistically with restoration, preventing shifting activities from one place to another and leading to an exacerbation of existing conflicts. The implementation modality will require

careful land use planning, support for conflict management and resolution, and field-based resource persons to enable this.

How could existing local land, natural resource and social conflict resolution measures be improved?	IP	LC	TP
Using trees as land demarcation			2
Involving both IP and LC in consultations and tree planting			2
Not discriminating between communities over sharing of natural resources			1
Recognising need for arable land for farmers		1	
Implement a conflict resolution strategy	2		
Improve enforcement/punishment	1		
Not sure/other comments	1	2	

Can you suggest any other measures to ensure that the restoration activities promoted by this project do not lead to conflict between local stakeholders?	IP	LC	TP
Assist the herders with obtaining grass to feed livestock			2
Streams allocated for livestock			2
Educate against bush burning (or enforce a ban)			2
Move Mbororo to another area		1	
Avoid planting eucalyptus as it uses too much water	1	1	
Build fences/improve demarcation	1	1	
Give special status to gender and vulnerable groups			1
Protect local culture from project activities			1
No comment/other comments	1	1	

If you think of all of the potential impacts of the planned project, how would you describe your concern about social conflicts - is it of no concern, low concern, moderate concern or high concern to you?	IP	LC	TP
Low	2	3	2
Moderate	1	0	1
High	0	0	0

In the context of the potential impacts of the planned project, the concern about social conflicts was of low to moderate concern, possibly due to the long history of the conflict.

Sources of insecurity

No security issues were reported in Balepo by 3/5 respondents. The Mbororo do not feel safe in Tsopeua due to the conflict with farmers. Farmer-herder conflict was also highlighted by local community members in Balatchi - farmers increasing production due to population

increase, using grazing land, increasing conflict between farmers and Mbororo who let their cattle graze on the crops, leading to food insecurity and social conflict.

Other comments

The situation in Tsopeua seems to be particularly tense. There is a strong anti-Mbororo sentiment from the local community leader in Tsopeua - indicating that the project will not be able to help with any kind of conflict resolution, the only solution is to move Mbororo people elsewhere. They accuse them of bribing the administration, destroying crops with cattle, burning land (including previous tree planting efforts). They claim that the Bantu are disproportionately affected because they do not have the financial powers of Mbororo.
Mbororo leadership said their community did not feel safe in the area.

.It will be essential for the project to conduct this kind of assessment in every community, to understand the nature of the conflict, which varies by village, and identify villages which require conflict resolution activities prior to initiating the ROAM process.

2. Indigenous Peoples

There were 13 respondents consulted about matters relating to Indigenous Peoples in the Bamboutous landscape, 11 of which were Mbororo and 2 were 3rd party groups.

Two out of the 13 respondents said that the PFAs overlap with the customary lands or territories of Mbororo people. The other respondents stated that while the PFA does not overlap with customary land, it borders Mbororo territory. Participants explained that their territories expand to the boundary of the Leblalem sub-division in the SW region of Cameroon and overlap at Tompou and Mokolo.

There is no voluntary isolation reported within the Mbororo community. Transhumance is known to occur where Mbororo men will leave Balepo during the dry season in search of grazing pastures for cattle, and return to the area during the rainy season.

The Balepo Mbororo community leader identified women, widows & girls, the elderly and people with disabilities as particularly vulnerable groups. No other respondents identified any vulnerable groups.

The Mbororo community has been settled in Tsopeua for at least 55 years, in Balepo for at least 70 years, and in Balatchi around 60 years ago before the farmers had moved into lands beyond the village according to the respondents.

The Mbororo community do not have land tenure titles, however may have customary rights to land ownership as being the first peoples to settle on the land which is essentially ‘customary land tenure’. Out of all the respondents, only one claimed to have documentation of their land rights. There are some concerns regarding tenure security due to the expansion of farmlands into the area.

User rights of the Mbororo include grazing and utilisation of water resources. Two of the respondents believed that there were no restrictions in the area and that they are the sole owners of the land in which they inhabit.

69% of respondents did not believe there were any conflicts existing between Mbororo people and the PFAs (the remaining 21% were inconclusive, or did not answer). One respondent mentioned the conflict arising between the Mbororo and local community due to the depletion by local community of water resources, and water pollution due to farming practices (such as extension of fields to areas adjacdent to rivers and steams).

The key issues and concerns reported by Mbororo people are:

- Restricted access to clean water (due to pollution, depletion, as well as physical barriers built by Bantu-speaking communities)
- Land ownership & land scarcity
- Social conflicts with local community (farmer – herder conflicts)
- Discrimination due to perceptions of Mbororo by the local community as uneducated
- Financial hardship
- Ill health

There were allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated against the Mbororo people in the Bamboutous landscape by 4 of the respondents, citing conflicts with the Bantu-speaking local communities. Participants describe instances of Mbororo being physically beaten and even shot by the local communities. Despite this, 50% of respondents did not report any human rights abuses. There were no reports of human rights violations linked to the project proponent or partners.

11/13 (78.6%) responded 'No' when asked if indigenous peoples had been resettled or physically displaced within the project area. However, the creation of tea plantations and population increase induced Mbororo people to move away from the Bantu people in search of more land for livestock grazing.

50% of respondents did not believe that the Mbororo are represented in any local natural resource use institutions or forums. A local 3rd Party group commented that the local community is involved in the management of natural resources through associations of producers One respondent noted that people come to the village to consult them on projects, and that there is an assistant in the village that oversees these discussions. The constraints to being included in these institutions are thought to be lack of communication between LC and Mbororo community, lack of access due to the hilly geography of the area in which they live, education levels as well as the young age in which girls are to marry.

The concerns raised after the objectives and activities of the planned project explained were:

- The potential of farmers to encroach onto grazing land
- Prohibition of tree felling
- Planting of eucalyptus trees which are thought to be water intensive
- Land scarcity
- Livelihood impacts

Half of respondents reported no concerns, some of which mentioning the possible positive impacts including increasing the livelihood of women, financial support to engage in small scale businesses, bringing about peace to the community and the potential for animal vaccination sites, fodder farms and water points for livestock to be established. Some other respondents indicated that the region was safe and often receives refugees from the southwest and northwest region.

12/13 respondents did not believe there was a potential for the project to contribute to, or cause, any of the following issues infringement of indigenous peoples' rights to land, health, nutrition, education; infringement on rights to participations and self-determination; infringement on culture, cultural heritage; intimidation, harassment, and physical abuse from

project partners or due to project activities; discrimination or culturally inappropriate benefits; physical or economic displacement. The only concern raised was the possibility of the infringement of Indigenous People's land rights which may happen if farmers are forced to encroach on grazing areas. This was thought to impact over 300 people s from the Balepo Mbororo community.

There appear to have been proposed projects in the past which did not come into fruition, leading to a concern that the start-up and implementation of this project may be very long and may never be established in the area

The possible negative impacts of the proposed project on the community and suggested mitigation measures are as follows:

- Land demarcation between farmers and herders to reduce possibility of farmers encroaching onto grazing land
- Identify separate water sources for community use and livestock use to aid with access to water
- Inclusion of all groups within the community during sensitization sessions and dissemination of information in all appropriate languages so as not to discriminate against any groups and/or prevent corruption
- Ensure that local customs and cultures are respected while carrying out project related activities

8 out of 13 respondents believed that their land tenure and use rights were sufficiently secure to participate in identified restoration activities. Of the respondents that did not believe their land tenure was secure, two were still willing to participate in the project activities. Two of the respondents indicated that land tenure was less secure for women as they do not have the rights to own land. It was suggested that land use planning with clearly defined zonation would assist in securing land and user rights.

The following measures were suggested to help increase the participation of the Mbororo community in decision making regarding natural resources:

- Information dissemination & community sensitization in local languages
- Cross community committees to discuss natural resource issues
- Educating young girls
- Piping water to the village which would reduce time spent fetching water
- Changing legislation to make it compulsory to consult Indigenous Peoples

One of the 3rd Party groups also mentioned banning bush burning by Mbororo communities and imposing fines on those who do.

3. Grievance Management

Existing PA grievance management

The Bamboutous landscape does not have a grievance mechanism, as confirmed by community respondents' answers to this. Only one grievance against the Bamboutous Mountain Reserve and authorities was mentioned in the three villages visited. This was an Mbororo respondent in Tsopeua who explained that the Reserve authorities allowed farmers to farm within the Reserve area. The grievance was that this farming activity was thought to negatively impact the forest as well as deplete and contaminate water sources.

Does the Protected Area or management entity in question already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism, Grievance Redress Procedures, or equivalent? (Y/N)				
	GM	**IP**	**LC**	**TP**
Yes	0	1	0	0
No	1	6	9	2
Don't know	0	4	1	0

Are there any existing grievances against any of the project proponents or the PFAs?				
	GM	**IP**	**LC**	**TP**
Yes	0	1	0	0
No	0	8	10	2
Don't know	0	2	1	0

Community grievance management

Indigenous peoples (Mbororo)

Mbororo respondents explained that grievances are reported to the village chief and the traditional council who will judge the situation and decide on a solution. Respondents suggested that this current customary conflict management system should be used for resolving project related grievances as there is a great deal of respect for the village chiefs who should be involved in the process.

Local communities

Several respondents describe a process which begins at the quarter head level where the complaint is reported to, which is then brought to the village chief and the notables if the parties are unable to come to a solution. Most local community respondents (9/11) believed that the village council should be used for resolving project related grievances as it is well established and understood within the community. However, during a group discussion with women in Tsopeua, they did not agree as women are not integrated into the chiefdom, and the respondents believed that women should be represented during conflict resolution. Other comments were that the project should also have its own grievance mechanism alongside the existing customary village process, and that training should be provided to the village council to enable them to resolve conflicts more efficiently as it can currently be a long process.

How should local project related grievances be lodged and received?

	IP	**LC**
Grievance boxes	0	1
Reporting to an extension worker/project staff	3	4
Having a community member who will gather and present grievances	4	6
Presenting them in project meetings	0	0
Presenting them to the customary authorities	4	5
Other	0	0

Community respondents showed a strong preference for a Community Representative to gather grievances, as per the table above, and responses below, rather than presenting grievances directly themselves. Mbororo respondents found this to be beneficial to remove any language barrier that may exist between them and project workers, allowing them to freely voice their complaints in their own language. It was also thought that women would be better represented by village chiefs than by directly communicating with project staff.

Would you like to report grievances about the project yourself or via a community representative?

	IP	LC
Community Representative	6	11
Ourselves	2	1
Both	2	1

Key considerations for access to the grievance mechanism amongst Mbororo and local community respondents included location of where grievances were submitted as well as language. Both Mbororos and local communities identified the village as being the best place to submit any grievances, as some noted it would improve access for women to contribute to the process. Some local community respondents raised anonymity as being important, as well as the importance for the possibility of verbal communication in local languages when submitting grievances.

The preferred languages amongst Mbororo respondents to communicate grievances were English/Pidgin and the local language (Fulfulde). All Mbororo respondents preferred either oral communication of grievances and physical meetings, with one mentioning posters and drawings. Group discussions and mobile phone calls were also considered appropriate. The preferred language for these communications was Fulfulde or Pidgin English, with one Mbororo respondent suggesting French.

Local communities favoured French as their preferred language to submit grievances. In terms of communicating grievance mechanisms to the local community, a wide range of communications were listed: oral and written communication, group discussions, capacity building sessions, village meetings, drawings, community radio, churches, posters. The favoured language for these communications was French and/or local languages being cited by all respondents.

Language to submit grievances	**IP**	**LC**
English (or Pidgin English)	6	1
French	3	8
Local Language	5	6
Any of the above	1	3

4. Cultural Heritage

Cultural sites

In the villages sampled in the Bamboutous landscape, most community respondents considered there to be cultural sites around their village (see Table below), which included graveyards, ‘house of god’, sacred sites (including sacred forests) and sites to perform

traditional rites. These sites were said to sit mostly outside the PFA with two LC respondents (out of 8 respondents asked) stating that they sit both within and outside the PFA. . Respondents also indicated sacred sites belonging to individuals and families are mainly found in farmlands, some of the scacred sites can be moved from one place to another.

During discussions respondents could not specify where sacred sites are situated in the PFAs, as a consequence the project during execution/implementation has to discuss with the village authorities to further understand and clarify issues relating to cultural sites.

Potential for project activities to affect cultural sites

Proposed project activities were not perceived by Mbororo respondents to potentially affect cultural sites. LCs mostly thought that there would be a positive effect on cultural sites due to the increased levels of protection in the area, provided that appropriate measures were taken to identify them. Respondents mentioned the need for participatory mapping exercises to identify cultural sites, although noted that this could be challenging to identify all the sites due to the private nature of the sites, often being associated with individuals.

Are there any cultural sites around your village? Please list and describe	**LC**	**IP**	**TP**
Yes	3	1	2
No	0	2	0

Are these cultural sites on community/communal land outside of Permanent Forest Areas, or inside Permanent Forest Areas? Please describe.	**LC**	**IP**	**TP**
Inside only	0	0	0
Outside only	0	1	1
Both	2	0	0

Cultural practices

Mbororo community respondents described key cultural practices outside the PFA to include cattle herding, traditional dances, celebrations and religious pilgrimages. LC cited sacred dances, ancestor worship as well as a 2 day period of rest prohibiting anyone from conducting any activity (including project activities). 3rd Party groups mention a festival as well as a congress to discuss local development issues, and a ‘dance of the notables’ taking place in Balepo village. These practices are said to happen both within and outside PFAs (LCs) with IPs commenting on cattle herding happening outside PFAs. [Mike - Answers are not so clear here].

During project implementation more clarity is required on the cultural practices as well as sacred sites within and outside the park, and maybe their specific locations.

As with cultural sites, there was low concern that the project activities would affect the cultural practices and if there was going to be an effect, it was thought to be positive by respondents. For both cultural sites and practices, no respondents believe that they would be negatively affected by the project.

Do you think that the project activities could affect these cultural practices positively or negatively? Please explain how.	LC	IP	TP
Positive	**2**		**1**
Negative			
No effect		**3**	**1**
NA	**1**		

5. Biodiversity and Sustainable Use

The overall perception of all the respondents in Bamboutous on the potential impacts of the project on biodiversity and ecosystem services was positive, which was thought to also have a positive impact on the community. The potential reasons for improved biodiversity being that reforestation would allow reinstatement of overexploited plants including medicinal plants, avocadoes, *Prunus africana* and orange trees as well as population growth of monkeys and small ruminants. The perceived potential benefits to ecosystem services included increased water availability (a key issue mentioned by all participants, particularly IP women when discussing other topics), improved air quality, firewood, leaf litter for compost and livestock feed availability. It was also mentioned that to mitigate negative effects on biodiversity and ecosystem services appropriate tree species should be planted that are not water intensive (the perception is that eucalyptus are very water intensive and could have negative impacts on water supplies). No other potential negative aspects of the project were identified in regards to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Local communities in Balepo referred to Prunus africana bark being over exploited in the past by the pharmaceutical industry, as well as bamboo plants being used for local use.

6. Labour & Working Conditions

None of the respondents believed that the project would support any damaging forms of labour. No health and safety issues, or issues related to working conditions of concern were identified by the respondents. When asked about what the project could do to ensure that community members would have good working conditions, TP groups listed fair remuneration, appropriate personal protective equipment and decent working hours.

Considering the project activities, which community members are likely to be involved in implementing these activities (eg. tree planting, fencing, enterprise development etc).	LC	IP	TP
Project staff	1		
Consultants	1		
Community volunteers	1		
Men		3	
Men and women (entire community)			2

Women (goat breeding)		1	
No answer	1		

The MINFOF respondent cited a lack of appropriate resources as an issue related to working conditions, including no access to laptops, limited transportation to field staff as well as staff shortages in the organisation. As well as providing more resources to staff, dedicated staff time to work on project activities would help to resolve the issues.

7. Human Rights

None of the respondents were aware of any human rights violations associated with the activities of the project partners that have occurred in the community in the last 5 years (96% of the 25 respondents answered 'No' when asked, 4% of respondents did not know).

Similarly, when asked if there were any project activities that could undermine people's social and economic rights to meet their basic needs, 91% of the 22 respondents answered 'No' and 9% did not know.

Mitigation measures for any adverse impacts on human rights suggested by the respondents include avoiding discrimination between local populations and groups, ensuring that project activities do not impact on grazing lands (by IPs), capacity building, increasing awareness of project activities and transparency with the community in the project management process.

8. Gender and Vulnerable Groups

General information : Data was collected from three villages dependent in the Bamboutos Highlands namely Balepo, Balatchi and Tsopeua. These villages are situated in the West region of Cameroon. Specifically, Balepo is found in Babadjou sub-division, Balatchi Mbouda sub-division and Tsopeua in Batcham sub-division.

Survey respondents: There were 25 respondents consulted about issues concerning gender and vulnerable groups in the Bamboutos Highlands landscape, 10 of which were respondents from Indigenous communities and 12 respondents from local communities and 03 were third party groups.

Local accounts in the Bamboutos Highlands region revealed the existence of gender and vulnerable group's within the local and Indigenous communities.

- **Vulnerable groups in local communities :** Elderly men and women, handicap (disabled), widows, pregnant women, orphans, infants/children, single women, young girls, albinos
- **Vulnerable groups in Mbororo communities**: Internally displaced women, elderly men and women, widows, disabled persons, divorced women, children, pregnant women, single women, young girls, women
- **Identification vulnerable groups by 3rd party groups**: Handicap people, old men and women, pregnant women, orphans, widows, single women

The groups who were most frequently mentioned (Table below) as vulnerable in the Bamboutos highlands area include: widows (19), disabled persons (17), elderly men and

women (15), and children (9). Specifically, Mbororo community vulnerable groups include widows (7), children (7) and internally displaced (7).

Frequency for mention of each vulnerable group in local and indigenous communities

Group type	Local community	Mbororo community	3rd party groups	Total
Elderly (old) men and women	10	3	2	15
Disabled (handicap)	12	3	2	17
Widows	9	7	3	19
Pregnant women	4	2	2	8
Orphan	5	/	2	7
Children	4	5	/	9
Single women	3	1	1	5
Young girls	2	2	/	4
Internally displaced	1	5	/	6
Divorce	/	1	/	1

The focus group discussions in the Balmboutos Highlands region also revealed the reasons for vulnerability of individuals in both the local and indigenous communities as illustrated in the Table below

Reasons for vulnerability

Group type	Local community	Mbororo community
Elderly (old) men and women	-They have limited mobility, poor health and cannot work. - These groups are affected by their age, physical, health, mental and financial conditions which no longer allow them to take care of themselves. They don't have the same capacities or skills as normal people. They don't have the ability to do what other people normally do. - They are old and engage in limited livelihood activities especially farming to survive on a daily basis. -	-Inability to walk due to old age and also to do farming due to distance to farmlands. - The old people do not have enough strength to get out, and therefore consume polluted water in the village. There are therefore also exposed to water borne diseases. - Reduced mobility and unable to cater for livestock - Have limited regenerative abilities and are more susceptible to disease, syndromes, injuries, and sickness; - Inability to work or take care of livestock. - The elderly are breeders who have passed on their livestock because they are no longer strong. They therefore stay at home and taken care of by their families. They are for the most by at least 60 years old.
Disabled (handicap)	-Mental illness, complete or half blind (poor eye sight). - People with mental illness cannot do anything constructive to help themselves. Disabled on one or two feets, albinos. People with poor eye sights cannot see well, have limited mobility and depend on others to survive on a daily basis.	-Ill-health - Reduced mobility and unable to cater for livestock - Inability to work or look after livestock.

Widow	-They have limited help to meet their daily needs. - The widows have little or no support from others to access or own new land for farming. - They are vulnerable because they especially women do not have husbands and have to do everything by themselves - Widows annual revenue is too small compared to that of married couples	-Widow and same time elderly and completely dependent on children for survival- -Widows do not have any support system. - They do not have husbands to defend them. - Widows annual revenue is too small compared to that of married couples - The widows have lost their husbands and have difficulties to meet up with their needs
Pregnant women	- They often lack the critical resources to get needed clinical consultation and live healthy lifestyle for their unborn babies.	
Orphan	- The orphans have little or no support from others to access or own new land for farming. -	They do not have fathers to defend them.
Children		-Children regularly sick due to poor water quality. - Children have very fragile organism and regularly suffer from waterborne diseases related to chemichal fertilizers spilled into water by farmers during their activities. - Children: living without the basic necessities, not going to school, suffering from some type of abuse or exploitation, involved in exploitative labour; -Very young and unable to adapt to water contaminations from chemicals used in farmlands. -
Single women/divorce		- Their annual income is smaller than that of a person physically fit. They are vulnerable because they especially women do not have husbands and have to do everything by themselves
Young girls		-Drop out of school. - Young girls in this Mbororo village dropped out after their primary school due to the lack of secondary school in their area and their parents do not have enough money to send them out of the village to pursue their education. - There is a group of young Mboror girls that dropped out of school after their primary education due to, lack of finances to further their education
Internally displaced		Migration from the North west region to the Bamboutos area due to the anglophone crisis, leaving behind property, family members etc. Little or no land and housing for displaced families. - Displaced persons do not have livestock and their livelihood depends on their host families. - Internally displaced; women displaced with children because of the anglophone crisis; some women said their children are

		with other family relatives because the current village of stay could not provide accomodation which can contain the entire family. Their homes were burnt and property lutted. They migrated to Balachi were the Mbororo people welcomed them and provided shelter, food, clothes, land for farming. Their husbands have been killed during the crisis. - The displaced have lost their property in because of security crisis. Their husbands have been killed in the on-going conflict in the North West and South West Regions, they therefore have to take care of them and their children - The other widow works on peoples farm to be able to have some money, because since she lost her husband she does not have any farmland for herself. - The only displaced man in the community have been adopted by the population. He works with others to manage their livestock and earn some money.
Women	Vulnerable due to their gender.	-They are excluded from decision making circles. - Women depend a lot on men. Even women who own cattle still depend on men to cater for the cattle. - Prohibited from participating in cattle herding which is the main livelihood of Mbororo people. They have to depend on their husbands or families and neighbors -Vulnerability related to gender and associated discriminations from the men. Their livelihood activities are also reliant on the men who decide on what women must do. - The Islamic laws prohibit women from certain activities. - They have a limited source of livelihood; -
Ethnic minorities		- They have unequal treatment and less power over their lives, have distinguishing physical or cultural traits like language, awareness of subordination;

Natural resources vital for the maintenance of vulnerable groups (see table below) in Bamboutous Highlands villages consist of land, water, fuel wood and forest. Both the local communities and Indigenous people said natural resources are important for their livelihoods and survival and are vital for agriculture and livestock grazing. The Indigenous people use most of their land for livestock grazing and local communities for agriculture. Also, land is used by local communities as security and guarantee for acquiring loans. Water was said to be vital for agriculture, household use and livestock.

The Mbororo people especially saw water and the forest as significant natural resources since they are principal needs for livestock rearing. They expressed that land is very scarce and

available land not sufficient for farming and livestock grazing. Both indigenous vulnerable women and local community vulnerable women expressed the important role of

water for household use. Interesting to note that the Mbororo women expressed the need for more land for livestock rearing, an activity mainly carried out by the men.

Natural resources important for vulnerable groups

Natural Resource	Local community	Mbororo community
Land	-Vital for agriculture -Land because the food which is given to them is taken from this land -Backbone for agriculture -Production of food crops for commercialisation -Security for farmers to obtain loans from banks, money lenders and big farmers -Landless farmers can do paid jobs for farmers with big farms	-Land scarcity is a general problem, land is required for grazing and farming. -The women said more land is reserved for livestock grazing and little land for farming. -Grazing for livestock -Grazing land is also very vital for livestock health.
Fuel wood	-Cooking -firewood to cook food and keep warm as it is cold.	-Cooking, heating of homes especially when it is cold.
Water	-Household use -Feeding of livestock -Water because they can drink themselves	-Necessary for both humans and livestock survival and crop growth. -People drink water for survival. Livestock also drink water for survival. -Necessary for life and for livestock -Most critical resource for every member of the community, including the most vulnerable. -It is important for both humans and livestock. -Drinking, laundering, cooking; bathing; washing of dishes.
Forest	-It gives the possibility to have access to wood which is an essential resource for the village. It is used for all heating needs.	-Important for maintaining local climate, provide fodder for livestock and helps with water in the community.

The frequency of mention of different natural resources for gender and vulnerable groups varied between Indigenous community and local community. The indigenous vulnerable groups laid more emphasis on water and the local community vulnerable groups emphasized on land. Generally, a significant number of respondents said land is vital for their maintenance (26), followed by water (22) and fuel wood (18).

Frequency for mention of natural resources vital for women and vulnerable groups

Natural Resource	**Local community**	**Mbororo community**	**Total**
Land	15	11	26
Fuel wood	6	11	18

Water	9	13	22
Forest	2	2	4

This section explores the capital types (social, economic, physical etc.) critical for the maintenance of gender and vulnerable groups in indigenous and local communities. The Table below presents the different capital types and reasons why they are considered vital for vulnerable groups.

Capitals critical for maintenance of women and vulnerable groups

Capitals	Local community	Mbororo community
Social networks/Family	-community groups with mutual trust and values	-The displaced woman said the absence of her children especially the elderly ones is a problem to her since has nobody to assist her. -Participants say the most important social or economic factor for Mbororo IPs is the family. It is the most critical support system they have. Even displaced persons have been considered as family in this community. -The displaced people have left their children in the war. They do not have husbands and no children to assist them do farming. They assume all responsibilities alone. -The participant thought that the family support system is most critical to the maintenance of vulnerable groups.
Social facilities	-Leisure activities because it is not easy for us to work and if we have a small income generating activity, we will be able to get by and with leisure activities we will be able to forget our handicap. -They lack hospitals and they need to go right to Maka village to give birth and they take the serious cases to Mbouda.	-Availability of schools within their community eg. primary and secondary school; no hospitals, no motorable roads. The only secondary school accessible to the people is located in Jzedong, distant and costly to the local population. -Facilities such as schools, water, and health centers; -They need secondary schools to further their education, given that there are no schools in their village.
Government financial aid		-Government assistance to set up and support social networks to help vulnerable groups enhance their livelihoods through revenue generating activities. -Government assistance in developing their livelihood activities; -
Water	-it is very scarce especially during the dry season,	-Critical for human life and livestock wellbeing Grazing land: critical for livestock numbers and health -Drinking water should also be accessible to reduce expenses related to waterborne diseases
Land	-Access to land for farming -Land since if a vulnerable person is unable to do farming the other family members will cultivate to take care of the entire family	-For displaced IP the land they currently used was provided by people out of goodwill; the land is considered too small and could be taken from them anytime. -
Farm inputs	-Seeds, seedlings, manure, piglets	
Roads	-Roads to transport goods especially from farm to market (farm to market roads)	

Social groups	-contributions in social networks to access funds (tontin)	
Money	-They need some money to increase their little agricultural activities. -Small business including livestock rearing	-They are displaced and do not have money to send children to school, meet up with family needs and engage in business. -Many of the girls have lost their fathers and since the women have no source of income they cannot further the education of the children out of the village.(7 out of 8 girls)

Also, gender and vulnerable groups in the local and indigenous community's expressed the foreseen positive and negative impacts (Table below) the planned project land and forest restoration activities could have on their use of natural assets.

Perceived effects of project activities on the use of natural assets for women and vulnerable groups

Planned project activities	Positive impacts		Negative impacts	
	Local Community	Mbororo community	Local community	Mbororo community
Land restoration	-The project will help individuals and groups to plant trees for the good of all since the climate is always changing -the project will not affect the ability of vulnerable groups to use these assets since the project will increase access to water and water availability through tree planting for the benefit of all -	-If the project will plant trees then it will be very important for the whole community. -- The planting of trees will provide fresh air for the community and also fuel wood. The presence of the project will make the Bantu people to be afraid of putting fences around streams. The planting of fruit trees such as pears will provide food for the family. -Restoration activities will favor tree planting and grass regeneration that is good for livestock rearing. There is potential for	-The project will reduce tree felling and may also demand villagers to seek permission before felling trees -The project might also reduce people's liberty to fell trees and might want to ensure that people seek permission before felling trees -For some old and widow's women who get small fields around their houses, the project can affect them if the trees that are going to be planted	

		favorable grass to be planted to boost livestock. -Land use planning will demarcate herding and farming lands, thereby avoiding conflicts and enabling the community to prosper. -The project will help to negotiate with the community and government to provide land for agriculture. -The project will allow a better valorization of the different assets for forest, grazing and agriculture. Vulnerable groups will therefore be able to make the most of the resources available to them in the grazing area, including drinking water, firewood, etc. - Land use planning will demarcate herding and farming lands, thereby avoiding conflicts and enabling the community to prosper.	have shade because potatoes or corn do not tolerate shade. -The use of forests and land by vulnerable populations can be affected negatively if the project have more access to their land space given by their husbands for those elders and widow who have garden near their house or if their sacred sites are destroyed. -	
Forest restoration	-Access to water will increase since trees planted will protect streams -Some of the plants the project will plant will certainly have economic value, meaning communities will benefit -Reforestation to produce ecosystem services for us, the trees will facilitate the provision of water and we will have enough firewood	- The forest is helpful to livestock. -- Project restoration activities will mean more water (from mountain rocks) available for humans and animals. Trees planted will make the soil firmer and thus reduce possibility of landslides occurring.		- Possibility of farmers to encroach on grazing lands if they are not allowed

	-They could also be affected positively by the project activities which may increase ground water and community livelhood as well as mitigate climate change on Bamboutos landscape.	-restoration activities will be good for the landscape as it will lead to enough water all through the year. -Restoration of trees, especially on the hills will be good for water that people and livestock consume in the village. -		to expand into the permane nt forest.

The most cited positive impacts for planned project land and forest restoration activities by local communities include mitigation of climate change, water availability, income generation linked to the planting of economically valuable trees and improve community livelihoods. The local communities feared that the project activities might affect people's liberty to fell trees and the project might plant trees not favourable for growth of some food crops such as potatoes and maize.

The indigenous people said the project activities will increase water availability especially vital for their livestock and also control the Bantu attitude of building fences around water sources. Also, project activities will increase fuel wood availability and pastures for livestock. They fear that the project will reduce access to the forest and therefore farmers will be forced to encroach into the forest.

The Table below provides the different categories of impacts for project activities and perceived reasons; and frequency distribution for gender and vulnerable groups perceived impacts of planned project activities

Women and vulnerable groups perceived impacts of planned project activities

Categories	Positive impacts	
	Local community	Mbororo community
Climate change	-The project will help individuals and groups to plant trees for the good of all since the climate is always changing -Climate mitigation	-Provision of fresh air through tree planting -
Increase water availability and access	-Increase access to water and water availability through tree planting for the benefit of all. - Trees will facilitate the provision of water -Tree planting will increase ground water availability	-Increase water access and availability especially for livestock during the dry season
Financial benefits	- The plants the project will plant will certainly have economic value, meaning communities will benefit	

Abundance of fuelwood	-Trees will increase fuel wood availability	-Increase in fuel wood availability
Improved livelihoods	-Enhance community livelihoods	-Grass regeneration vital for livestock
Reduce conflicts		-Land use planning will demarcate herding and farming lands, thereby avoiding conflicts and enabling the community to prosper.
Increase in agricultural land		-The project will help to negotiate with the community and government to provide more land for agriculture.
Categories	Negative Impacts	
	Local Community	Indigenous Community
Restrictions on tree felling	-The project will reduce tree felling and may also demand villagers to seek permission before felling trees	
Reduced access to land	-Reduced and control over access to land	
Tree planting	-Planting of trees not adaptable to certain agricultural crops	
Effects on cultural sites	-Less access and destruction of sacred sites	
Land conflicts		Farmers might encroach on grazing land due to restricted access to the forest

Frequency distribution for gender and vulnerable groups perceived impacts of planned project activities

Category	Positive impacts		
	Local community	Indigenous community	Total
Climate change	2	3	5
Increase water availability and access	6	7	13
Financial benefits	1	/	1
Abundance fuel wood	2	1	3
Improved livelihoods	2	6	8
Reduce conflicts	/	1	1
Increase agricultural land	/	1	1
Category	Negative Impacts		
	Local Community	Indigenous Community	
Restrict tree felling	1	/	1
Restrict access to land	2	/	2
Trees effect on crops	4	/	4
Effects on cultural sites	1	/	1

Land conflicts	/	1	1

This section explains proposed activities vital to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups in local and indigenous communities (Table below) and the frequency of mention for each activity.

Cattle and livestock are the livelihood of all Mbororo people. People who cannot cater for cattle can still own them. If the village prospers, everybody in it prospers no matter the sex or age. Islam encourages sharing with the less fortunate

Livelihood activities for improvement of gender and vulnerable groups

Activities	Local community	Indigenous people
Training	-Technical support for livestock rearing (pigs, pigs, goats). - Training on best agricultural and agroforestry techniques for planting and harvesting as well as value addition and marketing of farm produce.	-Young girls should be taught on how to use improved stove instead of firewood -The young girls requested training on how to sew dresses. - They need trainings for their children because they cannot afford money to send the children to school.
Livestock rearing	-Support to livestock farming	-Increase the number of livestock -Support to women to get more sheep and goats for rearing will increase their income and make them less dependent on men. -More cattle and other livestock.
Financial capital (money)	-Technical and financial support to livestock rearing (pigs, pigs, goats). -money to enable them rent or buy farms; money to engage in business; money to buy fertiliser to enrich cultivable and farm equipment.	-The women require capital to sell household needs within their community since they are further away from the village centre. -Money to engage in small business
Water	-Easy access to water	-Water (pipe borne) is very essential for women and livestock -Resolve the issue of water shortage
Government intervention		-Government and development agencies' assistance can ease integration of displaced persons within host communities.
Agriculture	-Planting improved varieties of fruit trees -Improved tree varieties such as avocado trees that can be planted in agroforestry systems around home gardens and farmlands. Training on best agricultural and agroforestry techniques for planting and harvesting as well as value addition and marketing of farm produce. - Improved tree varieties such as avocado trees that can be	

	planted in agroforestry systems around home gardens and farmlands.	
Proximity to health facilities	-Health personnel render visits to sick persons in the community	
Participation in decision making	Promoting participation in decision-making, emphasizing the quality and creative nature of work, place needs over wants and foster healthy, mutually beneficial relationships among people and between people. Individuals and community organizations must be empowered so they can achieve sustainable livelihood.	

Frequency of mention of each activity for the improvement of the status of gender and vulnerable groups.

The Table below illustrates that in local community's priority activities to improve the status of gender and vulnerable groups consist of agriculture, livestock rearing and training on farming techniques. In indigenous communities, gender and vulnerable groups preference livestock rearing, followed by financial capital to engage in small businesses and training.

Frequency distribution for livelihood improvement activities for gender and vulnerable groups

Activities	Local community	Indigenous community	Total
Training	4	2	6
Livestock rearing	4	7	11
Financial capital	3	4	7
Water	/	2	2
Government intervention	/	1	1
Agriculture	5	2	7
Proximity to health facilities	1	/	1
Participation in decision making	1	/	

9. Livelihoods and Access Restrictions

Status of land and natural resource use rights

Mbororo peoples believe they have customary rights outside the PFA as they were the first settlers to the area and therefore have rights to land and resource use. The local community acknowledged they had no rights or tenure recognition within the PFA. Outside the PFA the community has customary land rights as granted by the Chief who is believed to be the custodian of the land.

There were no historical issues related to access restrictions with livelihood impacts reported within the PFA by any of the respondents questioned. 3 (out of 11) Mbororo respondents mentioned the social conflict that has been on-going between themselves and the local Bantu-speaking community. Historic marginalisation was mentioned, as well as the farmer-pastoralist conflict which is discussed in the community health and security section of this report. One local community respondent in Tsopeua referred to the creation of tea plantations in 1981 which separated the community from their ancestral lands. Another respondent cites the increase in population as well as land designation for grazing and permanent forests leading to land scarcity and food insecurity.

Forced evictions or involuntary physical displacement

Similarly, when discussing issues related to forced evictions of involuntary physical displacement, there were none reported by 10 out of 11 Mbororo respondents and 10 out of 11 local community respondents. The one issue flagged by the Mbororo was again the farmer-herder conflict which has caused the Mbororo to search for alternative grazing lands on the slopes of Mount Bamboutous. The women's local community group in Tsopeua again raised the creation of the Bamboutous Mountain Reserve and the tea industry as being factors which led them to leave their traditional sites due to the destruction of fields and houses.

Impact of project activities on access restrictions

There was unanimous acceptance across all Mbororo respondents that project activities would neither reinforce any existing issues or introduce any new issues regarding land allocation and access rights. Among the local community respondents, 3 out of 11 cited potential ongoing access restriction issues that project activities may exacerbate relating to loss of grazing/farm land, loss of business and loss of access to cultures resources. In regards to what project activities may introduce new access restrictions, 8 out 11 local community respondents believed there to be none. Of the remaining respondents, one named restoration activities as potentially affecting their access restrictions.

Suggested measures to minimise access restrictions

Only 3 out of 11 Mbororo respondents had suggestions to minimise access restrictions by the project which includes adequate community support, education and sensitisation and clear zonation.

Local communities suggested a wide range of measures which would minimise access restrictions including:

- Improve road conditions
- Facilitating marketing
- Supporting new farming techniques in animal and potato farming
- Clear zonation and land demarcation for grazing

Concern regarding access restrictions

If you think of all of the potential impacts of the planned project, how would you describe your concern about access restrictions	IP	LC

No concern	4	2
Low concern	6	8
Moderate concern	1	0
High concern	1	1

Across Mbororo respondents there was either no concern or low concern regarding access restrictions in relation to project activities in 10 out of 11 respondents (see table above). This is due to the perception of project objectives as being favourable towards them. The one respondent who was moderately concerned stated this was because “nothing is certain when it comes to land.”

Similarly among local communities there was low to no concern reported by 10 to 11 respondents. The Balepo women’s group felt that access restrictions were of high concern due to existing land scarcity and the perception that project activities would further impact this and their livelihoods.

Effectiveness and feasibility of proposed livelihood development measures

The effectiveness of livelihood development/restoration measures proposed by the project was not widely known by Mbororo respondents – with 7 out of 11 respondents either not knowing or not commenting on the effectiveness. Out of the remaining 4 the reasons for effectiveness were not clear, except for the mention of water availability and other resource provision. The feasibility of the measures was also not widely known by the Mbororo respondents with 7 out of 11 respondents not answering. Similarly there were no comments regarding the sustainability of the measures. One of the respondents noted that the creation of fodder fields and watering facilities for livestock and the promotion of artisanal activities for women and vulnerable groups should be included as part of the measures. Capacity building was also mentioned by 3 respondents.

There was a generally very positive response from the local communities regarding the effectiveness of the measures, who believed the following activities would positively impact their livelihoods:

- Avocado and safu tree planting
- Tree planting for land demarcation
- Creation of a local market
- Agroforestry
- Value chain enhancement
- Water availability

The local community respondents also perceived the measures to be feasible and easily integrated into their existing practices. The sustainability of such measures was thought to be bolstered by capacity building amongst women in the community, supporting advances in farming, as well as supporting the creation of a cooperative before the end of the project.

Suggested livelihood development measures

Mbororo respondents suggested the following livelihood development measures to be considered by the project: support in developing dairy production including the introduction of new varieties of cattle, grass planting for livestock fodder and the construction of health centres and schools (for women in particular). It was thought that by facilitating dairy productions this could be an avenue of income for women who would be able to tend to dairy cattle.

Local community respondents suggested a wide range of measures including :

- Beekeeping
- Seed stock production
- Craft (skill?) development
- Training on new agricultural techniques
- Avocado tree planting
- Group sales (Vivian to comment)
- Agricultural storage facilities
- Improve transportation of produce (tracks and tricycles)
- Wells
- Access to subventions for farm equipment and fertilisers
- Land enrichment

10. FPIC

Prior knowledge of FPIC

Out of the 22 respondents, around two thirds had not previously heard of FPIC (as detailed in the table below). Of those who had heard of the process it was loosely described as asking for permission from the community, the sharing of information related to a project or some described it as an agreement given after being well informed of any commitments and details.

Prior knowledge of FPIC	IP	LC
Don't Know/Unknown	8	6
Do know	3	5

Customary institutions and structures & decision making procedures

Mbororo customary institutions include a traditional council, headed by a chief who deals with decision making and conflict resolution. The chief is supported by an assistant as well as a council of notables and elders who advise the chief. Problems are first reported by community members to the assistant which is brought to the chief and the council. Decision making is done by obtaining consensus among the council, unless a consensus cannot be reached in which case the chief's decision is taken.

Within the local community there is also a traditional council, with the chief sitting at the top and being supported by 'development committee' and a council of notables who deliberate

decisions before coming to a consensus. It was noted that decisions are made through extensive collective discussion and consultation and is usually open to negotiation. [Note to Vivian – there is mention of a traditional court, is this the same as described?]

Formal administrative structures

Mbororo respondents allude to a Divisional Officer whom the chief represents, however there appears to be no formal local administrative structure in the villages.

Local community members mention a Community Development Board which is said to decide on matters related to water, electricity supply and roads. The steps involved in reaching a decision include a convocation of members, meeting with the chief, a feasibility study and gathering input from different social groups before reaching a conclusion. A general meeting is held annually in the village. [These were mentioned, are they relevant: health centers, public schools, MINADER and Ministry of Defence]. A subdivional officer at the Babajou subdivision is also said to be in charge of administrative decision making in Balepo.

Traditional and formal rights

Respondent groups made up of Mbororo men listed the right to rear livestock and allow them to graze, as well as the right to use water for both personal and livestock use.

Most local community respondents alluded to customary land and resource use rights. Two of these respondents added that the chief oversees land ownership and access. The overall perception is that the community is free to use the land and resources for livelihood purposes.

Women from both Mbororo and local community groups mentioned that only men hold the rights to the land and that if they wish to use it (for eg. cultivation purposes) that they must ask their husbands.

Immediate feedback on project information

The feedback from Mbororo respondents was positive overall as they were receptive to the idea that the project could offer solutions to current issues including social conflicts, improving livelihoods, land use disputes and water shortages. One respondent was not aware of the concept of permanent forest.

Local community respondents were also receptive to the project and expressed interest in getting involved however some concerns were raised. One concern was due to previous prospective projects falling through, or occurring over very long time frames with limited or no benefit to the community and the risk that it may happen again. Another respondent indicated potential access restrictions to natural resources, and another heeded a warning to pay attention to land ownership issues.

Rights holders within the community

8 out of 11 Mbororo respondents believed that everyone in the village has the right to be consulted, including all vulnerable groups. However a few respondents noted that the chief

has the final decision. Respondents who were part of womens groups and vulnerable groups noted that women do not have the right to FPIC.

Among local community respondents, 5 out of 11 thought that all groups within the community had the right to FPIC.

One respondents in Tsopeua commented that the Mbororo people do not have the right to FPIC, and another two stated that there are elites who are not part of the village who hold land rights (titles) to the village. One respondent thought that only the chief and council of notables has the right to FPIC.

Legitimate representatives

All Mbororo respondents mentioned the chief as the legitimate representative of the village who will represent the broader community in this process. Some respondents also mentioned the broader traditional council.

Amongst local community respondents 9 out of 11 believed it was the chief and the traditional council who would represent the community. One respondent in Balatchi thought the responsibility lay with the Development Committee and another in Tsopeua thought only the community itself could do this.

When asked if the legitimate representatives do indeed represent different groups in the village including women, youth and vulnerable groups, 8 out of 11 Mbororo respondents said yes. All 3 respondents who said no belonged to women's' or vulnerable groups. One women's group of respondents mentioned that even though the traditional council includes women, their opinions are disregarded. The potential solutions suggested to mitigate this were the ducation of women, youth and vulnerable groups so that they can be consulted as well as awareness within the community of the role of women in society. One respondent noted that the current representation was guided by Islamic law and another that it is a cultural issue so it does not need to be changed.

10 out of 11 local community respondents believed the representative would indeed represent all sections of the community, though out of these two also noted that the Indigenous Peoples would not be represented by the chief. A measure suggested to potentially improve representation could to consult women, youth and vulnerable groups separately and directly.

Decision making regarding land and forest use planning and restoration type activities

Decision making regarding land and forest use planning and restoration type activities is predominantly said by Mbororo respondents to be done by the chief and the village council by mutual consent. It is thought that no women are involved in the decision making process.

6 out of 11 Local community respondents describe decision making processes amongst families regarding how to use the land or which species to plant. The remaining respondents point to the chief, MINFOF and the Development Committee.

Representation of other non-resident or itinerant national resource users

6 out of 11 Mbororo respondents did not believe there to be any non-resident natural resource users with any legitimate rights. Of those that did, they referred to the cattle herders who practice transhumance who are thought to be represented by the chief.

Similarly amongst local community respondents, 3 thought that non-resident/itinerant natural resource users should be consulted separately (including Mbororo). The remaining respondents wither did not identify any such groups, or thought that the village chief would represent them.

Feedback on projects FPIC steps

Overall the feedback was generally positive, though one Mbororo respondent was curious to know if the community did indeed have the right to refuse a government proposed activity. Apart from this there was no valuable feedback from any of the respondents other than a general receptiveness to the process in both groups of respondents.

Recommendations for ensuring voluntary consent

On the topic of how to ensure that consent is given voluntarily without coercion, intimidation or manipulation, Mbororo participants welcomed the separation of groups to allow marginalised groups to air their opinions freely in their preferred language.

Local community respondents also recommended interviewing groups separately, with one respondent commenting that special attention be given to vulnerable groups. Local community leadership in Balepo recommended that they should engage with project staff on behalf of the community in regards to FPIC. One respondent commented that after all activities and/or issues are fully described, there should be a period of time to deliberate before a decision needs to be reached.

Recommendations for ensuring timeliness of consent

Mbororo respondents indicated that they will discuss these matters internally before reaching a decision. [Not sure how to interpret these answers – they do not seem relevant to the question].

Recommendations for providing accessible information

Mbororo

- Consultations in Pidgin English with Fufulde translations
- Constultations for women should be kept separate from men
- Information should be relayed to the chief first so as not to disrespect them
- Friday is the best day of the week to organise consultations as it is the Muslim day of rest

Local communities

- French consultations with translations into their Mother language [is this Bantu?]
- Consult women separately to men
- Project information to be shared and discussed with all participants
- Information should be provided to the chief for dissemination to the broader community
- Sundays between 10 and 11am for women at the exit of the church (?)

Recommendations for ensuring consensual consent of the broader community

Mbororo

- Follow Islamic customs in the process
- Communicate to the community via the chief
- Separate consultations for Mbororo and local community

Local communities

- The Chief will ensure that this
- Separate consultations for Mbororo and local community
- Appropriate format and languages for information dissemination

Community capacity development needs for FPIC participation

Mbororo respondents suggested the following capacity building needed to enable wider participation in the FPIC process:

- Education for women and girls
- Longer periods of training to assimilate information
- Information provision in the local language

Local respondents suggested the following:

- Information to be provided in French, English and Pirdgin
- Technical support
- Training

[Both groups of respondents listed general capacity building within the community not related to FPIC.]

Willingness to participate in the project

Mbororo:
4 - no response
4 - yes
3 - IUCN will follow up with steps 6 and 7 when funding is available]

LC:
3 – no response
3 – yes
5 – IUCN will follow up]

Existing encroachment of PFAs (restoration and mitigation measures)

Restoration measures proposed by the MINFOF representative where there is already encroachment by communities within the PFA include:

- agroforestry on farmlands outside PFAs
- reforestation with forestry species inside the PFA
- adapted trees to be planted in water source inside PFAs [Vivian to confirm what this means]

The MINFOF representative raised the issue of increased population leading to land scarcity and reinforcing the point that care must be taken in the process. A participatory process with a range of users is recommended to determine which species of trees to be planted and which areas are to be restored. The main issues that need to be accounted for are that the

community has access to water and do not negatively impact the water table, water flow and water management.

ANNEX I

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

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3 List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

E&S	Environmental and Social
ESCOP	Environmental and Social Code of Practice
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FEICOM	Special Fund for Equipment and Inter-council Interventions
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAAP	Gender Analysis and Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Process Framework
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LC	Local Community
LGA	Legal Gap Analysis
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MINAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Industries
MRE	Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
ONACC	National Climate Change Observatory
PAPs	Project Affected People
PFAs	Permanent Forest Areas
PMU	Project Management Unit
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodologies
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UFA	Forest Management Units
VAP	Village Activity Plan
WB ESF	World Bank Environmental and Social Framework
WNP	Waza National Park
WWF	World Wide Fund for Natura

4 Introduction

This document is the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the proposed Project "Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon" (hereafter referred to as "the Project"). The Project objective is to transform land use and forest exploitation practices in and around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) into climate-resilient, low-emission and economically viable systems that sustainably generate forest ecosystem goods and services for national and local economies, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen the climate change resilience of forest-dependent communities and ecosystems.

It is therefore designed to bring about a number of environmental, economic and social benefits. This document outlines the environmental and social management commitments that IUCN will implement to avoid or manage potential inadvertent negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts of the project. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) describes the main project features relevant for environmental and social (E&S) risk identification and management, and sets out the institutional and legal framework for safeguards implementation in Cameroon to ensure compliance with applicable laws as well as the applicable framework requirements by donors. It establishes the project's E&S risk management strategy and integrates key components of an Indigenous Peoples' Process Framework (IPPF). It also introduces the other safeguard instruments to be applied in this project, notably the safeguards-enhanced Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodologies (SG-ROAM) and the Grievance Mechanism and references safeguards instruments that are not risk related but mandatory for all projects and developed as stand-alone documents: the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP).

Projects funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are required to ensure that appropriate screening and categorization processes are conducted; environmental and social risks and impacts are assessed; meaningful and inclusive stakeholder consultation is conducted; and measures are established to avoid, minimize or mitigate any potential adverse impacts, as well as to compensate for residual impacts. The project is set up in a process-oriented manner where interventions on the ground including restoration activities will only be clarified during or after the conduct of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) process. For this reason, it has been decided to develop a provisional ESMP that takes on the form of a Framework. The scope and scale of the ESMP, including the safeguard-enhanced ROAM methodology, GAAP and Grievance Mechanism, are proportionate to the nature and scale of the potential risks and impacts of the Project.

The ESMP and appended GAAP, SEP, safeguards-enhanced ROAM methodology, and Grievance Mechanism will be publicly disclosed and demonstrate IUCN's commitment to being transparent and accountable for the potential project impacts. No personal information/ data will be included in these publicly disclosed documents, and any personal data collected for the purpose of the Project and this ESMP, will be stored in a secure manner.

The objectives of the ESMP are to:

- Ensure that the Project operates in compliance with Cameroon's legal requirements, IUCN's Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) policy framework (principles and standards) and procedures, and GCF's Environmental and Social Policy (2021);
- Establish measures to ensure that the potential negative Environmental and Social (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project are managed appropriately by avoiding, minimising or mitigating adverse impacts, compensating for residual impacts and where avoidance is not possible, providing for remedy and restoration.
- Ensure that the potential positive environmental and social impacts of the project are enhanced;
- Ensure that the principles of environmental and social sustainability are taken into account; and

- Provide a reference against which future monitoring and evaluation can be undertaken.

5 Project description and Rationale for ESMP

5.1 Project objective, proposed outcomes and key components

The project objective is to transform land use and forest management practices in and around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) into climate-resilient, low-emission and economically viable systems that sustainably generate forest ecosystem goods and services for national and local economies, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen the climate change resilience of forest-dependent communities and ecosystems.

It is envisaged that the proposed project outcomes will include:

Outcome 1: Targeted PFAs are managed and restored using climate-smart sustainable forest management practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, increase carbon sequestration, and maintain forest ecosystem services.

Outcome 2: Forest product NTFP value chains are operational, competitive and low-emission, generating stable incomes for local communities while conserving forest resources.

Outcome 3: Stakeholders (communities, local governments, state services, private sector) have the technical, organizational and governance capacities to plan and adopt climate-resilient land-use practices in and around PFAs.

Outcome 4: A robust monitoring, governance and knowledge-driven partnership system guides public and private decisions, secures climate/REDD+ financing, and enables scaling up of resilient, low-emission and economically viable forest management models.

The proposed outcomes will focus on the following principal components. For each of the four components, the Project aims to achieve several outputs (detailed activity descriptions are provided in the FP):

Component 1: Climate-smart sustainable forest management (SFM) and land restoration practices effectively implemented in targeted forest landscapes
Output 1.1 Improved governance systems and management plans for SFM of PFAs
Output 1.2 Increased restoration of degraded lands and forests in and around permanent forest areas
Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment strengthen and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved

Component 2: Value chain development and transformation are operational
Output 2.1: Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages

Component 3: Stakeholders' capacities are strengthened on climate-resilient land-use practices
Output 3.1 Improved capacity of stakeholders on the use of enhanced SFM instruments, restoration, and climate-friendly livelihood systems

Component 4: Strong project monitoring and knowledge-driven partnerships

Output 4.1. Project is monitored, evaluated, and audited
Output 4.2. Project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels

5.2 Project sites

The Project is located in Cameroon, with project sites situated in Dja-Lobéké in South-East Cameroon, Bamboutous Highlands in the West and North- West of the country, and Waza in the Far North of Cameroon. While a detailed socio-ecological context report is available in Annex 3A, a short overview of the three project landscapes is produced below.

5.2.1 Dja-Lobéké

-

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is located in the South-East of Cameroon (Figure 1) with a total area of 6,537,230.49 ha. It is integrated into an impact area of this project that covers the entire South-East of the country. It is a bimodal forest landscape that includes several categories of permanent forests and represent a total area of 7,540,411 ha, including 5 national parks, 02 wildlife reserves, 01 wildlife sanctuary, 40 communal forests and 83 Forest Management Units (UFAs).

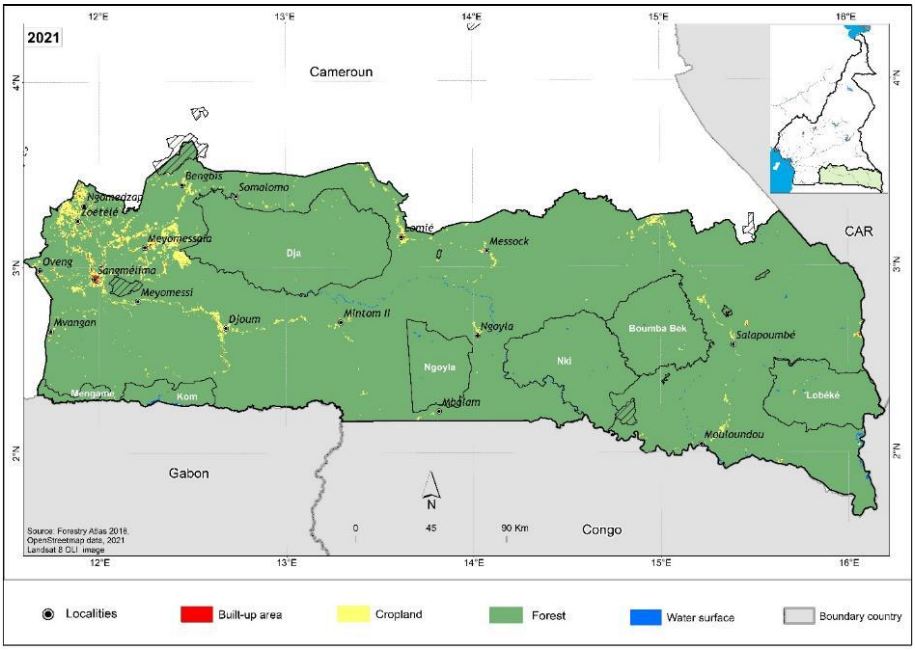


Figure 1: Land cover map of Dja-Lobéké landscape

The human densities of the Dja-Lobéké area (about 1 inhab/km²) are among the lowest in Cameroon. Several ethnic groups are present in the Dja-Lobéké landscape. The Baka pygmies are the main minority ethnic group in the landscape. They occupy nearly 75% of the villages in the landscape and constitute a kind of "transversal" ethnic group. The Bantu, on the other hand, are the majority ethnic group. They are subdivided into ethnic subgroups: Bangando, Mboman, Bimo, etc. The Baka are a nomadic people. But there has been a gradual sedentarization of the Baka in recent decades. The Baka can move and settle in a locality without any resistance from the Bantu as long as the latter know that the Baka do not appropriate land or forests, their movements being motivated by the abundance or scarcity of resources they need. Among the Bantu, gender aspects are taken into account. For example, if a woman from a

village is not yet married, she has the same right to land as the men. The choice of land for agriculture is made on the basis of certain indicators relating to soil fertility as well as the presence of specific fruit trees such as cheese trees.

In the Dja-Lobéké landscape, the climate is Guinean equatorial type characterized by the alternation of rainy and dry seasons namely: i) The short rainy season from mid-March to June; ii) The short dry season from June to mid-August; (iii) The heavy rainy season from mid-August to mid-November; (v) The long dry season from mid-November to mid-March. The average annual temperature is 24°C. The relief of the Dja-Lobéké landscape is quite diverse. Its topography presents areas of plains, valleys and hills. It is usually a plateau relief, flat and wavy. It is not very rugged with a slope between 0 and 3%, reflecting a low sensitivity to erosion. The average altitude is 500 to 850 m. Several types of soils are particularly found in the Dja-Lobéké landscape, including red ferralitic soils representing most of the soils in the area. The hydro graphic network of the Dja-Lobéké landscape is very dense and composed of an abundance of rivers which, in some sectors, feed swamps that are sometimes very developed. The Dja-Lobéké landscape consists of several plant formations. There are more than 1000 species with a diameter of more than 10 cm. These plant formations are rich in marketable species and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

Table 1: Some NTFPs exploited in the Dja-Lobéké landscape

Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name
1. Sapelli	*Entandrophragma cylindricum*	11. Framiré	*Terminaliaivorensis*
2. Moabi	*Baillonelatoxisperma*	12. Eyong	*Sterculiaoblonga*
3. Doussiérouge	*Afzeliabipindensis*	13. Ebenier	*Diopyros crassiflora*
4. Ayous	*Triplochytonscleroxylon*	14.Ilomba	*Picnanthus angolensis*
5. Sipo	*Entandrophragmautile*	15. Djangsang	*Ricinodendronheudolettii*
6. Kosipo	*Entandrophragma candolei*	16. Kotibé	*Nesogordoniapapaverifera*
7.Iroko	*Chlorophoraexelsa*	17. Bubingarouge	*Guibourtiademeusei*
8. Fraké	*Terminalia superba*	18. Bosséclair	*Guareacedrata*
9. Beté	*Mansoniaaltissima*	19. Dibétou	*Lovoatrichilioides*
10. Acajou	*Khayaspp*	20.Tiama	*Entandrophragma angolense*

Source: Fokabs, 2022

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is endowed with an important fauna richness divided into several categories, including small rodents, chiroptera, insectivores, more than 100 species of mammals including primate species, about 150 species of fish, almost 80% of forest species of butterflies, around 100 species of lepidoptera, more than 500 species of birds; and many species of freshwater shrimp; ungulates, carnivores; reptiles and amphibians.

Several ethnic groups are present in the Dja-Lobéké landscape divided into several localities (villages). For example, the Baka and generally the Bantu are subdivided into ethnic subgroups (Bangando, Mboman, Bimo, etc.). The Baka more specifically, are a "transversal" ethnic group that has spread to nearly 75% of the villages in the landscape. The Baka and Bantu are forest peoples living in common in the Dja-Lobéké landscape. The Baka inherited clan formation from their Bantu neighbours. The Baka have become attached over time to Bantu clans through blood pacts. The signing of the blood pact implied that the Baka family belonged to the clan with which they were making a pact and demanded that this Baka family leave the forest to settle with their new Bantu family. Through this pact the Bantu family becomes "owner" of the Baka family. This explains the usual language "my Baka".

Agriculture is the main activity practiced by the population of the Dja-Lobéké landscape. Agriculture is developed according to the itinerant slash-and-burn technique with the practice of periodic rotation of fallow land. The population mostly practice subsistence agriculture. About 75% of the harvest is dedicated to household consumption and 25% for commercialisation. These proportions vary according to the type of crop. The practice of livestock farming in the Dja-Lobéké landscape has a very low added value. Almost all (95%) of the animals are free ranging and are left wandering. Poorer households own few animals (small livestock and poultry). The wealthiest inhabitants have large herds (30 to 60 goats, sheep; 15 to 30 pigs, poultry, but no cattle) that are more for sale than for household consumption (FEWS NET, 2019). Hunting activity in the Dja-Lobéké landscape is exclusively practiced by men and boys in the forest and around plantations. Hunting takes two forms: controlled hunting and traditional subsistence hunting.

The Dja-Lobéké landscape is traversed by the Dja, Boumba, Ngoko and their tributary networks. It is in these rivers that the populations of this area practice fishing which is a secondary activity. Fishing is practiced intensively in the dry season (December-March and July-August), a period during which canoe travel is less dangerous. It is both a traditional and modern activity: poor households are those who utilize traditional fishing rods using rudimentary fishing rods and the wealthiest households practice quasi-modern fishing insofar as they have a considerable range of fishing tools and even sophisticated equipment. In times of decline and low water, dam fishing (scoop and trap), especially practiced by women and children, is a traditional activity that is very popular. Collection of fish, shrimp, mussels, oysters, crabs, and turtles is almost entirely for consumption, and represents a significant food supplement. The agro-industrial sector in the Dja-Lobéké landscape is dominated by the small-scale artisanal processing of food products. This is the case of the transformation of cassava into couscous and "tapioca".

Two systems of land appropriation prevail in the Dja-Lobéké landscape: the traditional mode of appropriation and the modern mode of appropriation. Although the traditional collective appropriation of land varies between Bantu and Baka Pygmies, it is fundamentally based on customary law or right of use and remains the dominant mode of land holding.

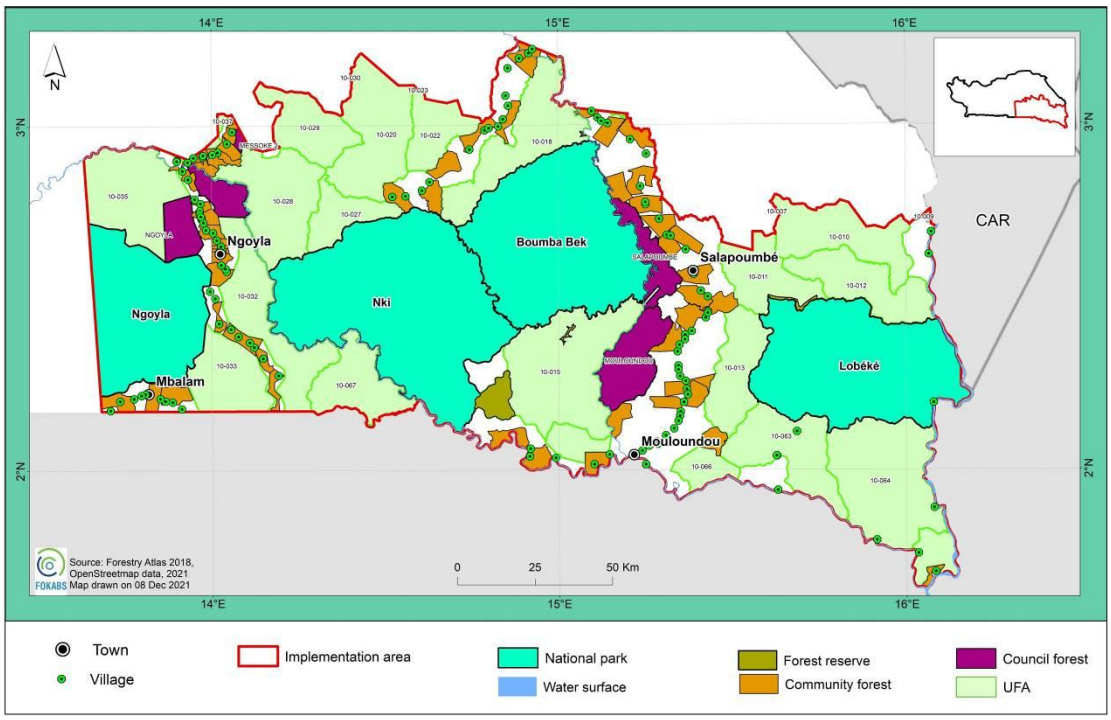


Figure 2: Geographical boundary of the Dja-Lobéké intervention site

5.2.2 Bamboutos Highlands

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The Bamboutos landscape extends over 3 regions: South West, North West and West; and covers an area of 704,412.72 ha (Figure 3). The human density of the Bamboutos landscape is about 261 inhabitants/ km2 on average. Several ethnic groups are present in the Bamboutos landscape and they are divided into several communities. About 56 communities inhabit and are bordering the Bamboutos Highlands, consisting of the Mbororo (also called Fulani) and the local communities. The Mbororo are essentially pastoralists and are one of the main minority ethnic groups in the landscape. Indeed, the Mbororo community grazes cattle in the area, and herders light bushfires in grazing areas between January and March. This practice, which aims to repel new grass at the beginning of the wet season, is illegal (Decree No. 95/531/PM OF 23 August, 1995). The other communities bordering the Bamboutos Mountains are engaged in forestry, fish farming, poultry, even artisanal, and especially agricultural activities, the main driver of deforestation and degradation in this landscape.

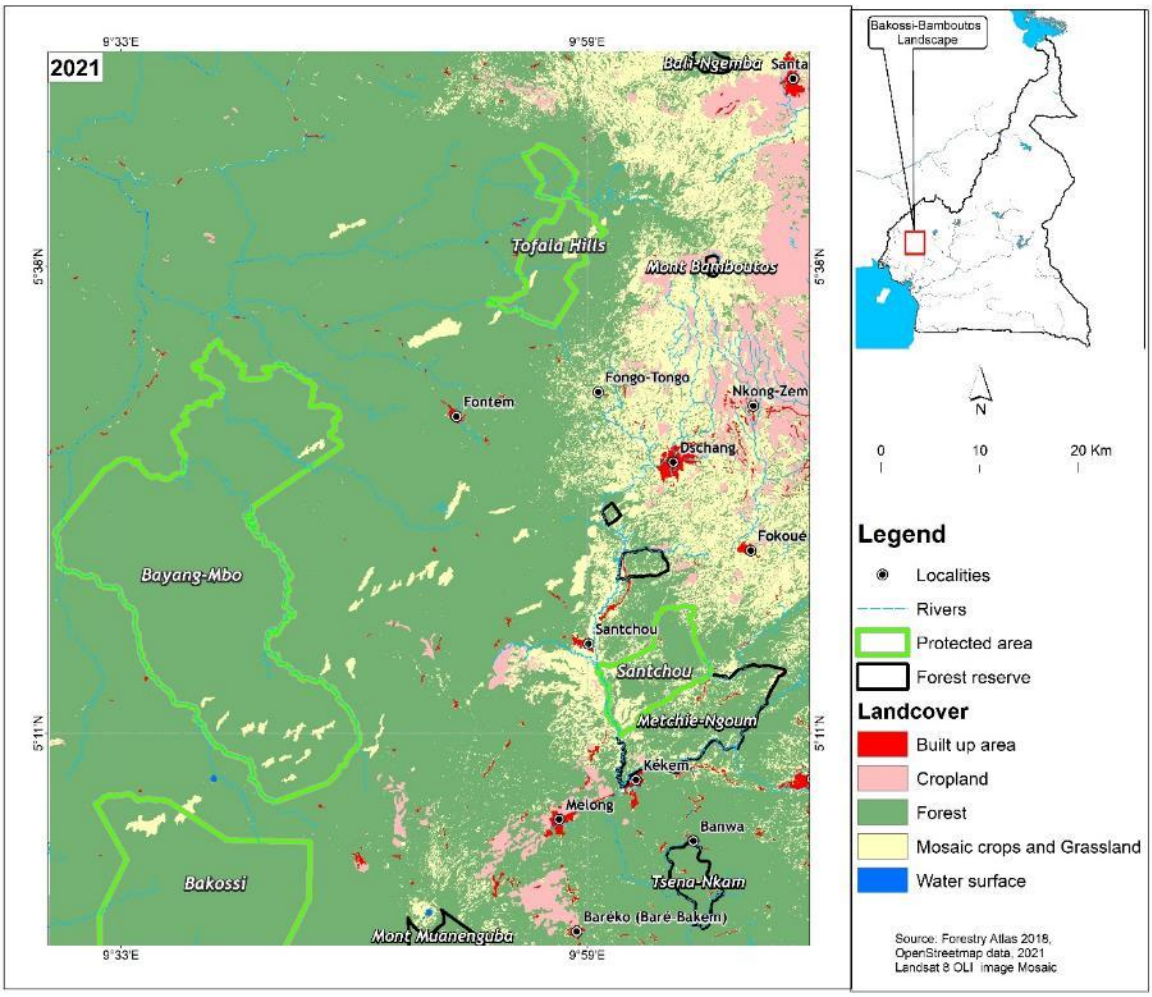


Figure 3: Land cover map of Bamboutos landscape

In the Bamboutos landscape, there is a strong linguistic and socio-cultural diversity. This multicultural and multi-linguistic mix is at the origin of certain mistrusts within the populations. By way of illustration, there is mistrust between Francophones and Anglophones. The Mbororo do not trust the communities on the French-speaking flanks of the Bamboutos Mountains, but are much more inclined to socialize with the communities on the English-speaking side. Communities in the Bamboutos

landscape derive their livelihoods from forest resources including water, agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and other activities based on biological biodiversity, and the exploitation of non-timber forest products and wood resources.

Income-generating activities include agriculture, livestock, fishing, NTFP collection, mining, logging, wood energy, handicrafts and small trade. Unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn cultivation are also present in this landscape. Income-generating activities are carried out throughout the year at certain intervals. Major cultivable food crops include plantain, macabo, taro, yam, groundnut, sweet and irish potato, beans, cassava, maize, etc. Potatoes are grown in mountainous areas and in irrigated lowlands. Tree crops and fruits trees include safout, mango, kolatier, coffees and raffia. The main cash crop is coffee, although production is on the decline due to price fluctuations. Animal husbandry consists of goats, pigs, sheep and cows. Poultry farming is widespread and this area is famous for egg production. Intensive livestock farming is practiced mainly by the Mbororo people. Other animal species raised are sheep, goats, poultry, pigs, guinea pigs, bees, fish, dogs, cats, etc.

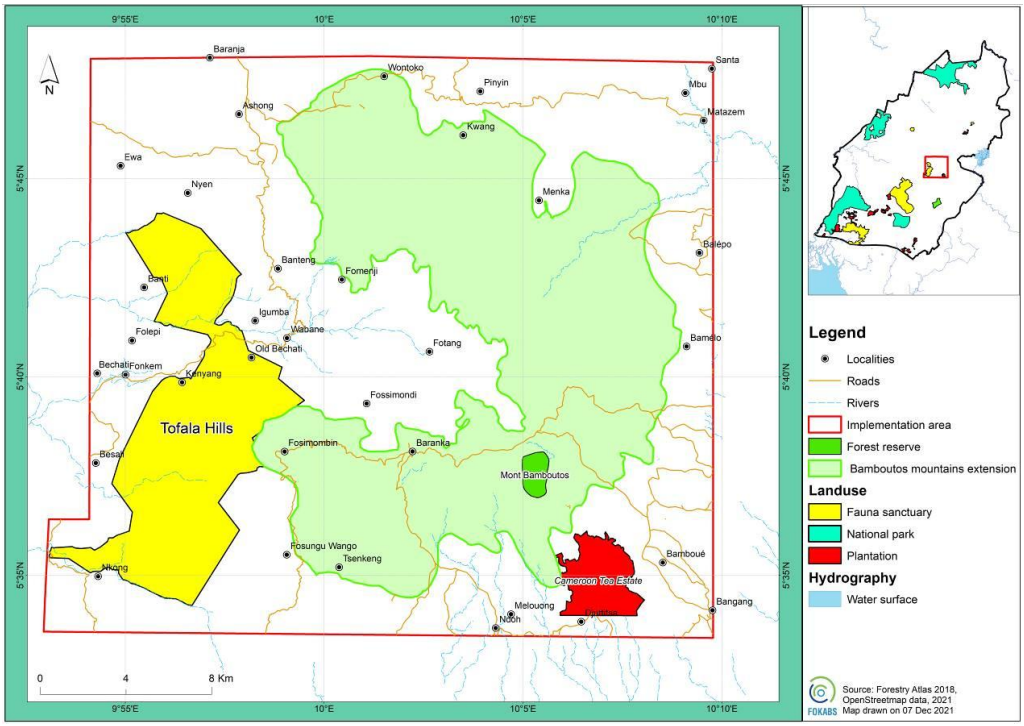


Figure 4: Location of the Bamboutos intervention site (Source: Fokabs, 2022)

The Bamboutos Mountains give rise to many rivers whose volume increases during the rainy period. These include: Metché, Tsdédeng, Matazem, Falifo, Nkoo, Ko'okwalé, Doji, Tousson, Meloung, Maleou, Madjui, To'odza, etc. These rivers are characterized by periods of flooding in the rainy season and periods of low water in the dry season. Low water levels are aggravated by multiple catchments that are estimated in thousands and that are carried out by gravitation and pumping.

The Bamboutos landscape is dominated by a herbaceous savannah (pennisetum, impérata, huparaténia, clotalaria) shrub and also wooded with a dominance of eucalyptus towards the summits, especially in the areas of cultivation and breeding. However, eucalyptus populations have drastically declined, giving way to agriculture. Along the many rivers that originate at the tops of the mountains, there are gallery forests that extend from the top to the foot of the mountains according to the flow route of the waters.

The Bamboutos landscape has two distinct seasons: a rainy season 8 months long (March to November) and a dry season, of 4 months (mid-November to mid-March). Temperatures in the area decrease as we move towards the summits. The minima vary between 12°c and 15°c, the averages between 22°c and 24°c and the maximums between 28°c and 30°c (ITTO, 2014). Rainfall is heaviest towards the peaks,

with August and September being the rainiest months with more than 330 mm/month. Towards the foot of the mountains, there is an abundance of fruit trees (avocado, orange, guava, grapefruit, safoutier, mango, lemon, canarium, kolat, lemon ...) and many other wild species in addition to food crops of all kinds. The Bamboutos Mountains in particular have an abundance of eucalyptus which are generally aligned and serve as hedges. Although the eucalyptus population has declined, this dominance is justified by the multiple uses of this silvicultural species, particularly in the delimitation of cultural plots, the materialization of barriers to avoid agro pastoral conflicts, use as windbreaks, use as timber and firewood and many other smaller uses.

The Bamboutos Mountains contain few NTFPs. However, there are a few that are prized in this landscape, including Raphia palm wine, black fruit, kola and *Prunus africana*. The landscape is essentially formed of hills, valleys, plateaus, and lowlands made of more or less marshy plains. The wildlife is that of the savannah consisting of game (hedgehogs, rats, squirrels, monkeys, porcupines, rabbits, deer), birds (partridge, sparrowhawk, owl, sparrows), reptiles and insects (snakes, lizards, centipedes, margouillats, bees, wasps, flies, locusts, termites, earthworms, crickets and other beetles). In terms of road infrastructure, the municipalities of Batcham and Mbouda are the municipalities that have the largest road networks in the peripheral area of the Bamboutos Mountains. Agriculture is the main activity practiced by the population. The agrarian system is characterized by small farms (0.2 to 3 ha), with an average of 1.5 ha. Agriculture is developed according to the itinerant technique of slash-and-burn with the practice of rotation. About 75% of crops cultivated are subsistence and 25% for commercialisation. These proportions vary according to the type of crop (food or rent). There is an intensive and permanent development of the soils. All soils are cultivated, including marginal soils such as mountain pastures and shallows, all year round due to the introduction of water-intensive off-season crops. Eucalyptus serves primarily as border trees for these fields while being a source of lumber.

5.2.3 Waza landscape

The Waza National Park (WNP) extends between latitudes 11° 03' and 11° 30' North and longitudes 14° 28' and 14° 56' East. It is located in the Far North region of Cameroon (Figure 3), in the Waza sub-division, Logone and Chari Department. Its periphery extends into the sub-division of Zina (Department of Logone and Chari) and Pétté (Department of Diamaré). It has been part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve sites since 1982. This evolution in status reflects the importance given by international environmental bodies to this protected area on the basis of its specific richness and the benefits of its sustainable management for populations and ecosystems. As far as housing in rural areas is concerned, the dwellings grouped in family concessions (Saré) is very noticeable. There are also hamlets of nomadic and sedentary farmers or herders along the communication routes. In urban centers, especially in Maroua, the density of housing is remarkable with a gradual relaxation of the central core towards the periphery. The Waza landscape is located in the Far North region of Cameroon with a total area of 655,789.50 ha. It is an integral part of an impact zone that covers the entire Sudano-Sahelian zone. This impact zone is a formation of wooded, shrub and grassy savannahs that encompasses several categories of permanent forests representing a total area of 3,506,344 ha, including 9 parks, 2 protection forests, 26 areas of hunting interest and 5 hunting areas managed by the community.

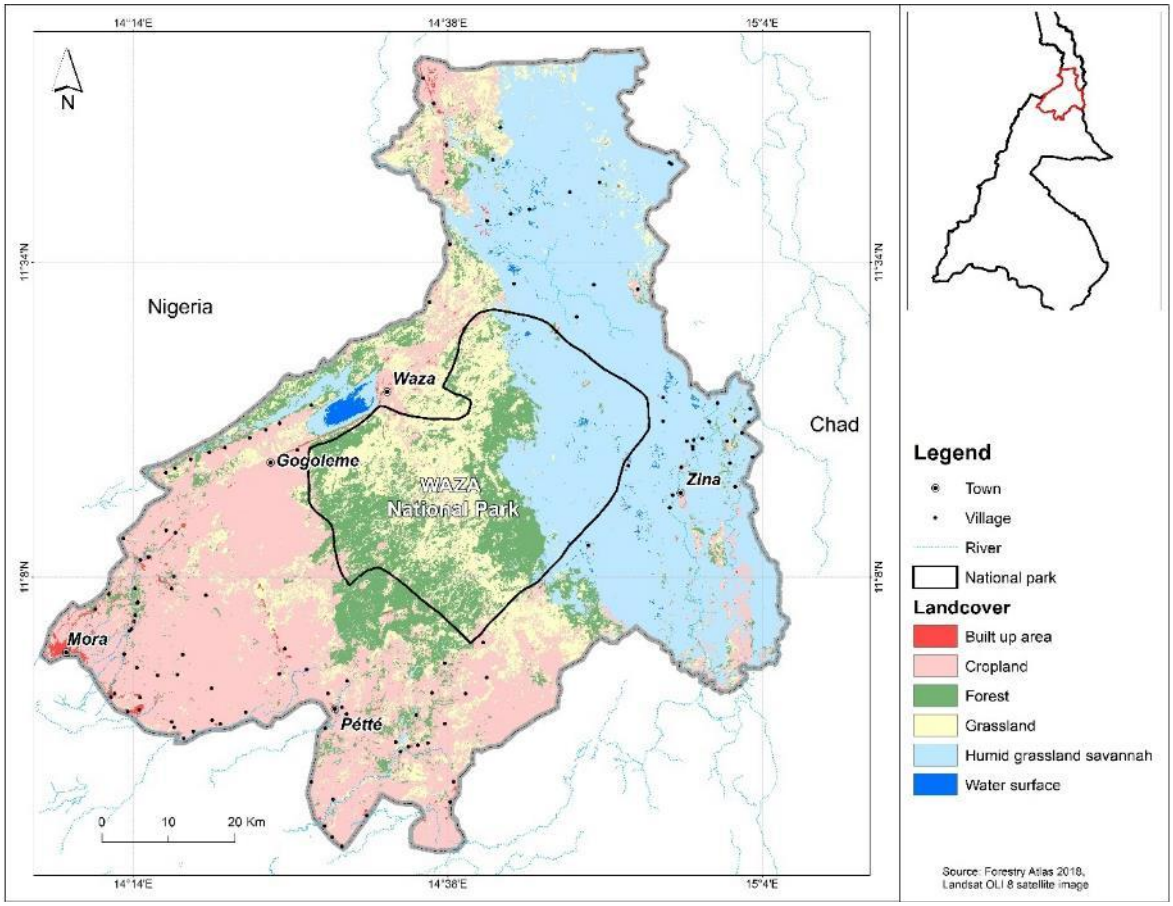


Figure 5: Land cover map of Waza landscape

The human density in the Waza landscape and its peripheral area is about 118.2 inhabitants/km2. The Waza area is a "crossroads" locality in the Far North region and it is one of the most populated areas of Cameroon, but also of the Sudano-Sahelian zone. It includes 13 ethnic groups: Kanouri or Bornoi or Sirata, Arab, Kotoko, Mousgoum, Peuhl, Mafa, Toupouti, Moufou, Mada, Moungang, Hausa, Sara and Kera) distributed in forty-eight villages and the city of Waza (MINFOF, 2014). The creation of the protected area has led to the eviction of several villages and camps of fishermen and herders that remained inside the Park, once heavily populated. Only the Baram village remains inside the park. In recent years, due to strong population growth, the population bordering the protected area has increased considerably. In the Waza landscape, the main food crops are: cereals, including rain fed sorghum, millet, muskuwari, maize, cowpea, groundnuts, okra, Guinea sorrel, voandzou, sesame, rice and legumes. The practice of these crops is strongly correlated with rainfall in this area. At the same time, rice cultivation and groundnut cultivation have particularly declined in favour of the emergence of other sectors such as onion, yam, cowpea whose production has doubled in the last decade (Republic of Cameroon, 2021).

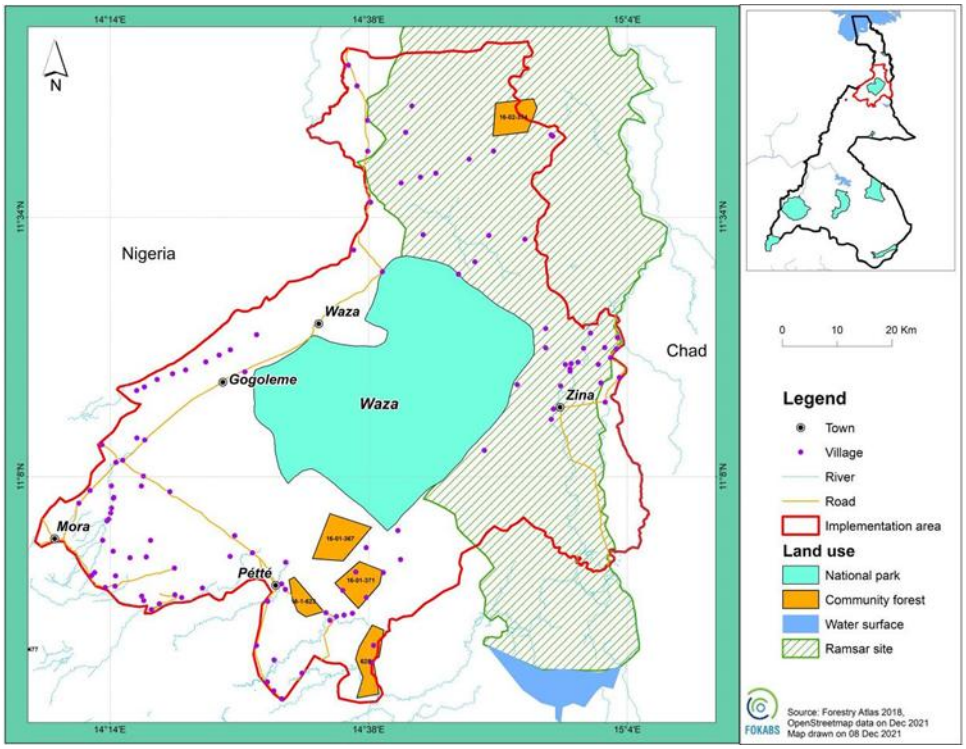


Figure 6: Waza Intervention Site (Source: Fokabs 2022)

In addition, conflicts between farmers, herders and park authorities are recurrent in the region due to population pressure, deforestation and pasture occupation (MINFOF, 2014). As far as pastoralists are concerned, the conflicts stem from the damage caused by cattle seeking grazing in fields with standing crops (FEWS NET, 2019). This situation is also justified by the general transhumance observed in the dry season of cattle herds from the North. In addition, Waza water front communities collect various NTFPs in the park. The main NTFPs collected around the Waza National Park and in the Yaérés include straw (e.g. *Andropogon* sp.) useful for roof covering, making seccos; doum palm leaves (*Hyphenae thebaica*) for making mats, fences, and ropes, etc.; fruits such as jujube (*Zizyphus mauritiana*), wild date (*Balanites aegyptiaca*), tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*) for local consumption; honey, and gum arabic. In addition, gum arabic and honey can boost the local economy. In terms of wildlife, Waza National Park has an exceptional and diverse concentration of wildlife. There are herbivores, carnivores, rodents, primates, insects, reptiles and birds, etc. In addition, the park is full of a large avifauna composed of more than 370 species of birds including more than 71 species of water birds among which about twenty are migratory (Dodman et al. 1996).

5.3 Roles in the execution and oversight of the project

Accredited Entity: As an Accredited Entity, IUCN will administer the transfer of GCF resources to the Republic of Cameroon (RoC) and provide technical and financial oversight, as well as implementation support and quality control. IUCN will oversee the project implementation and be accountable to GCF. IUCN will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate standards are adhered to, including procurement, finance, reporting and monitoring, as well as environmental and social safeguards.

Executing Entities: The project is implemented by two Executing Entities (EEs):

MINFOF: MINFOF represents the Republic of Cameroon (RoC) as a national EE. MINFOF, together with relevant technical units of MINEPDED, contributes to WPAB preparation, technical

implementation, monitoring and evaluation, liaison with co-financers, and participation in technical subcommittees.

IUCN: IUCN Cameroon serves as a co-EE, responsible for providing technical and financial support for project implementation. IUCN country office in Cameroon will execute some of the activities and supervise the PMU.

The Project Steering Committee
The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to lead project governance and implementation. It will have the following responsibilities: Provides political decision-makers and relevant stakeholders with the most advanced information on the project's progress, results, and impacts; Provides political and strategic guidelines; Approves the Work Plan and Annual Budget (WPAB); Ensures good inter-institutional coordination; Ensures transparency, accountability, and participation.

Project Management Unit (PMU)
The Project Management Unit will be supervise by IUCN and will operate with guidance from the Project Steering Committee. The PMU will include professional and technically qualified staff selected and recruited through a competitive process following IUCN procedures and presented to the Ministry for non-objection. MINFOF may also appoint a representative to be part of the competitive recruitment panel.

5.4 Project timeframe and budget

- Implementation period: The project will run over a period of 7 years
- Start and end year: 2026- 2033
- Estimated budget as stated in the funding proposal 46 045 635 USD (16 304 936 USD from IUCN and partners and 29 740 699 USD from GCF grant)

5.5 Rationale for ESMP

The project is designed to bring about a number of environmental, economic and social benefits through restoration and sustainable land-use practices. Environmental benefits include, among others, increased carbon sequestration, improved soil conservation, improved biodiversity and biological connectivity through agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, and improved tree cover. Expected social benefits and positive effects on peoples' livelihoods include, among others, enhanced income through productivity gains in agriculture, enhanced economic opportunities through NTFP value chain developments, etc.

Despite these overall positive expected outcomes, potential unintended social and environmental impacts might occur if not carefully managed. The purpose of the ESMP is to serve as guidance for ensuring that potential environmental and social impacts are appropriately managed, in line with the requirements of the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) and with the GCF Safeguard policies. The project executing partners and the project management unit (PMU) will follow this ESMP to ensure environmental and social risks are identified and appropriately assessed, and management measures are in place prior to the implementation of the relevant project activities.

6 Legal Framework

This section describes the policy, legal, regulatory and administrative framework within which the project takes place and identifies any laws and regulations that pertain to both the project, and environmental and social matters relevant to the project. This includes regulations about environmental and/or social impact assessments to which the project must adhere as well as implementing host country obligations under international law. The section includes national legislation, international law and standards, and a gap analysis between national legislation and international standards.

IUCN is committed to full compliance with Cameroon's legal requirements, and international good practice standards listed below.

6.1 Legal Framework

Cameroon's formal legal system was inherited from its former colonial powers and consists of English common law and French civil law. The Cameroonian Constitution distinguishes between parliamentary power to legislate (le pouvoir législatif) and the governmental power to issue rules and regulations (le pouvoir réglementaire) for implementation.

The key legislation relevant to the project as well as Environmental and Social Management System include the following:

Ordinance no. 74-2 of 6 July 1974

Land in Cameroon is divided into private state domain and national domain. Per the 1974 land law, all land in Cameroon belongs to the government, however, individual families have customary rights to exploit land, with some gazetting having been done.

Private state domain: Land under this category includes for example protected areas, forest logging concessions, etc. In the private state domain land is reserved for the state, and communities have no right to access that land for private activities.

National domain: All other land is classified as national domain. In the national domain communities can reside and have the right to exploit land, which are usually customary rights. Communities are allowed to carry out construction, agricultural activities, foraging, etc. They also have the right to request land title, which is possible only if they have been exploiting that land since before 1974, i.e. before the passing of the land law. All citizens who can prove that they inhabited and used the land before 1974 can formalize land title. They also have customary rights to continue exploiting the land. In situations where communities have inhabited the land only after 1974 or when they are unable to prove occupation and therefore do not have land title, the land remains under the national domain but communities have the right to exploit it. Once the claim on a piece of national domain land has been verified and approved, the land becomes private property and the government has no further claims to this land. When the land is classified as private property, it can be divided into smaller pieces for family succession or sold and sub titles can be given. This is applicable within the entire territory.

The carnet agroforestier is a notebook developed by the Ministry of forestry and wildlife to register NTFPs plantations which are established by farmers. This registration gives a legal recognition of private ownership of the NTFPs trees, thereby guaranteeing their legal exploitation in the future. It does not have any implications for land rights but it may be used as proof of valorising land in the case of conflict.

National Development Strategy

The objectives of Cameroon's National Development Strategy (SND 30) are (i) to establish conditions favorable for economic growth and accumulation of national wealth and ensure that the structural changes indispensable for the industrialisation of the country are achieved, (ii) improve the living conditions of the population and their access to basic social services by ensuring significant reduction of unemployment, and (iii) strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure environmental management that assures sustainable and inclusive economic growth, societal development, and improved governance to enhance policy performance toward achieving developmental goals (Republic of Cameroon, 2020).

Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

The long-term goal of Cameroon's NDC is to achieve a reduction of 35% of its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions compared to a baseline scenario for the target year (2030). To accomplish this goal, the country plans to implement some of the following fundamental climate change adaption and mitigation strategies (Republic of Cameroon, 2021): (i) Improving productivity and competitiveness; (ii) Sustainable forest management through the exploitation and development of productive forests within the framework of management plans; (iii) Contribution to economic growth and poverty alleviation through the retrocession of part of the tax revenue to communities, job creation, the creation of communal forests in the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) and community forests in the Non-Permanent Forest Estate (NPFE); (iv) Biodiversity conservation through the reinforcement of the national network of protected areas; (iv) Ensuring coherence in the land tenure system through zoning plans; and (v) Increasing the use of renewable energy in electricity production, especially in areas that are difficult to connect to the electricity grid.

Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change

Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change addresses the impacts of climate change in the country by proposing acts such as reducing population vulnerability by increasing the resilience and quality of life, as well as increasing adaptive capacity to new opportunities for country development (UNFCCC, 2015). The Plan also demonstrates steps to achieve these goals including improving education on climate change, informing, distributing, and mobilising population on climate change adaptation, increasing population climate resilience to climate change in primary and agroecological sectors, and integrating climate change adaptation in strategies and national policy strategies. Pertaining to the forestry sector directly, the plan proposes better education and research of the positive and negative effects of climate change, installation of a monitoring system for forest fires, implementation of forest health, and support and reinforcement of REDD+ implementation strategies and policies (MINEPDED, 2015).

Cameroon's Country Programme for GCF investment

In November 2017, the Government of Cameroon received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources for its preparatory support program aimed at strengthening the capacity of its Designated National Authority. Cameroon's Country Program for GCF investment was developed to better leverage this funding mechanism, and to help build a low carbon and climate resilient economy (Republic of Cameroon, 2019). It represents the framework of strategic relationship of Cameroon vis-à-vis not only the GCF, but also with the accredited entities intervening in Cameroon. In this country program, a total of 12 priority programs were selected in Cameroon including (Republic of Cameroon, 2019): (i) Securing conservation and sustainable management of forests; (ii) Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; (iii) Development of integrated and resilient agriculture in response to the effects of climate change; (iv) Reducing the vulnerability of livestock and the fisheries sector to the effects of climate change; (v) Promotion of low-carbon public transport offers and systems in the sector; (vi) Development of energy production from renewable sources; (vii) Promotion of energy efficiency in the industry and infrastructure sector; (viii) Cities resilient to climate change; (xi) Protection of the coastline from the effects of climate change; (x) Establishment of an observation; (xi) Information management and warning system on climate risks in Cameroon; (xii) Forest ecosystems resilient to climate change; and (xiii) Populations, infrastructure, and resilience to climate change.

Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy

Since the institution of the Cameroon's 1994 forest law, the forest sector has witnessed substantial efforts towards sustainable forest management. However, deforestation and land degradation continue to be a principal threat to the forest ecosystems. The Cameroonian government therefore identified environmental protection and ecosystem preservation as key challenges in its national program for economic emergence by 2035. Restoration and sustainable management of forest resources are therefore important to ensure that ecosystems remain functional (MINEPDED-MINFOF, 2019).

Within the framework of the AFRI100 initiative and the Bonn Challenge framework, in 2017, the Republic of Cameroon set a target to restore 12,062,768 hectares of degraded land by 2030. This target is an important contribution to the national development and conservation objectives.

In 2020, the government elaborated a strategic framework for the restoration of forest and degraded lands in Cameroon. The objective of the strategic framework was to map out policy options for a National FLR Strategy (NFLRS). This strategic framework laid out a vision and an operational action plan to achieve the goal of restoring 12 million hectares of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030 (MINEPED-MINFOF, 2020).

REDD+ Strategy

The objective of REDD+ is to use financial incentives and market instruments to mitigate carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to promote conservation efforts in developing countries (Streck, 2016). In June 2014, Cameroon launched the process of developing its National REDD+ Strategy, which covers the country's five agro-ecological zones (AEZ). Technical documents were developped to present the reference situation and explore efforts needed to reverse the deforestation and forest degradation curve.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Cameroon as a CBD member state, and given the importance of biodiversity to its economy, to adhering to the provisions of the CBD convention officially validated its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2000. After 10 years of implementation, faced with major evolving trends and emerging issues, including among others, emerging threats from climate change, biophysical changes, and socio-economic pressure with devastating effects on species and their habitats, the strategy became inadequate in stimulating the urgent and dynamic response required on biodiversity issues. In this view, the government decided to revise and update the 2000 NBSAP which served as an important planning instrument for biodiversity.

Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is a European Union program aimed at reducing illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance, and promoting trade in legally produced timber. It works through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), which are legally binding trade agreements between the European Union (EU) and a timber-producing country outside the EU. The purpose of the VPA is to make sure that timber and timber products exported to EU are legally sourced. It also aims at stopping illegal logging in timber-exporting countries by improving regulations and governance of the forest sector[27].

On May 6th, 2010, the Government of Cameroon and the European Union concluded negotiations of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement. The aim of this agreement with the Cameroon was to strengthen forest governance, promote Cameroonian timber products, and improve the country's competitiveness in the international marketplace. The VPA also considered strengthening the capacity

[27] https://www.wwf.org.la/projects/flegt/

of Cameroonian forest stakeholders and encouraging investment in sustainable management of forests (EU, 2010). It provided the necessary framework of legislation, systems and controls and verification procedures to ensure that all timber imports from Cameroon into the EU market are legally acquired, harvested, transported, and exported. This is shown through the FLEGT license issued for each shipment.

1994 Forestry Law

Cameroon undertook a several reforms to protects its environment since the 1992 UN conference on Environment and Development in Rio, which were influenced among other factors by the outcome of the Rio conference on the importance of the rainforest (Ndombe, 2019). In addition, the dwindling revenues from the oil and agriculture sectors resulted in the government seeking alternative income sources, in a period when timber demonstrated a steady increase in terms of contribution to the GDP (increase from 3.5% in 1989 to 12% of GDP in 2000). Taking all these into consideration the Cameroon National Assembly adopted the Forestry Law in 1994 with the aim of achieving the following:

- Rationalising the use of forest land;
- Enabling communities including indigenous people to benefit more significantly from their right to use forest resources;
- Allocating harvesting rights with greater transparency and efficiency;
- Supporting sustainable forest management; and
- Reforming the forestry and wildlife taxation system.

The law divided forests into permanent and non-permanent forests as shown in the diagram below. A key innovation in the development of the 1994 law, considering the concept of deforestation, was the division of the forest into two categories (article 20): The first category involves the permanent Forest Estate- which comprises lands that are used solely for forestry and/or as a wildlife habitat" and cover at least 30% of the country's national territory and need to consider the country's ecological diversity. It also includes strict ecological reserves, flora reserves, protection forests, recreational forests, research and teaching forests, production forests, reforestation areas and botanic areas. The second category involves the Non-Permanent Forest Estate which comprise forest lands that may be used for other purposes than forestry" as well community forestry (Ndombe, 2019). The forestry law embodied accepted development and environmental concepts including inter alia the involvement of NGOs, indigenous people, the private sector, village communities and other stakeholders, recognizing the rights of indigenous people and calls for the introduction of pre-emptive rights over community forest (FAO, 2002).

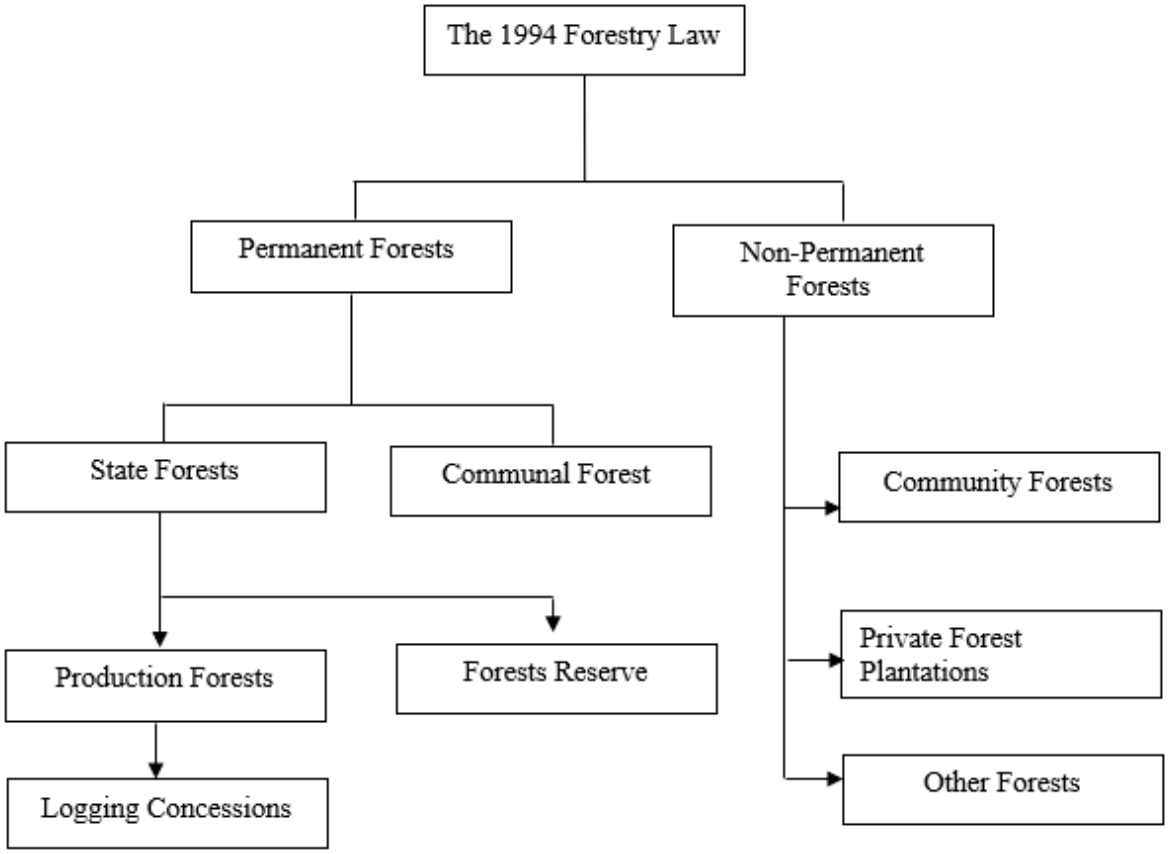


Figure 8: Forest tenure in Cameroon as per the 1994 forestry law

Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995
Laid down the procedures for implementing the Forests System. It defines the different forest sub classes and highlights nature and biodiversity protection. It provides clarity on the 2 forest domains and provides orientation on forest use, inventory, and operational arrangements.

The 1996 National Environmental Management Plan and the Environmental Management Framework Law
The overall objective of the Plan was to develop policies, strategies and actions for environmental protection and the rational management of resources to contribute to sustainable development with 5 priority areas:
- Participatory land use management;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Restoration of degraded land and improvement of soil fertility;
- Capacity building; and
- Concerted management of shared resources at the sub-regional level.

Decree No 95/678/PM of 18 December 1995 Establishing an indicative framework of land use in southern forest areas.

Under the first national inventory carried out with the support of Canadian Cooperation between 1984 and 1987; this Decree provides Standards of different types of forest inventories for management, operations, recognition, and pre-investments.

ESIA and EIA legislation

In Cameroon Environmental and Social study is required by national legislation. Three pieces of legislations govern EIA in Cameroon namely Decree No. 2005/0577/PM of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon which enacts the process and procedural framework governing EIA in Cameroon, Ministerial Order No. 0069/MINEP which prescribes the different categories of projects that would require an EIA and Law N° 96/12 of 05 August 1996 that lays down the general legal framework for environmental management in Cameroon including ESIA Cameroon. According to Ministerial Order No. 0069/MINEP this project requires an EIA.

Other laws relevant to the project include:

- **National Gender Laws and Conventions**

Cameroon has made key strides toward gender equality and women's empowerment through major international commitments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Declaration of Heads of State and Government of the African Union on Equality Between Women and Men, and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, though these international and regional commitments take precedence over Cameroon's national laws, customs, and traditions, the preference for customary laws remains, and means that discrimination against women continues in Cameroon, especially in rural areas. Further, the Preamble of the Constitution of Cameroon includes several provisions that enshrine gender equality. But many questions about ending inequalities faced by women continue to linger, such as the recognition of rape between husband and wife, protection for unemployed women, pension for widows, the continuation of child marriage, breast ironing, and other issues.

The project will contribute to the objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and ratified by Cameroon, provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. On the other hand, the Objective 5 of the SDGs aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide.

Cameroon has made substantial advances in gender equality over the last two decades. Institutional advances include the creation of the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, geared at reducing poverty among urban and rural women in the country**.** Cameroon has acknowledged a number of international women's rights commitments. Cameroon has ratified and/or signed many key international conventions, treaties and plans of actions on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. There are other national policies, laws and legislation frameworks which also support gender equality and women's empowerment in Cameroon. This includes the 1994 Forestry Law, the Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy, the REDD+ Strategy and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP).

Divorce and Early and Forced Child Marriage[28]
The Cameroon Penal Code was updated in 2016 and now gives equal rights to men and women to sue for divorce. In practice, however, the courts are dominated by men, who may undermine gender considerations, such as lengthening proceedings and making the process unaffordable for women. The penal code also criminalizes early and forced child marriage and demands consent as a condition of marriage, and advises that consent cannot be obtained by force. However, the Cameroon Civil Status Registration Ordinance allows the marriage of girls under the age of 15 if for "serious reasons a waiver has been granted by the president of the Republic." There is also an urgent need to enact the draft Child

[28] Ending Inequality Against Women in Cameroon | unfoundation.org

Protection Code and Family Planning Code, which stipulates the age of marriage for girls as 18 years old and establishes other protections for women and girls. These laws, though enacted, are published mostly in French and sometimes in English, though many of these most affected women speak neither of these languages.

Education
Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills, and self-confidence necessary to participate fully in the development process. However, though the Cameroonian Penal Code penalises families that have the financial means to send children to school but do not, there is no tracking mechanism for girls who are in school. Further, there is no scheme to support girls who cannot afford secondary education. With more than 65.4% of the rural population living below the National Poverty Line, there is a need for the Government of Cameroon to prioritize a swift, effective transition of students to the secondary level of school, in addition to ensuring universal access to primary education for all, with a particular emphasis on rural areas, where child marriage is prevalent.

Legal Support
With regard to legal support for women, Cameroonian law recognizes the right to legal assistance for all unemployed persons who lack resources, or those abandoned by their spouses. The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family focuses mostly on women in urban and semi-urban towns, where they have offices, and disregards rural women, who form the bulk of women with limited financial means. The rule of law and implementation of policies is moving Cameroon in the right direction and toward ending inequality against women. However, there must be an improvement in awareness and accountability. Laws must be understood at the local level and accompanied by meaningful rural programs to ensure that we don't leave rural women behind.

6.1.1 FPIC

In addition to national laws, Cameroon officially adheres to a number of international covenants and charters that call for the respect of FPIC principles, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 1976, 58 the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981, 59 the Rio Convention 1992, 60 and the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992.61

Cameroon is not signatory to ILO 169, but**:**

"However, two groups - the Mbororo pastoralists and the so-called "Pygmy" groups, which include Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli and Bedzang, have officially completed the process of self-identification as indigenous, as their cultures and lifestyles differ significantly from those of the dominant society, and the survival of their traditional lifestyles depends largely on their rights and access to customary land and natural resources. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has recognized these groups as indigenous."

6.2 International requirements

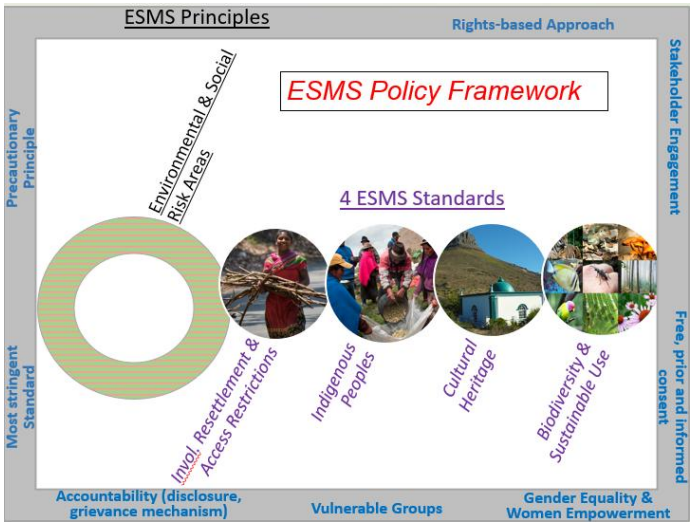
6.2.1 IUCN ESMS

The IUCN ESMS, including the four key Standards, and the ESMS principles, will apply to this project. IUCN's mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." IUCN projects aim to achieve positive conservation and social outcomes, including benefits for forest dependent communities that depend on natural resources. However, unwanted negative impacts on the environment or on local communities may occur. Within the context

of its mission, IUCN intends to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to avoid or minimise negative environmental and social impacts while stimulating positive impacts.

To put this intention into practice, IUCN has established an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) as an intrinsic part of IUCN's project cycle. It provides systematic steps and operational tools for managing the environmental and social performance of projects implemented or supported by IUCN. The system allows IUCN to screen potential projects for negative environmental or social impacts and develop suitable measures to avoid, minimise, or compensate for these impacts. It also ensures that the implementation and effectiveness of mitigation measures are monitored and that any impacts arising during execution of the project are addressed.

The ESMS is guided by eight overarching principles and four standards that reflect key environmental and social areas and issues that are at the heart of IUCN's conservation approach. The four Standards are published as stand-alone documents, the principles as well as the ESMS review procedures are described in the ESMS Manual[29]. The latter also depicts the institutional and operational arrangements including the ESMS Grievance Mechanism.



[29] All ESMS system documents are available through the Union Portal at www.iucn.org/esms .

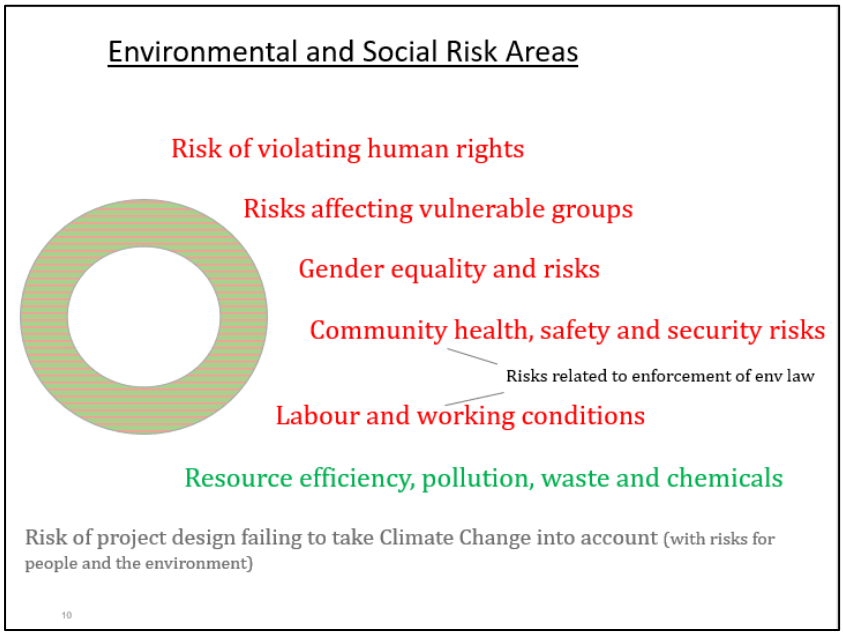


Figure 9: IUCN ESMS Standards, Principles and Risk Areas

6.2.2 Safeguards framework of the GCF

The project will also align with the safeguard requirements of the Green Climate Fund. With IUCN being an accredited agency to the GCF, the ESMS has been rigorously examined by GCF and found compliant with the entities' relevant policies.

6.3 Gap analysis

The project conducted a gap analysis, reviewing Cameroonian legislation against IUCN and GCF safeguard policies , and concluded that there were potential gaps as listed below. These gaps are addressed by the ESMP.

Gaps	Gap closure
While there is legislation on Environmental Impact Assessments (2005), there is no specific provision for social impact assessments of environmental projects, and no provision for collection of adequate socioeconomic information prior to such impact assessments	The project has been screened per IUCN's ESMS policy and was rated moderate risk. The screening identified several social risks and called for a social impact assessment (SIA). Hence a landscape-level SIA was carried out.
Public consultation processes rarely translate materials or communications into local languages, reducing public participation, and timings of consultations are often at the discretion of the project proponent, rather than the public.	The project safeguards plans, and particularly the Grievance Mechanism, explicitly state the translation of communications into local languages as a requirement. Stakeholder engagement will also be maximized by ensuring that they are conducted at times and locations suitable to participants.
There can be potential for coercion during some forms of public consultation	IUCN's ESMS policy explicitly forbids the use of force or coercion in any project activity.

There is no legal requirement for Protected Areas or forest concession holders to operate a Grievance Mechanism for affected communities;	A project-level grievance mechanism is in place
No legal requirement to identify impacts on cultural heritage	IUCN's ESMS has a Standard on cultural heritage which has been triggered during screening. A Chance Find Procedure is therefore in place.
No legislation on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) (although national guidelines exist);	IUCN's ESMS has specific provisions on FPIC relating to indigenous peoples and the use traditional knowledge
No legal requirement to compensate people for economic displacement related to PFAs, including loss of access to natural resources (legal or illegal use).	Access Restriction Mitigation Plans will be drawn up for each site where access restrictions may be enforced by the project

7 Risk Management Strategy

7.1 ESMS responsibilities

The PMU Secretariat has overall responsibility for operationalising the ESMS. Operationalisation of the ESMS will be ensured by the Project ESMS Officer who will be part of the PMU (Project Management Unit) and will coordinate day-to-day implementation of the ESMP, safeguards-enhanced ROAM, the stakeholder engagement plan and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), as well as receive and handle grievances. In that role, the ESMS Officer will guide the ESMS review procedures once activities are further defined and ensure that potential risks and impacts are appropriately assessed by measures as described in the ESMP Matrix. This officer will work with the Executing Entities (EE), in particular MINFOF as lead EE as well as project implementation partners and service providers to ensure a common understanding of the ESMP and the other safeguard plans, and compliance with the IUCN ESMS and GCF safeguard policies.

As accredited entity of the project, IUCN will be responsible for supervising and assuring quality of the overall implementation of this Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and the associated safeguard plans. This oversight responsibility will rest with the Regional ESMS Specialist based in the IUCN West and Central Africa Regional office, with high-level direction from the ESMS Coordinator who is part of the IUCN – Multilateral Finance Unit (MFU).

7.2 Project Affected People (PAPs)

In general terms, all people living within the identified Project Areas of any of the project activities are defined as Affected Communities in this project.

Prior to the application of ROAM and the identification of restoration sites it is not possible to define Project Affected Peoples (PAPs) more precisely. Following best practice, Project Affected Peoples will include persons with formal legal rights to land or assets, persons who do not have formal rights to land or assets, but who have a recognised or recognisable claim under national law or international regulation (such as UNDRIP or ILO 169), and finally, persons who have no recognisable legal right or claim to the land or assets they occupy or use. For example, this latter group will include any local communities

or Indigenous Peoples residing within, or using natural resources within, a Permanent Forest Area, even if it is deemed illegal.

Vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups identified in all three sites included handicapped people, elderly people, widows, and internally displaced people. Project activities were not perceived as disproportionately affecting their daily lives or discriminating against these groups.

Specifically: **Bamboutous**: vulnerable groups were mainly handicapped, elderly people, widows and internally displaced people. Project activities are generally perceived not to interfere with their daily activities. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** The vulnerable groups were mainly handicap people, elderly people and widows. Project is perceived to help vulnerable groups increase their adaptive capacities directly through their involvement or indirectly through the involvement of the relatives whom they depend on. **Waza** The vulnerable groups were mainly the handicaps, elderly people and widows.

Chapter 9 of the ESIA describes findings regarding vulnerable groups in the three landscapes as well as potential impacts of the project on these groups.

7.3 Project safeguard documents

Safeguard-relevant activities of the project can be broadly categorized into:

i) Improved governance systems and management plans for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) of Permanent Forest Areas (PFA) as well as actual restoration activities focusing on forest reserves, degraded park areas including buffer zones, community forests, council forests and agricultural land (outcome 1), and
ii) Activities to develop NTFP value chains and pilot sustainable financing instruments to channel investments into FLR and value-chain expansion .

As explained above and also described further in the following sections, the project is set up in a process-oriented way where site selection for interventions on the ground including restoration activities, but also economic activities promoted through market-based and financial instruments will only be decided during or after the conduct of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) process. Project design is therefore, necessarily high-level at this stage, with sites and activities for restoration described at a national and regional level. For example, while three landscapes have been identified for restoration activities, these landscapes are vast, with different habitats, communities and weather conditions. Therefore, local scale risks are impossible to identify at this stage. The environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) conducted during project preparation is therefore also high-level, describing the potential risks and impacts at this scale as is the ESMP developed on the basis of the ESIA.

The safeguards-enhanced ROAM (Annex 6C) addresses all restoration-related activities, and lays out the methodology for the identification of E&S risks during the ROAM process and the development of risk management measures. It also details the scale (district/sub-district, etc) at which site-specific ESMPs may be drawn up to ensure that E&S risks of restoration activities are appropriately managed. It will also provide guidance on what these site-level ESMPs should contain including generic mitigation measures.

In component 2 the project envisages strengthening NTFP value chains and working with financial institutions in Cameroon to pilot sustainable financing mechanisms to channel investment into FLR and value-chain expansion. The work on value chains includes support for establishment or upgrading of

small-scale processing, packaging and storage facilities which is safeguard-relevant but as the selection of value chains will be made during project implementation following stakeholder consultation and market engagement, they cannot be assessed on E&S risks at this stage. The ESMP therefore provides high level guidance at this stage for this category of activities.

The piloting of sustainable financing mechanism is safeguard relevant, but potential E&S impacts and risk will only materialize once such mechanism is designed and implemented and funds restoration interventions or value chain expansion. The ESMP therefore only includes high-level guidance on E&S risk identification, assessment and management to be taken into consideration when developing such mechanisms.

This ESMP makes reference to a number of safeguard documents annexed to this proposal. that were produced during project preparation. The full list of safeguards-related documents alongside their purpose is presented below:

1. **Annex 3A: General socio-economic context:** This document introduces the overall socio-economic context in Cameroon as well as in the three project sites identified. It describes the various communities that inhabit the project sites as well as those that use or are dependent upon resources available in the project sites. It includes a description of indigenous populations in the project area and their livelihood conditions. As such, it sets the basis for understanding potential impacts of the project on local populations.
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2. **Annex 6A: Environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA):** The ESIA was commissioned following the project screening and provides further social baseline (from a risk perspective) as well as results of an environmental and social impact assessment process conducted during project preparation. The assessment was done at the level of the pre-selected landscapes, identifies potential positive and negative impacts of project activities and provides the first data for the design of mitigation measures. As the actual restoration intervention sites will only be selected through the ROAM process, the results of the ESIA need to be considered high-level only. They will be further deepened by applying the guidance described in the safeguards-enhanced ROAM (see below).

3. **Annex 6C: Safeguards-enhanced ROAM:** The project will use the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to identify areas suitable for restoration. The safeguard-enhanced ROAM presented as Annex 6C has been designed as a stand-alone safeguards document for the project to provide guidance on assessing risks and impacts of the restoration-related activities, developing mitigation measures and building further safeguards features into the existing ROAM methodology. It provides guidance to ensure compliance with the ESMS Indigenous Peoples Standard as well as IUCN stakeholder engagement policy. Hence restoration-related risk management is not covered under this ESMP.
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4. **Annex 7: Stakeholder engagement plan:** This high-level stakeholder engagement plan lists all the potential stakeholders who are expected to influence or be influenced by the project. This document is necessarily high-level as it approaches the stakeholders at a national and regional and landscape level. When granular site selection takes place during project implementation, the SEP will be amended to also list actual populations or organizations who will be engaged in project activities.
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5. **Annex 8: Gender analysis and action plan:** This plan focuses on the impacts of the project on women, girls and non-binary people who may be resident in or impacted by the project activities. The analysis is based on field data as well as data collected during the preparation of the ESIA. The action plan proposes measures for equitable inclusion of women in the project activities to ensure that the project is gender-responsive. Similar to the SEP, the GAAP will also be updated with greater detail once granular scale sites have been identified.

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6. **Annex 22D: Vulnerability Analysis:** This report assesses the vulnerability of the landscapes as well as populations to climate change, assessing the impacts of a 'no project' scenario as well as describing how key sectors of the economy are vulnerable to climate change. Such populations and ecosystems may require particular care and attention as they may be disproportionately negatively impacted by project activities due to their high sensitivity.

7. **Annex 25: Grievance Mechanism:** The project-level grievance mechanism lays out the overarching principles and requirements for grievance redressal mechanisms to be set up for the project. While a project-level grievance mechanism will be set up immediately upon project approval, the document describes how local-scale grievance collection channels should be set up, lays out the roles and responsibilities for responding to grievances, and makes recommendations on budget allocations. Grievance mechanisms will also be set up at district or sub-district levels, based on site-specific needs.

7.4 Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix

This chapter describes the strategy for managing the E&S risks and impacts identified during the project preparation phase. Owing to the provisional nature of this ESMP, the risk management strategy will be further detailed once the project activities have been fine-tuned in line with an update of the other Safeguard Plans.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix presented on the following pages depicts the ESMS risks identified during project preparation and screening. The table is structured by first presenting risks and impacts related to the four ESMS Standards - on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions, on Indigenous Peoples, on Cultural Heritage and on Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. It is followed by depicting risk and impacts related to the six ESMS risk areas - Adverse gender-related impacts (including gender-based violence), Risks of affecting vulnerable groups, Risks of undermining human rights, Community health, safety and security risks, Labour and working conditions and Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions.

The matrix includes indicative mitigation measures for the identified risks and impacts and, where relevant, also guidance on further assessments. While it presents an overview of all identified risks and impacts, the last column providing guidance on risk assessment and management will emphasize in particular those activities not covered by the safeguard-enhanced ROAM (in the following referred to as SG-ROAM).

Risks related to conflict and fragility due to external security or political events are described in the Conflict Sensitivity Analysis.

Table 2: Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix

Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions: The project does not involve any physical displacement, however, some activities may impose access restrictions. This may lead to economic displacement in the villages inside and surrounding the PFAs, potentially resulting in negative impacts on the residents' livelihoods.		
Outputs, activities and sub-activities (SA) triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Assessment and management of risks**
A1.1.1: Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites A1.1.3: Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. SA3. Implementation of council forest management plan A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests. SA7. Identify and agree on corridors for transhumance SA8. Map grazing areas, enhance pasture production A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site SA2. Implement restoration with NTFPs species such as *Balanites aegyptiaca,* Acacias	Risk of **management plans** for PAs and PFAs, mapping and monitoring activities introducing or reinforcing access restrictions, preventing local communities from accessing forest resources necessary for survival. Risk of REDD+ pilot or **restoration activities** temporarily restricting access or use of forest resources. In all the three sites there is a **moderate risk** that the Project will reinforce existing access restrictions, or introduce new access restrictions. The ESIA has identified the following: **1) Bamboutous:** Mbororo women voiced concerns over access to streams and watersheds due to project-supported restoration activities (tree planting, hedgerows, and fences). Mbororo men voiced concerns over loss of access to grazing land for the same reasons**. 2) Dja-Ngoyla-Lobeke:** De jure access now permitted to Baka to all PAs. There are de facto access restrictions to Baka due to fear and concerns over reprisal from the authorities (Ecoguards in particular) of entering PAs. Bantu population prohibited access to PAs. Council forests have natural resource quotas and licensing in place, with some issues of operationalising the system, but no project supported restrictions. **3) Waza:** Some communities live within PAs, dependent upon	Assessment: The safeguard-enhanced ROAM methodology will **assess** risks of restoration activities causing access restrictions in detail as part of the integrated situation analysis involving land tenure and use rights (customary as well as legal). The findings will shape the opportunity area identification process by avoiding sites where significant economic displacement impacts are expected. During the revision of management plans, extensive consultations and impact assessments will be held to assess whether the plans or mapping activities introduce new access restrictions or exacerbate existing restrictions. Management: Although the project has identified sustainable livelihood activities at the initial consultation (ROAM phase 1, during project preparation), further stakeholder consultations are needed, once the sites have been narrowed down, especially with women, vulnerable groups and indigenous people, to define what these livelihood interventions will be (i.e ROAM 2 phase). This is established in the SG enhanced ROAM methodology, including a Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Protocol, to ensure that the final

A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site SA2. Implement restoration A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site SA2. Implement restoration A1.3.2 Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level. SA1. Identify REDD+ pilot initiative	natural resources within the PA. Potential further restrictions related to grazing, fodder, and other NTFPs, and fishing activities.	restoration interventions are agreed with the respective rightsholders. It is to be noted that per IUCN's ESMS Policy, FPIC is required from all project affected people (including Indigenous Peoples) in case of access restrictions. Where applicable, these will take the shape of community-validated access restriction mitigation plans that include livelihood measures for compensating impacts from restrictions but also provisions for land use planning process and zoning as per land use plans to prevent expansion into protected areas. The plans might further include education and sensitization and clear zonation as per land use. -While the SG enhanced ROAM methodology aims at avoiding and minimizing impacts from access restrictions, the GRM that will be put in place ensures that impacts that might have been missed out will also be addressed.
Standard on Indigenous Peoples: This Standard is triggered due to the presence of indigenous peoples within the project area.		
Outputs, activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Assessment and management of risks**
A1.1.1: Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans. SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved	Indigenous Peoples are present in all three sites including Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké, Bamboutos Highlands, and Waza. In the Bamboutous Highlands and Waza, Indigenous Peoples are the Mbororo pastoralists, and in the Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké landscape, Indigenous Peoples are the Baka hunter-gatherers. In Waza, the Mbororo are integrated into local communities and do not live	Assessment: The SG ROAM describes how pre-selected areas will be assessed on the presence of indigenous people in particular on risks or impacts on these groups, as part of the integrated situation analysis. SG ROAM also includes guidance on the engagement process with IP, the development of IP plans as well as for the FPIC protocol to be applied. Sites with Indigenous Peoples will be preferentially

SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites A1.1.3: Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. SA3. Implementation of council forest management plan A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests SA1. Engage inter-sectoral land use stakeholders SA4. Engage human-wildlife, agropastoral conflict victim SA6. Support transhumance related conflict resolution SA7. Create corridors for transhumance SA8. Map grazing areas, enhance pasture production SA9. Monitor illegal logging, wildlife poaching in project A1.2.1: Develop integrated restoration land use planning and ownership. A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site	in separate settlements as is the case in the Bamboutous Highlands. Indigenous Peoples may be face access restrictions and economic displacement due to restoration activities. They are also likely to be disproportionately impacted as they tend to have higher reliance on forest resources for their livelihood. Indigenous Communities may also be affected due to constraints to engaging in and benefiting from restoration activities and proposed market/ livelihood activities. They may be left out of decision making and benefit sharing discussions due to their often remote habitation as well as unfamiliarity with engaging in such processes. Improved management plans, mapping and monitoring activities may disproportionately impact indigenous peoples as they are more likely to hold customary tenure or informal use of forest resources. A3.1.1 may similarly impact informal forest use by indigenous groups for example, traditional grazing lands Key questions to be considered include: **1) Bamboutos**: concern over how Mbororo women will access project benefits as traditionally they are not involved in land/ natural resource management, and potential for exclusion from project-supported market/livelihoood interventions if women are not directly involved in natural	selected in order to ensure that the project benefits are available to IP. Note that separate consultations have been held with Indigenous Peoples for the design of the project Grievance Redress Mechanism and Gender Analysis and Action Plan. Separate stakeholder engagement sessions for Indigenous women and girls to be held to familiarize them with the GRM and ensure that the channels are accessible to them. Note that impacts related to access restrictions are covered by the AR standard above. -In order to strengthen participation of IP the Project will facilitate access to NIDs and provide dedicated IP engagement measures in the stakeholder engagement plan, including ensuring that information, dissemination & community sensitization is done in local languages. The ESMS officer will ensure dedicated provisions for engagement and decision making in the following programmatic activities - A1.1.2: The Project aims at improving SFM practices and management plans in Logging Concession and in Council Forests. This might lead to further aggravation of IP livelihood

Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved A1.3.2 Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level. SA1. Identify REDD+ pilot initiative A1.3.3 Support the establishment of a legal framework to support green investment in Cameroon. Output 2.1 Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages Activity 2.1.2 Support the development /upgrading of the NTFPs micro and small enterprises' equipment Activity 2.1.3 Support the simplification of policy and regulatory processes Activity 2.1.4 Engage with financial institutions on green investments A3.1.1 Train stakeholders on the use of improved guidelines for the design and implementation of PA and SFM management plans and reduce illegal activities in PA and SFM.	resource management; concern over how male pastoralists will benefit from planned restoration activities, when interest is in improving fodder and grazing; 2) **Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké:** questions as to how restoration activities, eg. shade cocoa, will benefit the Baka, who do not have land for agriculture; and if the market and NTFP interventions are going to benefit the Baka; and if the project approach is suitably adapted. Possible case of dispossession of IP when demarcating logging zones that encroach on their living space. 3) **Waza**: No direct consultations with solely Mbororo were held in Waza due to the seasonality of the transhumance.. Furthermore, there is a risk of IPs not fully participating in Project activities due to lack of representation. For example, in the Dja-Ngoyla-Lobéké area, most IPs do not have National Identification Documents (NID) and in all sites IPs are not very involved in village institutions in-charge of forest management. Indigenous women and girls may be at higher risk of gender-based violence due to increased vulnerability and habitation in remote locations. They may also be more likely to be left out of stakeholder engagement activities and project benefits. For labour risks related to Indigenous Peoples, please see the risk area 'Labour and Working Conditions'	conditions in case they have been dispossessed when designing the concession. Hence, the Project will assess the sites to be selected as pilot production forests and ensure no dispossession has happened in the past. - A1.1.3: Assess the option of selecting one Communal forest managed by an indigenous community A1.1.4: Ensure that multi-stakeholder platforms are involving IP representatives with due consideration for gender balance in a cultural appropriate way and working with representatives chosen by the respective IP groups; and that all sub-activities planned under this activity respect local customs and culture A1.2.1: Ensure that IP representatives are involved in the Integrated restoration land use planning and ownership with representation of IP women where culturally feasible. Output 1.3: Ensure that rights of IP are respected when improving green investment and REDD+ payment instruments Output 2.1: all activities should be screened on opportunities for engaging IP and selecting sites and NTFP that would benefit IP in a culturally appropriate way

		Component 3: Specific training modules to be organized for Indigenous women and women from other vulnerable groups.
Standard on Cultural Heritage: There is a risk that project activities (e.g. agroforestry, livelihood activities, restoration activities etc.) could affect access to and preservation of cultural heritage in all the 3 landscapes.		
Outputs, activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Assessment and management of risks**
A1.1.1 Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans. SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site	Updates to management plans may include new restrictions on access or use of culturally significant sites. Restoration activities may temporarily limit access or inadvertently transform sacred sites. The potential for impacts on cultural heritage requires site-level identification during ROAM process. ESIA findings indicate that: 1) **Bamboutos** Several sacred sites for rituals and cultural activities exist around homegardens, agroforestry farmlands and across the entire landscape, and to be mapped out during ROAM 2. Initial indication is that there is a strong alignment between restoration / conservation activities of the project and the cultural heritage sites. 2) **Ngoyla-Lobeke** Several sacred sites for rituals and cultural activities (notably the jengi rituals of the Baka IPs) exist within the PFAs and forest areas adjacent; there appears to be alignment between the project design and cultural heritage sites; 3) **Waza:** Several cultural sites exist. To be mapped out during ROAM 2.	The SG ROAM will include the identification of cultural sites as part of the integrated situation analysis. In parallel to the process of narrowing down site selection, cultural physical heritage and intangible heritage will be mapped through participatory mapping to avoid negative impacts from project activities. - Graveyards or cultural sites should be fenced to avoid trespassing -Following the ESMS standard, FPIC should be sought from rights-holders communities before including sacred groves into restoration areas FPIC will also be sought prior to promoting a wider use or commercialization of cultural resources; some NTFP, for instance, could be associated with traditional practices or have a specific cultural or spiritual meaning.

A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site Output 2.1 Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages		
Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources: This Standard is triggered as the project area includes sites of high biodiversity value. Project activities may also inadvertently introduce invasive species or lead to unsustainable harvest of NTFPs.		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**
A1.1.3: Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. SA3. Implementation of council forest management plan A1.2.1: Develop integrated restoration land use planning and ownership. A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site SA2. Implement restoration with NTFPs species such as *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Prunus Africana,* Acacias A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site SA2 Implement restoration with Cocoa agroforestry and NTFPs species such as *Irvingia gabonensis, Garcina cola, Dacryodes edulis, Ricinodendron heudelotii, Oxytenanthera abyssinica*, Ebene and Ndo'o, safou	All three project landscapes, particularly the Waza site, are sensitive and areas of high biodiversity value. Restoration activities may inadvertently or deliberately introduce non-native species, which could significantly alter the landscape and impact food sources, nesting sites or migration routes of wildlife. Furthermore, new council forest management plans as well as activities related to commercial scale harvest and market value chain of NTFPs may lead to unsustainable harvesting for economic reasons, threatening landscapes and species. In all sites, there is a high reliance on wood and trees as source of household cooking energy, causing forest and land degradation. Very strong reliance on NTFPs collection and commercialization for livelihoods. There is	The safeguards-enhanced ROAM will address risks related to restoration activities including species use (risk of species with invasive characteristics), site suitability, species mix and type of restoration activity. As part of activity 2.1.1, the project will put in place sustainable harvesting thresholds for each species identified for commercialisation as well as processes for monitoring such harvests. This requires adequate human resources as well as budget for inspections and methodology development. This process will be defined for each NTFP upon its identification during project activity. Establishment of a local natural resource management committees may empower communities. Raise awareness among the population on the notion of sustainable natural resource

A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site SA2. Implement restoration with avocado (*Persea Americana*) and safou (*Dacryodes edulis*), and NTFPs A1.3.2: Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level. SA1. Identify REDD+ pilot initiative A2.1.1 Conduct a prioritization of high-potential NTFPs per AEZ	potential for introduction of alien species in Ngoyla/Lobeke site. Some of the species included Bocassa; Latana;“L'herbeepineu”;and Susongo. Potential for species such as Eucalyptus to affect water dynamics and flows.	management with communication of thresholds and monitoring protocols.
Vulnerable groups: Vulnerable groups identified in all three sites included handicapped people, elderly people, widows, landless households and internally displaced people.		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**
A1.1.1: Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans. SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites A1.1.3: Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. SA3. Implementation of council forest management plan	Vulnerable groups identified in all three sites included handicapped people, elderly people, widows, landless households and internally displaced people. Access restrictions imposed through the project could disproportionately affect vulnerable groups due to their high dependence on forests and its resources (but this is covered in the standard above). Vulnerable people are also likely to be left out of participatory mechanisms as well as stakeholder engagement activities due to lack of access, lack of knowledge or information or due to cultural norms. Vulnerable groups are also likely to face difficulties in accessing benefits resulting from the project. For example, landless households	Assessment: SG ROAM provides guidance for the integrated situation analysis to ensure livelihood conditions of vulnerable groups are assessed and possible impacts from restoration activities are mitigated. Where impacts are identified affected groups will be consulted in design of mitigation measures. Livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups should be actively sought when identifiying the NTFP and support processing and commerzialization. Livelihood conditions of vulnerable groups should also be considered when designing results-based payments mechanism and specifying access to these benefits. Where

A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site SA2. Define measurable adaptation outcomes (e.g. hectares of restored land, households with improved resilience, increased soil moisture retention) A3.1.1 Train stakeholders on the use of improved guidelines for the design and implementation of PA and SFM management plans and reduce illegal activities in PA and SFM.	may not be able to benefit from agroforestry activities, extension services, etc. They may not be able to access financial incentives as they may not have bank accounts or be otherwise financially included. Improved management plans may promote land use leading to loss of subsistence food sources . Specifically: **Bamboutous** The vulnerable groups were mainly physically challenged, elderly people, widows and internally displaced people. Project activities are generally perceived not to interfere with their daily activities. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** The vulnerable groups were mainly the handicaps, elderly people and widows. Project is perceived to help vulnerable groups increase their adaptive capacities directly through their involvement or indirectly through the involvement of the relatives whom they depend on. **Waza** The vulnerable groups were mainly the handicaps, elderly people and widows. There is expected to be little or no project interference with current livelihood activities.	possible, vulnerable groups should be included in project benefits such as employment opportunities. -
Adverse gender impacts There is a risk that project activities (e.g. agroforestry, livelihood activities, restoration activities etc.) could negatively affect women and girls and exacerbate existing gender gaps.		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**
A1.1.1: Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans. SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options	Access restrictions imposed through the project could disproportionately affect women due to their high dependence on forests and its resources (but this is covered in the standard above).	These risks will be managed through the SG-ROAM , which will include a focus on participation of vulnerable groups and women (from both local communities and indigenous communities). ROAM will have a gender-responsive approach during selection of

A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites A1.1.3: Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. SA3. Implementation of council forest management plan A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site Output 2.1 Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages A2.1.4 Engage microfinance institutions and commercial bank per AEZ to co-develop financial products for NTFP-based enterprises	Other key risks are related to limited representation in decision making, and limited access to benefits. There is a moderate risk that the project reinforces or even exacerbates women's limited role in formal natural resource use decision making, and excludes women from project activities/ benefits related to both restoration activities and the market/value chain/ livelihood activities. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: Women have minor presence in community / village decision making bodies and their contributions or views are not often considered. Women have access to land through their husbands or father. SEAH is uncommon. **Ngoyla-Lobeke** Women have minor presence in community / village decision making bodies and their contributions or views are not often considered. In general, women have access to land, but not ownership. SEAH is uncommon. **Waza:** As per the culture, men are the heads of the family and take the decisions on behalf of women. Women have access to land but cannot sell land or build on it. SEAH is very uncommon.	restoration activities and avoidance of impacts on women. The GAAP provides measures to ensure that women are involved when selecting livelihood/ market activities to ensure their interests, capacities and needs are taken into account and they are able to access benefits. The activities under Output 2.1. (strengthening NTFP value chains and market linkages) are considered instrumental for this. The project has a gender coordinator as well as a safeguards position, responsible for all gender and safeguards-related matters during project implementation. An exclusive SEAH PoC is not foreseen as part of project staff. However, IUCN's ESMS team structure includes a Regional ESMS Specialist for its West and Central Africa operations, based in Dakar, who is responsible for oversight as well as handling of grievances, with a direct escalation in matters relating to SEAH. As this position is not part of the project staff, it ensures independence and protection from retaliation for victims. Further escalation levels include the ESMS Global Coordinator as well as the Head of Oversight.

A3.1.1 Train stakeholders on the use of improved guidelines for the design and implementation of PA and SFM management plans and reduce illegal activities in PA and SFM.		
Community Health and Safety : Risk of creating community tensions (between and within communities) owing to contrasting approaches to working with communities on land and livelihood issues. Human wildlife conflict due to increased wildlife populations from restored landscapes		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**
A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests SA1. Engage inter-sectoral land use stakeholders SA4. Engage human-wildlife, agropastoral conflict victim SA6. Support transhumance related conflict resolution SA7. Create corridors for transhumance SA8. Map grazing areas, enhance pasture production SA9. Monitor illegal logging, wildlife poaching in project A1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site A1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site. A1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site A2.1.2 Support the development /upgrading of the NTFPs micro and small enterprises' equipment	Due to past history of inter-community strife, there is a moderate risk of the project exacerbating existing stakeholder conflicts, particularly arable-pastoral conflicts (Bamboutous, Waza), council-community conflicts (eg. Ngoyla-Lobeke), as documented in the ESIA report. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: Conflicts between farmers and herders due to access to and use of grazing land and water for livestock and access to freshwater. Conflict due to the setting of bush fires by livestock owners to regenerate fodder grass. **Ngoyla-Lobeke**: Conflict is common between communities and their respective councils regarding exploitation of forest resources, mainly around logging interests. **Waza**: Several recurrent community conflicts: First type is due to use of natural resources between farmers and livestock owners. Second conflict is between the local fishing Mousgoun community and Arab Choa livestock owners who are in search of productive grazing land. The construction or establishment of small scale infrastructure such as processing and packaging	Application of SG-ROAM to conduct careful land use planning for the restoration activities, involve different community stakeholders, and decide on activities and location; working with local partners with an understanding of local dynamics and power relations and able to facilitate these processes. Where conflicts and tensions are very high, alternate sites may be chosen in order to avoid the exacerbation of conflicts -Clarification of the project partners and roles (governance structure) that will be supported in the project implementation to ensure that project partners implementing ROAM 2 have adequate expertise working in the landscapes and understand social dynamics -An ESCoP (Environmental and Social Code of Practice) to be established for infrastructure activities if applicable (to be decided by ESMS Officer based on choice of site for facilities -Full transparency about selection criteria amd process for selection of livelihood activities and

	units may cause disturbance or pose a danger to communities where heavy machinery is involved A moderate risk that restoration within and outside PFA could exacerbate existing human wildlife conflict. Specifically: **Bamboutous**: no human wildlife conflict identified; **Ngoyla-Lobeke**: Very common between communities and wildlife such as monkey's, Gorillas, and elephants in search for water to drink especially during harvesting seasons; **Waza:** First, shortage of water in PFAs, exacerbated by climate change especially during the dry season forces wildlife such as elephants, and lions to go search for water beyond the park or protected area, causing conflict with local population. Second conflict is related to the movement of the population in Protected Areas in search of fish and other NTFPs such as gum Arabic If benefit sharing is perceived as unequal, inter-community conflicts may arise or old tensions may be reignited.	benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure that processes are understood and seen to be fair and equitable - Develop a framework for conflict consultation between farmers and herders (as part of activity A1.1.4); - Raise awareness of the population on the respect of animal corridors - Mapping animal corridors and prohibiting their encroachment by the population - leaning into local community knowledge on existing conflict, and potential ways of managing it, - establish a conflict management committee and conduct regular capacity building (is this covered by SA 3 - establish consensual rules for community conflict management;
Human rights: Rights violations, including physical abuse of community members due to law enforcement agents is possible, even though the project is not supporting law enforcement activities		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**
A1.1.1: Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans.	Human rights violations, including physical abuses of community members due to law enforcement agents, are possible in the Ngoyla-Lobeke site (and have occurred in the recent past),	Human rights risks due to access to land and natural resources, and procedural rights (including FPIC), are addressed under the Standard on Access restrictions (see above).

SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites A1.1.4: Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests SA9. Monitor illegal logging, wildlife poaching in project	but the project is not supporting law enforcement activities. There is a likelihood of impacts on peoples' right to land and natural resources, to cultural survival, and adequate standard of living, due to access restrictions explained above. There is a risk of undermining peoples procedural rights (decision-making in relation to land and natural resources). No human rights violations by potential project partners were identified in Bamboutous or Waza. However, there are known and documented human rights violations of Baka in the Ngoyla-Lobeke landscape due to law enforcement agents working for MINFOF. Potential for law enforcement impacts such as misuse of force by Protected Area Ecoguards against local communities and indigenous peoples, particularly in the South East landscape	As the project is linked to (but not contributing to) law enforcement within PFAs, the project will use its leverage to support district/sub-district/community-based best practices in addressing human rights risks such as the governance forum in Ngoyla and Lobeke facilitated by organizations such as CEFAID, OKANI, Mandella Institute, etc. Other mitigation measures include: - ensuring that project activities do not impact grazing lands (by IPs) - increasing awareness of project activities and transparency with the community in the project management process. - Provide regular educational session of park management and project staff on human rights as well as ensuring the education of communities of their human rights. - knowledge sessions on the senitization of local communities' cultures and traditions to limit discrimination. - capacity building and sensitization on human rights, - Sensitize project partners working on PA law enforcement about the value of Codes of conducts (integrating human rights considerations) .
Labour and Working Conditions Occupational health and safety risks (OHS) for both project employees and community members involved in project activities.		
Activities and sub-activities triggering the Standard/risk area	**Main risks and impacts**	**Risk management strategy**

A1.1.2: Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon. SA5: Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites **A**1.2.2: Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site **A**1.2.3: Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands, forest reserves and park areas, community, and council forests in the Dja-Lobeke intervention site **A**1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site A2.1.3 Support the establishment or upgrading of small-scale processing, packaging and storage facilities SA1. establishment or upgrading of small-scale processing, packaging and storage facilities A2.1.3 Support the simplification of policy and regulatory processes.1.4 simplify administrative processes for NTFP commercialisation	Occupational health and safety (OHS) risks are mostly linked to both project employees, and project implementation partners. The sub-contractors and other stakeholders/ community members will be working in remote conditions with possibilities of road accidents, challenging terrain and difficult environments with dangerous wildlife. Project and forest staff may also be at risk of violence from armed logging groups while monitoring and enforcing logging prevention in project sites. The construction of small scale infrastructure may bring health and safety hazards as well as a risk of unsafe labour practices Risks from external conflicts in the sites of activities may imperil project workers and communities (external risk)	SG-ROAM addresses risks from conflict, where sites are assessed through the integrated situation analysis to be risky, alternate sites will be chosen. -Conduct an OHS risk assessment once the activities have been fine-tuned and develop an Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCOP) addressing in particular processing and packaging operations supported under A.2.1.3. -Ensure that implementing partners provide travel and health insurance for their staff, fair remuneration, appropriate personal protective equipment and decent working hours. Once sites for restoration are identified, check for risk of damaging forms of labour, in particular child labour (e.g. cocoa farms involved in project activities) See conflict and fragility analysis on external conflicts. An emergency preparedness plan and protocols will be developed.

8 ESMS Due diligence

8.1 ESMS Screening, risk assessment and management strategy

The project aims at building resilience to the impacts of climate change while advancing equitable social welfare and income generating opportunities, as well as safeguarding the environment.

The determination of the target sites for the actual restoration interventions will be based on the methodology detailed in the SG-ROAM. This analysis is a safeguards-enhanced version of the spatial assessment of landscape restoration opportunities following ROAM. The final set of priority criteria for selecting the target intervention areas will be defined and agreed by the stakeholder groups that will be engaged in the SG-ROAM process.

For non-restoration related activities, the ESMP Matrix in the previous chapter describes potential risks and proposed mitigation measures. The Project ESMS Officer will use this matrix as a guideline to carry out detailed screening, risk assessment to identify or confirm risks, and delineation of mitigation measures for each activity. In doing so, the context, location, involved entities and their safeguards capacity will also be considered. The template for such a screening is provided below. It may be necessary to prepare separate ESMPs for each landscape depending on the complexity.

Activities will be screened at the earliest possible opportunity, when the activity is sufficiently well-defined to be able to make an informed assessment. In any case, each activity must be screened, assessed and applicable mitigation measures signed off before its implementation can begin. The implementation schedule of the project will be used to plan the screening, beginning with those activities that will start first. Using the implementation schedule and the ESMP, the Project ESMS Officer will also prepare a timeline and ESMS work plan, including necessary actions and check points for screening, sign off, implementation and monitoring of mitigation measures, and reporting for each activity. This updated ESMP and work plan should be final for review prior to the first supervision mission.

If environmental or social risks have been identified, significance of the identified risks will be analysed by judging the probability and severity/magnitude of the risks and a strategy for risk avoidance or mitigation will be developed. These steps will require consultations with the affected groups and other concerned stakeholders. Depending on the significance of the issues, a targeted risk assessment might be required. Given the size and the nature of the activities, it is not expected that they will require a comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process. The restoration activities under ROAM will undergo an integrated situation analysis. The terms of reference of the targeted risk assessment where necessary will be established by the IUCN Project ESMS officer. S/He will also establish whether the assessment and the respective report can be undertaken by members of the project team (PMU) or whether external expertise is required. This decision should reflect the level of risks and required technical expertise as well as whether sensitivity of issues might require an impartial and independent view. Complex social issues might require an external social expert.
The team will first look at measures for avoiding impacts, e.g. through changing the design or siting of the activity. For impacts that cannot be avoided, mitigation measures need to be developed. The measures will be documented in an appropriately-scaled and adequately budgeted Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), the template for which is below.

Project activities	Entities involved	Location	E&S risks and impacts[30]	Standards / risk areas triggered	Management measures[31]	Costs	Responsibility	Schedule	Monitoring arrangements
	Who are the entities involved? If possible, indicate also their safeguards capacity and needs	*In which sites will the activity take place? Indicate likelihood of conflict if known.*	*Brief description of the risk/ impact. This information should be available from the E&S Screening and/or ESIA. Specify locations and affected groups /receptors.*		*Management measures can include safeguards instruments (e.g. Process Framework, ESCOP, IPP, IPPF), a specific protocol (e.g. Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedure, Health and Safety Protocol).*	*Estimated costs or resources to implement the measures*	*Indicate who assumes responsibility for implementing the measures*	*e.g., Year 1 1st Quarter, Year 2, 4th Quarter, etc.*	*Indicators for assessing effectiveness, methodology for monitoring etc*
Outcome 1									
Output 1.1									
Activity 1.1.1									
Outcome 2									
Output 2.1									
Activity 2.1.1									
Outcome 3									

8.1.1 Risk mitigation for impacts from temporary access restrictions (Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions)

The project is designed to bring about a number of economic and social benefits derived with the introduction of improved PA management plans, and restoration and sustainable land-use practices with positive effects on peoples' livelihoods, However, for restoration measures to be effective, often temporary restrictions on the use of forest land and resources are required which might affect the livelihood of vulnerable people who are highly dependent on these forest resources and display a low adaptive capacity.

[30] Where an activity causes multiple impacts, these need to be presented in separate rows so to be able to specify the respective management measures, costs etc.

[31] In some instances, mitigation measures are already conceptualized as a project activity. These should still be include / cross-referenced in the ESMP along with all other mitigation measures to provide an overall picture of the project's mitigation strategy and to be able to check the list of mitigation measures against the identified impacts. As such it serves to analyze whether measures are sufficient, feasible and sustainable for mitigating the impacts.

The Standard is triggered as it also protects the rights of individuals with customary claims to land, including those that are not legally recognized. As the sites to be restored will only be identified during project implementation, an Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework (PF) has been developed which is attached as an Annex to the ESMP. The Process Framework establishes the process by which potentially affected groups/ individuals participate in the identification of potential negative impacts from proposed access restrictions and in the identification of alternative project design to avoid access restrictions and associated negative impacts; it further establishes the need for mitigation measures if avoidance is not feasible, describes criteria for eligibility/ entitlement, and arrangements for implementation and monitoring. It further documents key elements of an Access Restrictions Action Plan. It must be noted that separate Process Frameworks will be developed for access restrictions caused by restoration activities as this will be guided by the safeguards-enhanced ROAM.

Safeguard instruments as Outputs for this Standard: Two Access Restriction Mitigation Plans including one for restoration activities, and another for non-restoration activities such as the updation of management plans of protected areas. They will be based on the Process Framework detailed in the Annex.

8.1.2 Risk mitigation for impacts on indigenous peoples (Standard on Indigenous Peoples)

The project landscapes overlap with the territories of indigenous peoples as described in the ESIA. However, as project sites are not known at this stage, and will be determined through the ROAM process, the integrated situation analysis will assess the impacts on indigenous peoples. At each site where the IP standard is triggered, the IPPF must be implemented. The process for drafting the IPPF is attached in the Annex of the ESMP. FPIC is requirement when this Standard is triggered, and will be requested during consultation workshops.

Safeguard instruments as Outputs for this Standard: A project-level IPP with evidence of FPIC including the following elements:

(a) the mutually accepted consultation/decision-making process and protocols;
(b) records of the outcomes of consultations, including how concerns were addressed;
(c) the agreement(s) reached and how they will be implemented, monitored and updated; and
(d) culturally appropriate access to grievance mechanisms for indigenous peoples (including language and representative channels).

8.1.3 Risk mitigation for impacts on cultural heritage (Standard on Cultural Heritage)

As part of SG-ROAM, the integrated situation analysis will include an assessment and mapping of sites of cultural importance. To the extent possible, such sites will be excluded from the ROAM process to avoid disturbance to site. Where this is not possible, negotiations with the communities will be carried out to ascertain how access can be maintained to such sites while restoration is ongoing. A Chance Find Procedure for the accidental discovery of objects of cultural value is presented in the Annex to this ESMP.

Safeguard instruments as Outputs for this Standard: When applicable at site-specific level based on the risk matrix above, evidence of FPIC is required, including the terms under which such consent has been given.

8.1.4 Risk mitigation for impacts on biodiversity (Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources)

Impacts on biodiversity are expected to be positive, given the inclusion of a broad array of native and a few non-native tree species of high commercial value in local production systems which will increase biodiversity in terms of both composition and structure. The project will ensure that non-native commercial tree species are combined with native tree species producing fruits, fodder for livestock, wood and timber to increase on-farm diversity and avoid any undue risks. Local nurseries will produce tree seedlings of up to 50 native and non-native timber and fodder species. Most of the plant species to be used in the agroforestry systems are commercial species prioritized by farmers. Each species to be used for restoration will be screened on risks related to the use of non-native species. If a risk of the species developing invasive characteristics has been identified, the project will carry out an in-depth risk assessment prior to their use in line with national and international regulations as well as IUCN's ESMS.
It is important to note that the project will not include the use of any genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The Exclusion list will guide species selection for restoration.
The planned use of Prunus Africana, a species listed under Appendix II of the CITES will require the setting up of a monitoring system for sustainable harvesting, which will be part of the project activity. However, the Project ESMS Officer will provide support and oversight as needed.

Safeguard instruments as Outputs for this Standard: A species selection protocol detailing each species used for restoration, potential for developing invasive characteristics where relevant, and an action plan for 'species of concern' including non-native species and species listed on the CITES Appendices. For NTFP species chosen for value-chain development, sustainable harvesting thresholds as well as means of monitoring.

8.2 Exclusion list

The following list describes activities that would be excluded from the project due to high negative impacts:

1. Procurement of Weapons and Munitions[32]
2. Activities that promote goods, technology, systems or services that serve military purposes
3. Labor and working conditions involving harmful, exploitative, involuntary or compulsory forms of labor, forced labor, child labour[33].
4. Activities that exacerbate or maintain harmful cultural norms that support gender inequalities including gender-based violence.

[32] The restriction does not apply to field knives, bush knives, machetes and other essential field or safety gear provided to rangers. Equipment needed for research or translocation of wildlife is also permitted. Weapons and munitions required for IUCN staff safety and security are permitted, subject to the policies and approval of the local IUCN Office and in line with national law and any relevant donor restrictions.
[33] Harmful child labor means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. The ILO definition is applicable: https://www.ilo.org/topics/child-labour/what-child-labour

5. Activities in violation of human rights[34], including the infringement of customary rights of indigenous peoples[35]and local communities, for example, where their FPIC to activities affecting their lands, livelihoods, and cultural identity cannot be established.
6. Activities that would result in forced evictions of people from their homes, or territories including customary and ancestral domains.
7. In the case of private sector financing, projects underpinned by rationales that contradict the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;[36]
8. Use of non-native species where the risk assessment has not ruled out a risk of developing invasive characteristics, unless there is a mitigation plan in place to prevent this from occurring as well as scientific justification for the choice of the species.
9. The following activities located in or near areas legally protected areas or those officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, areas which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value and/or as critical natural habits:
    - Activities that might cause irreversible adverse impacts to biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems, even inadvertently.
    - Establishment of forest plantations[37].
    - Unsustainable [38] harvesting of natural resources as defined by IUCN's ESMS Standard on Biodiversity including animals, fishes and marine resources, plants, timber and/or non-timber forest products (NTFPs).
10. Activities that negatively affect tangible cultural resources such as the removal or altering of any physical cultural property (e.g. sites having archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values) or those that negatively affect intangible cultural heritage (e.g. oral traditions, cultural practices, rituals, etc.) such as through appropriation, commercialization or publicization without FPIC[39].
11. Activities that result in the exploitation of or access to outsiders to the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation or in initial contact.

[34] Human rights and their violation as defined in the UDHR are applicable https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights
[35] For the purposes of this exclusion list, the definitions and terms used in IUCN's Standard on Indigenous Peoples will apply. https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/iucn-esms-standard-on-indigenous-people.pdf
[36] https://www.ohchr.org/documents/publications/guidingprinciplesbusinesshr_en.pdf
[37] Per FAO's definition of forest plantations: Definitions Related to Planted Forests - FRA WP 79 Forest stands established by planting or/and seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation. They are either of introduced species (all planted stands), or intensively managed stands of indigenous species, which meet all the following criteria: one or two species at planting, even age class, regular spacing.
New plantation forests were defined as afforestation for artificial establishment of forest on lands which previously did not carry forest within living memory or the past 10 years; and reforestation for artificial establishment of forest on lands which carried forest before.
[38] See IUCN ESMS Standard on Biodiversity and the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources for definitions iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/iucn-esms-standard-biodiversity.pdf
[39] Refer to IUCN's Standard on Cultural Heritage https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/iucn-esms-standard-cultural-heritage.pdf

12. Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances[40], or other toxic[41] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's[42], including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally.
13. Production, use, sale or trade of wildlife or products regulated under CITES Appendix I[43]

8.3 ESMP Monitoring and Supervision

The executing entity, which is responsible for the implementation of the project, is also in charge of implementing mitigation measures.
The ESMP template mentioned earlier provides a template for reporting progress of implementing the mitigation measures – to be completed by the executing entity according to the frequency established in the ESMP, at least on an annual basis. The executing entities' ESMP progress reports will be reviewed as part of the supervision mission by the IUCN Project ESMS officer. Aside from reviewing implementation progress this step will also involve checking the effectiveness of measures in mitigating risks and screening for additional risks that may have emerged and whether it is responded with adaptive management. Depending on the risk issues and their significance, the supervision mission might also include consultation with stakeholders and affected groups to gather feed-back on the effectiveness of measures.
Based on the executing entity's ESMP progress reports and the findings of the supervision mission, the IUCN Project ESMS officer will prepare the submission of the Annual Performance Report (APR) on the environmental and social performance of the project to GCF.

8.4 Institutional arrangements for ESMP implementation

The overall supervision of the ESMP implementation is with the Project ESMS Officer supervised by IUCN's Regional ESMS Officer in accordance with IUCN's role as implementing and supervising agency. The Project ESMS officer who is part of the PMU is in charge of implementing the environmental and social

[40] Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs): Chemical compounds which react with and deplete stratospheric ozone, resulting in the widely publicised 'ozone holes'. The Montreal Protocol lists ODSs and their target reduction and phase out dates. A list of the chemical compounds regulated by the Montreal Protocol, which includes aerosols, refrigerants, foam blowing agents, solvents, and fire protection agents, together with details of signatory countries and phase out target dates.
[41] Substances or materials are considered toxic if they are included in the UN Consolidated List of Products whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments; Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; WHO Classification of Pesticides by Hazard
[42] PCBs: Polychlorinated biphenyls—a group of highly toxic chemicals. PCBs are likely to be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950-1985
[43] Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1973). The restriction covers species listed in Appendix I of CITES.

safeguards activities of the project in close coordination with the lead executing entities for the respective activities Roles and responsibilities are summarized in the below table 7.

Table 7: Roles and responsibilities for risk procedure

ESMS steps	Responsible entity	Involved entity	Guidance or Template
Safeguards training for projects staff, service providers	International Consultant	Project ESMS Officer, IUCN Regional ESMS Specialist	
Continuous Stakeholder Engagement, management of grievances	Project ESMS Officer	Project team / PMU	Project SH Engage-ment Plan and GN SH Engagement[44]
Development of Indigenous Peoples' Plans where relevant	Consultant (as detailed in the IPPF)	Project ESMS Officer	Based on the IPPF
Implementation of the IPP	Project ESMS Officer	IUCN Regional ESMS Officer (to provide guidance)	
Development of Access Restriction Mitigation Plan	As detailed in the Process Framework	detailed in Process Framework	Process Framework
Access restriction mitigation plan implementation	detailed in Process Framework	detailed in Process Framework	Guidance note on Access Restriction Mitigation Framework
Risk assessment and development ESMP	Project ESMS Officer	IUCN Regional ESMS Officer (to provide guidance), Lead Executing Entity or service provider (where relevant)	ESMP– Guidance Note & Template
Development of Safeguard tools (action plan access restrictions, pest management plan etc.)	Lead Executing Entity or consultant	Project ESMS Officer (to provide guidance), service provider (where relevant)	
ESMP implementation & report progress	Lead Executing Entity	Service provider (where relevant)	ESMP– Guidance Note & Template
Monitoring & Supervision ESMP implementation	Project ESMS Officer	IUCN Regional ESMS Specialist	
Effectiveness ESMP (part of project evaluation)	Consultant	IUCN Regional ESMS Specialist	

The budget heads for implementing the ESMP are described in the table below.

[44] Available at www.iucn.org/esms

Table 8: Indicative budget heads for ESMP

ESMS steps	Description
Safeguards training for projects staff and stakeholders	Fee and travel/DSA international safeguard consultant, staff time and travel/DSA for IUCN regional ESMS officer
Translation of documents	Fees translator
Stakeholder Engagement according to SH Engagement Plan incl. management of grievances	travel/DSA for Project ESMS Officer, project team/PMU (as part of their PMU role, staff time already considered in project budget), meeting costs (facilities, catering, facilitation, financial support for participants, where needed), reports/publications
Process Framework implementation	Fee and travel/DSA Consultant(s), meeting costs
Risk assessment and development ESMP	Fee and travel/DSA Consultant (if required by screening) or travel/DSA Project ESMS Officer
Development of safeguard tools	Fee and travel/DSA Consultant, if required, travel/DSA for Project team / PMU
ESMP implementation & report progress	Project team / PMU (already considered in project budget)
Monitoring & Supervision ESMP implementation (annual)	Travel /DSA for Project ESMS officer, staff time and travel /DSA for regional ESMS officer
Effectiveness ESMP (part of project evaluation)	Evaluation is budgeted separately

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Sample ToRs for Project Safeguard and Gender Officer

The following is meant to serve as a sample Terms of Reference and should, therefore, be amended accordingly to fit the context of the SPEFOCE project once final decisions have been made about budget and division of tasks (e.g. whether the project's gender specialist will be separate from the ESS Officer).
BACKGROUND {Updated background about the project including high level description, key sites, duration, PMU composition, etc}
OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The objective of this assignment is implementing the project safeguard tools and ensuring compliance of the project activities with Environmental & Social Safeguards policies of GCF and IUCN.
SCOPE OF WORK
Duties and Responsibilities: The specific tasks stipulated in this ToR to be undertaken by the Environmental & Social Safeguards Officer include, but are not limited to the following:

- With regard to Environmental and Social Safeguards: The Officer will assist the Project Coordinator/Project Manager and will work closely with the Environmental & Social Safeguards staff within the Provincial PMU to handle Environmental and Social Safeguards related responsibilities.

Specifically:

- Further develop and finalize the ESMP, SEP, IPP and Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework including site-specific ESMPs and safeguard documents as required
- Implement the safeguard-enhanced ROAM working closely with the environmental and technical PMU staff to ensure that the integrated situation analysis and site selection incorporates the safeguards instituted in the methodology
- Implement the stakeholder engagement plan, particularly engagement with communities and indigenous peoples
- Set up the project grievance mechanism; Act upon grievances received in coordination with the PMU and ensure speedy and equitable resolution
- Provide ESMS training, including refresher courses to PMU, executing partners, contractors, consultants and other project-related staff
- Ensure that ESMS activities and deliverables are adequately budgeted
- Support the Project Coordinator and the MEL Officer in case of conflicts as laid out in the conflict analysis
- Undertake site visits and on-ground review, check and document compliance with site-specific measures as presented in site-specific ESMPs.
- Ensure the timely disclosure of ESMS-related documents in avenues accessible to all stakeholders, particularly local communities. This includes any updates to these documents
- Provide guidance to contractors, site supervisors, and other stakeholders on manners of implementation and documentation of compliance related to environmental mitigation and monitoring measures
- Check that all documents necessary to ensure full compliance with Environmental & Social Safeguard instruments, in particular, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and Indigenous Peoples' Plans (IPPs) are prepared, regularly updated, and available to relevant stakeholders;
- Ensure that project activities, being developed as a part of the Project, are designed to include avoidance of potential social and environmental risks, as recommended in the ESMPs and annual IP Plans already prepared;
- Provide overall Environmental and Social Management oversight during the implementation of project activities and advise the implementation agencies in addressing the environmental issues;
- Ensure that each site and related activities under the project are subject to the Project's ESMP procedures;

- Review activity plans, design, costs, and bidding documents and be involved in procurement processes including provisions concerning the Environmental and Social Safeguard issues;
- Coordinate with relevant agencies for obtaining environmentally related permits, as necessary;
- Communicate with local governments, contractors, and with any Environmental, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) Experts that may be part of the subproject supervision team in all matters related to design, implementation, documenting and reporting on environmental compliance, as indicated in site-specific ESMPs;
- Monitor implementation of site-specific ESMPs by the Contractors to ensure that appropriate management process and procedures are in place, that Environmental and Social Safeguards related measures are adequately addressed and to ensure that in the event of a noncompliance agreed remedial actions are applied and documented;
- Contribute to, along with the E&S Provincial PMU Specialists, preparation of semi-annual ESMP updates, preparation and finalization of the ESMS section of APR for IUCN and the GCF
- Participate in missions and technical visits by IUCN, and work closely with E&S Specialists to ensure the Project's compliance with relevant environmental and social policies. •
- Undertake other actions related to environmental and social aspects of the Project, as may be instructed by the Project Manager/Coordinator from time to time in order to ensure full compliance of the Project with national and international environmental and social standards and legislation.

REQUIREMENTS

The person suitable for the position of the Environmental & Social Safeguard Officer should have the following qualifications: •
Master's degree, preferable in the Environmental Sciences, anthropology, biodiversity conservation, gender studies or equivalent professional qualifications;

- A minimum of 5 (five) years of relevant experience in Environmental & Social Safeguard Monitoring;
- Knowledge of Cameroon's regulations and laws (particularly in the EIA processes) is required;
- Expertise in and experience working with Indigenous Peoples' issues, preferably in West Africa, is required;
- Familiarity with the IUCN, GCF, and REDD+ Safeguard policies will be an advantage;
- Proficiency in using computer and office software packages (word processing, spreadsheet etc.).
- Fluent written and spoken French and English. Knowledge of local languages will be an asset

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

The Officer will work under the direction of and report to the SPEFOCE Project Manager/Coordinator within the PMU, and in close consultation with the E&S Specialists of IUCN. The Officer will deliver monthly progress reports concerning the accomplishment of their assignments.

Annex 2: ESMS Screening Report

ESMS SCREENING REPORT
Brief background and general findings
The project was categorised as "moderate risk" at the screening stage, based on IUCN's ESMS policy. Based on IUCN and GCF requirements, and Cameroonian legislation (the 1996 law relating to the environment), an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) was carried out. The ESIA focused on the pre-identified environmental and social risks and impacts. Following the ESIA, a management plan was designed, including a safeguard instrument for finalising the assessment of restoration opportunities at the community level. Below is a summary of the results of the ESMS screening. The full form is attached as an Annex to the ESMP. The Standard on Access Restrictions is triggered due to the high likelihood of use and access restrictions resulting from both restoration activities and the updating of management plans. Restoration activities may prevent communities from using forests, buffer zones, council and community forests, and even some agricultural lands while restoration is ongoing. Similarly, the revision of management plans in the three landscapes may lead to changes in access to forest products, increased enforcement, and temporary or seasonal restrictions. These impacts are likely to cause short- and medium-term economic displacement, reducing food and income sources even though long term outcomes may be positive. Risks related to access restrictions are therefore central to the project. The safeguards-enhanced ROAM process includes an integrated situation analysis and stakeholder engagement to assess potential impacts of restrictions. In the absence of community consent or where appropriate mitigation cannot be identified, alternate sites will be selected. While agroforestry schemes, NTFP value chain development and other livelihood measures are embedded in the project design, an access restriction mitigation process framework is part of the ESMP. The safeguards-enhanced ROAM integrates safeguard measures from the outset, beginning with site selection, and the final ROAM action plans will include both restoration and livelihood components developed at sub district or district level to align with government development plans. The Indigenous Peoples Standard is triggered due to the presence of Baka and Bagyeli communities in some landscapes and the seasonal or permanent use of the Waza landscape by the Mbororo pastoralist community. These communities may be significantly impacted by access restrictions arising from project activities. One of the key risks identified is that Indigenous Peoples could be excluded from the project benefits due to the socioeconomic context and the design of the project activities. This issue is exacerbated by the limited representation of Indigenous Peoples in formal natural resource management committees and forums. The safeguards-adapted ROAM will address these risks by including an FPIC protocol, site-level assessment of restrictions and restoration options, and a clear consultation process with Indigenous Peoples for the development of market and livelihood interventions to ensure that these are fit for purpose. The safeguard adapted ROAM will also include community validated action plans at sub district level. FPIC must be sought where activities take place on indigenous territories or where these communities may be negatively affected. Although preliminary consultations have been held, an FPIC plan has been prepared as part of the Indigenous Peoples' Planning Framework that sits within the ESMP. It should be implemented alongside the ROAM process during site selection. A further safeguard concern is that the scale of the landscapes may impede meaningful stakeholder engagement, requiring careful planning. It is also necessary to clarify project partners and roles to ensure that those implementing ROAM 2 and providing extension services have adequate expertise and understanding of local social dynamics. The Cultural Heritage Standard is triggered as the Dja Biosphere Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, inhabited by Baka communities whose traditional way of life forms part of its cultural value. Project activities may disturb cultural sites such as temples, burial grounds, sacred trees, or groves. Communities may also lose

access to such sites during restoration or construction of nurseries, NTFP facilities, or access roads. Intangible cultural heritage may be affected, including customary practices and traditional knowledge, particularly in activities such as NTFP value chain development. The SG-ROAM site selection process therefore includes a cultural heritage mapping to avoid or minimize such impacts. A Chance Find Procedure as described in the ESMP will be launched in the event of the project encountering buried tangible cultural resources.

The Biodiversity Standard is triggered because the three project landscapes include protected areas and regions of high ecological value. Restoration activities, land preparation, construction, or increased human presence may disturb wildlife, including sensitive species and ground-nesting birds. There is a risk of non-native species used for restoration developing invasive characteristics; to address this, an assessment and clearance process for species selection is included in the ESMP. There is also a risk of unsustainable NTFP harvesting, particularly of Prunus Africana, a CITES II species. Restoration may cause erosion or degradation if improperly implemented on steep slopes or riparian zones, and inaccurate ecological baselines could lead to ineffective or harmful restoration.

Beyond the Standards, several additional environmental and social risks are relevant. Gender-related risks arise from the possibility that women, who rely heavily on forest resources, may be disproportionately affected by access restrictions. They may need to travel farther for resources and may face safety risks while doing so. In some areas, cultural norms restrict their ability to produce or sell agricultural goods, to own land, or to participate in decision-making. Women may also lack access to project information, including weather or early warning information. These adverse gender impacts can be managed through the safeguards-adapted ROAM process, which will include a focus on participation of vulnerable groups, including women from both local and Indigenous communities as well as through the ESMP.

Risks to vulnerable groups extend beyond gender. Pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, landless households, the elderly, internally displaced people and women headed households may all be excluded from project benefits if the design does not deliberately address barriers such as lack of land rights, literacy, or financial inclusion. Detailed benefit-sharing criteria have been drawn up to ensure equitable distribution of project benefits.

There is a moderate risk of community harmony being compromised if project activities exacerbate existing social conflicts, particularly if benefits are perceived to be unfairly distributed. Community health risks also stem from potential pesticide exposure, human–wildlife conflict linked to increased forest cover, and possible clashes with forest authorities due to stricter enforcement. Mitigation will include applying the safeguard adapted ROAM to conduct careful land use planning, mapping human-wildlife conflict hotspots, and involving local stakeholders with knowledge of social dynamics and power relations.

Human rights risks may arise from overlapping customary and formal tenure systems. Strengthened enforcement following updated management plans may restrict access to land traditionally used by local or Indigenous communities. Without adequate community engagement, strengthened rules could undermine procedural rights such as participation and consultation.

Labour risks include hazardous working conditions in steep or forested areas, exposure to wildlife, operation of machinery, and potential child labour among partners or vendors. Pollution and resource-efficiency risks arise from nursery waste, the use of chemicals, or improper waste disposal.

Taken together, these risks require coordinated safeguards instruments, the most central of which is the safeguards enhanced ROAM, ESMP, IPP, Process Framework, FPIC plan, Species Management protocols, and Chance Find Procedures. The safeguards adapted ROAM will be the core mechanism through which participation, access rights, site selection, IP inclusion, gender equity, conflict avoidance, cultural heritage protection, and biodiversity considerations are systematically integrated into restoration activities.

	Description of risk issues		**Risk rating**[45]

[45] The rating for likelihood and impacts are based on those established in Annex 1. The rating of significance is a consequence of likelihood and impacts as shown in table 2 below.

Env&Social Risks - *see questionnaire section B for details)*		**Required assessments and management measures / plans**	Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Significance (l/m/h)[46]
B1 Adverse gender-related impacts (including gender-based violence)	There is a likelihood of project activities having an adverse or disproportionately negative impact on women. This could be with regard to access to resources such as during restrictions imposed due to restoration activities (Output 1.2) or due to the updation of management plans of national parks. Women are often engaged in water, firewood and NTFP collection, and such access restrictions are likely to have a disproportionate impact on them, forcing them to travel longer distances or deeper into the forest. They may also be at risk of sexual abuse or harassment by park rangers or poachers. Women may also be left out of benefits such as employment opportunities, or agroforestry and NTFP schemes designed as part of the project, exacerbated by cultural norms around tenure ownership by women. In the Bamboutous region, women may not be allowed to produce or sell agricultural products due to cultural norms. They may not have equal access to project information, due to literacy gaps or cultural norms and therefore may not benefit from activities e.g. 1.2.5 on dissemination of weather information. If specific measures are not taken to address gender-based inequalities, there is a risk of the project exacerbating or perpetuating them.	Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan The project's grievance mechanism should be designed to ensure that it is safely accessible to women, particularly for reporting of sexual abuse and harassment.	3	3	M
B2 Risks of affecting vulnerable groups	Several of the project activities could have adverse and disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups if specific measures are not taken to mitigate these risks. Vulnerable groups in the context of the project could include indigenous communities, women, pastoralists, landless households, the elderly, internally displaced people, and others as detailed in the socio-economic analysis. There is also a high likelihood of vulnerable groups not being consulted during stakeholder engagement or of such groups being left out of benefits resulting	ESMP with dedicated chapter on vulnerable groups, particularly in the Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework. Detailed benefit-sharing criteria.	4	3	M

[46] Low, moderate, high

	from the project. Output 1.2 relating to restoration and related benefits could disproportionately impact vulnerable groups, and leave them out of participation in project-related activities. There is a significant risk of communities, particularly vulnerable groups, being left out of decision making (elite capture), or being discriminated against in the access to project benefits (component on capacity building, activity 1.2.2 on water points installation, activity 1.2.3 on agroforestry schemes which are only available to farmers with >2ha of land thus excluding indigenous groups with no formal land titles, pastoralist groups, poor and landless households, women-headed households with no right to land ownership, migrants, etc). In addition, NTFP value chain activities could exclude those without access to financial systems or illiterate families.				
B3 Risk of undermining human rights	All three project landscapes have a history of overlapping land tenure systems (customary and regulatory) and associated legacy issues, both amongst communities as well as with state authorities. The project bears the risk of perpetuating inequalities in land tenure or use rights such as traditional ownership of land by vulnerable communities, thus weakening traditional governance systems. There is a risk of procedural rights (participation in decision making) being weakened or not adequately respected e.g. output 1.1 on improved management plans, activity 1.2.1 on land use planning and ownership. There is a risk of human rights violations being committed during enforcement of new PA management rules or guarding of restored sites.	ESMP, robust grievance mechanism with specific provisions for historically marginalized communities	5	3	M
B4 Community health, safety and security risks	There is a risk of communities being exposed to volatile conflict and security situations. There is a risk of communities being exposed to pesticides used in nurseries, restoration or agricultural extension activities, and of them making their way into water sources. Risk of human wildlife conflicts due to increased forest cover following restoration, risk of communities clashing with forest staff during enforcement of improved PA regulations Existing tensions, particularly over land tenure, may be exacerbated by project activities.	ESMP, Conflict analysis and risk management plan	4	3	M

B5 Labour and working conditions		There is a risk of community members or project personnel including MINFOF and MINEPDED staff being exposed to hazardous working conditions such as while carrying out restoration activities on mountain slopes. They may also be exposed to harsh weather, wildlife, disease-bearing vectors. The use of machinery such as earth movers and construction equipment for nurseries or NTFP processing machinery may pose hazards if improperly used. There is a risk of child labour being used in some project activities, or of project partners or vendors not adhering to national and international labour regulations. Project staff or project-deployed personnel may be exposed to conflict, armed violence or political instability while carrying out their duties, particularly in volatile regions such as the Waza landscape.	Mitigation measures to be included in the ESMP		3	3	M
B6 Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions		Waste from nurseries such as plastic packaging, tarpaulins may not be appropriately disposed. Chemical effluents from pesticides used may contaminate soil or water ways.	Mitigation measures to be included in the ESMP		3	2	L
ESMS Standards	**Trigger**[47]	**Description of risk issues**		**Required assessments and management measures/ plans**	**Risk rating**[48]		
					Likelihood (1-5)	Impact (1-5)	Significance (l/m/h)[49]
C1 Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions	☒ yes ☐ no ☐ TBD	This Standard is triggered due to the high likelihood of access restrictions, although the project is not expected to result in involuntary resettlement. The two main project activities that trigger this standard are on-ground restoration (Activities 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4) and the planned development and updates of protected area management plans in the three landscapes (Activities 1.1.1, 1.1.2) which could lead to economic displacement by restricting peoples' access to land or natural resources.		☐ Resettlement Action Plan ☐ Resettlement Policy Framework ☐ Action Plan Access Restriction ☒ Process Framework	5	3	M

[47] The decision of triggering a standard does not mean that safeguard instruments or plans have to be prepared right away. The ESMS Reviewer will specify the consequences of triggering the standard in the respective ESMS reviewer section of the questionnaire in C1-C4. Often plans might be required immediately (prior to project approval), in other cases only at a certain point in time (e.g. plans might need to be complete and accepted before the relevant activity can begin). In cases where the risk issues are less substantive, a plan might not be needed at all and mitigation measures are incorporated into the ESMP.

[48] Guidance for rating the likelihood, impact and significance is provided in Annex 1.

[49] Low, moderate, high

		Restoration activities are planned in degraded protected areas, forest reserves, as well as in agricultural land, community and council forests. While restoration is ongoing, and during the initial subsequent years, communities that were using or were dependent on these areas will face temporary access restrictions to prevent disturbance to restored areas. This may result in reduced access to natural resources, reduction in quality or quantity of natural resources utilized by households, or seasonal disruption. Examples include permitted as well as illegal activities such as the gathering of firewood in forest patches, livestock grazing, NTFP collection, bushmeat hunting, fishing, water collection from streams/waterholes, etc. The development or updates of protected area management plans may include measures such as demarcation of boundaries, changes to management rules, increased enforcement, etc. Apart from a high likelihood of access or use restrictions such as on firewood gathering, NTFP collection, bushmeat hunting, seasonal use, etc., these measures may also result in loss of assets and/or land held illegally or under customary ownership. Activity 1.2.1 bears the risk of land use planning activity leading to loss of or change in land tenure or land use rights, especially customary rights. It is not clear at this stage which land parcels will be used to set up nurseries or NTFP processing units, as such there is a risk that land acquisition for project activities may result in loss of land or access to communities using or relying upon such land for their livelihoods. A number of mitigation measures are built into the project design such as, for example, support for agroforestry on private lands, NTFP value chain development, employment through restoration activities, etc. However, the extent to which the project activities will will offset impacts of access restrictions is not clear at this stage. The project must also ensure that the mitigation measures benefit the affected households, particularly women, vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples. Typically, a Process Framework would be required, but considering the project's focus on restoration, the following approach is recommended: - The ROAM (Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology), which delineates the process of site-selection and restoration activities, should be fortified with safeguard measures, ensuring that safeguards are systematically built into the site-selection process and	☒ Other: Access restrictions caused by restoration activities along with mitigation measures to be described as a process framework in the safeguards-enhanced ROAM, (SG-ROAM) whereas all other access restrictions to be addressed in the ESMP.			

		the development of FLR (Forest Landscape Restoration) Action Plans. - A process framework should be drawn up within the ESMP to delineate mitigation measures for the impacts of all non-restoration activities within the scope of the project that could cause access restrictions.				
C2 Indigenous Peoples	☒ yes ☐ no ☐ TBD	This Standard is triggered due to the presence of the Baka, Mbororo and Bagyeli indigenous peoples in the project area. The Baka and Bagyeli forest-dwelling peoples are predominantly present in the Dja and Bamboutous landscapes while the Mbororo pastoralists traditionally use the Waza landscape. The activities that may negatively impact indigenous peoples include Activity 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 relating to the updation or improvement of management plans of protected areas, production forests and council forests. This bears the risk of altering governance regimes over land customarily or traditionally occupied or used by indigenous groups, as well as the risk of their exclusion from consultation processes related to the updation of the management plans. Activity 1.1.4 aims to create multi-stakeholder platforms to reduce conflicts among competing land users and owners. This bears the risk of aggravating pre-existing conflicts such as between pastoralists like the Mbororo and sedentary communities. Access restrictions caused by activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4 relating to restoration may have negative and disproportionate impacts on indigenous peoples, particularly as they are more likely to be governed by customary rights and laws which may not be recognized by the State, potentially also resulting in loss of land. These risks should be addressed through the SG-ROAM (safeguard-enhanced ROAM) which integrates safeguards and FPIC considerations systematically into the ROAM process. There is a risk that indigenous people may be left out of project benefits such as agroforestry schemes which are only available to landed, sedentary farmers, or of employment opportunities such as those related to restoration due to cultural norms or absences relating to transhumance. They may also be left out of other benefits such as NTFP value chains, capacity building	☐ SIA ☐ Indigenous Peoples Plan ☒ Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework including FPIC framework which integrates Cameroon's existing FPIC steps ☒ Other: See also SG-ROAM and GAP	4	3	M

		exercises and credit schemes due to lack of financial inclusion, linguistic exclusion, lack of information or discrimination. In addition, there is some evidence of historical conflicts due to presence of communities in certain areas before the creation of the protected area, such as in the Waza landscape. There is a risk that the rights or livelihoods of indigenous peoples could be negatively affected due to use or commercial development of lands (during restoration) or forest resources (such as NTFPs) on territories traditionally claimed by them. FPIC is required from all indigenous groups who are present in the sites where project activities will be implemented or who use the sites seasonally.				
C3 Cultural Heritage	☒ yes ☐ no ☐ TBD	This Standard is triggered due to the following potential risks identified: The Dja biosphere reserve which is one of the three project landscapes is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Reserve includes a population of Baka pygmies who live in a relatively traditional manner and confer a recognized cultural value to the site. There is a risk that project activities could impact their traditional way of life or tangible and intangible cultural heritage during restoration activities or NTFP harvesting. Sites of cultural importance belonging to all communities, such as temples, burial sites, sacred groves, sacred trees may be disturbed during the restoration process or during the construction of nurseries, NTFP processing units or access roads. In some cases, communities may lose access to them. The project may also disturb intangible cultural heritage of indigenous and local communities living in the project area and impact traditional or customary ways of life. In addition, activity 1.2.2 refers to the provision of water points in order to 'reduce the need for seasonal transhumance'. It must be noted that this could have the inadvertent impact of affecting cultural transhumance practices (intangible cultural heritage). Activity 2.1.2 refers to NTFP value chains in nutra and pharmaceutical sectors which could bear the risk of commercialization or exploitation of traditional knowledge. This requires FPIC of affected communities per IUCN's ESMS policy.	☒ Chance Find Procedures ☐ Other:	4	3	M

		Actual sites for restoration will only be identified during the ROAM process, however the safeguard-enhanced ROAM includes an assessment of cultural heritage in the site selection process.				
C4 Biodiversity & Sustainable Use Natural Resources	☒ yes ☐ no ☐ TBD	This Standard is triggered due to the following activities: - Potential negative impact on sensitive biodiversity in protected areas in the three landscapes such as disturbance during restoration, construction of access roads leading to clearing/cutting of trees or preventing movement of wildlife, disturbance to wildlife from machinery and personnel involved in restoration, disturbance of ground nesting birds or other wildlife currently using degraded areas - Risk of the introduction and spread of invasive species due to choice of species chosen for restoration or through inadvertent introduction such as from nurseries (activity 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.2.4) - Risk of unsustainable harvest of NTFPs, particularly for Prunus Africana – a CITES II species. This is a significant risk as part of the NTFP value chain output 2.1 - Risk of pesticides, soil amendments or chemical fertilizers used in nurseries, restoration or in agricultural activities leading to water contamination, disturbance of soil - Land preparation activities using machinery, particularly in sensitive ecosystems such as mountain slopes or riparian areas may have inadvertent negative impacts such as soil erosion, disturbance of wildlife or landslides. - Risk of agroforestry and other incentive schemes on agricultural land impacting food security - Planned conservation plantations bear the risk of establishing monocultures that do not harbour or support biodiversity - Risk of restoration and plantation activities carried out to unrealistic or false ecological baselines - Availability of year-round water (activity 1.2.2) may lead to increase in livestock numbers and therefore more wild predators straying into human habitation or livestock further degrading forested areas in search of pasture	☒ Pest Management Plan ☒ Other: ESMP, Species Selection Protocol, Species Management Plan for the use of known invasives such as prosopis julifora, neem, etc. Plan for sustainable harvest of NTFP, particularly Prunus Africana to be included in ESMP	5	3	M
Quality of stakeholder consultation during project design so far		☐ good ☒ adequate ☐ not sufficient	Required action:	Stakeholder engagement with indigenous and local communities needs to be further strengthened during the inception phase of the project.		

(see section D4 for details)					
Required assessments and management measures/plans:	☒ Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (Full ESIA) ☐ Partial ESIA ☒ Targeted assessment (social assessment, targeted environmental studies etc.): Conflict analysis		☒ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) including IPPF and ARMPF ☐ Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) ☐ Abbreviated ESMF ☐ Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) ☒ Other: Safeguard-enhanced ROAM (SG-ROAM), Protocol for Species Selection, Chance Find Procedure, Species Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan		
Project Risk Category:	*The project risk category rates the overall project; it is based on the significance rating established for each E&S risk area and for the ESMS Standards. The overall rating is usually that of the highest risk.*		☐ **Low Risk**	☒ **Moderate Risk**	☐ **High Risk**

Guidance for rating environmental and social risks

Risk rating is a function of the two elements expected likelihood and the expected impacts (consequence).

Likelihood represents the possibility that a given risk event is expected to occur. The likelihood should be established using the following five ratings:

- *Very unlikely to occur (1)*
- *Low likelihood (2)*
- *Moderately likely – could occur (3)*
- *Known to occur - almost certain (4)*
- *Common occurrence (5)*

Impact (or consequence) refers to the extent to which a risk event might negatively affect environmental or social receptors – see below criteria distinguishing five levels of impacts:

Table 1: Rating impact of a risk area

Severe (5)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of **very high magnitude**, including **very large scale** and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), cumulative, **long-term (permanent and irreversible**); **receptors** are considered **highly sensitive**; examples are severe adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value[50]; severe adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with long-term consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to severe and cumulative social conflicts with long-term consequences.
Major (4)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of **high magnitude**, including **large scale** and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), of certain duration **but still reversible** if sufficient effort is provided for mitigation; receptors are considered sensitive; examples are adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with temporary consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to social conflicts which are expected to be of limited duration.
Medium (3)	Adverse impacts of **medium magnitude**, **limited in scale** (small area and low number of people affected), **limited in duration** (temporary), impacts are relatively predictable and can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with known solutions and straight forward measures.

[50] For the definition see IUCN ESMS Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.

Minor (2)	Adverse impacts of **minor magnitude, very small scale** (e.g. very small affected area, very low number of people affected) and only short duration, may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated.
Negligible (1)	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or on the environment.

Significance of a risk area is established by combining likelihood and expected impact (consequence) of a risk event as demonstrated in the table 2. The significance rating signals how much attention the risk area will require during project development and implementation and the extent of control actions to be put in place. See the Guidance Note on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks for further details on the rating (including factors influencing the likelihood and impact)[51].

Table 2: Rating significance of a risk event

Impact	***Likelihood of occurrence***				
	Very unlikely to occur (1)	*Low likelihood (2)*	*Likely – could occur (3)*	*Known to occur - almost certain (4)*	*Common occurrence (5)*
Severe (5)	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
Major (4)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Medium (3)	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Minor (2)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Negligible (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

[51] Available et: https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/iucn_esms_gn-risk-management-clean-22.pdf

Annex 3: Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework

This Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework (PF) was prepared to provide a governing framework as well as guidance for the process of preparation and implementation of Action Plans to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions (AR Action Plans) for activities causing adverse impacts on land users due to restrictions on access to resources and land use[52]. The PF and AR Action Plans aim to ensure adequate, fair and timely mitigation of the impacts of access restrictions (AR) on the livelihoods of economically displaced persons. The Project may involve outputs and activities which may necessitate AR with moderate livelihood impacts.

The Project will select sites in various geographical locations and design their specific project interventions only during its implementation phase using SG-ROAM.

1. Accordingly, the preparation of a Process Framework to guide the preparation of AR Action Plans is required by the Environmental and Social Policy of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the project donor, and the Environmental and Social Management System of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Accredited Entity (AE) of the Project.

2. The PF analyzes the applicable legal and policy framework and defines a Project Access Restriction Policy with eligibility criteria and entitlements for displaced project affected persons (PAPs). It sets out procedures for planning and implementation, stakeholder engagement (consultation, participation, disclosure and grievance redress), provision of mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting, as well as the institutional and financial arrangements for access restrictions.

This PF was prepared by IUCN and is endorsed by the MINFOF. It complies with the applicable laws of Cameroon, as well as the Environmental and Social Policy of GCF and the Environmental and Social Management System of IUCN. In accordance with the IUCN's ESMS Principle on the Precedence of the Most Stringent Standard, the most stringent standard is given precedence i.e., the safeguard requirements providing stronger protection to project affected persons will prevail.

The PF is an integral component of the Project's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

2. Scope of Impacts from Access Restrictions

3. As indicated above, the actual sites for restoration will be chosen using SG-ROAM. Consequently, at the project preparation stage it is not yet known where access restrictions may be imposed, how many persons may be affected and what type of impacts may occur. Therefore, only the more likely outcome, outputs, and activities which may cause potential AR impacts can be tentatively indicated.

4. The planned restoration of landscapes including degraded PA, mountain slopes, agricultural land and community and council forests may require the restriction of access to resources and land use or the strengthening of the enforcement of existing restrictions to allow for the regeneration of existing vegetation and the growth of planted seedlings.

[52] "Restrictions on land use" refers to limitations or prohibitions on the use of agricultural, residential, commercial or other land that are directly introduced and put into effect as part of the project. These may include restrictions on access to legally designated parks and protected areas, restrictions on access to other common property resources, and restrictions on land use within utility easements or safety zones. (World Bank, EBRD and Inter-American Development Bank Environmental and Social Policies)

5. However, it is likely that some of these sites are sought by **vulnerable people** to gather natural resources for livelihood purposes. As the duration of restrictions may range between 2 to 3 years for forage, 3-5 years for fruits and up to 20 years for wood, impacts on vulnerable groups might be considerable, as they often display low adaptive capacity and lack alternative means and resources.

6. Among the resources and livelihood activities most likely to be affected by AR in protected areas are gathering and/or cutting of firewood, timber, rocks and sand for construction, medicinal plants, fruits, honey, and food plants, as well as hunting and grazing. These can be used for home consumption and/or sale, as well as ritual practices including weddings, funerals and religious events.

7. While not all the outputs and activities entail the same likelihood or level of significance of AR impacts, it must be noted that all project interventions aiming at the restoration of landscapes and transformation of land use practices have the potential to cause access restrictions with adverse impacts on livelihoods of project affected persons.

8. The project does not include activities that require involuntary land acquisition and resettlement. The project also expressly excludes any physical displacement[53] due to access restriction, including of non-titled settlers who have established residential dwellings in protected areas without recognized land use rights.

9. This PF only focuses on access restrictions and associated impacts that are triggered by the project. This, however, includes not only new restrictions established under the project but also the strengthening of the enforcement of existing restrictions and regulations that were not effectively enforced prior to the project.

3.2. IUCN and GCF Standards

10. Safeguard requirements for the management of restrictions on access to resources and land use are provided in the Environmental and Social Policy of the Green Climate Fund and the Environmental and Social Management System of IUCN. GCF has adopted the performance standards of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) as interim standards, which address AR under Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement (PS 5). IUCN has formulated the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions under its ESMS.

11. This section focuses primarily on the safeguard requirements for access restriction of both GCF and IUCN, as the Project does not entail involuntary land acquisition and resettlement. The requirements of the respective standards of GCF and IUCN are similar in their substance and will be presented concurrently. Relevant differences will be pointed out as appropriate.

12. Both standards cover **physical displacement** (relocation or loss of shelter) and **economic displacement** (loss of assets or **access to assets** that leads to **loss of income sources or other means of livelihood**) as a result of project-related land acquisition and/or **restrictions on land use**.

13. They apply the **mitigation hierarchy** requiring projects to avoid and minimize displacement to the maximum extent possible by exploring alternative project designs. The avoidance of forced evictions is mandated. SG-ROAM will be used to choose sites with the least possible negative impacts **(avoidance).** Unavoidable AR impacts are to be minimized and **mitigated** by providing compensation of lost assets at replacement cost and by restoring and improving the livelihoods and standard of living of displaced persons. AR activities need to be carried out with appropriate **disclosure of information**, **consultation**, and the **informed participation** of those affected. IUCN requires the free, prior and informed consent (**FPIC**) of persons or communities affected by restriction of access.

[53] Relocation or loss of shelter

14. IUCN's standard indicates as within the scope of its application (i) the restriction of access to and/or use of natural resources and to areas of occupation or use, as well as (ii) changes in the use and management regimes of natural resources, without specifying limitations based on the property status of the affected land and resource users.

15. The general requirements of the standards applicable to AR include the following:

- Involvement of affected communities through **stakeholder engagement**, including information disclosure, consultation, participation and a grievance mechanism, during the assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of AR under a project.
- **Social impact assessment** to provide baseline information, assess AR impacts on displaced persons and to determine their eligibility for mitigation measures.
- Special attention to the needs of and issues affecting **poor** and **vulnerable** people and groups, including gender-differentiated vulnerabilities.
- Preparation of **action plans** for the mitigation of AR impacts, which indicate the eligibility and entitlements of PAPs to mitigation measures, identify development opportunities, and develop a resettlement budget and schedule.
- Responsibility of the project for the **cost** of implementation of action plans.
- Preparation of **process frameworks** for the mitigation of AR impacts, which guide the preparation and implementation of action plans in cases where the exact nature and magnitude of impacts is not known during the project development stage.
- Compensation of losses at **replacement cost** (value) i.e., the amount necessary to replace the lost assets or lost access to assets, based on market value plus transaction costs or an estimate of the value of goods and services generated by the lost assets.
- Land based compensation for displaced persons with **land-based livelihoods**.
- Provision of **mitigation** measures **before displacement**.
- Provision of appropriate **project benefits**.
- Establishment of procedures for **monitoring** and **evaluation** of the implementation of mitigation plans.
- **Disclosure** and **approval** of action plans and frameworks for the mitigation of AR impacts by GCF and IUCN.

16. For persons affected by project-related **restriction of access** mitigation measures are provided to either allow **continued access under conditions** to affected resources or access to **alternative resources** with equivalent livelihood-earning potential and accessibility. In cases where access to the same or alternative resources are not feasible, culturally appropriate **alternative income earning opportunities** may be provided, such as credit facilities, training, cash, or employment opportunities facilitating livelihood restoration with equivalent livelihood-earning potential.

17. To prevent opportunistic encroachment in the project area, the project or a relevant government authority establishes and makes public a **cut-off date** for eligibility.

3.3. Gap Analysis

4. Project Access Restriction Policy

18. In accordance with the IUCN's ESMS Principle on the Precedence of the Most Stringent Standard, the safeguard requirements providing the strongest protection to project affected persons will prevail, and therefore the Project adopts this Project Access Restriction Policy for the restriction of access to resource and land use.

Stakeholder Engagement

- All PAPs affected by AR and the stakeholder engagement actives relevant to AR will be included in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Displaced persons and other stakeholders will be consulted and informed about the planned access restrictions as well as their mitigation and given an opportunity to participate in the planning of AR in an accessible, understandable and culturally appropriate form. AR and mitigation measures will be negotiated with the PAPs and their free, prior and informed consent will be obtained before the imposition of agreed measures.
- Draft AR Action Plans, including drafts of updated AR Action Plans, will be disclosed to PAPs for review and comments. The approved final AR Action Plans will be disclosed to the PAPs as well. All stakeholder engagement activities will be documented in the draft, final and updated AR Action Plans.
- A grievance redress mechanism with representation of relevant stakeholders will be established at the time of project inception, will be accessible to persons displaced by AR and will endeavor to resolve their grievances promptly and transparently.

Vulnerable Project Affected Persons

- Vulnerable households and the specific AR impacts on their livelihoods will be identified in the census and socio-economic survey for each subproject and indicated in each AR Action Plan. The inclusion of displaced vulnerable persons in consultations and the planning of measures for the rehabilitation and enhancement of their livelihoods will be ensured, to safeguard against impoverishment and to reduce their vulnerability.

Indigenous Peoples

- Indigenous groups are as identified in the screening and ESIA. FPIC is required before any activities on the ground impacting access restrictions can commence.

Assessment of AR Impacts

- As part of the integrated situation analysis , an assessment of all persons displaced by AR, an inventory of their lost resources and assets, a limited socio-economic baseline survey, and an assessment of the economic value of lost assets and incomes will be carried out.

Eligibility

- All persons displaced by access restrictions imposed and/or enforced under the project, including those with and without formally recognized land use or ownership rights, who use or occupy restricted land and its resources before the cut-off date, will be eligible for mitigation of adverse impacts, including compensation and rehabilitation measures, as applicable, regardless of whether the impacts are permanent or temporary, full or partial. Non-titled PAPs without legally recognizable claims to land will be eligible for all mitigation measures.
- An eligibility cut-off date will be declared and widely publicized on the date of commencement of the social impact assessment for each subproject which requires AR, to ensure the exclusion of opportunistic encroachment from eligibility for mitigation measures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The effectiveness of the implementation of the AR Action Plan for each subproject and the impacts of its measures on the livelihoods of the displaced persons will be monitored during and evaluated after AR Action Plan implementation.

5. Institutional Arrangements for the Management of Access Restrictions

5.2. Capacity building

19. The staff of the Executing Entities and of the Service Providers involved in the implementation of activities throughout the Project will participate in training workshops on social safeguards for the restriction of access to resource and land use. The training will consist of two modules.

20. The first module will provide all project staff working in both the field and the regional and national offices with a general overview of the policy and legal requirements for AR under the Project and of the provisions of the Process Framework.

21. The second module will provide designated project staff directly involved in the preparation and implementation *of* Action Plans to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions with detailed guidance through classroom and field-based training. Instruments for the assessment of AR impacts, including *formats for the questionnaires of the participatory appraisal and census, as well as for the inventories of PAPs and lost assets, will be developed and refined in the context of the training.*

6. Stakeholder Engagement

22. Meaningful stakeholder engagement (SE) is a critical tool to facilitate the successful implementation of the Project and its subprojects and plays a central role in the management of social impacts caused by the restriction of access to resources and land use.

23. SE will be commensurate with the level and magnitude of AE impacts. It is involved in

- Screening of activities for AR impacts,
- Assessment of all AR impacts and identification of PAPs,
- Establishment and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, and
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the subproject AR Action Plans.

24. SE for the management of access restrictions involves

- **Consultation** of all PAPs
- **Disclosure** of all relevant information on AR and its mitigation, including draft and final AR Action Plans,
- **Participation** of PAPs in the negotiation of and decisions on all mitigation measures, as well as the provision of mitigation measures, and
- Establishment of a **Grievance Mechanism**

25. In compliance with the requirement for **FPIC**, the implementation of all project measures with access restrictions and their mitigation will be negotiated with the PAPs and their consent will be obtained in order to go ahead with the planned project measures.

26. The key methodologies for SE are consistent with standard participatory appraisal practices (see section 7).

- **Focus group discussions** and **key informant interviews** with various subsections of the persons displaced by AR (according to gender, socio-economic status, vulnerability, types of livelihood activities, etc.) and other relevant project stakeholders for in-depth discussions and the negotiation of AR and mitigation measures and during their implementation
- **Plenary meetings** with all persons displaced by AR, segregated by gender and other social variables if relevant, and other relevant project stakeholders to (i) provide relevant information and disclose the results of groups consultations and negotiations, as well as Draft and Final AR Action Plans; (ii) receive feedback and address PAPs concerns during planning and implementation of AR; and (iii) discuss, obtain and confirm FPIC with measures for AR and the mitigation of their impacts,
- **Participatory resource mapping** to identify resource use practices and their locations, and **field visits** with **transect walks** in the landscapes and ecosystems under restrictions to observe and discuss in-depth the PAPs' resource use practices, their locations, and adverse impacts of AR.

27. All SE communication will be undertaken in an accessible, understandable and culturally appropriate form.

28. All stakeholder engagement activities will be documented in the Draft, Final and Updated AR Action Plans, where documentary evidence, such as attendance records and photographs of SE events will be annexed.

29. The Project-wide **Grievance Mechanism** (GM) will receive and document all complaints and concerns of project affected persons, including those concerning AR, and pursue their prompt and fair resolution.

7. Assessment of Impacts from Access Restrictions (SIA)

30. The Project will avoid and minimize AR impacts causing economic and/or physical displacement to the extent possible, without compromising its conservation objectives. Unavoidable AR impacts are required to be mitigated. Therefore, for each subproject the impacts of AR need to be fully identified, including a full inventory of affected resources and their uses and of the affected land users, to ensure that all of these are appropriately and fairly managed in accordance with the Project AR Policy and the applicable GCF and IUCN safeguard policies.

31. This section discusses the requirements for the assessment of impacts from access restrictions on displaced project affected persons and outlines the key methodologies used. The social impact assessment (SIA) will be aligned with the general baseline surveys and appraisal in each of the subproject sites stipulated in the ESMP.

32. The identification of impacts due to AR requires a considerate approach to the resource users whose livelihoods will be affected. Given the potentially sensitive nature of their resource uses in protected and restricted landscapes due to the absence of formal use rights, conventional quantitative survey methods may not be suitable, at least in the initial phase of the social impact assessment (SIA). Therefore, participatory appraisal methods will be used at first to establish rapport with the affected communities, and gain an in-depth understanding of PAPs' resource uses and the impact of AR.

33. As early as possible, the participatory appraisal will confirm whether the proposed access restrictions would cause any impacts on land users in the communities or not. In the case of a confirmed absence of impacts the assessment need not proceed to the census. Instead, the project staff will prepare a due diligence report documenting the participatory appraisal activities undertaken and confirming the absence of impacts due to access restrictions. The due diligence report will be submitted to IUCN and its findings reported in the next project progress report.

34. It must however be noted that AR impacts mitigated by the proposed project measures do constitute AR impacts in need of full assessment and mitigation as determined under an AR Action Plan.

35. Once the project staff responsible for the SIA has confirmed impacts, established rapport and developed a thorough understanding of the ground situation, a community-level meeting can be undertaken with every group/community affected by AR.

7.1. Participatory appraisal

36. As stated above, the sensitive nature of non-titled resource use by mainly poor and vulnerable households and communities requires simultaneous rapport building and an in-depth assessment of AR impacts through participatory appraisal methods, to gain familiarity with the context and develop trust. Therefore, it needs to be ensured that the consultations are designed in a way that people feel safe and that they are assured that specific information obtained from and/or about individuals would not be disclosed, will not be used for any form of coercion and that analysis and documentation for public disclosure would only use anonymized data. The use of participatory appraisal methods for impact assessment is consistent with and overlaps with the stakeholder engagement approach indicated in section 6.

37. The assessment of AR impacts will focus on establishing the level and magnitude of impacts taking into account the following factors:

- Nature or type of the impact: What natural resource assets are affected and how?
- Purpose of resource use: Are the resources used for subsistence or commercial use?
- Persons affected: Who is affected? Are men and women, poor and vulnerable or well-off persons, or majority and minority groups affected differently?
- Duration of the impact: are access restriction short-term, medium-term, long-term, or permanent?
- Severity of the impact: do the resources losses constitute a large or small proportion of the livelihood assets used and incomes derived by the affected person, household and community (taking into account the duration of impacts)?

38. The participatory appraisal will combine several assessment methods. It is critical to allow for sufficient time to cover all selected activities, all affected person and groups, and all restricted locations or sites. The timing and pacing of activities will have to take into account people's obligations and schedules to pursue their livelihood activities and other commitments. Establishment of rapport and trust and gaining access to knowledge cannot be rushed and require patience and respectful communication with the PAPs. The exercise is very much about listening and learning from the PAPs about their lives, activities, problems and concerns by the persons carrying out the assessment, and not about telling the affected persons what to do and think. During the SIA, the project staff needs to suspend preconceived notions and assumptions and be open to new insights and understanding before suggesting and negotiating how to resolve problems and mitigate impacts.

39. The following approaches and methods to participatory appraisal can be used:

40. **Key informant interviews** are used to discuss a topic in-depth with identified key persons who have extensive knowledge about a community or particular sub-groups, or who have positions of authority, trust and influence. Examples include religious leaders, chiefs, leading farmers, and traditional leaders. Responses can be triangulated with other sources of information. Key persons are also often opinion leaders in their communities or even regions and may be able to help generate support by and the cooperation of the PAPs.

41. **Focus group discussions** (FGDs) provide opportunities for detailed discussion with a small group of selected participants. Groups can be formed with the participation of a heterogenous group or by focusing on a homogeneous group. The latter is in particular useful for situations where cultural norms do not allow

certain groups to speak up (e.g., the poor and vulnerable PAPs, women or marginalized groups) or to focus on specific issues of a certain affected group (e.g., farmers, fishermen/women, youth etc.). It is more likely that sensitive issues around resource use, the legality of access, livelihoods, well-being, health or issues of marginalization are raised in a smaller group. FGDs should have a clear format using an open-ended questionnaire, so that the facilitator of the discussion can keep the discussion on track and the participants can expand on topics and raise their own. Documenting the questions asked will also allow the team to repeat the FCGs over time to monitor how perspectives may be shifting. However, due to sensitivity of issues around unlicensed use of resources, formal recording of discussions may need to be avoided.

42. **Participatory mapping** exercises can be used to identify AR impacts and to develop AR Action Plans. The most common mapping exercises include resource mapping combined with seasonal calendars or poverty and vulnerability mapping combined with wealth ranking. Through these exercises the location of resources in restricted areas and the residences of different social groups are plotted with differently colored markers on large paper or with various differently colored materials, such as sand and wood, on the floor of a meeting venue. The preparation of the maps leads to detailed discussions on the matters of concern, such as resource use, the composition of ecosystems and livelihood systems, the AR impacts on these systems, differential impacts on the poor and vulnerable or alternative arrangements for resource use. Mapping should be accompanied by developing seasonal calendars for resource uses to understand the timing of respective livelihood activities.

43. **Field visits with transect walks** in the landscapes and ecosystems under planned restrictions help the project staff to observe and discuss resource use practices, their locations, and the potential adverse impacts of AR, and to gain an in-depth understanding in situ. It is important to undertake these walks with the various resource users as well as trusted key informants and to ensure that all affected areas and locations are covered. Seasonal changes may need to be considered and walks repeated over time. At minimum it needs to be inquired how the ecosystems and livelihood systems concerned are changing throughout the seasons and how they have changed over time, in particular considering the potential impacts of climate change. Repetition of specific walks will need to be used to assess possible mitigation measures in the same or alternative sections of the subproject landscapes. Photographic and videographic documentation of critical issues and sites should be undertaken during the walks, keeping in mind the possible concerns of resource users about their anonymity.

44. The **findings of the participatory appraisal** with affected local stakeholders and community members will be **documented** in the AR Action Plans for each site visited and discussed, including

- The number and types of PAPs,
- Locations visited and observed,
- Records of mapping exercises,
- Inventories of affected resources and assets and their uses and by affected persons,
- Records of issues discussed and proposed solutions including possible mitigation measures, and
- Evidence of participation, including signed minutes or records of participation and photographs or videos, with the appropriate caveat about anonymity if requested or required.

45. The project staff responsible for the situation analysis will provide a concise narrative description and analysis of the findings of the participatory appraisal for each site under the subproject planned to go under restrictions. The narrative analysis can be supported and illustrated by a descriptive table for the main variables assessed, including

- the types of resource accessed,
- the use of the resource,
- the types of resource users,
- its significance for the resource users' livelihoods,
- the impact on the resource users' livelihoods, including, the duration of the impact due to restrictions, and the severity of the impact in terms of its likelihood and magnitude.

46. The sample in Table 5 includes potential impacts that may be expected from AR in the subproject areas, based on the findings of the Project's feasibility study.

47. Geographic maps and satellite imagery of the restricted areas, overlaid with information on AR related impacts, will be included among the documentation as well.

48. The types of resources users potentially affected by AR would likely be predominantly PAPs without formally recognized land use or ownership rights. A smaller group of APs may be expected to have no formal legal rights to land but can make claims to land and use rights that are recognized or recognizable under the national laws, such as persons with licenses for resources uses issued by government agencies. It is not expected that access restrictions would affect person or legal entities owning private land or land leased from the government.

49. Among the potential PAPs the following groups may be expected.

- Returning refugees or people affected by competing claims from returnees:
- Pastoralist herders: Restriction of access to grazing land might affect transhumant communities, and competition for water and pastures due to the increasing length of droughts may increase pressure on range lands.
- People owning very small plots: Even with land registration, registered land parcels might be too small to sustain a household and provide for sufficient resources.

50. Landless people: there may be vulnerable groups who may be landless and highly dependent on open land and forest resources owned by the state.

7.2. Participatory appraisal of persons affected by access restrictions

51. The participatory appraisal methods permit an in-depth understanding of resource uses in locations under proposed restrictions and of the impact of these restrictions on livelihoods. However, by using participatory appraisal methods the data generated is based on the observation of the various individuals and groups available for meetings, discussions and walks and can therefore not provide a complete inventory of all resource users and their losses and livelihood impacts. These need to be obtained through an integrated situation analysis of all PAPs affected by AR. This enumerates all AR-affected households and, if applicable, displaced businesses, using a closed-ended questionnaire querying all relevant variables.

Table 5: Sample Template: Resource Use and Impacts due to Access Restrictions at each site

Resource accessed and used	Purpose	Legal status of resource use	Resource users	Specification of resource loss	Duration of impact
Fallen branches and dead wood	Fuelwood for energy supply	Unlicensed	20 residents of adjacent village, mainly poor women	40% subsistence 60% sale to local traders Loss of key fuelwood source and main cash income	Medium term until regeneration of remaining forest and maturation of fuelwood plantation
Mature trees	Fuelwood for energy supply	Unlicensed	2 residents, male hardware traders from district town	Loss of lucrative additional income source Annual seasonal additional cash income source during dry season	
Logging	Commercial construction timber	Permit by district forest office	3 small scale timber traders in adjacent village	Loss of main cash income source	Long-term, regeneration planting up to 30 years
Medicinal plants	Subsistence use in household and sale at local market	Unlicensed	20 residents of adjacent village, mainly poor women		
Other non-timber forest products (fruits, bamboo, honey, food plants)	Subsistence use in household and sale at local market				
Hunting (meat)	Subsistence use in household and sale at local market				
Grazing of livestock	Subsistence use in household and sale at local market				
Non-timber forest products	Cultural/spiritual practices				
Collection of rock and sand	Construction				
Water resources (if restrictions apply)	Household supply and cultivation of home gardens				

52. In addition, a limited number of socio-economic characteristics of the displaced households, such as ethnicity, gender, age and education of its members, head of household, access to public services , as well as vulnerability in terms of poverty, age, disabilities and gender of household head, will be recorded.

53. The situation analysis will also inquire into the compensation preferences and expectations of each displaced household.

54. All data collection and presentation need to be disaggregated by gender and other relevant social characteristics, depending on the social groups of concern.

55. In the AR Action Plan, the findings will be tabulated in aggregate and disaggregated tables for analytical and reporting purposes.

8. Mitigation of Impacts from Access Restrictions

56. **Avoiding impacts** by seeking to exclude locations targeted for restoration which exhibit a high degree of dependency of especially poor and vulnerable resource users on their available resources **may be difficult**, as these sites tend to be overused and thus display a considerable degree of degradation. In order to meet both, the landscape restoration and livelihood support objectives of the project, its design aims to restrict damaging practices while providing ways and means for the improvement of land use practices.

57. Therefore, the planned **project benefits** under Outcome 1 and 2 will **function as the primary mitigation measures** for the restriction of access and ecologically adverse land use practices. This implies that all persons affected by access restrictions would be eligible for project benefits and be among their primary participants. The key project measures would entail a combination of (i) regulated access to and augmentation of existing resources and their sustainable use, (ii) sustainable use of alternative and economically viable resources or resource locations, and (iii) the reduction of demand on resources. Resource demands that cannot be met through regulated and/or alternative resources would require (iv) alternative means of livelihood generation or (v) subsidizing poor and vulnerable affected persons for the duration of necessary restrictions. Given that the regeneration of the various types of ecosystems and agro-ecosystems involved may take between 2-3 years for forage, 3-5 years for fruits and 10-20 years for wood, temporary restrictions of varying length can be expected.

58. The **community management of resources** is envisioned as a key mechanism for ensuring self-regulated access to and use of resources based on community ownership and an understanding of the positive implications of sustainable resource use. It is critical that **non-titled poor and vulnerable resource users** are fully engaged and entitled to project benefits and mitigation measures, as these would otherwise undermine strategies that only focus on the titled owners or licensed users of targeted landscapes, because the poor and vulnerable lack alternative means of livelihood generation.

8.1. Mitigation measures

59. The following planned project activities provide examples of project benefits which may readily be applied as mitigation measures for access restrictions.

8.1.2. Restoration of community and council forests: This provides communities affected due to loss of fuelwood access with alternative fuelwood sources. The households most affected by restrictions will be prioritized for resource use.

8.1.3. Direct and induced employment opportunities through reforestation works: Local communities will be employed as far as possible for restoration works such as preparing the ground, seed planting, carrying out ground truthing, watering and maintenance, guarding, etc.

8.1.4. Agroforestry: This planned project activity will be provide resources and training to affected communities, enabling them to grow and monetize fruit trees, cacao or other high value NTFPs on their private land.

8.1.5. NTFP value chain based income opportunities: A significant component of the project involves directing resources and training towards NTFP value chain development. The project invests in stimulating demand in green financing, and supports setting up of processing units and training.

8.1.6. Other mitigation measures: Employment at NTFP processing units will provide alternate income sources.

8.3. Eligibility and Entitlements

60. The participatory stakeholder engagement process with PAPs described above will need to assess, review and negotiate all the options for mitigation of AR impacts under consideration of the measures indicated and the concerns raised above.

61. Based on the inventory of losses and affected persons and the selection of preferred and feasible mitigation measures, the AR Action Plan is prepared. The entries in the entitlement matrix will be further specified in the text of the AR Action Plan to clarify all relevant details and modalities of the agreed mitigation measures.

62. The applicable agreed entitlements will also be logged in each individual PAP record together with the inventory of losses of each household, which thereby constitutes a mutual commitment by the project and each PAP household to accept the restrictions of access and the provision of the specified mitigation measures.

8.4. Free, prior, and informed consent

63. Once agreements on all mitigation measures have been established through the participatory negotiation process, a final plenary meeting among the PAPs, project staff and other relevant stakeholders, will be held in which the free, prior, and informed consent of the PAPs with the restrictions of access and the provision of the specified mitigation measures is requested by the project and confirmed by the PAPs. Videographic and photographic documentary evidence of the event will be prepared. The FPIC of the PAPs will also be stated in a written document in both the local language and English and signed or thumb printed by the PAPs and management representatives of the Project EEs and the relevant local government authorities.

Withdrawal of consent: In line with the principles of FPIC, communities are also entitled to withdrawal of such consent already given. The withdrawal of consent must follow the same protocols as the giving of FPIC, i.e. withdrawal must be free, prior and informed and must be decided and communicated through the same channels such as through legitimate representatives of the communities. Upon receipt of such notice of withdrawal, submitted to the project coordinator, adequate notice is required for the project to stop the concerned activity. Such notice may include the time required to verify the legitimacy and authenticity of the withdrawal notice and to take adequate measures for cessation depending on the type of activity.

9. Budget for Assessment and Mitigation of Access Restrictions

64. The full cost of the preparation and implementation of the AR Action Plan includes the cost of the preparation of the plan, including the situation analysis, as well as of administration, monitoring and evaluation.

65. As the majority of mitigation measures for the impacts of access restriction may be expected to be planned project benefits provided to persons affected, the related AR Action Plan implementation costs may already be accounted for under the general cost for project activities and included in the overall project budget. Furthermore, the cost of administration, monitoring and evaluation of AR Action Plan implementation will also be covered under the general project budget for these activities.

66. However, any AR Action Plan implementation costs due to additional measures not covered under project benefits will require additional budgeting. The budget headings include the type of loss, type of mitigation entitlement, respective unit rates, number of units and total cost for each mitigation measure.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Arrangements

67. Monitoring of the planning and implementation of access restrictions and their mitigation are part of the ESMF monitoring, which is integrated into the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL) system of the Project. This will integrate specific monitoring and reporting components for the implementation of all the activities and measures of the AR Action Plans, following up on the requirements under the AR Action Plans. AR monitoring will involve (i) process monitoring of the progress of implementation of the required actions under an AR Action Plan; and (ii) output monitoring of the progress of implementation of the required mitigation measures, i.e. the provision of mitigation entitlements to the displaced persons affected by AR. These will be reported in the bi-annual progress reports of the PMU and the Lead EE(s).

68. If monitoring identifies any non-compliance with the AR Action Plans or other critical issues during their implementation, a Corrective Action Plan will be prepared, to facilitate the compliant implementation of all requirements of the AR Action Plan, as well as necessary adaptations of the Action Plan to ensure the

effective mitigation of all impacts in accordance with the requirement for adaptive learning. The implementation of the corrective actions will be monitored until the full resolution of all issues addressed by the Corrective Action Plan and assessed during the evaluation of AR implementation.

69. The final evaluation of the implementation of the AR Action Plans will assess its overall performance with respect to the required actions and delivery of mitigation entitlements and assess their impact on the livelihoods of the PAPs. The impacts will be assessed against the baseline data generated by the census and socio-economic survey of the PAPs. The evaluation findings will be reported for each site in the interim and final evaluation reports of the PMU.

70. If the evaluation identifies any compliance issues or adverse impacts on the livelihoods of the PAPs, the interim and final evaluation reports will contain a Corrective Action Plan to address these issues. The implementation of the Corrective Action Plan will be monitored and evaluated until the full resolution of all issues concerned.

71. All monitoring and evaluation activities concerning the implementation of the AR Plans will be undertaken with the engagement of the relevant stakeholders, especially the persons affected by AR, to receive their feedback and consider their concerns.

12. Development of an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions

Recommended Outline for an Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions

1. Introduction
1.1. Purpose of the Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restrictions
1.2. Project Background
2. Legal and Policy Framework for Access Restrictions
2.1. Legal and Regulatory Framework
2.2 Project Access Restriction Policy
3. Institutional Arrangements for the Management of Access Restrictions
4. Stakeholder Engagement
5. Assessment of Impacts from Access Restrictions (SIA)
5.1. Participatory appraisal
5.2. Community groups affected by access restrictions
6. Mitigation of Impacts from Access Restrictions
6.1. Mitigation measures
6.2. Viability of livelihood restoration measures
6.7. Eligibility and Entitlements
6.8. Free, prior, and informed consent
7. Budget for Assessment and Mitigation of Access Restrictions
8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Arrangements
9. Schedule for the Preparation and Implementation of the AR Action Plan

Annex 4: Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

Objectives of the IPP

The GCF IP Operational Guidelines stipulate that the IPPF is a process that leads to the development of a site-specific IPPs for the project and is designed to complement the project ESMP . The IPP planning process commences as soon as the information on the exact nature, extent, and location of activities to be undertaken in the project areas is determined. The IPP will aim at fulfilling the needs, and preferred options of the affected indigenous peoples, address any potentially negative impacts and integrate the positive impact enhancing measures in the subproject design. It will also aim to improve existing capacities of the targeted IPs and their community to participate and benefit from project interventions.

Structure and key elements of the IPP

1. A description of IPs and their vulnerable groups to be affected by a sub-project, baseline socioeconomic information of the IPs measures to address their needs and concerns, and a summary of the proposed activities
2. Summary of the Social Assessment, findings describing impacts, risks and opportunities, including tenure arrangements
3. Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate negative impacts, and enhance positive impacts and opportunities;
4. Community-based natural resource management and governance institutions
5. Results of the free, prior and informed consultations with the IP communities, including a list of people and organizations that participated, a timetable, who was responsible for each activity

6. Details of participation and consultation process to be followed during implementation ensuring FPIC;
7. Gender analysis and action plan with due reference to the Project's GAAP
8. How adverse impacts will be avoided, minimized, mitigated or/and compensated through an agreed upon entitlement matrix
9. How culturally appropriate benefits will be shared with affected IPs communities within an agreed timeframe (benefit sharing plan)
10. A budget estimate, as well as timetables and organizational responsibilities;
11. Culturally appropriate grievance redress mechanism at PMU and the local level;
12. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms; and
13. A capacity building plan.

Steps for Preparation of an IPP

An IPP will be prepared for each landscape, with a possibility of developing district level IPPs in conjunction with FLR action plans where necessary. The level of detail in an IPP will be based on nature, scale and extent of impacts. It will be prepared following the FPIC Principles, with the aim to inform, engage and cultivate broad community support for the project. The level of detail at every stage of the IPP will depend on the specific sub- project and the nature of effects to be addressed. Information will be generated at two levels, a baseline survey, and social assessment as outlined hereafter.

a) **Baseline survey**

Participatory approaches will be used to determine the socio-economic baseline/appraisal of the IP communities through individual interviews and focus group discussion meetings. Information will be collected on their poverty levels, food security and nutrition status, land ownership status of forests, rangelands, and the recognition of women's rights, forest based productive activities (fuel wood collection and sale, charcoal production, shifting cultivation, collection for consumption and sale, and others), etc. Based on the outcomes of these meetings and discussions, the sites will be identified and agreements for the sub-project will be carried out for benefit of households/communities.

b) Social Assessment

The aim is to determine the social risks and impacts from implementation of the subproject and will include the following:

- A review of the legal and institutional framework applicable to Indigenous Peoples.
- Gather baseline information on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities, the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend.
- Identification of key project stakeholders and the elaboration of a culturally appropriate process for consulting with the Indigenous People at each stage of project preparation and implementation.
- An assessment, in consultation with the affected persons and based on free, prior, and informed consultation, of the potential adverse and positive effects of the project. Further assess the relative vulnerability of, and risks to, the affected IPs communities given their distinct circumstances and customary ties to land and natural resources.
- The identification and evaluation of measures necessary to avoid/mitigate adverse effects, and to ensure that the IPs receive culturally appropriate benefits under the project.

- Full engagement and coordination at all levels of community institutions in all sub-project stages. IP leaders/IP-selected representatives or community organizations will be formed for the participatory situational analysis activities (Step á' above).

Consultation Principles

Consultations with IPs will be required throughout the sub-project design to implementation and the Free prior and informed consultation is required of the GCF IP Policy and IUCN ESMS Standard on IPs. Implementing the FPIC principles in the consultation process helps to promote effective design of the sub-projects, ensure local buy-in and ownership, and reduces the risk of project-related delays or controversies. The 3 main elements of the principle - free, prior, and informed – are defined is as follows:

- **Free**: consultation should be free of coercion, corruption, interference and external pressures. IPs should have the opportunity to participate regardless of gender, age or socio-economic class.
- **Prior:** the consultation should be during the design phase and prior to the execution of any sub-project activities that would impact them. Times of engagement should therefore be established in advance, including the dissemination of relevant material.
- **Informed:** Dissemination of information during consultations should be timely, sufficient and accessible, and should cover the potential impact of the project, both positive and adverse.

Consultations at site level

Key considerations for the consultations include;

- **Respect and adherence to the IPs' tradition:** The traditional governance system, culture, and norms play and important role in the IPs community, and developing the IPP is not an exception. The IPs tradition demands that they commune and generate consensus on all they intend to do, and the Elders play their subscribed role of mediation and facilitating the community engagements. FPIC implementation is critical at this stage of the planning process, and prior consultation should be made to ensure the Elders are informed of the planned process and anticipated outputs from the planning exercise. The use of the clan structures in identifying the persons to engage, and facilitating linkages with the LG structures is important in this process to ensure that they are aware and informed of the process. Open communication and transparency is critical for the IPs engagement process. The PIU and Implementing Partners for the respective activities shall take a lead on this.
- **Selection of sites based on well defined needs of the IPs**. Clustering the IPs during the planning process, based on the most pressing problems in the community is recommended to ensure that only the most affected are targeted, and these jointly participate in defining the solutions required to address the problems.
- **Targeted inclusion of most vulnerable segments of community**. Targeted mobilization and inclusion is recommended, working through their most favored structures such as the clans, churches, youth cohorts, women's groups, etc. The project implementing partners at the community level are well placed to advance the proposed approach.

Consultations at sites

Consultation during implementation of the activities are essential, and it is important that such opportunities to consult and engage with IPs on issues of interest to them should be explored and

undertaken. Consultation for instance with Council of Elders and Councils of Women on their role in conservation may be required to enhance the symbiotic relationship of the IPs with nature. This is also an opportunity to integrate the IPs in the decisions and activities pertaining to restoration and thence provide a clear role to traditional institutions to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of the ecosystem from which they derive a range of benefits.

During the project design stage, extensive consultations were undertaken.

Several Indigenous Peoples' Organizations, as well as communities and groups were consulted and engaged during the project design phase, particularly during the environmental and social impact assessment. These communities were from villages in all the three landscapes. A total of four rounds of consultations with two at the national level and two at the ground level were held. A representative list is below, while the full list and details of engagement have been documented in the SEP. CEFDHAC (Represent forest people and protect their rights in discussions and dialogue regarding forest governance, sustainable management of forests, benefit sharing, and general interests of local forest communities. Important in developing and implementing Safeguard instruments.); Indigenous People REDD+ Platform; Traditional rulers; ASBABUK(Baka IP association); Gbabandi platform (for Baka and Bagyeli), OKANI (local IP NGO); MBOSCUDA (Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association). Continued engagement with these organizations as well as others identified during site selection is foreseen, with the first consultations planned during the inception phase, with recurring meetings every quarter, or as needed. Specific meetings for FPIC will be held as required, depending on the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples' Standard and as foreseen in the IPPF.

Capacity Building

Training will be organized for the PMU staff and partners, including district local governments. The training sessions could be structured based on the specific training needs of the participants, and where required the local language will be adopted to ensure clarity of the main concepts in the training.

The intended training objectives is to;

a. Increase awareness and understanding of the IUCN-GCF project, roles and responsibilities and expected outputs.
b. Increase understanding of the GCF-IUCN project planning cycle, and the interconnectedness between the ESMS and the IFFP that leads to developing the IPPs.
c. Provide knowledge and skills on the approach and tools used for screening and identify sub-projects .
d. Train on the Grievance Redress mechanisms (internal and external).
e. Training on the skills and approaches required to develop IPPs, including the core consultation principles such as the FPIC.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IPPF

Roles and responsibilities

The IPPF will be implemented under the project implementation arrangements. The PMU will lead the process of developing the IPPs, working closely with the implementing partners and service providers outlined in the Project Proposal document.

The IPPF programming cycle will include the identification of the project sites and preparation of the IPPs, through to monitoring and evaluation.

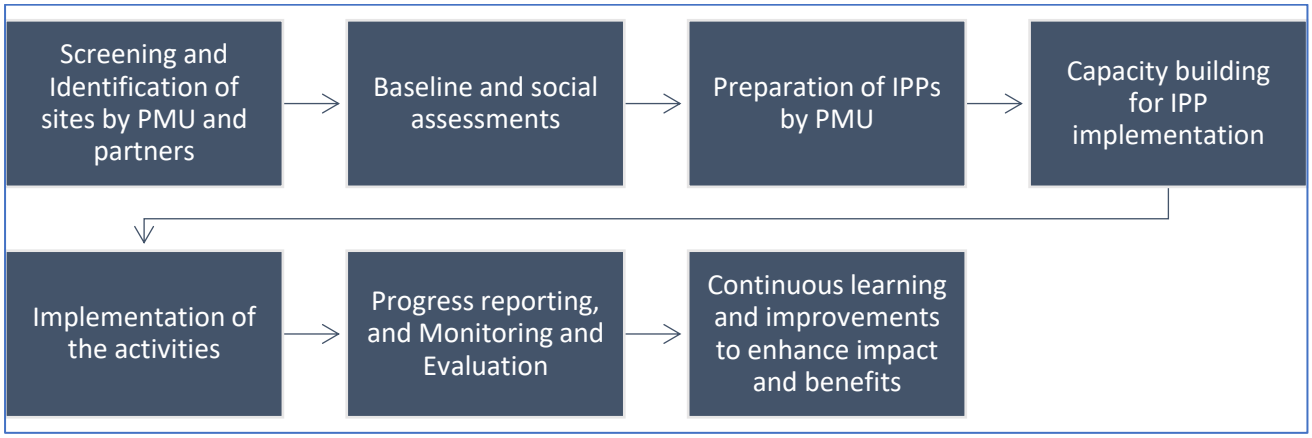


Figure 7-1: IPPF Programming Cycle

Annex 5: Procedures for accidental discovery of cultural resources (Chance find)

If cultural resources are discovered during project implementation (e.g., when undertaking civil works), the agency responsible for the work that has resulted in the find (e.g., the executing entity, executing partner or contractor) is obliged to declare the discovery at the earliest possible date to IUCN and the competent national authority.

If there is a legally established procedure for accidental discoveries (e.g., of archaeological objects or remains) in the country where the project is implemented, that procedure will be followed, without prejudice to compliance with this standard. If there is no such procedure, it will be the responsibility of the executing entity to prepare a specific 'chance find' procedure that must contain the following elements:

- a clear identification of roles and responsibilities;
- procurement of the services of a qualified entity, expert or group of experts to assess the cultural significance and conservation requirements of the find;
- a temporary suspension of the work, for up to one month, to allow this assessment to take place;
- protection and security for the resource and/or the site during the assessment to prevent looting or other loss;
- consultation of relevant local, national and international actors in the conduct of this assessment;
- a system for keeping appropriate records and ensuring expert verification of the process;
- the public release, in a culturally appropriate format, of the results of the assessment;
- the implementation of the protection or mitigation measures recommended by the assessment, when applicable, including alternative siting;
- the inclusion of this procedure in the project implementation plan, as part of the ESMP.

Annex 6: National Laws and Regulations in Cameroon Relevant to the Project

No.	Type	Year	Law/Regulation	Content
The Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon				
1	Law	1996	Constitution of the Republic of Cameroon	Ordains that the protection of the environment including forests shall be the duty of every citizen
Conservation of Biodiversity				
2	Law	2010	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)	Promote Cameroonian timber products, and improve the country's competitiveness in the international marketplace. The VPA also considered strengthening the capacity of Cameroonian forest stakeholders and encourage investment in sustainable management of forests
3	Law	1994	1994 Forestry Law	The law divided forest into permanent and non-permanent forest with the goal of promoting sustainable forest management
7	Law	1995	Decree No. 95/531/PM of 23 August 1995	Laid down the procedures for implementing the Forests System. It defines the different forest sub classes and highlights nature and biodiversity protection. It provides clarity on the 2 forest domains and provides orientation on forest use, inventory, and operational arrangements.
8	Law	1995	Decree N° 95/678/PM of 18 December 1995	Establishes an indicative framework of land use in southern forest areas.
9	Law	1990	Law No. 5/1990	This law lays down provisions on conservation of living resources and their ecosystem through sustainable forest management
10	Law	2013	Law No. 18/2013	The law promotes the prevention and eradication of forest destruction in the country
Environmental Protection and Management				
11	Law	1996	The 1996 National Environmental Management Plan and the Environmental Management Framework Law	The overall objective of the Plan was to develop policies, strategies and actions for environmental protection and the rational management of resources to contribute to sustainable development with 5 priority areas: - Participatory land use management;

No.	Type	Year	Law/Regulation	Content
				- Sustainable management of natural resources; - Restoration of degraded land and improvement of soil fertility; - Capacity building; and - Concerted management of shared resources at the sub-regional level.
12	Law	2009	Law No. 32/2009	Provides a legal framework for the Protection and Management of Environment;
Ratification to International Conventions				
13	Law	1994	Law No. 5/1994	The law ratifies the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

ANNEX II

SAFEGUARDS-ENHANCED RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAPs	Project Affected People
PFAs	Protected Forest Areas
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
SG-ROAM	Safeguards-enhanced ROAM

9 INTRODUCTION

This document illustrates how the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology ('ROAM' hereafter) will be fortified with the integration of safeguards principles during its implementation as part of the project entitled "Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon" (hereafter referred to as "the Project"). This document sits within the project's broader Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and details measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate the impacts of restoration activities to be implemented through ROAM.

10 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The objective of the project is toNtransform land use and forest management practices in and around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) into climate-resilient, low-emission and economically viable systems that sustainably generate forest ecosystem goods and services for national and local economies, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen the climate change resilience of forest-dependent communities and ecosystems.

Outcomes

The project's expected outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1: Targeted PFAs are managed and restored using climate-smart sustainable forest management practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, increase carbon sequestration, and maintain forest ecosystem services.

Outcome 2: Forest product NTFP value chains are operational, competitive and low-emission, generating stable incomes for local communities while conserving forest resources.

Outcome 3: Stakeholders (communities, local governments, state services, private sector) have the technical, organizational and governance capacities to plan and adopt climate-resilient land-use practices in and around PFAs.

Outcome 4: A robust monitoring, governance and knowledge-driven partnership system guides public and private decisions, secures climate/REDD+ financing, and enables scaling up of resilient, low-emission and economically viable forest management models.

In order to achieve the project objectives, the proposed outcomes will focus on four principal components, namely :

Component 1. Climate-smart sustainable forest management (SFM) and land restoration practices effectively implemented in targeted forest landscapes
Component 2: Value chain development and transformation are operational
Component 3: Stakeholders' capacities are strengthened on climate-resilient land-use practices
Component 4: Strong project monitoring and knowledge-driven partnerships

11 OVERVIEW OF ROAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PROJECT SO FAR

ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology) was developed by IUCN and the World Resources Institute in 2014 to provide a flexible and affordable framework to rapidly identify and analyse forest landscape restoration (FLR) potential and locate specific areas of opportunity at a national or sub-national level.

(Ref: Annex 24 of this FP, See also: IUCN and WRI (2014). A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level. Working Paper (Road-test edition). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 125pp.)

Implementation of ROAM requires a systematic and rigorous assessment and quantification of restoration opportunities available in the target landscapes. The first step is to identify the main environmental challenges in the assessment area, and identify site-specific priorities and landscape intervention options available in the landscape. ROAM uses geospatial, economic, and rapid restoration diagnostic analyses to map, quantify, and assess the readiness of areas with opportunities for restoration.

Specifically, ROAM allows for:

1. Selecting the most appropriate and feasible types of restoration interventions in the assessment area
2. Identifying priority areas for restoration;
3. Quantifying the costs and benefits of each type of intervention;
4. Estimating the amount of additional carbon sequestered by these interventions;
5. Diagnosing success factors and identifying strategies for addressing key policy, legal, and institutional bottlenecks.
6. Analyzing financing and funding sources to carry out restoration in the evaluation area.

During the planning phase of the Project, ROAM was implemented in order to identify landscapes and areas of project intervention. This was considered as ROAM phase I, with a ROAM phase II planned during the project implementation phase. Specifically, ROAM I achieved the following objectives:

1. Identify feasible and best restoration interventions in the different landscapes;
2. Identify priority areas for restoration (including their spatial locations);
3. Assess potential costs and benefits, including carbon sequestration potential, associated with the interventions;
4. Identify stakeholders who need to be engaged;
5. Identify barriers to the adoption of restoration practices at the project sites.

As part of Output 1.2, intensive and localized scale ROAM phase II is planned to further narrow down the restoration opportunity locations and to ensure that the sites and locations identified in the previous phase are still suitable for restoration.

12 RATIONALE

The methodology of the ROAM planning framework presents a strong congruence with key procedural and substantive elements of the ESMS, most notably with the ESMS impact assessment procedure, key ESMS principles, to some extent with mitigation strategies.

With regard to the impact assessment procedures, the congruence can be best illustrated through the five-step ROAM process to be implemented at the district levels as illustrated in the following figure (steps A through E) :

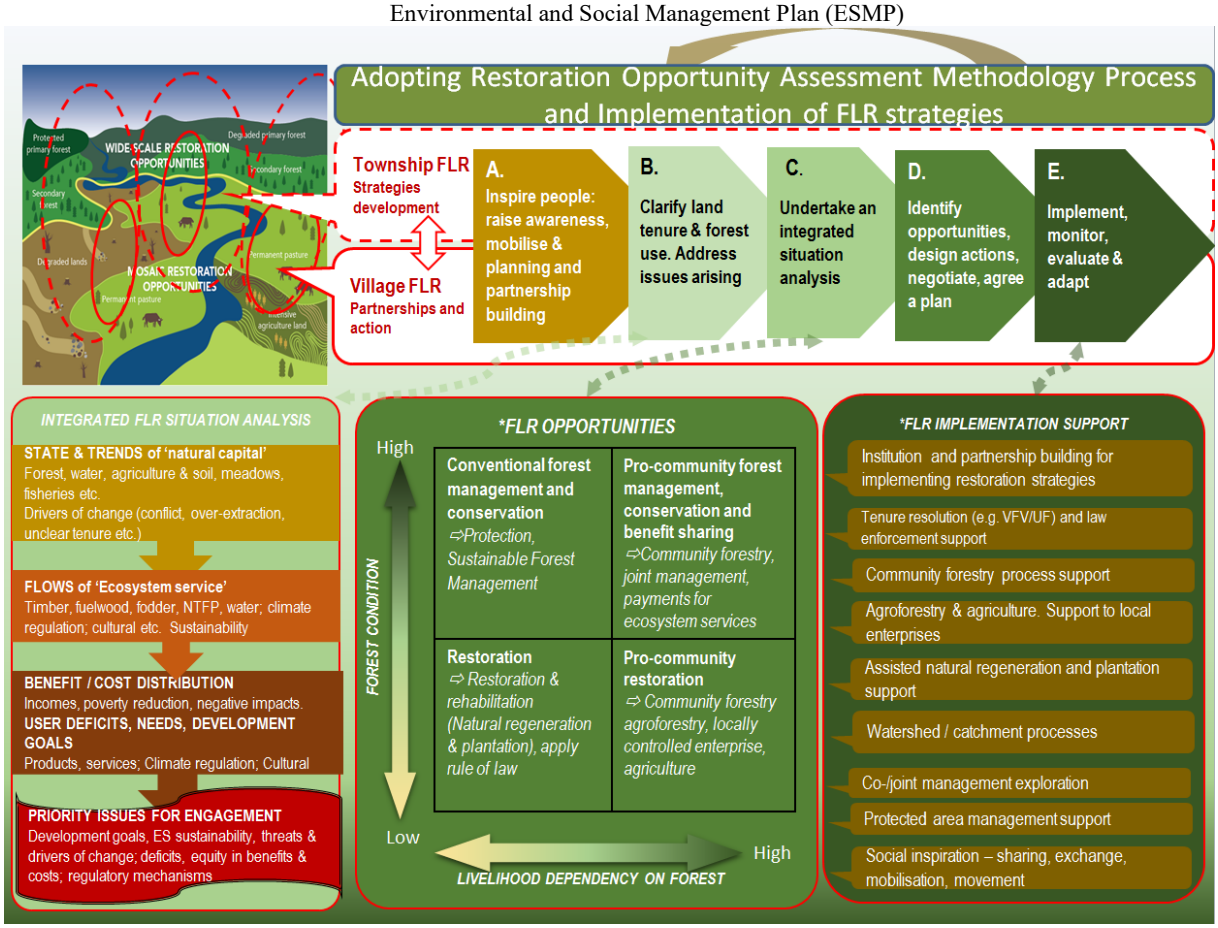


Figure 1: Theory of Change for landscape level interventions

A significant part of the analytical work carried out during these five steps is similar to what would be undertaken during a social impact assessment (SIA) as part of the ESMS review process. The steps that most strongly resemble the SIA process are the following:

- **Step B** - clarification of land tenure and forest use and addressing tenure and rights issues potentially raised by stakeholders;
- **Steps C** - integrated situation analysis: analysis of local interest and specific needs and opportunities of different social segments of the communities; identification of users' various (and possibly competing) needs for ecosystem services (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.);
- **Step D** - design actions, negotiate, agree on a plan: aims to ensure equitable sharing of costs and benefits and improve human well-being when agreeing and designing the suite of restoration interventions.

The correspondence between the procedural and analytical approach of the ROAM process applied by the project and the ESMS is most evident regarding the following ESMS principles: (i) stakeholder engagement, (ii) Free Prior and informed consent (FPIC), (iii) protecting the needs of vulnerable groups and (iv) gender equity and women empowerment, as described below:

- **Stakeholder engagement**: The ROAM process is designed as an inclusive and participatory process with the aim to bring relevant stakeholders together for jointly setting restoration goals and identifying and planning agreed restoration opportunities. For successful implementation of the ROAM process, workshops are planned at the district, and village level to kick off the process, inspire stakeholders to support the restoration efforts and integrate the FLR principles into the forest management plan, to identify local leaders and foster partnerships on community forest establishment and other forest management such as village firewood plantations, SME development and agroforestry and rural development;
- **Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)**: The philosophy of the ROAM process is based on the understanding that restoration opportunities and interventions are designed in a participatory way and agreed among all relevant stakeholders. While it is recognized that

land-use decisions quite often involve conflicting and competing demands, the process is conceptualized in such a way that if no agreement is reached the interventions would not go ahead.

- **Principle on protecting the rights and needs of vulnerable groups**: The ROAM process and FLR interventions are intended to help rural communities work in a more cooperative manner to benefit from improved flows of needed ecosystem services that result from landscape restoration; efforts will be focused on vulnerable sectors of society to ensure they benefit directly from project activities.
- **Principle on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**: The ROAM process includes an assessment of benefits and costs of ecosystem flows to the different social groups (including gender-disaggregated information on incomes, poverty levels, negative impacts, equity) as part of the situation analysis. The project document further sets out that decisions about the FLR intervention should explicitly prioritize those that reflect women's needs.

While the above section has shown that the ROAM process that will be implemented by the Project already reflects main ESMS elements, further enhancements are necessary in order to ensure full compliance with the ESMS. These enhancements include:

- Formulating provisions for the five-step ROAM process to be implemented at the district levels based on the ESMS principles and considerations from the ESMS Standards.
- Adding guidance to the E&S risk and impact assessment process including the following topics: security and conflict, vulnerable groups, invasive species, food security
- Adding guidance for the development of market value chains and for other project activities aiming to promote livelihoods alternatives
- Adding a simplified ESMS procedure for identifying and managing environmental and social risks of the selected restoration interventions.

Additionally, while ROAM assesses the ecological and economic feasibility of potential sites for restoration, there are several social, environmental and political considerations that are critical for successful restoration. The Project proposes to fortify the ROAM process by integrating these safeguard considerations into the ROAM activities to ensure that these matters are considered at a localized level, that the opportunity assessment accounts for fast-changing social and political dynamics, and to avoid stakeholder fatigue and repetition of effort. This document describes the safeguard-enhanced ROAM process.

13 ESMS Enhancements of the ROAM Process

As described in chapter 4 ROAM involves a systematic assessment and quantification of restoration opportunities available in the target landscapes and the following are some criteria and indicators used for selection of opportunity areas in the ROAM process:

Focus of assessment	Examples of criteria	Examples of indicators
Need for FLR	Soil degradation	Susceptibility to erosion
	Disturbance and deforestation	Primary and secondary vegetation; historical land cover
	Flood risk	Major flood areas during last 50 years
	Topography	Slope > 8.5° (15%) i.e. > a moderate slope
Type and potential of appropriate FLR interventions	FLR potential	Presence and location of any ongoing or completed restoration initiatives
	FLR type	Categories of restoration interventions already implemented
	Appropriateness of different FLR interventions	Assessment of success of previous restoration initiatives
Scope and availability of land for FLR	Competing interests for land	Sectoral strategies/plans (e.g. industrial or agri-business development)
	Land cover/land use constraints	Roads, railways, settlement areas, rocky outcrops, etc.
	Social availability	Presence of well-functioning community conservation areas, community-managed forests
Economic costs and benefits of FLR interventions	Costs of FLR interventions	Estimated costs of existing FLR interventions in the area
	Improved local livelihoods	Market for non-timber forest products; estimated productivity and profitability of timber production
	Improved productivity	Estimated productivity gains from agro-forestry; estimated fisheries productivity gains from restored mangroves
	Improved connectivity of protected areas	Distance between existing protected areas; potential for strategic reforestation to connect existing protected areas
	Carbon sequestration	Estimated carbon sequestration achieved by different restoration interventions, from global or national studies
Legal, institutional, policy and financial limitations/ opportunities	Government policies and laws	Government policy papers and strategies on land use, conservation, restoration, etc. Land tenure regimes (formal and customary) in operation
	Institutional arrangements	Financial rates of return from previous restoration initiatives
	Financial conditions	Funding sources used for previous restoration initiatives

Figure 2: ROAM opportunity assessment criteria. Source: 2014-030.pdf

To the above criteria, the safeguard-enhanced ROAM process adds the following criteria for guiding the selection of opportunity areas, as well as proposed conditions where relevant. The integrated situation analysis should be used to gather data on the below criteria to assess suitability for restoration.

Table 1: Additional considerations for selection of opportunity areas for safeguard-enhanced ROAM

Focus of assessment	Examples of criteria	Description	Conditions guiding selection
Social considerations	Land ownership	Ownership of land: whether owned by the state, private individuals or community	For each opportunity area, assess who owns the land. If the land is publicly owned, assess whether permissions provided

			by MINFOF for the use of public land are sufficient to proceed. Where land is owned by a municipality or community, hold consultations to determine whether the land may be available for restoration, and under what terms. Restoration can only proceed when clear consent is provided. Legal due diligence may be necessary to ensure that adequate permissions have been provided. Restoration on private land such as through agroforestry will be based on beneficiary selection criteria.
	Conflict over land tenure	Overlapping claims to land tenure	If possible, attempt to establish clarification, but solving complex issues may not be within scope of the project. Prioritize land parcels with clear tenure. Project activity 1.1.4 on creating multi stakeholder platforms for strengthening dialogue may support the resolution of conflicts. Ensure that project activities do not weaken existing land rights and social cohesion.
	Land use, access and potential risks from restrictions	Who uses the land and for what, how will their access be impacted by restoration, for how long and will restoration restrict their access and livelihood?	As part of situation analysis, assess which communities are currently using the land, irrespective of legality of use. Is the use seasonal, temporary or permanent? What are the activities for which land is being used e.g. grazing, agriculture, habitation, NTFP collection, leisure, pastoralism? Do communities consent to the restoration opportunity? Sites should be ranked based on impact of access restrictions, with low impact sites prioritized for restoration. The existence of livelihood risks from access restrictions should not necessarily be considered a factor for avoiding a site provided mitigation measures acceptable to the community are provided. However, if such risks are identified, impacts need to be assessed (high or moderate) and compared to the conservation objective. Develop a localized access restriction mitigation plan.

	Indigenous peoples	Presence of Indigenous peoples at identified sites, Use of sites by Indigenous groups, Impact of activities on Indigenous groups even if not present at the site or currently using it	The presence of IP should not be considered a reason for rejecting a site. On the contrary, the Project should seek to provide benefits to IP. However, specific requirements need to be observed for the SIA process and FPIC must be requested as described below.
	Presence of cultural sites	Do identified areas overlap with sites of cultural or religious importance e.g. the presence of sacred groves, burial sites, certain species/trees of spiritual value, sacred rivers or waterbodies?	If such sites are identified, engage with communities to understand implications of restoration. Exclude such sites if the community considers this as inviolate sacred sites. In some cases, e.g. where access is prohibited, alternate sites may be required. In some cases, communities may prefer to choose restoration species and activities themselves, as well as timing such as to coincide with festivals/periods of worship. Note that access to cultural sites should not be limited by restoration activities, measures must be taken to set aside pathways/trails.
	FPIC	The project will use Cameroon's national FPIC guidelines but ensure that IUCN's ESMS policy is respected i.e. the most stringent policy applies	Detailed considerations are listed below. Sites for which FPIC cannot be established must be excluded.
	Gender considerations	Assess whether access restrictions have disproportionately high negative impacts on women. To improve gender responsiveness of the selection process, follow selection criteria formulated in the GAP (women in leadership role community forest etc). For each of the indicators, consider specific impacts on women, particularly access restrictions	Where AR impacts are very high for women, alternate sites may be chosen. In some cases, impacts could be mitigated by providing access to council or community forests for resource collection or firewood gathering. In some cases, such as restoration of council forests or planting with NTFP species, there may be high benefits for women. Such sites should be prioritized where possible. Gender Action Plan at project level can be used as a guide and tailored to each site.
	Vulnerable groups	In each site, identify vulnerable groups e.g. women, girls, landless, historically marginalized, pastoralists and the	Sites with high density of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries should be preferentially selected. Conversely, sites with disproportionately high adverse

		impact of restoration activities on them.	impacts on vulnerable groups should be deprioritized. In the SEP, ensure that vulnerable groups are included as stakeholders and that they are consulted, that there is no interference or pressure in these consultations, and their needs are not curtailed; assess risks of restoration opportunity affecting their livelihood (covered above under the criterion "access restrictions" but also consider other impacts, e.g. food security)
Environmental considerations	Current use of area by other species	Assess use of the opportunity area by wildlife e.g. ground nesting birds in degraded savannas, arboreal species, seasonal use by migratory species	Where there is a dependence of the opportunity area by species, particularly at risk species or during nesting or denning seasons, deprioritize the site or consider alternates. For example: Ensure inclusion of local knowledge. Adjust timing of restoration to accommodate species where possible e.g. nesting, denning or migration. Where endemic or rare species are present, alternate sites may need to be chosen. Also consider use of restoration sites as access routes by wildlife such as to water bodies. In such cases, even though the site may be 'degraded', it still serves an ecological function and the benefits of 'no action' may outweigh the disturbance caused by restoration.
	Ecological baseline	Assess the baseline (how far back in time, as well as species) to which restoration is to be carried out. This can be done using satellite imagery as well as inclusion of local knowledge.	Where ecological baselines are not clear, one must err on the side of caution. Such sites may be ranked lower until more data is available. Sites with clear restoration need and degradation justification (more recent degradation) could be preferred. There may be social and political considerations for choosing tree plantations even in areas where the ecological baseline indicates otherwise due to potential economic benefits or for increased carbon sequestration. Ensure that appropriate justification is provided or management measures are in place.

External risks	Pre-existing societal conflicts	Pre-existing societal conflicts over land tenure or use, conflicts between state and traditional tenure systems, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, etc	The existence of conflicts in a site could be a serious threat to successful implementation as the project might aggravate the conflicts further. As such an in-depth analysis is needed and weighing against the conservation objective. If site is selected, the site-specific ESMP should include mitigation measures to ensure that rights of all parties, particularly vulnerable groups are upheld, attempt to use the restoration activities as a means to bring about social cohesion, ensure robust and tailored grievance mechanisms and ombudspersons for conflict resolution. Ensure project activities do not worsen conflicts
	Security and safety risks due to conflict, fragility and violence	Security and safety risks could occur when operating in areas of fragility, conflict or post-conflict (civil war, inter-ethnic conflict etc) areas affected by organized crime or violence	The existence of security risks is a serious threat to successful implementation and pose safety risks to project staff and local porject stakeholders. Sites need to be assessed on security and safety risks; sites that present high security risks will not be selected. If a site is selected that presents low or moderate risks, the site-specific ESMP will include mitigation measures. Further guidance is in Annex 22E on Conflict sensitivity.

13.1 Specific provisions for the five-step ROAM process

The ROAM planning process at the local level will involve five distinct steps. The ESMS enhancement of each of the distinct steps is delineated below.

Step 1 - Inspiring people: raising awareness, mobilizing communities and stakeholders to participate

In this step it will be critical to ensure that the selection and invitation of the participants for the district- and village-level workshops and the project's larger stakeholder engagement strategy will be based on an inclusive and in-depth stakeholder analysis undertaken in each site. As such it will be ensured that not only stakeholder groups from government, private sector and civil society (including community stakeholders, NGOs and CSOs) are identified that actively articulate their stake in forest restoration, but that also groups are recognized whose interests and livelihoods might be impacted (positively or negatively) by the forest restoration and management approaches promoted by the project. The latter also include stakeholders whose ability to articulate their needs and interests is less pronounced and who may have generally less access, power and influence on land use decisions processes.

For engaging community stakeholders a balanced ratio of men and women will be sought as well as balanced representation of stakeholder groups concerning other criteria (e.g. ethnic groups, different age, status/class etc.). As part of the stakeholder and situation analyses conducted in each area at the onset of the Project, the team will hold a preliminary meeting with the respective Pilot Area Advisory Boards (ABs) to request their advice on developing the stakeholder engagement methodology in each area, including identification of legitimate representatives of each group.

The engagement strategy should respect IUCN policy reflected in the ESMS Principle on Stakeholder Engagement and the ESMS Principle of Protecting the Needs of Vulnerable Peoples as well as provisions of the Indigenous People Standard. Engaging these groups in the project will not only ensure that their needs and concerns are taken appropriately into consideration when designing FLR plans but their engagement will also contribute to their empowerment.

The project team will design the workshops and other consultation activities in a culturally appropriate, non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive manner, free of external manipulation, intimidation or coercion. Information relevant to stakeholders will be shared in a timely manner in appropriate language and channels of communication. In village meetings, pro-active involvement of stakeholders will be institutionalized by a priori orientation on what the meeting is about. The meeting facilitators ensure that time and location are suitable for all stakeholder groups, in particular for ethnic groups, women and elderly. Wherever required the team will set-up separate meetings for ethnic communities and/or women in order to ensure appropriate levels of participation in the discussion or to accommodate schedules and obligations.

Meetings and their participatory methods need to be documented with minutes, describing topics discussed, concerns raised and potential disagreement, together with names/occupation of participants (but participants not obligated to provide names) and photography or video, where appropriate. Stakeholder consultation will also include other forms of engagement such as interviews with stakeholder or stakeholder groups, results of which should also to be documented.

Step 2 – Clarifying use rights

Before any FLR interventions can be contemplated, it is important to clarify the relevant tenure situation and use rights disaggregated by relevant groups. This will involve working with local people to ensure that a good understanding of land, forest, and tree use rights and their actual implementation is developed. While recognizing statutory rights it is critical that also customary rights are well understood and respected when designing FLR interventions. Through this process claims or grievances related to land issues may be identified, recognized and where possible managed. This relates in particular to ethnic communities as they might have experienced negative impacts from land-use decisions including violations of their rights The involvement of different government departments is important in order to ensure that local policy, legal, and administrative frameworks related to land rights and forest management as well as expected changes are taken appropriately into account.

When analysing land tenure and forest use and dependency on resources at the site-level it will be important to work with local people towards a shared understanding of present and future land tenure, ownership and rights and correlate this with state land classification and options for establishing community rights. While recognizing statutory rights it is critical that also customary rights are well understood and respected when designing FLR interventions. It is further important to shed light on the actual implementation of land rights in the specific project sites and on potential challenges or conflicts that may have occurred in the past.

IMPORTANT: The project activities should not weaken existing land tenure or use rights under any circumstances. Examples include through demands for giving up of rights in exchange for benefits, access restrictions, etc. Please see the chapter on land tenure below.

Step 3 – Undertaking a comprehensive, integrated situation analysis

The purpose of the situation analysis is to assess each of the selected pilot sites on its bio-physical and socio-economic conditions and on local communities' dependence on ecosystem services; as such it will lay the foundation for the identification of the priority issues for FLR engagement.

The ESMS enhancement of ROAM requires that elements of an E&S risk assessment are included in this step. Therefore, the terminology is changed to situation/risk analysis. The situation analysis will be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding. These steps should describe and analyse the following:

- Key demographic and socio-cultural features of the project sites including current and emerging social differentiation (based on ethnicity, language, class/status etc.), social organization and importance of family and kinship ties in the communities;
- Identification of vulnerable groups
- Economic and social trends and challenges, disaggregated by social groups.
-

Since each community is different, it is critical to determine social groups in each project site and ensure an appropriate understanding of the development needs and dependencies on ecosystem services of the different groups, in particular of vulnerable members of the community. The consideration of vulnerable groups will include ethnic minorities, people who are landless or displaced, laid-off workers, elderly or disabled, children and groups that are impoverished, marginalised or discriminated against.

Migrant herders may or may not be considered ethnic minorities, depending on their location. The situation analysis should provide a comprehensive overview of the minority groups who inhabit or use the opportunity site, describe their language and levels of literacy and their use of land, land-use practices and means of livelihood. The geographic location of their settlements should be mapped as well as the location of main economic or cultural activities (including sites and resources of cultural and religious significance). The analysis should further clarify gender differences within the respective ethnic groups (e.g. land use, rights etc.) and suggest measures for ensuring cultural and location specific appropriateness of the FLR interventions. It will also be essential to determine whether any of these groups qualify as "indigenous peoples" according to IUCN definition.

Local ethnic minority groups and in particular pastoralist groups are sometimes misunderstood and may be confronted with prejudices, sometimes exacerbated by inappropriate policies implemented in the past. These issues would need to be taken into consideration not only in the situation analysis but also in the wider engagement strategies and during the development of the FLR plans in order to project activities avoid aggravating conflicts or prejudices.

Data gathering and consultation with religious leaders, women and community leaders will ensure that relevant cultural conditions are understood and that sites with cultural and/or spiritual importance are located. The latter will be important to ensure that forest management regulation does not prevent access to sites; it might also be relevant when developing potential future tourism and other income generating activities.

The situation analysis should provide for understanding gender specific livelihood strategies, roles or norms and needs and barriers faced by different genders, differences in the dependency on ecosystem services and forest products as well as current roles in forest management - within the SFF and as users of the surrounding forest landscape. Such understanding will allow identifying the potential need for gender differential action when designing FLR plans to address a bias or disadvantage as well as to seek opportunities for empowering women and improving gender equality. This might include identifying opportunities for playing a more active role in forest management, increasing women's participation in decision-making and providing economic and social benefits through project activities (including access to resources, training, etc.).

When identifying potential FLR sites to be analysed the project team will ensure that not only forest areas where agricultural encroachments has happened in the past are mapped. Therefore, it will be important to map also natural, although degraded forest areas in need of restoration. This will allow

that community forest groups can be established in order to ensure the whole community can benefit from the project's FLR interventions.

The situation analysis will need to ensure that an appropriate understanding of the development needs and dependencies on ecosystem services of vulnerable groups is achieved. The consideration of vulnerable groups will include ethnic minorities, people who are landless or displaced, elderly or disabled, children, or groups that are impoverished, marginalised or discriminated against.

This step will further provide for a gender differentiated analysis to improve the understanding of constraints, needs, and barriers faced by different genders and women specifically, their dependency on ecosystem services and forest products in particular and their current role in forest management (e.g. are women included in forest user groups and their management committees). This will not only allow identifying specific risks faced by women but also ensure a gender differential treatment when designing FLR interventions to address a bias or disadvantage due to gender roles or norms.

The situation analysis should provide for understanding the ethnic composition of the respective villages. If the presence of indigenous groups has been confirmed, appropriate representation of these groups will be ensured during the workshops. The situation analysis should also clarify gender differences of the respective ethnic groups.

Access Restrictions

The Project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) identified a number of potential risks and impacts, as detailed in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Some of these risks and impacts are to be managed through modifications to the project design, as well as through a robust Grievance Mechanism, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and Gender Action Plan. However, the ESIA identified the potential for both voluntary and involuntary access restrictions, due to the nature of the restoration activities to be implemented both within Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) and adjacent to Permanent Forest Areas. Typically, a Process Framework would be required, for Protected Areas and involuntary access restrictions, or a Community Engagement and Planning Framework for voluntary access restrictions. However, considering that the project is to implement the ROAM tool on a site-by-site basis, which includes procedural planning elements similar to a Process Framework, and considering there is a high degree of variation in potential access restrictions and impacts between sites, instead the ROAM methodology has been enhanced to incorporate the key components of a Process Framework.

Food Security

It is noted that certain restoration activities may involve the use of commercially significant species. When such species are chosen for restoration in community forests or cropland, a balance between food security and economic gains must be established. For example, a popular species for restoration in this landscape, based on consultations, is cocoa. The project should ensure that even if communities choose to extensively plant cocoa trees, they have sufficient land, resources and labour available to ensure that food security of the community is not impacted. In some cases, where there is pressure from local governments or from communities to prioritize commercially significant species, this may involve assessments to calculate historical yields of commonly grown produce, food security requirements for the sub-district, prices of common food items and affordability in case of poor harvest or loss of crops, etc. Such assessments can then be used to justify the appropriate plan of action as well as for community engagement and knowledge sharing.

Indigenous Peoples and access to project benefits

Furthermore, in two project sites (Bamboutous and Ngoyla/Lobeke), there are Indigenous Peoples (Mbororo and Baka), who will also be both potentially affected, and are intended beneficiaries of the Project. While the ESIA did not identify potential negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, beyond the possibility of involuntary and voluntary access restrictions referred to above, there is a question as to whether the project activities will actually benefit Indigenous Peoples in each site. This is largely due to constraints in participation in formal committees and decision-making bodies, and due to some structural, social and livelihood issues such as lack of access to land, different livelihood activities, and the often non-adapted approach of Projects to working with Indigenous Peoples. As

such, this tool has been developed to ensure that the ROAM process, including the market and livelihood activity design process, engages appropriately with Indigenous Peoples in each site to ensure that both restoration and market-livelihood activities promoted by the project are based upon Indigenous Peoples' needs and realities. The ESIA report includes examples of the types of needs expressed by Indigenous People at the sites visited, and the types of restoration activities that will be most relevant. An IPPF template is as an Annex to the ESMP, which will be used to guide engagement with indigenous peoples, consultation processes, FPIC, documentation, impacts, etc.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Due to the presence of Indigenous Peoples, the project will be seeking the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The FPIC process will be aligned with Cameroon's national FPIC guidelines. Rather than establish a separate protocol and parallel process, the project has opted to integrate this FPIC process into the ROAM methodology, both to reduce transaction costs, as well as to ensure that the scope and relevance of FPIC is clear and based on project-supported activities. This plan includes a summary of how FPIC will be requested in this project. It is important to note that the most stringent FPIC requirements should be applied, with the IUCN FPIC requirements being the minimum.

Cultural heritage

The ESIA identified the potential for impacts on cultural heritage, mainly due to the existence of communities' cultural sites in and around the PFAs in the project area. While there does not appear to be potential for negative impacts, and in fact the project should support the maintenance of these sites, it was agreed that there would be site level identification of these areas during the project implementation.

Invasive species

The project proposes to use certain non-native species for restoration, ANR or agroforestry purposes. These species may be chosen due to economic considerations, or because they are fast-growing and can quickly sequester carbon. The use of species which may develop invasive tendencies may negatively impact the soil, other local plant species, be inedible to cattle, take over savannahs and cut off sunlight for grasses, etc. At each site, using the ROAM methodology as depicted in Table 1, each species must be assessed not just for potential of developing invasive characteristics but also for site suitability. Where a species is known to develop invasive characteristics, an alternative must be used as far as possible. Full justification for the continued use of the species, including a scenario-based impact assessment and a cost benefit analysis as well as a contingency plan for management must be provided to the ESMS officer of the project for approval before use of any such species.

Conflict and security assessment

In line with the conflict and fragility analysis, each potential site must be assessed for existing conflicts, as well as the possibility of volatile security situations. The process for such an assessment is described in Annex 22E. In order to optimize resources, a rapid assessment for each site should be conducted based on inputs from local teams from IUCN and MINFOF. If the risk is assessed to be moderate or high, more in-depth analyses will be required. In general, sites at high risk of conflict should be excluded or de-prioritized.

Market and value chain development and livelihoods enhancement/development

Lastly, as the project aims to improve the livelihood resilience of vulnerable communities around PFAs, and has a major component on 'development of market, value chain and livelihood activities' this safeguard-enhanced ROAM tool will ensure that the most vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable households, are included in the livelihood diagnostics and decision-making regarding potential interventions. It is well known and documented that many externally driven livelihood interventions fail, for example placing too much of an emphasis on locally available skills and products without considering market demand, or simply parachuting concepts and ideas to communities that are likely to fail from the outset/ do not account for local realities.

Step 4 – Co-develop FLR plans and develop mitigation strategies

The design of FLR interventions and introduction of social institutions to achieve sustainable management of the resources in areas where communities reside will be promoted in ways that lead to improved social benefits. There will be explicit rights-based and pro-poor approaches. Rights based: Community Forest and involvement in other activities will occur in the context of allocation of rights for local people. Facilitation will seek to specifically include marginalised individuals, especially women, and prioritise benefit allocation to them, and try to minimise and mitigate costs falling upon them. The project design proposes strengthening participation and social inclusion in forest governance, leading to an overall positive impact on communities.

In the decision-making process about the interventions it will be ensured that principles of FPIC are followed by obtaining consent of all relevant rights-holders whether these make up a smaller or larger segment of the local society.

Given international recognition that community-based rights for collective management of a forest provide greater protection for women's participation than individual rights, priority will be given to community-based FLR interventions. When defining the institutional setting for community forest management the project team should provide for specifying or promoting the role of women. This might require activities for building women's capacity or empowering them to actively participate in these institutions. In all the restoration investments for collective use, it should be ensured that the village will, prior to the investment, prepare its own internal rules for management and sharing of the benefits ensuring safeguarding of women's rights.

The social baseline data gathered as part of the situation analysis will be instrumental for the development of the FLR plans and to ensure that rights and livelihood context of the different social groups are respected, negative impacts are avoided and social benefits sought wherever possible and in line with the conservation objective. The development of the FLR plans is designed as a participatory process; following the provision described in the section on inspiring peoples (step 1) will ensure inclusiveness of this process.

It is evident that participation in the planning workshops will often be limited to the legitimate representatives elected by the communities at each project site. It is therefore essential that disclosure meetings will be organized at the community level to present the results of the workshops to a wider audience to inform them on the FLR plans and ensure their buy-in as well as feed-back on potential risks. Good practice rules for organizing and documenting community meetings are already described under step 1.

Step 5 – Implement FLR plan, review, revise and adapt

During implementation of the FLR plans it will be important that the Project team and government staff establish and maintain close relationships with the respective local communities and stakeholders in order to ensure ongoing social acceptance of FLR within the local community. Local stakeholders will be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the agreed FLR plans. Monitoring should also provide for checking on new environmental and social risks that might emerge during project implementation.

A project-level grievance mechanism will be established following the guidance provided by the generic IUCN ESMS grievance mechanism[54]. This generic mechanism will need to be adapted to reflect local customs and institutions; it will be described in the local language and communicated and disseminated in a culturally appropriate way to all relevant stakeholders, women and men, in the project's area of influence at the beginning of project implementation. To minimise grievances it will be essential that the project team and implementing partners are highly attuned to community concerns and provide for regular consultation during implementation.

[54] Available on IUCN website at www.iucn.org/esms

14 LAND RIGHTS IN CAMEROON

An understanding of the land tenure situation in Cameroon is critical in order to ensure that the project respects both legal and customary rights while being able to meet the restoration targets .

It must be noted that all project activities must respect both legal and customary tenure and use rights, and that the project does not in any way weaken existing tenure or use rights, including traditional or customary rights. This clause is also included in the exclusion principles of the project.

Land in Cameroon is divided into private state domain and national domain. Per the 1974 land law, all land in Cameroon belongs to the government, however, individual families have customary rights to exploit land, with some gazetting having been done.

Private state property/domain – Land under this category includes for example protected areas, forest logging concessions, etc. In the private state domain land is reserved for the state, and communities have no right to access that land for private activities.

National domain: All other land is classified as **national domain**. In the national domain communities can reside and have the right to exploit land, which are usually customary rights. Communities are allowed to carry out construction, agricultural activities, foraging, etc. They also have the right to request land title, which is possible only if they have been exploiting that land since before 1974, i.e. before the passing of the land law. All citizens who can prove that they inhabited and used the land before 1974 can formalize land title. They also have customary rights to continue exploiting the land. In situations where communities have inhabited the land only after 1974 or when they are unable to prove occupation and therefore do not have land title, the land remains under the national domain but communities have the right to exploit it. Once the claim on a piece of national domain land has been verified and approved, the land becomes private property and the government has no further claims to this land. When the land is classified as private property, it can be divided into smaller pieces for family succession or sold and sub titles can be given. This is applicable within the entire territory.

The carnet agroforestier is a notebook developed by the Ministry of forestry and wildlife to register NTFPs plantations which are established by farmers. This registration gives a legal recognition of private ownership of the NTFPs trees, thereby guaranteeing their legal exploitation in the future.
It does not have any implications for land rights but it may be used as proof of valorising land in the case of conflict.

The number of hectares targeted for (i) restoration is 165,941.2 ha and (ii) for sustainable management and conservation is 24,388.8 ha. Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) in Cameroon are estimated to cover 12.6 million ha
For the purposes of this project, the regimes covered by state law include intervention in permanent forests which will include actions taken in protected areas, zones of hunting interest, forest management units, and communal forests and community forests. The table below lists tenure considerations for each type of land to be restored through the project and the associated actions.

	Land-scape	Cropland	Degraded PA	Community Forest
Land tenure and use rights	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	Owned by state unless title has been given, but person exploiting has customary rights	Private state domain – no customary or use rights i.e. cannot obtain land title but ppl living within or around can use resources/NTFP. But depends on category of PA – NPs and strict reserves – no resource use or NTFP collection. For multi-purpose use e.g. forest mgmt unit or forest concession, ppl living within have the	Under national domain but has been attributed to community for mgmt. of resources. They have right to exploit resources both for commercial and subsistence but cannot obtain land title. Can restore as well. Land is managed by community, state has attributed to community for fixed duration e.g. 30 years

			right to go in and exploit resources for subsistence.	
Are rights formalized or is there any dispute on the land rights (e.g. formal vs customary land)?	Waza	When cropland encroaches into PA/other kinds of private state land, communities vs govt disputes have been recorded. Communities are often not happy with PA/State. Insufficient land to farm on, inter-community disputes relating to land exist. Consideration of buffer zone usage by communities. HWC. Encroachments into the WAZA PA. Croplands in buffer zone of PA. Encroachment for agriculture, firewood, livestock grazing and poaching.	PAs have natural borders in certain areas and are well demarcated. But still there is large scale encroachment. No walls/fences around the PAs so easy to encroach for agriculture, firewood, livestock grazing and poaching.	Dispute mostly in terms of mgmt. of resources. CF is managed by legal entity but often there is elite capture of these entities. Inter-community conflict, agricultural encroachment are common.
	Dja-Lobeke	Conflicts are less common than in Waza because of more extensive land available, so not much pressure. However, commercial agriculture (for rubber) around the buffers of the Dja forest reserve and agricultural expansion for cocoa production have been identified as the main encroachment of cropland within the Dja-Lobeke landscape.	Expansion of commercial agriculture, mining, infrastructure projects (like the Mékin dam), logging and poaching are the main causes of habitat loss of PA within the Dja-Lobeke landscape. These encroachment into the buffers of PAs and habitat loss impacts wildlife and threatens local communities' resources and water quality.	Dispute mostly in terms of mgmt. of resources. CF is managed by legal entity but often there is elite capture of these entities. Inter-community conflicts and agricultural encroachment are common. Artisanal mining in CFs is another issue.
	Western HL	Cropland expansion in Cameroon's Western Highlands is driven by population growth, urban demand, and infrastructural development, causing significant deforestation, landscape degradation, and intense land disputes, primarily between farmers and pastoralists (Bororo communities) over shrinking grazing lands, leading to conflicts over access, boundaries, and resources, despite efforts towards sustainable management.	Land disputes around protected areas in Cameroon's Western Highlands stem from population growth, agricultural expansion, and grazing, causing conflicts between farmers, herders (like Bororo), and conservation authorities over encroaching farmland, resource use (water, timber), crop damage from wildlife, and historical land dispossession. When cropland encroaches into PA/other kinds of private state land, communities vs govt disputes occur. Community often not happy with PA/State but not much they can do. Insufficient land to farm on. Also inter-community disputes. Consideration of buffer zone usage by communities.	Community forest rights often clash with state claims and large-scale development, leading to disputes due to weak implementation, lack of local awareness, overlapping allocations, and elite capture of benefits, marginalizing communities despite legal frameworks meant for participatory management.

How does the project identify actors who will do the restoration? all ROAM? E.g. is land rights/ownership a criterion for doing restoration	Waza/Dja-Lobeke/Western HL	Stakeholder mapping is conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in croplands will be conducted by farm owners and family.	Stakeholder mapping conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in PAs will be conducted by those managing the protected areas, with support from communities living around the PAs. Restoration will mostly be done in buffer zones where encroachments are more significant.	Stakeholder mapping is conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in community forests will be conducted by communities in charge of the management of the community forests.
What are the types of restoration activities that will take place?	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	Restoration may take the form of agroforestry where suitable and where communities are in favour. It could also include regenerative farming practices to restore soil, e.g. cover cropping. Farmers may be provided access to better quality seeds of native varieties as well as training	ROAM will determine the most suitable form of restoration depending on the site, the slope, existing species, extent of degradation. Restoration may involve planting saplings, set up of nurseries, ANR or weed removal	This would depend on the interests of the community, which will be assessed through extensive stakeholder engagement. Restoration activities may involve agroforestry, training on sustainable NTFP harvesting, etc. Monocultures are to be avoided.
What is the capacity of the lead entity (or actors) to guide the ROAM process and the restoration process?	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	IUCN staff will guide ROAM	IUCN staff will guide ROAM	IUCN staff will guide ROAM
How will these restoration targets be met?	Waza	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands and establishment of NTFPs plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the Pas.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
	Dja-Lobeke	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands (especially cocoa farming) and establishment of NTFPs plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the PAs.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast-growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
	Western HL	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands and establishment of NTFPs and fruits plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the PAs.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast-growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
How many beneficiaries do you expect to cover with this activity in each landscape?	Waza	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.
	Dja-Lobeke	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.
	Western HL	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.

Table 2: Site-wise land tenure considerations

15 VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Annex 22D includes a detailed vulnerability assessment for all three project landscapes. The ESIA identifies vulnerable groups and potential impacts of the project on them. The key principles are laid out below:
A more granular site-specific vulnerability assessment must be conducted as part of the social impact assessment. Depending on the site and local context, different groups may be vulnerable or marginalized. Such groups may include indigenous groups, women, elderly, young people, migrants, pastoralists, landless communities or families, displaced families, communities who have been historically dispossessed, victims of conflict, refugees, etc.

Identification of vulnerable groups: This step must be done before any on-ground activities can take place, and as part of the social impact assessment. Extensive stakeholder consultations at a sub-district level or group of villages is recommended to collect granular data.

Impacts on vulnerable groups: Once the vulnerable groups have been identified, they must be engaged to understand the reasons for their vulnerability. This will enable the identification of their needs, and potential impacts of project activities on such groups. It is important to disaggregate the groups and to not class all vulnerable groups as the same – each group may have different causes of vulnerability, and therefore have different needs and may be impacted in different ways by the project.

Plan for engaging vulnerable groups: Using the data gathered in the previous steps, the site-specific ESMP should include specific actions for:

i) Mitigating negative impacts of the project on vulnerable groups e.g. access restrictions
ii) Ensuring their inclusion in stakeholder engagement, if necessary providing specific meetings for each group separate from the mainstream
iii) Designing or re-designing project activities to ensure that all groups can access the benefits e.g. if vulnerable groups do not have access to community forests, what alternative benefits could they be provided?
iv) Ensuring that grievance mechanisms are inclusive and pay particular attention to access by vulnerable groups

16 APPROACH

As detailed above, the safeguard-adapted ROAM methodology will manage risks related to involuntary and voluntary access restrictions, while incorporating Indigenous Peoples, women and vulnerable groups into the decision-making on both a) restoration opportunities and planning, and b) market value chain and livelihood assessment and development.

In the Project preparatory phase, a preliminary ROAM (ROAM 1) was conducted. The Project plans to conduct a detailed and comprehensive ROAM (ROAM 2) during the Project inception phase. ROAM 2 will finalise the design of restoration activities in the project sites at the local level. It will allow for site-level identification of access restrictions, affected people, and impacts, and seek FPIC.

During the project preparation phase, the project identified sustainable livelihood activities (ROAM 1 phase). However, as further consultations are still needed, especially with women, vulnerable groups and Indigenous People, to define what these livelihood interventions will be, and the market assessments are to be completed, these activities will occur as part of ROAM 2.

ROAM 2 will be conducted at either the District or the Sub-District level (this will vary depending on the features of the site). Districts and Sub-Districts will be chosen in each site in order to pilot ROAM2, and then this will be scaled out accordingly.

17 SAFEGUARDS-ENHANCED ROAM OUTPUTS

The ROAM outputs are detailed in the IUCN ROAM methodology. In this safeguards-enhanced ROAM, the key output will be a safeguards-enhanced 'Sub-District Action Plan'. This Action Plan will contain the following sections:

- Justify the site selection by describing criteria used and the prioritization list.
- Include results of the integrated situation analysis.
- Clearly identify the restoration activities selected, the spatial extent of these planned activities, the level of the Sub-District or District;
- Incorporate the Access Restriction Mitigation Plan for sites where the Standard is triggered. Guidance in the form of a Process Framework is available as an Annex to the ESMP.
- Incorporate an Indigenous Peoples Plan for sites where the Standard is triggered. Guidance in the form of an IPPF is available as an Annex to the ESMP.
- Where a non-native species has been used, include justification for its use, measures if any for handling the development of invasive characteristics.
- Include proof of FPIC where relevant e.g. presence of indigenous peoples, access restrictions caused.
- Distinguish between those restoration activities, and those market – livelihood activities, promoted for women and for men.
- Clearly indicate the planned beneficiaries and selection criteria (eligibility criteria), plus components of the plan to be financed/ supported by the project, versus those where funding will need to be leveraged from District development plans or other sources.

It is to be noted that the Sub-District Action Plan should be reviewed and cleared by the Project ESMS Officer before ROAM implementation can begin.

18 FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

The Project will seek the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of both Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for all project activities, and particularly the restoration activities and the market and livelihood development activities.
In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007. UNDRIP 2007 recognizes FPIC as a right that should be respected by all powerful actors aiming to execute projects that would affect the settlements, livelihoods, and wellbeing of indigenous peoples.

In order, for FPIC to be fully legitimate, it must demonstrate that it is:

- **Free** = consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.
- **Prior** = consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities to allow time to understand, access, and analyze information on the proposed activity.
- **Informed** = information provided prior to seeking consent is accessible, objective, and complete.
- **Consensual** = a "Yes", "No", or "Yes with conditions" made by Indigenous People and Local Communities following their own timelines and decision-making processes with the option to

reconsider if the proposed activities change or if new information relevant to the proposed activities emerges.

FPIC aims to equalize the power differentials or asymmetries between Indigenous People and Local Communities and the powerful actors they engage with over access and control of natural resources. Powerful actors include governments, business, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), traditional leaders, wealthy landowners, and religious institutions. International Standards such as the IUCN Standard on Indigenous Peoples (IUCN 2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007), and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework55 (2017), require that Free Prior and Informed Consent be obtained in projects that will impact Indigenous People and Local Communities in the project landscape. This includes project interventions that takes place on the lands, waters, or territories of Indigenous People and Local Communities, or that may have negative economic, social, cultural or environmental impacts on their rights, resources or livelihoods.

Cameroon does not have any legislation on FPIC. However, the country has national guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) developed in 2014 that can be used during consultations in the different phases of the REDD+ process in the country. The guidelines include 10 guiding steps to undertake FPIC under the REDD+ process of Cameroon as well as 4 key guiding principles including : absence of force, pressure, unwanted obligation, manipulation and intimidation; provision of information regarding REDD+ activities sufficiently in advance; disclosure of the full information about the REDD+ activity; and community agrees or approves proposed REDD+ activity. The national FPIC guidelines document was elaborated through a national consultative process across the five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon, involving diverse stakeholders including but not limited civil society organizations, international organizations, relevant government ministries, local communities and the five indigenous peoples groups in Cameroon.

Integrating the FPIC process into ROAM

Table 1 illustrates the key steps to seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) based on the Cameroonian '*Operational Guidelines for Obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+ Initiatives*'. The safeguard-enhanced ROAM process will incorporate these steps into the participatory process, as illustrated in **Section 9** below).

[55] World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 7. Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (2017).

Table 1: Steps for seeking FPIC as per Cameroon's Operational FPIC Guidelines

Phase/ Step	Project implementation (ROAM2)
Phase 1 : Field preparations	
Step 1: Establishment of a technical team for FPIC implementation	> This will be achieved through the following: ✓ Clarifying the mission of the team and the role and responsibilities of each ROAM 2 team member, ✓ Identification of the criteria and skills for selecting team members, ✓ Determination of the size of the team, ✓ Clarification of the various modalities, practices and procedures to be employed during discussions and engagements with various communities and ✓ Identification of acceptable and legally binding options for recording decisions after consensus is reached with communities.
Step 2: Analysis of the Physical, Socio-Economic and Legal Context	This include the identification and analysis of the physical, socio-economic and legal context and is geared towards collecting information on the physical attributes and the social and economic conditions of the milieu or site where ROAM 2 will be implemented. These include socio-economic conditions, constraints and opportunities and existing informal institutions: customs, traditions, and religions.
Step 3: Development of an Information and Communication Strategy	The information and communication strategy will take into consideration both internal communication within the technical operational team and external communication with indigenous and local communities
Phase 2: Field Implementation	
Step 4: Taking Appointments	A facilitator will go to the project village or town to meet the communities and let them know that ROAM 2 team will like to have a discussion about ROAM2 with them and inquire of their availability to participate in the discussion. Important issues to be considered by the ROAM 2 team at this step includes; the availability of the community, the place, date and time of the meeting that are mutually acceptable to all village heads, the practical modalities for holding a meeting, materials and logistics needed.
Step 5: Information and Sensitization Meetings	This is vital in that it informs the community and discuss with them any issues concerning the project. At this stage, the project team will raise awareness among indigenous and local communities about the project activities, objectives and roles and responsibilities. This will also entail disclosing to the indigenous and local communities, the potential impacts (positive and negative) of the project as per the findings of the ESIA.
Step 6: Negotiating with Stakeholders	Once the community is clearly informed and has taken the time to analyze the information received, a date for the negotiation meeting will be fixed with the community. Negotiations are crucial to the process of developing a consensus and facilitators have a pivotal role to play in this process. Facilitators will have

	the capability of reframing the discussion on values, or needs (not negotiable) so as to focus them on the interests and negotiable positions. External facilitators or those assisting in the development of the ROAM 2 will be competent and neutral throughout the consent process. Negotiations will be geared at obtaining the consent of indigenous and local communities' for the implementation of restoration and other project activities in the project sites and this step will be integrated into, or align with step 6 to 9 of the ROAM 2 process as proposed in section 6 of this present document.
Step 7: Formalising Agreements Between Parties	This is only possible if the community gives their consent for the implementation of project activities. Formalization refers to the form by which the community give approval or "yes". This "yes" can be in a written form indicating their decision. According to their customs, the community will agree on the duration of the agreement and on how they will follow it up. The agreements between the project proponent and the indigenous and/or local communities will contain specific terms and conditions under which consent is given. This step will coincide with the elaboration of the forest landscape restoration plan (step 8 and 9 of ROAM 2 provided section 6 of this document) which will include inter alia activities, roles and responsibilities and timeline.
Step 8: Developing a Roadmap	Here, the steps to be followed will be defined by consensus. After an agreement has been established, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed and a road map developed by mutual agreement. This will align with the FLR action plan within the ROAM 2 process.
Phase 3: Monitoring and evaluation of the FPIC Process	
Step 9: Monitoring	Monitoring will be carried out in the course of the implementation of the restoration and other project activities. This stage of the FPIC process will be aimed at ensuring that each party actually proceeds or carry out their functions based on the agreement that was reached or established. The responsibilities of each party will be clearly spelled out and a monitoring body set up. This will align with the implementation of the FLR action plan (step 10) and verification and evaluation (step 11) of the ROAM 2 process.
Step 10: Verification and evaluation	At some point, after a few years of ROAM2 implementation, a neutral independent third-party organization with specialization in forest-community interactions will be contacted for independent verification of the FPIC process. The ROAM 2 team and the communities are therefore expected to agree on the standards applicable to the verification of the FPIC process. This clearly aligns with step 11 of the ROAM 2 process as presented in section 6 of this present document.

It is important to point out that the project preparation phase (concept note development and development of the full proposal) has covered phase 1- 5 presented in Table 1. As part of the elaboration of the funding proposal, two rounds of consultations were carried out during which constituted teams of experts consulted local and indigenous communities in the project sites. The consultation processes entailed the following: socio-economic and legal analysis; booking of appointments with targeted communities; and organization of information and sensitization meetings with local and indigenous communities. in Table 1.

FPIC considerations

FPIC Training and Capacity Building

There is a need to empower the local and indigenous communities in the envisaged project area so that they can obtain the necessary skills needed for them to effectively participate in the implementation and monitoring of ROAM 2. This includes their capacity to understand the functioning of the mechanism for conflict resolution so that they are able to follow the necessary proceedings as well as represent themselves effectively when need arises.

FPIC Rightsholders and Community Representatives

The key issue that emerged from consultations with communities as part of the project elaboration process was related to if indigenous communities will benefit from the project, due to constraints to engaging in and benefiting from restoration activities and proposed market/ livelihood activities. There was concern that project activities (restoration and livelihood) will not benefit from substantial input from IPs themselves, partly due to the additional efforts required by the project to work with IP communities, rendering activities ineffective. To address this issue, there will be clear consultation process with Indigenous Peoples for the development of the market/ livelihood interventions, to ensure that these are fit for purpose.

The key risk relating to the project is that women will be excluded in the decision-making process regarding the project since they still depend on men for their livelihood. Women are generally discriminated upon in the community. The project may restrict the use of land and forest assets by women. To address this issue, there should be women empowerment through capacity building on project objectives and activities and ensure that they participate actively in the project.

FPIC Principles

Principle 1: Absence of force, pressure, unwanted obligation, manipulation and intimidation

As per Cameroon's FPIC guidelines, project developers should allow communities to choose a convenient date and time for meetings. Communities will often require consultation meetings to take place in their chief's palace or in the home of a representative (focal point) of the community. The head of communities in consultation with elders choose a date, time and venue for meetings. Project developers should avoid organizing meetings during peak farming periods, market days, festive periods etc. Facilitator should find out if the community will refuse or accept to have external members who have no direct involvement in the proposed project to be part of negotiation meetings. Local communities should bring their criticism/suggestions without fear and their women should be able to express themselves in the course of a meeting.

Principle 2 : Provision of information regarding project activities sufficiently in advance

For indigenous and local communities, their chiefs or the focal person should be contacted. Appointment dates should be taken 1-2 weeks before hand for the Mbororos and Baka while for many other communities, it can be taken 1-4 weeks in advance. For urgent issues, appointments can be taken with some of these communities 3 days in advance. A facilitator needs to contact the chief or head of local and indigenous communities either by mail (letter), physically, by phone of through local NGOs. The subject and the objective(s) of the said

information must be spelled out to the chief. For the Bakas, the right holders must have been informed and are present before the information is passed across to the wider community and they will as well need to know all the stakeholders involved in the project.

Principle 3 : Disclosure of the full information about ROAM 2

Project developer should provide indigenous and local communities with detail information, if possible, in the form of documents on the project. The implementing entity should explain and help communities to understand the potential risks and benefits of the project at individual, household and community levels. For instance, the Mbororos will like to know the links between the project and their livestock and pasture land while the Bakas would like to know how the project will affect or change their forest and agriculture-based life style.

Principle 4: Community agrees or approves proposed project.

The project developer must first of all contact the chief or focal point of the community so as to take an appointment. As per consent for passing across information, the chief or head of the community contacts his elders, together they concert and arrive at a decision as to whether to give or withhold consent. . The same process is followed by the communities to give or withhold consent for the proposed project.

FPIC Documentation

Documentation will be done via an action plan that clearly explains the activities to be implemented in time and space, with the roles and responsibilities of everyone clearly spelled out. A roadmap and the mechanism for the resolution of conflict will be part of the MoU that will be signed with local communities and clearly documented.

19 SAFEGUARD ENHANCED ROAM PROCESS

Table 2: ROAM2, to be conducted at the Sub-District or District level

The ROAM2 safeguards-enhanced ROAM will include the following activities which are based on the ROAM framework. Details are provided in the table below.

1. Establishing and training a team for the assignment
2. Planning
3. Stakeholder/ Community Engagement or consultation (with indigenous and local communities and women's groups)
4. Integrated Situational analysis
5. Mapping, planning & impact assessment
6. Market/ value chain and livelihood assessments
7. Livelihood feasibility studies, trials, and entitlements
8. Co-development of FLR plans
9. Sub-District Action Plan/ FLR plan
10. Implementation of Action Plan/FLR plan
11. Verification and evaluation

ID	Activity	Description
1	Establishing and training a team	Pg.33 ROAM; FPIC Step 1. This will entail Clarifying the mission of the team and the role and responsibilities of each ROAM 2 member. Identification of the criteria and skills for selecting team members, Determination of the size of the team, Clarification of the various modalities, practices and procedures to be employed during discussions and engagements with various communities and Identification of acceptable and legally binding options for recording decisions after consensus is reached with communities.
2	Planning	FPIC Step 3 – development of info strategy/comms; developing the ROAM methodology to be applied at Sub-District or District level; preparing relevant materials, maps, etc; stakeholder identification Planning for stakeholder engagement, pg. 47 ROAM
3	Stakeholder/ Community Engagement	Initial consultations ; Step 4 & 5 of FPIC (appointments and meetings). In addition, in this step, it will be critical to ensure an inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy for the local level and that appropriate participants are selected and invited for the local level workshops and other consultation events. The stakeholder analysis will be instrumental not only for deciding who to invite for the ROAM 2 planning events but also for pronouncing the wider stakeholder engagement strategy in each site. In this step it will also be essential to map the location of settlements of indigenous communities as well as activities in relation to the project area (including sites and resources of cultural and religious significance).

4	Situational analysis	The situation analysis should be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding and will cover biophysical topics such as state and trend of natural resources (forests, water, agriculture, soil, meadows, fishery etc.) as well as drivers and pressures of environmental change, current flow and trend of ecosystem services (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.).
5	Mapping, planning & impact assessment	During implementation of the ROAM 2 plans and the livelihood strategies, it will be important that the project team and its partners establish plan and maintain close relationship with the respective local communities and stakeholders in order to ensure ongoing social acceptance of ROAM 2 within the local community. There will be separate consultations with men, women, indigenous peoples.
6	Market/ value chain and livelihood assessments	In parallel to 5, conducting assessments relevant to the district (some of these assessments could occur at site level). Livelihood assessment to work with men, women, LCs and Ips (also disaggregated for gender) will be carried out to identify options for improving livelihood resilience; focus on link to restoration activities/forest products to incentivise maintenance/ restoration of forest.
7	Livelihood feasibility studies, trials, and entitlements	Feasibility studies for selected options requiring this; start trials of other options as early as possible. Establishment of eligibility criteria for access to livelihood options; including who is affected by restoration activities in / adjacent to PFA;
8	Co-development of FLR plans	Participatory process; with different community stakeholders feeding in; Step 6 – FPIC – negotiating with stakeholders
9	Sub-District Action Plan/ FLR plan	As described above in the Section 7; Step 7& 8 FPIC – formalising agreement and developing roadmap ; plans to include detail on IP activities, LC activities, men and women's activities; and to be sufficiently detailed to be monitored and evaluated
10	Implementation of Action Plan/FLR plan	Step 9 FPIC - monitoring. Local stakeholders will be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the agreed ROAM2 plans. Monitoring should also provide for checking on new environmental and social risks that might emerge during project implementation.
11	Verification and evaluation	Step 10 FPIC – verifying the degree to which FLR plans have been implemented; quality of FPIC etc