Funding Proposal

FP312: Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon (SPEFOCE)

Cameroon | International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) | Decision B.46/04

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PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY				
A.1. Project or programme	Project	**A.2. Public or private sector**	Public	
A.3. Request for Proposals (RFP)	Not applicable			
A.4. Result area (s)				
			GCF contribution	**Co-financers' contribution[1]**
	Mitigation total		**67 %**	**44 %**
	☐ Energy generation and access			
	☐ Low-emission transport			
	☐ Buildings, cities, industries and appliances			
	☒ Forestry and land use		67 %	44 %
	Adaptation total		**33 %**	**56 %**
	☒ Most vulnerable people and communities		3%	25%
	☒ Health and well-being, and food and water security		21%	23%
	☐ Infrastructure and built environment			
	☒ Ecosystems and ecosystem services		9%	8 %
A.5. Expected mitigation outcome *(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)*	2,467,777 tCO_2e (avoided emissions: 1,589,313 tCO_2e; sequestration: 878,464 tCO_2e)	**A.6. Expected adaptation outcome** *(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)*	**1 544,584**	
			197,979	***1,346,605***
			Indicate 1 % of direct beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population	*Indicate 4. % of indirect beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population*
A.7. Total financing (GCF + co-finance[2])	46 045 635 USD	**A.9. Project size**	Small (Upto USD 50 million)	
A.8. Total GCF funding requested	29 740 699 USD			
A.10. Financial instrument(s) requested for the GCF funding	☒ Grant ☐ Loan Enter number ☐ Guarantee	☐ Equity Enter number ☐ Results-based payment Enter number		
A.11. Implementation period	*7 years*	**A.12. Total lifespan**	*20 years*	
A.13. Expected date of AE internal approval	*Q3 2026*	**A.14. ESS category**	**B**	
A.15. Has this FP been submitted as a CN before?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.16. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?**	Yes ☒ No ☐	
A.17. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?	Yes ☒ No ☐	**A.18. Is this FP included in the country programme?**	Yes ☒ No ☐	
A.19. Complementarity and coherence	Yes ☒ No ☐			
A.20. Executing Entity information	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)			

A.21. Executive summary

Cameroon has experienced significant forest cover loss, including in Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs), with a notable loss of 2.2 million hectares of tree cover from 2001-2024 (GFW, 2024), of which 47% in primary forests. This alarming trend threatens biodiversity, undermines ecosystem services, and exacerbates climate change, as forests in Cameroon play a critical role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. Deforestation and forest degradation are increasingly driven by the combined effects of climate variability including changing rainfall patterns and rising temperatures, and anthropogenic pressures such as agricultural expansion, illegal logging, population growth, and unsustainable harvesting of forest resources.

PFAs in Cameroon provide diverse ecosystem goods and services that are vital for economic development at national and local levels. They are carbon sinks, essential for enhancing the resilience of surrounding communities. Although the PFAs are designated for conservation, illegal logging and agricultural expansion continue to undermine these Protected Areas “PA”, intensifying the urgency for immediate intervention to preserve both the nation's ecosystems and the livelihoods of communities that depend on these forests. PFAs are under increasing threats of climate change; efforts to avoid and limit PFA degradation and restore them are constrained by financial, economic, ecological, political, social, and technical factors that interact at the national and local levels.

Cameroon is highly vulnerable to climate change, with observed increases in temperature (approximately +1.5°C since 1960) and increasing rainfall variability, including more frequent droughts in the north and intense precipitation events in the south[3,4]. These changes are projected to intensify, leading to reduced agricultural productivity, increased forest fire risk, and degradation of ecosystem services critical for livelihoods. Forest-dependent communities, particularly in and around PFAs, are disproportionately affected due to high reliance on climate-sensitive natural resources and limited adaptive capacity.

In this context, sustainable forest management and restoration are essential adaptation strategies, as they enhance water regulation, stabilize soils, buffer microclimates, and diversify climate-resilient livelihood options, thereby reducing vulnerability to climate shocks.

Proposed interventions

Thus, to keep Cameroon’s Permanent Forest Areas safe, and at the same time to enhance socioeconomic and climate resilience of surrounding communities in the short, medium, and long-term, the SPEFOCE project will address the governance, technical, economic and financial barriers related to (i) Insufficient institutional coordination on sustainable forest management and restoration; (ii) Obsolete PFA management plans in the context of climate change; (iii) Unclear land / tree tenure and land use plans which disincentivizes involvement and investments in restoration and sustainable forest management; (iv) Capacity and knowledge gaps that hinder the transfer and adoption of climate-resilient practices in restoration; (v) High interest rates related to forestry and agriculture sector investments, and (vi) Rudimentary processing techniques, equipment and facilities used by green businesses.

The project will be implemented in three intervention areas in different agroecological zones (AEZ): the Sudano Sahelian AEZ with the Waza Landscape, the Bimodal rainforest AEZ with the Dja-Lobeke (DL) Landscape, and the Western Highlands AEZ with the Bakossi-Bamboutous (BB) Landscape.

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. Over a 20-year accounting period, the project is expected to deliver a combined portfolio mitigation potential of approximately 2,467,777 tCO_2e, comprising 1,589,313 tCO_2e from

[1] Co-financer’s contribution means the financial resources required, whether Public Finance or Private Finance, in addition to the GCF contribution (i.e. GCF financial resources requested by the Accredited Entity) to implement the project or programme described in the funding proposal.
[2] Refer to the Policy of Co-financing of the GCF..
[3] World Bank (2023). *Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cameroon*
[4] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*

avoided emissions and 878,464 tCO_2e from enhanced sequestration, across approximately 60,008 ha of forest and agricultural landscapes (see Annex 22).

To achieve this objective, the project adopts a holistic approach structured around four technical (4) components:

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

Climate results and benefits

By strengthening governance, climate-responsive planning and sustainable management of Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs), while improving access to green finance, value chain development and capacity building at local and national levels, the project will reduce deforestation and forest degradation. It will restore forest ecosystems and enhance livelihoods and climate resilience of surrounding communities. In the long term, the project will support a transition toward low-carbon, inclusive forest-based development, and enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems in and around the three (3) PFAs targeted by the project in Cameroon.

The project will contribute directly to enhancing the resilience of 197,979 vulnerable beneficiaries, with 1,346,605 expected indirect beneficiaries through the introduction of climate-resilient agricultural practices and other income-generating and livelihood support activities such as value chain development. In total, the number of hectares targeted for agroforestry, reforestation and restoration is 10,008 ha and for sustainable forest management and conservation is 50,000 ha, contributing to increased resilience of vulnerable ecosystems in the targeted AEZs to climate change impacts such as flooding, droughts, and wildfires. The conservation of permanent forests, sustainable use of production forests, promotion of agroforestry, afforestation, and reforestation will result in a combined portfolio mitigation potential of 2,467,777 tCO_2e over the twenty-year accounting period, comprising 1,589,313 tCO_2e from avoided emissions and 878,464 tCO_2e from enhanced sequestration.

PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

B.1. Climate context

Cameroon's population is estimated at 29 million in 2025 and projected to reach 42 million by 2050. This growing population is placing growing pressure on land, forests, and water resources that sustain over 70% of the population through agriculture and forest-based livelihoods. Unsustainable land use, weak governance, and climate change are compounding poverty, food insecurity, and ecosystem degradation, particularly in the Waza (Sudano-Sahelian), Dja-Lobeke (Bimodal Rainforest), and Bakossi-Bamboutous (Western Highlands) landscapes.

In these areas, rapid population growth, rising temperatures (projected +2 to +4.8°C), and declining rainfall are intensifying droughts, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss, pushing communities to expand cropland into forests and deplete natural resources. Nationwide, forest cover loss reached 2.2 million hectares of tree cover from 2001-2024[5], including 47% in primary forests, with annual loss projected to triple by 2035. These combined pressures threaten agricultural productivity (expected 20–25% yield decline in key crops), reduce carbon sequestration, and endanger the livelihoods of over 2.3 million people living around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs). Without coordinated restoration, sustainable forest management, and diversified climate-resilient livelihoods, Cameroon faces accelerating ecosystem collapse and deepening climate vulnerability that will undermine national development and climate goals. The SPEFOCE project directly addresses these national challenges by targeting three of the main PFAs that are likely to drive change at the national level and thus impact all PFAs.

[5] Global Forest Watch (2024). Tree cover loss in Cameroon. World Resources Institute. Available at: www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/CMR. Accessed April 2026. Based on Hansen et al. (2013), updated dataset.

PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

B.1. Climate context

PFAs in Cameroon are estimated to cover 12.6 million ha or 26.5% of the national territory. They are essential for enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable forest-dependent communities through the provision of ecosystem goods and services, especially non-timber forest products (NTFPs) that are vital for economic development at the national and local levels. In addition, these forests are also active carbon sinks. Well-managed forest ecosystems absorb and store atmospheric CO_2 though biomass and soil organic carbon accumulation.

Continued degradation through illegal logging, agricultural encroachment, uncontrolled burning and unsustainable hinders the sequestration capacity by reducing growth rates, increasing tree mortality and degrading soil carbon stocks. As these degradation processes intensify, forests can shift from being net carbon sinks, to carbon-neutral or even net carbon sources. PFAs in Cameroon have experienced an increase in average annual forest cover loss, especially in the three targeted landscapes of the project. Based on the project's satellite land cover analysis (Annex 22E), in the Waza Landscape, annual forest loss is 7,558.59 ha, corresponding to an estimated loss of 158,730.3 ha between 2000 and 2021. In the BB Landscape, the annual loss is estimated at 717.86 ha, for an overall loss of 15,075.1 ha, while the DL Landscape annual loss is 1,440.03 ha, corresponding to an overall loss of 30,240.67 ha for the same period. These landscape-level figures are derived from the project's Restoration Opportunities Assessment (Annex H/24/ROAM) and satellite land cover analysis (Annex 22E), which provide parcel-level data not available from the GFW national dataset. At the regional level, GFW (2024) data confirm that the Sud region (encompassing the Dja-Lobéké landscape) lost 430 kha of tree cover between 2001 and 2024 (9.0% decrease), while the Extrême-Nord region (encompassing the Waza landscape) and Sud-Ouest/Ouest regions (encompassing the Bakossi-Bamboutos landscape) also experienced sustained losses, consistent with the project-level data. The SPEFOCE project intervenes on 60,008 ha across the three landscapes, comprising 10,008 ha of active agroforestry and forest restoration and 50,000 ha under SFM governance.

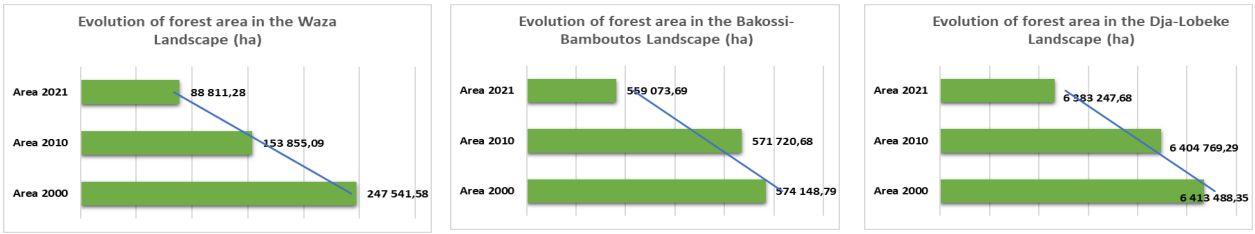


Figure 1: Evolution of forests in the project implementation landscapes between 2000, 2010 and 2021 (Source: Satellite land cover analysis, Annex 22E).

Moreover, the country is faced with numerous barriers to SFM, NTFPs production, processing, and marketing, as well as forest restoration that can be grouped into institutional and governance barriers, technical barriers, and financial and economic barriers:

- *Institutional and governance barriers*: Weak Forest governance that leads to illegal forest activities such as extraction of timber and bushmeat hunting are the principal factors. Firstly, there is insufficient institutional coordination on the topic of sustainable forest management (SFM) and restoration due to institutional inertia. Secondly, management plans for PFAs are not designed to account for projected climate risks (e.g. increased drought frequency, shifting rainfall regimes), limiting their effectiveness in maintaining ecosystem functionality and resilience under future climate conditions. Lastly, unclear land/tree tenure and outdated land use plans discourages interested actors including communities from venturing into restoration and SFM.

- *Technical Barriers*: Technologies and practices needed for low-emission and climate-resilient forestry in Cameroon are still at an infancy stage. This is due to capacity and knowledge gaps, which are hindering the transfer and adoption of climate-resilient practices in restoration, and impeding the transfer and adoption of low-carbon and climate-resilient practices in PFAs management.

- *Economic and financial barriers:* Local communities and other stakeholders engaged in the forestry sector have inadequate access to financial services that enable the adoption of best climate change mitigation and adaptation solutions and practices. The low access to green business financing is due to the following factors: negative perception of green investment as high risk, and unprofitable by financial institutions; high interest rates related to forestry and agriculture sector investment; rudimentary processing techniques, equipment and facilities used by green businesses; and limited access of green businesses to national, regional, and international markets.

As for the Dja-Lobeke Landscape, the main drivers of permanent forest loss are cash crop agriculture (rubber, oil palm and cocoa) and food crop agriculture (cassava, pineapple, plantain, and maize), coupled with artisanal mining. Logging remains the main driver of permanent forest degradation in this landscape coupled with bushfires and hunting. Underlying factors for deforestation / forest degradation in this landscape include political instability in CAR, large-scale mining projects in Mbalam, high international and regional market demand for timber, the economic crisis coupled with the structural adjustment programme and urban growth. These results are corroborated by findings from Yisu et al. 2020, Tegegne et al. 2016, Dkamela 2011, MINEPDED 2016, Weng et al. 2014, and Hoyle and Levang 2012. See Annex 22B, page 30, section 4.

Climate hazards, projected impacts and adaptation needs (see Annex 22C, Section 4.1 for more detail)

Cameroon is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its ecological diversity, reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, and the high dependence of rural populations on natural resources. Observed climate trends indicate a steady increase in temperatures of approximately 0.15–0.25°C per decade since the 1960s, alongside increasing rainfall variability across the country[6,7]. These changes are already manifesting through more frequent and prolonged droughts in the northern regions, increased incidence of extreme rainfall events and flooding in southern and forested zones, and growing intra-seasonal variability that disrupts agricultural calendars[8,9].

Climate projections indicate that these trends will intensify, with average temperatures expected to rise by approximately 2–3°C by 2050 under moderate to high emission scenarios[10,11]. This warming is expected to increase evapotranspiration rates, reduce soil moisture, and exacerbate water stress across both forest and agricultural systems. Rainfall patterns are projected to become increasingly erratic, characterized by delayed onset of rains, shorter wet seasons, and more intense precipitation events. These shifts will disrupt ecological processes, including forest regeneration cycles and agricultural production systems, while also increasing the frequency and severity of extreme events such as droughts, floods, and storms[12,13].

The three intervention landscapes—Dja-Lobéké (humid bimodal rainforest), Bakossi-Bamboutos (Western Highlands), and Waza (Sudano-Sahelian zone)—are each exposed to distinct but overlapping climate risks, with varying frequencies and intensities of climate-driven hazards including heatwaves, droughts, high winds, rainfall variability, flooding, erosion, and landslides. In the humid bimodal rainforest landscape of Dja-Lobéké, forestry and wildlife systems are particularly vulnerable to increasing temperatures, drought stress, and high wind events. These pressures contribute to biodiversity loss, reduced forest regeneration capacity, and declining availability of NTFPs, directly undermining the livelihoods of forest-dependent communities[14,15]. In addition, heavy rainfall events accelerate soil erosion and nutrient leaching, further degrading ecosystem productivity.

In the Western Highlands landscape of Bakossi-Bamboutos, increasing drought frequency and temperature variability are placing growing pressure on both forestry systems and livestock production. These climatic

[6] World Bank (2023). *Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cameroon*
[7] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*
[8] Government of Cameroon (2015). *National Adaptation Plan (NAP)*
[9] USAID (2018). *Climate Risk Profile: Cameroon*
[10] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*
[11] World Bank (2023). *Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cameroon*
[12] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*
[13] FAO (2020). *The State of the World's Forests / Climate impacts on forests*
[14] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*
[15] CIFOR (2020). *Forests and climate change adaptation in Central Africa*

stresses contribute to land degradation processes, including soil erosion and landslides, particularly on steep slopes, while also driving habitat fragmentation and reducing ecosystem connectivity. The combined effects of climatic and anthropogenic pressures weaken ecosystem resilience and reduce the capacity of landscapes to provide essential services such as water regulation and soil stabilization[16,17].

In the Sudano-Sahelian Waza landscape, climate risks are particularly acute. Rainfed agricultural systems, which underpin local livelihoods, are highly sensitive to rainfall variability and drought. Climate projections indicate that yields of key staple crops—including millet, sorghum, maize, and cowpea—could decline by 20–25% in the absence of adaptation measures[18,19]. Rising temperatures and prolonged dry periods are also increasing the risk of desertification, soil degradation, and vegetation loss, while more intense rainfall events contribute to localized flooding and erosion. These dynamics significantly heighten food insecurity and livelihood vulnerability in already fragile socio-ecological systems.

Across all three landscapes, the interaction of climate change with existing pressures—such as deforestation, unsustainable land use practices, and weak governance—amplifies ecosystem degradation and undermines resilience. Increased temperatures and prolonged dry spells contribute to higher rates of tree mortality, increased forest fire risk, and reduced carbon sequestration capacity, while erratic rainfall patterns disrupt both natural and managed systems. In forest ecosystems, these changes reduce regeneration rates and biodiversity, while in agricultural systems they destabilize production cycles and increase yield variability[20,21].

These impacts have direct and significant implications for the more than 2.3 million people living in and around Cameroon's Permanent Forest Areas, who rely heavily on ecosystem services for their livelihoods. Climate-induced degradation of forests reduces the availability of food, fuelwood, and income-generating products, while also weakening critical ecosystem functions such as water regulation, microclimate buffering, and soil stabilization. This increases both the exposure and sensitivity of communities to climate shocks, particularly for vulnerable groups including smallholder farmers, women, and Indigenous Peoples[22,23].

Without targeted intervention, these climate risks are expected to intensify, further eroding ecosystem integrity and undermining socio-economic resilience. Addressing these challenges requires integrated adaptation approaches that enhance ecosystem resilience while strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities. Sustainable forest management, climate-resilient restoration, and diversification of livelihood systems are therefore critical adaptation strategies, as they help stabilize ecosystem services, reduce vulnerability to climate hazards, and support long-term climate-resilient development pathways.

Table 1 summarises climate hazards, impacts, and adaptation needs in the three interventions areas.

Table 1. Climate hazards, impacts and adaptation needs for the intervention areas.

Climate Hazard	Impacts	Adaptation / Restoration needs	Target Landscape / Area
Increase in temperature	Dryness, loss of species habitat, increased forest fires and tree mortality, reduced livelihoods, decreased income	Assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, reforestation, use of improved seeds, promotion of drought-tolerant species	Waza: Agricultural lands, mountains, hills; Dja-Lobeke: Agricultural lands, mountains; Bakossi-Bamboutous: Agricultural lands, mountains, forest reserves
Heat waves	Increased risk of bushfires, loss of biodiversity, reduced productivity	Reforestation, agroforestry, fire prevention measures, living hedges, community forest management	All landscapes, particularly hills, mountains, and community forests
Rainfall variability / delayed onset / shorter wet seasons	Disruption of cropping calendar, reduced soil moisture, crop failures, fragmentation of habitats	Modification of agricultural calendar, boreholes/wells, agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration, use of improved seeds, organic farming (compost/manure/crop rotation), protection of riparian forests	Waza: Agricultural lands, buffer zones; Dja-Lobeke: Agricultural lands, mountains; Bakossi-Bamboutous: Agricultural lands, riverbanks
Drought	Increased aridity, reduced pasture productivity,	Irrigation, transhumance, agroforestry, reforestation, fodder improvement, improved seeds, protection of natural forests	Waza: Pastures, hillsides, agricultural lands; Bakossi-Bamboutous: Pastures, agricultural lands

[16] FAO (2020). *The State of the World's Forests / Climate impacts on forests*
[17] World Bank (2023). *Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cameroon*
[18] World Bank (2023). *Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Cameroon*
[19] IFAD (2021). *Rural climate risk and agricultural productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa*
[20] IPCC (2022). *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability – Africa Chapter*
[21] FAO (2020). *The State of the World's Forests / Climate impacts on forests*
[22] IPBES (2019). *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
[23] Government of Cameroon (2021). *Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)*

	unavailability of NTFPs, and bushfires		
Flooding	Destruction of trees, soil erosion, soil degradation, loss of crops, loss of biodiversity	Reforestation, protection/restoration of watersheds, anti-erosion measures, construction of dykes, living hedges	Waza & Bakossi-Bamboutous: Riverbanks, buffer zones around water bodies; hillsides; riparian forests Dja-Lobeke: Agricultural lands, mountains
Landslides due to intense or prolonged rainfall	Land movement, destruction of crops, loss of biodiversity	Reforestation, anti-erosion measures (stone barriers, terraces), living hedges	Waza & Bakossi-Bamboutous: Hillsides, mountains, agricultural lands

Ex-ante estimations of the mitigation potential of the project

*(*The methodology and calculations can be found in Annexes 22.)*

The SPEFOCE project delivers climate mitigation through two complementary components, both operating across the three project landscapes of Waza, Dja-Lobéké, and Bakossi-Bamboutos. The first is an enhanced sequestration component, covering agroforestry on existing cropland, reforestation of community and council forests, restoration of degraded forest reserves and park areas, and restoration of riparian forest buffers. The second is an avoided emissions component, covering sustainable forest management (SFM) governance activities, management plan development, community patrolling, fire management, and enforcement, that reduce deforestation in designated permanent forest areas within each landscape. Ex-ante estimates are presented for both components and combined into a single portfolio total over a 20-year accounting period.

The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report (Annex H) identified a combined restoration potential of approximately 190,330 ha across the three landscapes (158,730 ha in Waza, 16,525 ha in Dja-Lobéké, and 15,075 ha in Bakossi-Bamboutos), spanning agroforestry, reforestation, and restoration interventions. The project will intervene on approximately 60,008 ha drawn from within this broader potential: 10,008 ha of active agroforestry and forest restoration activities, and 50,000 ha of forest under SFM governance across the three landscapes. The specific location of intervention areas will be determined through participatory land use planning at the start of project implementation.

The avoided emissions component uses landscape-specific historical deforestation rates derived from satellite land cover analysis (Annex 22E) as the project-level reference level, in the absence of a validated sub-national reference level for the three landscapes. Emission factors are drawn from Cameroon's proposed Forest Reference Level (FRL) submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2026, providing alignment with the national framework wherever currently possible. Once the proposed FRL has completed UNFCCC technical assessment and validated sub-national parameters become available, the reference level values used in this calculation will be reviewed and updated to ensure full alignment.

The ex-ante estimates are constructed conservatively at each stage of the calculation chain. For the sequestration component, an attribution factor of 0.85 is applied to reflect the complexity of landscape carbon dynamics and the possibility that non-project drivers contribute to a portion of biomass gains. For the avoided emissions component, an attribution factor of 1.0 is applied, reflecting the direct and bounded causal link between SFM governance and the reduction in deforestation, with leakage separately deducted. Landscape-specific leakage deductions are applied to both components. For the sequestration component, a Year 1 survival factor, and an annual mortality rate from Year 2 onward, are applied to forestry-related activities, reflecting realistic establishment performance under specific management conditions. Finally, a 20% uncertainty deduction is applied to both components before reporting. Full methodology descriptions and calculations are shown in Annex 22.

Mitigation potential of the project

Across all three landscapes, during the seven-year implementation phase, the project delivers a mitigation potential of 1,642,165 tCO_2e (LOW estimate), comprising 1,589,313 tCO_2e from the avoided emissions component and 52,851 tCO_2e from the enhanced sequestration component. Over a 20-year accounting

lifetime, the combined portfolio mitigation potential reaches 2,467,777 tCO_2e (LOW estimate), with the sequestration component growing to 878,464 tCO_2e.

Mitigation potential by landscape and component (LOW estimate, tCO_2e).

Landscape	Avoided emissions (SFM governance)	Enhanced sequestration	7-yr combined	20-yr combined
Waza	1,517,350	6,799	1,524,149	1,632,166
Dja-Lobéké	10,216	15,743	25,959	268,748
Bakossi-Bamboutos	61,747	30,310	92,057	566,862
Portfolio total	**1,589,313**	**52,851**	**1,642,165**	**2,467,777**

B.2 (a). Theory of Change narrative and diagram

Theory of Change

The project is based on the recognition that deforestation, forest degradation and the failure of large-scale restoration in Cameroon are driven by outdated forest governance and planning frameworks, fragmented land-use decision-making across sectors, limited economic incentives for sustainable land management, and insufficient technical and institutional capacity to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into forest and landscape management.

The project assumes that if governance systems and management instruments for Permanent Forest Areas (protected areas, production forests, communal and community forests) are revised, operationalized and enforced in line with climate-smart Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) principles, and if large-scale, climate-resilient forest and landscape restoration interventions are implemented based on participatory land-use planning, clarified tenure arrangements and climate risk assessments, then deforestation and forest degradation will be reduced, while forest carbon stocks, biodiversity and critical ecosystem services will be restored and enhanced.

These ecological outcomes will be sustained if, in parallel, the enabling environment for green investment and results-based finance is strengthened through the advancement and operationalization of REDD+ instruments (NFMS, FREL, REDD+ Registry and Safeguard Information System), improved transparency and monitoring of mitigation and adaptation results, and the development of innovative financing mechanisms, including Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) value chains and adaptation results-based instruments. By generating diversified, climate-resilient and gender-responsive livelihood opportunities for local communities, Indigenous Peoples and smallholder farmers, these mechanisms align economic incentives with long-term forest conservation and restoration objectives.

While the project does not initiate the development of a national Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL), it will support the finalisation and operationalisation of the FREL, building on ongoing REDD+ readiness processes and partner-supported initiatives. This includes targeted technical and institutional support to address remaining gaps in data, methodologies and capacities required to complete the FREL and enable its effective application.

B.2 (a). Theory of Change narrative and diagram

The project will further strengthen forest monitoring systems, integrate data from restoration and agroforestry interventions, and enhance institutional capacities for emissions accounting and reporting, thereby ensuring that landscape-level interventions are aligned with and contribute to national REDD+ frameworks without duplicating existing efforts. This support is critical to enabling access to results-based climate finance and embedding project interventions within a robust national carbon accounting and monitoring framework.

Furthermore, if the technical, institutional and entrepreneurial capacities of public institutions, local governments, private sector actors, financial institutions and community organizations are strengthened, and if access to agro-climatic information and monitoring tools is improved, then stakeholders will be able to effectively plan, implement, finance and sustain climate-resilient land-use practices beyond the project lifetime.

In the medium to long term, the integrated combination of improved forest governance, climate-smart restoration, green financing and capacity development will generate transformational impacts, including sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, increased carbon sequestration, enhanced resilience of forest and agricultural landscapes, improved livelihoods and food security, and a structural shift towards a low-emission, climate-resilient development pathway consistent with the GCF investment criteria and Cameroon's national climate commitments.

The project generates mitigation outcomes through two complementary mechanisms: (i) enhanced sequestration through the promotion of agroforestry systems on cropland, active reforestation and restoration of community forests, parklands, reserves and riparian buffer zones; and (ii) avoided emissions in forest landscapes through reduced degradation and improved management of PFAs. These interventions are expected to deliver a combined portfolio mitigation potential of 2,467,777 tCO_2e over the 20-year accounting period, comprising 1,589,313 tCO_2e from avoided emissions and 878,464 tCO_2e from enhanced sequestration (see Annex 22 for full methodology and calculations).

The adaptation logic of the project is based on addressing climate-induced risks to forest ecosystems and dependent livelihoods. Climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, and temperature stress, which in turn accelerate forest degradation, reduce ecosystem productivity, and undermine livelihood systems. By integrating climate risk assessments into forest management, restoring degraded landscapes using climate-resilient species and practices, and strengthening climate-informed land-use planning, the project reduces exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards. Simultaneously, by diversifying livelihoods and improving access to climate information, it enhances adaptive capacity. Together, these interventions reduce vulnerability and build long-term resilience of both ecosystems and communities.

Goal Statement and Causal Pathway

Project Goal 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.

IF, Land tenure and land-use planning around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) are clarified and operationalised; institutional inertia is addressed through revised, climate-smart Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and protected area management systems; coordination across land-use sectors is strengthened; large-scale restoration is implemented using climate-resilient and locally adapted models; national REDD+ MRV, registry and safeguard systems are operational and trusted; and stakeholders, including public institutions, communities, Indigenous Peoples, private sector actors and financial institutions, are equipped with the capacities, climate information, market access and financing needed to invest in low-emission and climate-resilient forest and land-use practices;

THEN, Carbon emissions from land-use change and forest degradation in PFAs will be sustainably reduced; carbon stocks in degraded forests and lands will be enhanced; biodiversity and critical ecosystem services will be restored; climate-resilient livelihood systems based on sustainable forestry, agroforestry and Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) value chains will be adopted by communities, Indigenous Peoples and

smallholders; and public and private actors will mobilize and sustain investment in restoration and SFM beyond the project lifetime;

BECAUSE, Forest and landscape management systems will have been structurally transformed to integrate climate risks, incentives and safeguards into decision-making; restoration and SFM investments will be technically robust, socially inclusive and economically viable; verified mitigation and adaptation results will unlock green finance; the permanence of carbon sequestration outcomes will be underpinned by legal, governance and land tenure reforms; and tangible livelihood benefits will create long-term ownership, behavioral change and resilience at landscape scale.

The goals are rooted in four outcomes:

- 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 outcomes will be generated from interrelated outputs through the implementation of a combination of activities related to improving the policy management instruments and enabling environment, improving the capacity of stakeholders at the national and local levels. These activities will catalyze future engagement and investments in sustainable exploitation and management of PFA ecosystems by contributing to providing solutions to several interrelated barriers as listed below.

Alignment with GCF Paradigm Shift Objectives and Investment Criteria

The project demonstrates strong paradigm shift potential by addressing the root causes of deforestation and land degradation in and around Permanent Forest Areas through an integrated approach that combines improved forest governance, climate-resilient restoration, green financing and capacity development. It shifts land-use systems from extractive and climate-vulnerable practices to climate-smart, restoration-based and investment-ready models that can be replicated and scaled through national policies and market mechanisms.

The project delivers clear mitigation impacts by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while increasing carbon sequestration through large-scale restoration, agroforestry and improved Sustainable Forest Management, supported by robust MRV systems. It also generates significant adaptation benefits by enhancing the resilience of ecosystems and forest-dependent livelihoods to climate risks such as droughts, heatwaves, rainfall variability, floods and erosion. Adaptive capacity is strengthened through access to agroclimatic information, diversified income sources and climate-resilient production systems, reducing the vulnerability of communities and Indigenous Peoples.

The project contributes to sustainable development by improving livelihoods, food security and income diversification, with strong inclusion of women and Indigenous Peoples, while strengthening institutional capacities for sustainable forest and landscape management, and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Strong country ownership is ensured through alignment with Cameroon's National REDD+ Strategy, NDC and forestry policy frameworks, with leadership from national institutions and decentralized implementation. Efficiency and effectiveness are achieved by building on existing national systems and leveraging private finance and results-based mechanisms, ensuring sustainability beyond GCF grant support.

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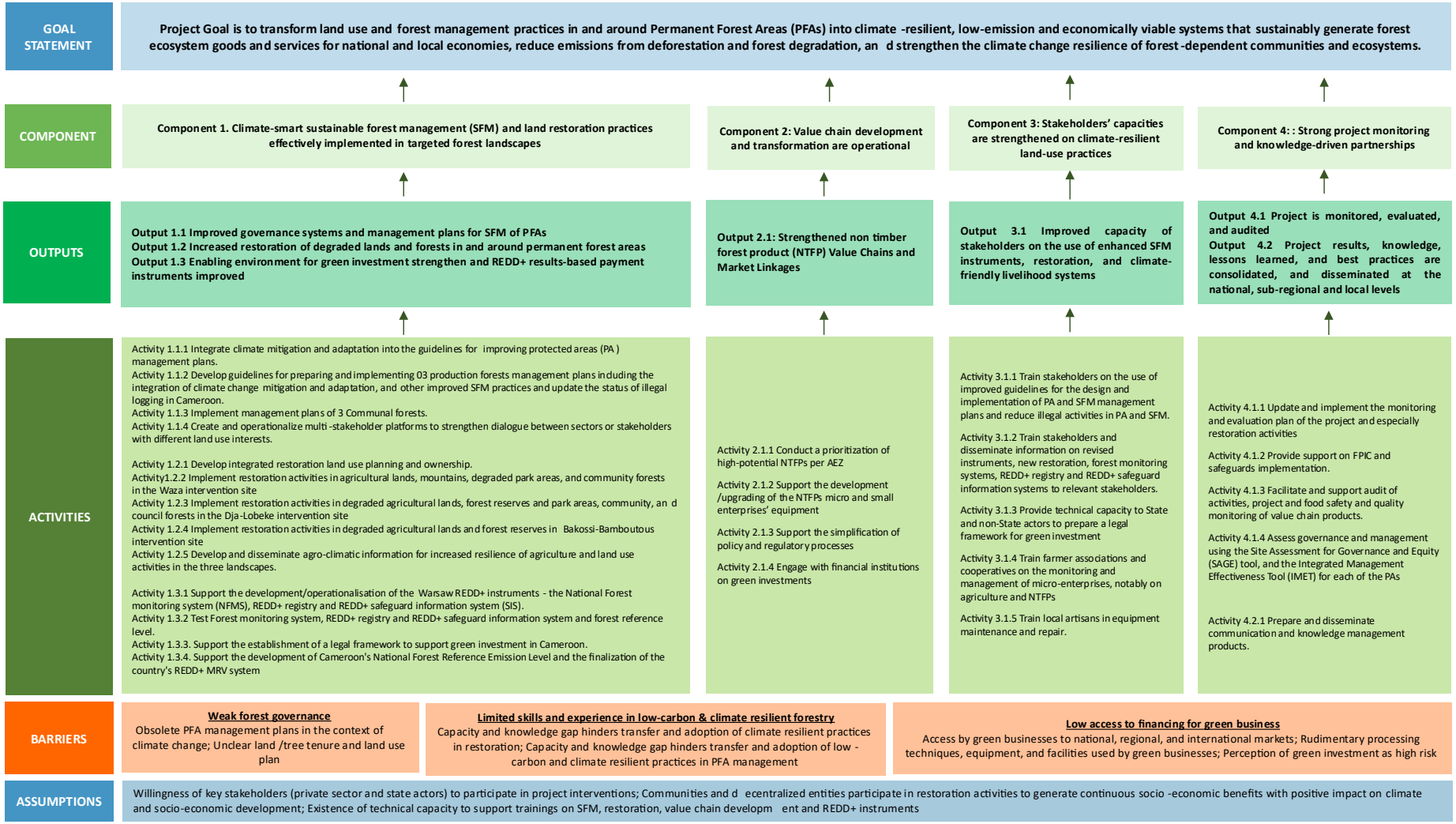


Figure 2: Schematic presentation of the theory of change of this project

B.2 (b). Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefit categorization

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	**MRA 2** Low-emission transport	**MRA 3** Building, citiies, industries, appliances	**MRA 4** Forestry and land use	**ARA 1** Most vulnerable people and communities	**ARA 2** Health, well-being, food and water security	**ARA 3** Infrastructure and built environment	**ARA 4** Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Outcome 1	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outcome 2	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Outcome 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒
Outcome 4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒

Co-benefit number	Co-benefit					
	Environmental	**Social**	**Economic**	**Gender**	**Adaptation**	**Mitigation**
Co-benefit 1	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐
Co-benefit 2	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Co-benefit 3	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

The project adopts an integrated climate response approach that simultaneously addresses the drivers and impacts of both climate change mitigation and adaptation within Cameroon's forest and landscape systems. Climate change is already increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, temperature stress, and extreme weather events, which accelerate forest degradation, reduce ecosystem productivity, and undermine rural livelihoods. At the same time, deforestation and unsustainable land-use practices are contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions and weakening the capacity of forest ecosystems to act as carbon sinks.

The project components are therefore designed to deliver synergistic mitigation and adaptation outcomes through a coherent landscape-based approach. From an adaptation perspective, interventions reduce vulnerability by: (i) decreasing ecosystem and livelihood sensitivity through climate-resilient forest management and restoration; (ii) reducing exposure to climate hazards through improved land-use planning and governance; and (iii) strengthening adaptive capacity through diversified livelihoods, climate information services, and institutional strengthening. These measures enhance the resilience of both ecosystems and forest-dependent communities under current and projected climate conditions.

From a mitigation perspective, the project addresses emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by improving the management of Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs), reducing unsustainable land-use practices, and restoring degraded forest and agricultural landscapes. Enhanced forest governance, combined with large-scale restoration and the introduction of agroforestry systems, increases carbon sequestration in both forest and agricultural systems, while avoiding emissions associated with land degradation and forest loss. In addition, the development of sustainable value chains and green financing mechanisms aligns economic incentives with forest conservation, reducing pressure on natural forests and supporting long-term emissions reductions.

Importantly, mitigation and adaptation benefits are mutually reinforcing within the project design. Healthy and restored forest ecosystems enhance carbon storage while simultaneously providing critical ecosystem services such as water regulation, soil stabilization, and microclimate buffering, which are essential for climate adaptation. Similarly, climate-resilient livelihoods reduce dependence on unsustainable resource extraction,

thereby lowering deforestation pressures and associated emissions. By integrating these approaches, the project contributes to a structural shift toward low-emission, climate-resilient development pathways, consistent with Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and REDD+ strategy. The Components, Outputs and Activities of the project are as follows:

Component 1. Climate-smart sustainable forest management (SFM) and land restoration practices effectively implemented in targeted forest landscapes

This component addresses key climate risks affecting forest ecosystems, including increasing temperatures, prolonged dry periods, high wind events, and erratic rainfall patterns, which contribute to forest degradation, reduced regeneration, and biodiversity loss. By integrating climate risk considerations into SFM for PFAs and implementing climate-resilient restoration approaches, the component reduces ecosystem sensitivity to climate stressors and enhances the capacity of forests to maintain critical ecosystem services such as water regulation, soil stabilization, and microclimate buffering under changing climatic conditions. Activities under this component will contribute to overcoming barriers that hinder the design and uptake of climate-smart sustainable management practices and landscape restoration. Furthermore, activities delivering the project's GHG mitigation potential fall under this component, under Output 1.2, with the promotion of agroforestry on cropland, active restoration of community forests, parklands, reserves and riparian buffer zones over 7,155 ha, and with sustainable management practices over 14,583 ha of PFAs.

Output 1.1 Improved governance systems and management plans for SFM of PFAs

This output shall contribute to addressing the barriers related to the obsolescence of PFA management plans in the context of climate change. The project will support the revision of the guidelines for preparing the management plans of PFAs (PAs and production forests). The revision shall ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation practices are integrated in the planning, management, and policy guidelines, taking into consideration evolution in the ecology and the role of forests ecosystems in enhancing social, economic, and environmental conditions. The revision process shall be participatory, involving all relevant stakeholders such as MINFOF, MINEPDED, CSOs, Logging Concessions, council forests managers, representatives of local communities and IP groups/networks, financial and technical partners etc. This output strengthens the integration of climate risk considerations into forest management planning, ensuring that management systems are responsive to projected climate hazards such as drought, temperature increases, and extreme weather events.

Activity 1.1.1 Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans. Current management options for PAs are obsolete, mainly because they do not include emerging themes like climate change adaptation and mitigation. If elaborated and vetted by the government through participatory means, the new guidelines shall fill this gap in all 3 landscapes and promote effective climate-smart protected area management that benefits both forests and forest fringe communities while conserving biodiversity. Beyond ecosystem conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, this initiative will support the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) in providing forest-adjacent communities with enhanced access to climate services (weather and seasonal forecasts, agro-meteorological advisories, early warning systems for floods and droughts), which are essential for adapting to climate-related hazards. In a context where populations across the project landscapes heavily rely on subsistence agriculture and the exploitation and harvesting of natural resources, these services will be crucial in strengthening their socio-economic resilience. Management plans will integrate forward-looking climate risk assessments, including projected changes in temperature, rainfall variability, drought frequency, and extreme weather events, to ensure that forest management practices remain effective under future climate conditions while also maintaining carbon stocks. The revision process will ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation are an integral part of SFM and biodiversity conservation within PAs.

Activity 1.1.2 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. Experts will be hired to design a guideline document that will help promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Logging Concessions and Council Forests, aimed at increasing the sustainability of logging activities. These experts will support assessing gaps and needs in terms of improved management practices. The process will involve stakeholder consultations

and validation, including the process for the guidelines to be enacted into use in the forestry sector. By embedding climate considerations into forest management guidelines, this activity enhances ecosystem resilience to climate stressors such as drought, fire, and extreme weather, while reducing emissions from forest degradation through improved monitoring and control of illegal logging.

Activity 1.1.3 Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests. In Cameroon, protected areas are managed through five-year management plans that guide conservation actions, resource allocation, and engagement with surrounding communities. However, the management plans for most national parks and wildlife reserves within the target landscape have expired, leaving these sites without valid management instruments. This is the case of the management plan of the Waza National Park that expired in 2020 and has not been updated due to limited financial resources, the Dja Biosphere Reserve's management plan expired in 2025, and the Lobéké National Park management plan is set to expire in 2028, and since its creation in 2007, Bakossi National Park has operated without a formal management plan, illustrating long-standing challenges in mobilizing adequate government funding. The project will therefore support the revision of the communal management plans in line with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Best Practice Guidelines and the IUCN Green List Standard. Beyond revision, the project will also facilitate the implementation of the updated plan to strengthen conservation outcomes, enhance governance, and improve the long-term protection of biodiversity within the targeted protected area. The project will also support MINFOF in mobilizing additional funds that could be used for subsequent revision of the management plan of the targeted protected area. The revision of the Communal Forest management plans will also include the elaboration of the forest intervention reports (RAIF) for the closure of Annual Cutting Areas (AAC) and annual operation plans (PAO). Implementation of climate-smart management plans reduces ecosystem sensitivity to climate variability and strengthens the capacity of communal forests to provide stable ecosystem services and carbon sequestration under changing climatic conditions

Activity 1.1.4 Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests. Currently, different land use actors (mining, agriculture, livestock, infrastructure etc.) operating in landscapes do so in silos. The limited sharing of information between these sectors and stakeholders leads to geographical overlap of land use activities with PFAs. Activities under output 1.1 will support the resolution of conflicts related to transhumance (action or practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle) identified in the project intervention sites in the Waza and Bakossi-Bamboutous Landscapes. This activity will bring land-use stakeholders together in an organized and structured platform to meet and concert on planned projects and activities from different sectors, understanding how it affects landscape features, and make choices on best options. Improved coordination and land-use dialogue reduce maladaptive land-use practices and enhance climate-informed decision-making, thereby lowering exposure to climate risks and reducing pressures that contribute to deforestation and associated emissions.

Output 1.2 Increased restoration of degraded lands and forests in and around permanent forest areas

This output will address the institutional and governance barriers to restoration and SFM pertaining to unclear land/tree tenure and land use plans. The output will facilitate carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, gender equality and well-being. Landscape restoration has always been a concern for public authorities in Cameroon. Several initiatives have been put in place in the form of reforestation, notably the "Sahel Verts" operation in the far north, which for several decades has been planting trees to cope with the advancing desert and aridity of the soil. However, these initiatives have had mixed success. The reasons for these mixed results are linked to poor coordination amongst institutions, interministerial inconsistencies, poor choice of restoration options, poor involvement of local populations in the process, limitation of restoration to tree planting alone and failure to consider other ecosystem services linked to restoration, insufficient follow-up, poor inter-sectoral coordination, and lack of funding. Since 2019 a national strategic framework for forest landscape restoration has been developed, which provided clear guidelines that frame restoration activities in Cameroon. Cameroon's strong commitment to the Bonn Challenge with a target of restoring more than 12 million degraded lands by 2030 now allows the country to mobilise the full attention of government and various sectors in restoration activities, but also to benefit from technical and technological guidance for better implementation of restoration activities.

To ensure the successful implementation of restoration under this project, the selected activities are based on Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and will be implemented in accordance with the national strategic framework. This will happen by supporting the enabling environment to catalyze investment and uptake through direct and indirect support to communities and entities (councils) in and around PFA who are interested in restoration. For direct support in terms of hard investments, different restoration models will be implemented based on the biophysical and socioeconomic conditions of the intervention areas (see ROAM phase 1 report, annex 2 of the feasibility study). Restoration interventions will be designed using climate-resilient species and site-specific approaches that account for projected changes in temperature and rainfall. This will enhance ecosystem stability, improve soil moisture retention, and reduce vulnerability to climate-induced degradation. Community engagement will prioritize the direct livelihood and adaptation benefits of restoration, such as improved soil fertility, food security, microclimate regulation, and access to NTFPs, representing tangible and immediate benefits for participating households. These outcomes are complementary to and supportive of the project's mitigation potential and objectives, since sustained community stewardship will contribute to the permanence of enhanced carbon sequestration achieved through the project interventions. Beneficiaries will be educated on the likely direct adaptation and livelihood benefits to smallholders involved which are critical to stakeholder buy-in, rather than the abstract potential for carbon sequestration.

Activity 1.2.1 Develop integrated restoration land use planning and ownership. The project restoration activities will be supported by elaborating integrated land use plans to address key climate vulnerabilities such as drought, rainfall variability, flooding, soil erosion, landslides, and loss of biodiversity. The land use planning for the project restoration activities will be done after or alongside the district FLR Action Plan development under ROAM 2. The focus will be on already earmarked community and communal and other permanent forest areas / lands for restoration activities. The preparation of integrated restoration land use plan will be conducted through participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques and collection of GPS points as part of ground truthing in all the 3 project intervention landscapes. In addition, by-laws will be established and approved by the project in consultation with communities and communes and the key government ministries. This activity will go a long way in paving the path for the issuance of restoration certificates by the project, with the support of the government through MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINEPAT and the Minister of State Property and Land Tenure who will play a key role in engaging with the project and communities in legitimizing the process. This activity will directly support the enabling environment for the operationalization of restoration incentive schemes. By guiding restoration and land management decisions, the activity will help reduce the impacts of drought and rainfall variability through improved soil and water management, soil erosion and landslides through targeted restoration and anti-erosion measures, flooding through integrated riparian and watershed planning, and loss of biodiversity and carbon stocks by restoring degraded or priority forest areas.

Activity 1.2.2 Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site. In the Sudano-Sahelian Waza landscape, the project will restore about 1,953 ha of degraded agricultural lands, community forests, park buffer zones and riparian areas (agroforestry on cropland: 1,020 ha; community forest reforestation: 516 ha; park and degraded forest reserve restoration: 210 ha; riparian forest and buffer restoration: 207 ha) drought-resistant agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration and silvopastoral systems. This activity shall also target smallholder farmers consulted and identified during the feasibility stage, each having at least an estimated agriculture land size of 2 ha. Existing farmers' cooperatives and associations (both formal and informal) consulted during the feasibility stage, as they will serve as the entry point to engage with interested farmers in forest landscape restoration (FLR) activities. In the case of degraded mountains, the restoration shall be through the establishment of millet plantations with locally adapted species. Millets will be planted and harvested in years 1 and 2 in an agroforestry system. By introducing and maintaining a permanent woody cover layer across agricultural lands currently without significant tree cover, these agroforestry systems incrementally build above-ground carbon stocks over time, contributing to the net carbon sequestration outcomes as quantified in Annex 22. Restoration in the Sudano-Sahelian zone will apply drought-resistant species and water-conserving practices to reduce vulnerability to rainfall variability and heat stress, while increasing vegetation cover and carbon sequestration. Community forests will be restored afterwards, restoration activities will be dedicated to key indigenous species of interest in this area including *Acacias* (*Acacia nilotica, Acacia senegal,*

Acacia seyal, Acacia sieberiana), *Anacardium occidentale* and *Balanites aegyptiaca*, which are stress-tolerant species (Kengne et al., 2024). These species have been selected also due to their capacity to improve soil fertility, while producing wood, fodder and non-timber forest products, mainly shea butter, baobab leaf and powder, neem balanite oil (Baye-Niwah et al. 2013). In addition, silvopastoral systems will be established in degraded agricultural lands by integrating and conserving fodder trees and grasses to enhance livestock productivity, while water points will also be constructed and rehabilitated in livestock grazing areas to ensure reliable and year-round access to water for livestock. This will mitigate seasonal fodder and water shortages experienced during the dry season, reducing the need for seasonal transhumance – a major driver of deforestation in the landscape. In addition, the project will support SFM governance activities, encompassing management plan development, community patrolling, fire management, and demarcated use zone enforcement, across 20,000 ha of designated Permanent Forest Areas in the Waza landscape, reducing deforestation pressure within the SFM governance boundary.

Key inputs for this activity include GIS mapping tools, GPS/soil kits, monitoring technologies (drones, sensors), nursery equipment, seeds and soil amendments, irrigation systems, and land preparation machinery. These will facilitate precise climate-risk mapping, adaptive management, and enhanced seedling survival under both drier and wetter future conditions. Four nurseries will be established with fencing, shade nets, and water-efficient irrigation to produce drought-, heat-, and flood-tolerant species capable of surviving increased evapotranspiration, hotter dry seasons, nutrient leaching, and waterlogging risks. This activity will therefore address key climate risks, including temperature increases and drought (through drought-tolerant species, agroforestry, and improved soil and pasture management), heat waves (via fire prevention, living hedges, and forest management), rainfall variability (through adjusted cropping calendars and agroforestry), flooding (via watershed protection and reforestation), landslides (through slope stabilization and anti-erosion measures), and erosion (through soil restoration and organic amendments).The expected medium to long term services and benefits from this restoration model are increased soil fertility and water infiltration, protection of watershed and reduction of soil erosion, biodiversity benefits through improved ecosystem health, and eventually, contribution to carbon sequestration.

Activity 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.

In the humid forest Dja-Lobeke landscape, the project will restore around 748 ha of agricultural land with cocoa–NTFP agroforestry and approximately 3,387 ha of community, council, park and reserve forests (community and council forest restoration: 1,618 ha; park and forest reserve restoration: 706 ha; riparian bamboo buffer restoration: 1,063 ha) using native species and assisted natural regeneration. Restoration efforts across the landscape will be guided by the specific management objectives of the Dja Biosphere Reserve and Lobéké National Park. This activity will target smallholder farmers for the case of agriculture lands, council and community forest entities that are willing to undertake restoration on parts of their lands, and forest reserves and parks experiencing degradation. Restoration on agricultural land will involve transitioning traditional farming systems to cocoa-based agroforestry using locally adapted, ood-tolerant indeginous species such as *Irvingia gabonensis* (bush mango), *Garcina cola* (bitter cola), *Dacryodes edulis* (safou), *Ricinodendron heudelotii* (djangsang). These tree species provide NTFPs such as bush mango, cola, safou and djangsang essential for poverty reduction and food security in the area (MINFOF and GIZ 2024). Moreover, these NTFPs are one of the main sources of income to Baka indigenous populations and women (FAO 2013). NTFP-Cocoa agroforestry systems would thus contribute to financial and social empowerment of Baka indigenous populations, local women, and the local community at large. It will also contribute significantly to improving shade cover, soil moisture, and microclimate regulation under rising temperatures, while stabilizing yields under erratic rainfall and nutrient leaching conditions. In addition, the restoration activities will contribute to improved soil fertility and carbon stock sequestration in the medium to long term. In addition, the project will support SFM governance activities across 15,000 ha of designated Permanent Forest Areas in the Dja-Lobéké landscape, reducing deforestation pressure through improved management plans, community enforcement, and fire management.

To ensure high-quality and climate-robust restoration, the activity includes significant technical and material inputs and most of the land restoration will be done by the beneficiary communities. GIS mapping tools and soil sampling kits as well as local knowledge will guide site selection and monitoring ofmonitor landscape conditions, while nursery tools, irrigation systems, and environmental monitoring devices support healthy seedling establishment. The project will invest in seeds, fertilizers, and pest control, complemented by land-preparation equipment to enable clearing, terracing, and sustainable agriculture, soil improvement critical for reducing erosion and increasing infiltration under both drier and wetter conditions. Advanced tools such as drones and CO_2 sensors will strengthen monitoring of vegetation recovery, soil moisture, and climate-related stressors. In addition, construction of climate-resilient nursery shelters, fencing, and associated infrastructure will ensure seedlings survive heatwaves, heavy rainfall, and pest pressures. Together, these integrated restoration and infrastructure investments enhance soil fertility, carbon sequestration, watershed stability, biodiversity, and livelihood resilience, ensuring that restored landscapes in Dja-Lobeke remain functional, productive, and robust across a wide range of future climate conditions. In summary, these interventions will address key climate risks, including temperature increases and drought (through drought-tolerant species and soil improvement), heat waves (reducing bushfire risk and conserving biodiversity), rainfall variability (stabilizing cropping systems and habitats), flooding (through watershed restoration and erosion control), and landslides and soil erosion (via slope stabilization and reforestation), thereby strengthening landscape resilience, ecosystem services, and livelihoods. The benefits under this activity include enhanced soil fertility, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity while improving climate resilience and livelihoods for smallholder farmers, Baka indigenous populations, and women.

Activity 1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site.

In the Bakossi-Bamboutous highlands, the project will restore about 3,920 ha of degraded agricultural land and rehabilitate forest reserves and steep slopes (agroforestry on cropland: 333 ha; forest reserve and montane hill restoration: 750 ha; riparian bamboo buffer restoration: 2,837 ha) through agroforestry, silvopastoral systems and reforestation with climate-tolerant tree crops. The restoration of the degraded forests reserves and hill areas (steep slopes) in the Bakossi-Bamboutous shall be done using mainly Prunus africana (Rosaceae), an economically important but threatened species listed under CITES Appendix II. Plantations averaging 220 trees per hectare will be established for conservation and sustainable use, supporting ecological recovery and community livelihoods. Another species that will be used for FLR in this landscape will include safou (*Dacryodes edulis*) due to their adaptability and strong market availability. The average productivity of safou is estimated at 8 tonnes per hectare, with total national commercialized production estimated at approximately 11,000 tonnes (CIFOR/ICRAF, 2010). These interventions collectively reduce bushfire risk, stabilize hillsides, improve watershed function, reduce erosion and landslides, and strengthen resilience to both drier conditions and more intense rainfall and flooding. This plantation shall be established only on hillsides for conservation and exploitation purposes with an average of 220 trees per ha. In addition, the project will support SFM governance activities across 15,000 ha of designated Permanent Forest Areas in the Bakossi-Bamboutos landscape, reducing deforestation pressure through management plan operationalisation, patrolling, and fire prevention infrastructure.

To ensure high-quality and climate-resilient restoration, the activity will deliver essential restoration equipment and inputs, including saplings, mulch, pruning tools, nursery tools, irrigation systems, and monitoring devices, alongside digging tools, and maintenance costs. Pest control tools, CO_2 sensors, and drones will strengthen precision monitoring of soil moisture, vegetation recovery, and climate stressors, enabling adaptive management as conditions change. Support will be provided for large-scale procurement of saplings and restoration materials essential for implementation. Climate-resilient nursery shelters and fencing to protect seedlings from heatwaves, heavy rainfall, livestock pressure, and pests will also be provided, ensuring high survival rates. Support for this activity will involve direct input supply or through the creation of nurseries and technical assistance related to agronomic practices. Training will be conducted to build local capacities on agroforestry and degraded land restoration. The key climatic risks this activity will address include temperature

increases and drought (through drought-tolerant species and soil restoration), heat waves (reducing bushfire risk via agroforestry and reforestation), rainfall variability (stabilizing cropping systems and soil moisture), flooding (through watershed protection and reforestation), and landslides and erosion (via slope stabilization, anti-erosion measures, and soil improvement), thereby enhancing landscape resilience, ecosystem services, and livelihoods.

Activity 1.2.5 Develop and disseminate agro-climatic information for increased resilience of agriculture and land use activities in the three landscapes. To effectively address weather and climate-related risks through adaptive management and planning during land restoration activities, farmers require information on available water-related resources (primarily irrigation and rainfall), extreme temperatures and evapotranspiration, as well as the timing of these with respect to the vegetation growth cycle. By providing data on rainfall patterns, water availability, extreme temperatures, evapotranspiration rates, and seasonal timing, farmers will be better equipped to make adaptive decisions on planting periods, crop varieties, input use, and irrigation scheduling. This will address temperature increases and heat waves risks (through early warning and adaptive crop management), rainfall variability and shorter wet seasons (by improving planning for planting and irrigation), drought (through optimized water use and crop selection), and flooding (via timely alerts for land preparation and drainage management). By improving access to reliable climate information, the activity enhances farmers' preparedness, adaptive capacity, and resilience to changing climatic conditions across all interventions. ONACC will be provided with the appropriate resources to produce and disseminate climate information. Dissemination will take all forms that are appropriate, for example, community radio, farmer networks, SMS etc. Access to agro-climatic information will improve adaptive decision-making by farmers and land users, enabling timely responses to climate variability and reducing climate-related production risks.

Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment strengthen and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved

Activities will support the finalization of Cameroon's REDD+ readiness instruments that are relevant to enabling results-based payments across multiple and higher standards including the UNFCCC REDD+ Framework, GCF, FCPF Carbon Fund, and ART-TREES Standards. For example, the National Forest Monitoring System, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system (SIS) are important for the full implementation of Cameroon's national REDD+ strategy that was developed in 2018. Progress according to FCPF evaluation report of 2019 shows that additional development is still required for SIS, forest reference level and REDD+ registry. While satisfactory progress has been made in the area of NFMS, improvement is still necessary.

Activity 1.3.1 Support the development/operationalisation of the Warsaw REDD+ instruments - the National Forest monitoring system (NFMS), REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system (SIS). This activity will involve expert support, stakeholder consultations and validation. Relevant stakeholders will be trained in the use of these instruments under the capacity building component. Furthermore, the private sector leading the management of PFAs such as logging concessions shall be trained and engaged to take advantage of the opportunities offered by REDD+. Strengthened REDD+ systems support mitigation by improving measurement and reporting of emissions reductions, while also enabling better tracking of ecosystem resilience and climate-related forest impacts. The intervention will strengthen the the National Forest Monitoring System by improving data collection, integration, and analysis across national and subnational levels, including the incorporation of data from key forest management systems in the Permanent Forest Areas (council forests, forest concessions and protected areas) and community forests. Attention will be given to harmonizing forest monitoring approaches across institutions (e.g., forestry, environment, land use) and addressing gaps in satellite data use, ground-truthing, and long-term data management. Support to the REDD+ Registry will focus on enhancing transparency and traceability of REDD+ actions and results, including the registration of projects and programs implemented by government, NGOs, and private sector actors. This will help avoid double counting, improve coordination, and facilitate Cameroon's access to results-based climate finance. The Safeguard Information System (SIS) will be strengthened to ensure that

environmental and social safeguards are effectively tracked and reported, in line with national policies and international requirements. This will include reinforcing mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, grievance redress, and the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), particularly in forest-dependent regions.

Activity 1.3.2 Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level. This activity will build on the World Bank FCPF readiness support and the FAO REDD+ Council Forest Project implemented in councils within the intervention landscapes. The FAO project was aligned with national government priorities and the objectives of Cameroonian councils, and it contributed to strengthening capacities in sustainable forest management (SFM) and carbon management. Notably, 9 out of 17 council forest management plans were prepared. However, some cross-cutting dimensions, including gender and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), received limited attention, and restoration outcomes were affected by constraints such as insufficient government co-financing and challenges in restoration monitoring. In addition, implementation faced contextual challenges, including delays and governance-related constraints, which influenced the pace and depth of progress in SFM, restoration, and carbon initiatives. The implementation of this activity will draw on experience working with a wide range of stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, forest-fringe communities, council forest authorities, and women's groups. The activity will facilitate the documentation of lessons learned to help refine and adapt relevant instruments and to strengthen the capacity of national, subnational, and local stakeholders in operationalising these instruments, particularly within large-scale results-based payment projects and programmes. Training and capacity-building activities will be implemented under Component 3. The testing and operationalisation of these instruments will contribute to enhanced transparency, which is essential for mobilising climate finance for SFM in Cameroon. To ensure their relevance and applicability, the instruments will be tested in a private-sector forestry or agribusiness context, considering the social, economic, and ecological realities of forest management in Cameroon.

Activity 1.3.3. Support the establishment of a legal framework to support green investment in Cameroon. In Cameroon, the climate and investment policy landscape continues to evolve, with opportunities to further strengthen coherence and completeness to better enable private green investment. Improved integration of climate and green investment policies, together with strengthened institutional arrangements, can support the country's transition toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development, and greener economic growth. This activity will support the establishment of foundations for a sustained national commitment to green investment, anchored in a coherent policy framework and clear strategic objectives. Such a framework is expected to provide positive and predictable signals to investors regarding the country's green growth ambitions. The activity will also contribute to increased private sector investment by: (i) stimulating investment opportunities through the development of a pipeline of high-quality green projects; and (ii) contributing to a more robust enabling investment environment by addressing key risk factors, managing costs, and improving the overall attractiveness of green investments. The development of a green investment framework incentivises climate-resilient and low-emission land-use practices, aligning financial flows with adaptation and mitigation objectives. Implementation of the activity will be supported through the mobilisation of relevant national and international expertise. In parallel, the activity will encourage inclusive policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing processes involving environmental civil society organisations and other stakeholders, aimed at informing decision-makers, including parliamentarians, on issues related to climate finance and green investment. The activity will also support analytical and technical inputs that may inform the development of implementing instruments and regulatory measures related to climate finance and green investment, in line with national processes and institutional mandates.

Activity 1.3.4. Support the development of Cameroon's National Forest Reference Emission Level and the finalization of the country's REDD+ MRV system. This activity aims to strengthen Cameroon's capacity to account for its GHG emissions and removals in the forestry sector. This will be achieved by enhancing institutional and technical skills for the measurement and monitoring of GHGs. A key objective will be the development of a robust Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) compliant with international standards, for

accurate accounting of carbon fluxes by agro-ecological zone. The activity will also optimize the collection, analysis, and integration of forestry data, which will contribute to the development of Cameroon's forest reference emission level (FREL) and hence facilitate access to climate finance (REDD+, GCF, GEF, etc.) and ensure effective integration into national climate change strategies. Furthermore, this activity will also support the country in finalizing its REDD+ MRV system. It will involve the development and implementation of standardized processes and methods to accurately measure greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting reductions. Strengthened MRV systems enhance transparency and accountability for emissions reductions while supporting climate-informed planning and long-term ecosystem resilience. Through the technical assistance provided, calculation tools will be developed to assess carbon stocks and variations due to land use changes. Specific training sessions will also be organized to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders in data collection and reporting, to facilitate the country's access to financing related to carbon markets, whether regulated or voluntary.

Component 2: Value chain development and transformation are operational

This component aims to make selected Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) value chains operational, profitable and climate-resilient so that local producers, cooperatives and small enterprises can access stable markets and decent incomes from restoration-compatible products. It targets key constraints faced by women, youth and forest-dependent communities across Cameroon's agro-ecological zones, including weak market connectivity, low value addition, limited business skills and gender barriers in commercialisation. By supporting climate-smart production, processing and transformation (e.g. improved harvesting, storage, primary and secondary processing) and by strengthening producer organisations, the component will increase product quality, traceability and volumes reaching domestic and regional markets. Tailored training and inclusive business development services will help women and youth move up the value chain—from raw product collection to processing, branding and distribution—thereby enhancing their economic autonomy and role in forest stewardship. Strengthened linkages with buyers, financial institutions and green investment partners will lower transaction costs and risks, enabling producers engaged in FLR and agroforestry to secure contracts, equipment and services that reward sustainable practices and diversify climate-resilient income sources.

Output 2.1: Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages

This output will identify, structure and strengthen viable NTFP value chains in each AEZ through market-based business models. It contributes to adaptation by diversifying income sources and reducing reliance on climate-sensitive activities. Climate-resilient value chains and NTFPs provide more stable income streams under conditions of climate variability, thereby reducing household vulnerability to climate shocks.

Activity 2.1.1 Conduct a prioritisation of high-potential NTFPs per AEZ. Drawing on the socioeconomic analysis and the contribution of NTFPs to local livelihoods (Annex 3A), at least one priority species has been identified within each AEZ to support integrated land restoration and sustainable value chain development, thereby providing improved options for sustainable livelihoods and enhanced ecosystem resilience. In the Sudano–Sahelian Zone, gum arabic (*Acacia senegal*) has been targeted due to its adaptability to arid conditions and its high economic potential, which remains largely underexploited in the Waza landscape. According to research conducted by CIRAD and IRAD in 2012, the adaptability of *Acacia senegal* in this arid region ensures high productivity, estimated at 50 to 250 kilograms per hectare per year. The market potential is significant, with substantial exports to Chad and Nigeria and local prices ranging from USD 0.5 to 6 per kg, depending on quality (Mujawamariya et al., 2013). Another species that will also be tested in this landscape is cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*). In the Dja-Lobeke landscape, bush mango (*Irvingia spp*.) and bitter kola (*Garcinia kola*) have been targeted based on their existing market size, and contribution to livelihoods within the landscape. With estimated annual production of 400 to 900 kg/ha for bush mango and 300 to 800 kg/ha for bitter kola, these two species are amongst the most productive NTFPs in the Dja-Lobeke landscape. Market is readily available with average prices at USD 6 per kg for bush mango and USD 7per kg for bitter cola and both can generate up to USD 2700 complementary annual income to household (MINFOF and GIZ

2024). In the Bamboutos and Bakossi landscape, the focus will be on raffia (Raphia spp.) and safou (Dacryodes edulis) due to their adaptability and strong market availability. The average productivity of safou is estimated at 8 tonnes per hectare, with total national commercialized production estimated at approximately 11,000 tonnes (CIFOR/ICRAF, 2010). Raffia generally grows in wetlands, where it is tapped to produce palm wine. Its leaves and stems are also used for craftwork. It constitutes an important source of income in this landscape, with palm wine production estimated at 20,000-60,000 liters per hectare. Around 20,000 people in Cameroon depend directly on palm wine production and trade.

TABLE: Summary of Prioritised NTFP Species per Agro-Ecological Zone

Landscape (AEZ)	Prioritised Species	Scientific Name	Estimated Productivity	Market Price (USD)	Market Characteristics	Estimated Household Income Contribution
Waza (Sudano-Sahelian)	Gum arabic	Acacia senegal	50–250 kg/ha/year	0.50–6.00/kg (quality-dependent)	Significant export potential to Chad and Nigeria; largely underexploited in the Waza landscape; Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian zone is a primary production area	High — gum arabic is one of the most traded commodities in the Sahel with established cross-border trade networks
Waza (Sudano-Sahelian)	Cashew	Anacardium occidentale	250–500 kg/ha/year (current African yields; potential >1,000 kg/ha with improved varieties)	0.50–0.80/kg (raw cashew nut, farmgate); 7.50–10.60/kg (processed retail)	Cameroon has ~15,000 ha under cashew with estimated production of 7,500 t/year; the Sudano-Sahelian and high savannah zones are the two AEZs favourable to cashew; strong regional and international demand	Emerging — cashew generated CFA 363 billion for Ivorian producers in 2022; Cameroon aims to develop 100,000 ha
Dja-Lobéké (Humid bimodal rainforest)	Bush mango	Irvingia spp.	400–900 kg/ha/year	~6.00/kg (dried kernels); average ~2.50/kg (fresh, local market)	Readily available domestic market; one of the most traded NTFPs in Cameroon's humid forest zone; kernels average 1,500 FCFA/kg on local markets	Up to USD 2,700 complementary annual household income (combined with bitter kola)
Dja-Lobéké (Humid bimodal rainforest)	Bitter kola	Garcinia kola	300–800 kg/ha/year	~7.00/kg	Readily available market; among the most productive NTFPs in the Dja-Lobéké landscape; important for Baka Indigenous	Up to USD 2,700 complementary annual household income

					Peoples' livelihoods and women's income	(combined with bush mango)
Bakossi-Bamboutos (Western Highlands)	Safou (African plum)	Dacryodes edulis	~8 t/ha (up to 10 t/ha with improved propagation)	2.10–4.45/kg (fresh fruit, Yaoundé market: 1,250–2,667 FCFA/kg); processed safou oil up to 41.70/litre (25,000 FCFA/litre)	National commercialised production ~11,000 tonnes valued at USD 7.5 million; over 20,000 jobs in the value chain; 95% of production from agroforestry systems; significant export market to France, UK and Belgium (~USD 2 million/year)	USD 63–127/year per household from fruit sales; processors earn on average 446,500 FCFA (~USD 745)/year
Bakossi-Bamboutos (Western Highlands)	Raffia (palm wine and fibre)	Raphia spp.	20,000–60,000 litres/ha/year (palm wine); leaves and stems harvested year-round for craftwork	0.30–0.85/litre (palm wine retail: 200–500 FCFA/litre); craftwork products (mats, bags, furniture) priced individually	~20,000 people in Cameroon depend directly on palm wine production and trade; >60% of men in raffia-growing communities are involved in tapping; strong local demand; leaves and stems supply a vibrant craftwork sector (furniture, mats, bags, roofing)	Small producers earn USD 71–124/month (20,000–35,000 FCFA); full-time tappers can earn ~5,000 FCFA/day (~USD 8.30)

The selected species will be further reviewed and prioritised using detailed feasibility profiles, including yield potential, processing and production costs, and investment requirements, to ensure interventions deliver both ecological sustainability and socio-economic benefits. Prioritisation will be based on ecological suitability, production potential, market demand, and relevance to local livelihoods, with particular attention to enhancing women's participation. Consultative discussions will be conducted in each AEZ to validate and refine priorities in collaboration with local stakeholders. The selected species will be promoted for domestication and integration into agroforestry systems. In addition, local communities will be trained in sustainable harvesting, processing, and marketing practices. Support will also be provided for the establishment and strengthening of cooperatives to enhance the effective management and commercialization of NTFPs across the landscapes.

The above table presents the preliminary prioritisation of NTFP species per agro-ecological zone, based on current ecological suitability, production potential, market demand, and relevance to local livelihoods. This prioritisation draws on the socioeconomic analysis conducted during project preparation and available literature and is intended to provide a sound technical basis for the initial phase of Activity 2.1.1.

However, recognising that market conditions, climate dynamics, stakeholder priorities, and value chain opportunities may evolve between the time of proposal approval and the start of implementation, the project has built in an adaptive mechanism. During the inception phase (Year 1), a comprehensive NTFP feasibility

and prioritisation exercise will be conducted in each AEZ in close consultation with local communities, Indigenous Peoples, cooperatives, and relevant government agencies. This exercise will use updated market data, participatory assessments, and detailed feasibility profiles — including yield potential, processing and production costs, investment requirements, and gender-differentiated livelihood impacts — to validate, refine, or update the species selection presented in this table. Species demonstrating stronger potential at the time of implementation will be prioritised accordingly, while species whose viability has diminished may be replaced with better-performing alternatives identified through the updated assessment. This approach ensures that the project remains responsive to changing conditions and maximises the socio-economic and ecological impact of NTFP value chain interventions across all three landscapes. The adaptive prioritisation process is consistent with GCF's emphasis on evidence-based design and responsive project management and will be documented as part of the project's inception report (see Section E, M&E Plan).

Activity 2.1.2 Support the development /upgrading of the NTFPs micro and small enterprises' equipment. Support the establishment or upgrading of small-scale processing, packaging and storage facilities. Provide business development training, financial literacy and cooperative management skills, with emphasis on women and youth entrepreneurs. Upgraded equipment and technical capacity will support climate-resilient production and processing systems, reducing losses associated with climate variability, and enhancing value chain sustainability. Processing units will be established for the value chain development of NTFPs, including, but not limited to, cashew nuts, bush mango, bitter kola, raffia palm, and avocado.

Activity 2.1.3 Support the simplification of policy and regulatory processes. Work with the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) to simplify administrative processes for NTFP commercialisation under the Agroforestry Notebook framework and the development of the Sylviculture booklet, recognized in the 2024 Forestry Law as a new tool for registering private forest plantations to obtain official government recognition. Support dialogue between MINFOF and other sectorial ministries (e;g the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Finance (MINFI), etc) to align taxation, permit and export procedures for certified planted NTFPs. Inter-ministerial discussions will be facilitated for regulatory review and harmonization of procedures to address key administrative bottlenecks related to exploitation, taxation, permitting and exportation of NTFPs. The project will promote the operationalization of the Agroforestry Notebook and/or Sylviculture booklet to improve formal recognition and traceability of private agroforestry and plantation systems. Capacity building for government services and producer organizations, combined with pilot testing and digital tools will also be done to enhance compliance, transparency, and ease of doing business in the sector. These reforms will lower transaction costs, increase investment incentives, and accelerate the adoption of sustainable and climate-resilient NTFP value chains.

Activity 2.1.4 Engage with financial institutions on green investments. Engage at least two microfinance institutions and one commercial bank per AEZ to co-develop financial products for NTFP-based enterprises (such as low-interest credit and guarantee schemes). Letters of engagement for the project have already been signed by La Regionale Bank and Savana Islamic Finance demonstrating commitment to co-finance pilot investments. These financial institutions will play a key role in strengthening NTFP-based enterprises by improving access to tailored financial services. They will support the development of appropriate financial products such as low-interest loans for processing and value addition of targeted NTFPs. Beyond financing, these institutions will support enterprise development and sector formalization by providing financial literacy training, business advisory services, and support for improved financial management systems. Through partnerships such as those already established with La Régionale Bank and Savana Islamic Finance, financial institutions will co-finance pilot investments and help scale innovative green finance models. Partnerships with financial institutions will embed climate risk considerations into financing decisions, supporting long-term resilience and reducing exposure to climate-related economic risks.

Component 3: Stakeholders' capacities are strengthened on climate-resilient land-use practices

This component focuses on building the capacities of key stakeholders, government institutions, local and Indigenous populations (including women and youth), private sector actors, cooperatives and associations,

financial institutions and civil society to understand, design, implement, benefit from and monitor climate-resilient land-use practices across the project landscapes. It will address economic, financial, technical and organisational barriers that currently prevent stakeholders from adopting sustainable forest management, restoration and climate-smart agroforestry, including limited access to climate information, inadequate skills, and weak links with green finance and markets. The component will enhance adaptive capacity at multiple levels and ensure that climate-resilient land-use practices are sustained and scaled beyond the project's lifetime.

Output 3.1 Improved capacity of stakeholders on the use of enhanced SFM instruments, restoration, and climate-friendly livelihood systems

Activities under output 3.1 will be implemented with a view to overcoming the technical challenges to SFM and restoration, including capacity and knowledge gaps that hinder the transfer and adoption of climate-resilient practices in restoration and PFA management. The amount of carbon stocks that will be conserved and/or enhanced through sequestration will depend on how stakeholders are able to get involved and use the improved instruments prepared by Component 1 activities to develop and implement efficient and effective management plans and restoration plans. This will be achieved through the capacity building of stakeholders on these improved instruments. To this effect, stakeholders will continue to use improved management instruments beyond the project implementation period. This output enhances adaptive capacity by strengthening climate information systems, monitoring frameworks, and institutional coordination, enabling more effective planning and response to climate risks.

Activity 3.1.1 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. This activity will deliver targeted training workshops in each landscape to equip stakeholders with the skills needed to design, implement and enforce climate-resilient protected-area (PA) and sustainable forest management (SFM) plans, and to prepare restoration investment and action plans. Training will target PA managers and staff, deconcentrated services of MINFOF and MINEPDED, local governments, community-based organisations, cooperatives and farmer associations, Indigenous Peoples' networks, CSOs, and private operators managing PFAs (council forests, concessions and other production forests). Participants will learn to apply the improved management guidelines and tools developed under Component 1, integrate carbon-emission reduction and climate-risk considerations into PA and PFA management plans, and formulate bankable restoration investment plans aligned with projected climate risks and ecosystem resilience objectives. In parallel, specialised sessions will train judges, lawyers, police, gendarmes, forest and wildlife officers on forest and wildlife legislation and human-rights-based enforcement to reduce illegal logging, poaching and other crimes that undermine biodiversity, carbon stocks and adaptation benefits.

Activity 3.1.2 Train stakeholders and disseminate information on revised instruments, new restoration, forest monitoring systems, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information systems to relevant stakeholders. Regarding the revised instruments, new restoration and SFM incentive schemes, information and training workshops will be organised in each of the intervention landscapes. Targeted stakeholders will include small, medium, and large size enterprises involved in logging either in council forests or forest management units, council forest officers, deconcentrated services of MINFOF and MINEPDED in the AEZ where intervention landscapes are located, CSOs, representatives of local communities and IP networks. These first capacity building activities will be carried out together with activities under output 2.1. Overall, six (06) capacity building workshops are envisaged, one at the national level and one in each of the three AEZs to train stakeholders specifically on forest monitoring systems, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information systems. Workshop participants will be drawn from the administration (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINADER), specialized institutions (ONACC, IRAD), IP networks, CSOs, representative of local communities, private sector, councils etc. Dissemination of climate-related tools and systems will improve stakeholder awareness and enable more effective adaptation planning and implementation.

Activity 3.1.3 Provide technical capacity to State and non-State actors to prepare a legal framework for green investment. In Cameroon, State and non-State actors often have insufficient technical capacity or resources to advance their green projects, which often aim to mitigate carbon emissions and enhance resilience to climate change. Capacity building in green investment is essential to unlock green investment opportunities to improve the local economy. This capacity building of key actors will consider regulatory,

administrative, legislative and policy aspects, including climate finance instruments, green investments and modelling the socio-economic impacts of green policies that contribute to mitigating carbon emissions and improving the climate change resilience of local economies. In addition, this activity will help establish a national green investment law in the country. Strengthened legal and institutional capacity will support the development of enabling conditions for climate-resilient and low-emission investments.

Activity 3.1.4 Train farmer associations and cooperatives on the monitoring and management of micro-enterprises, notably on agriculture and NTFPs. This activity will strengthen the capacity of producer groups, cooperatives and micro-enterprises to access profitable markets and green finance for NTFP and agroforestry products, while developing climate-resilient business and action plans. Targeted market assessments will identify priority domestic, regional and international buyers and clarify product specifications, quality standards and traceability requirements for selected NTFPs in sectors such as food, cosmetics and nutraceuticals, ensuring compliance with the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing. Strategic partnerships will be developed with regional value-chain and organic platforms, and digital tools adapted to the Cameroonian context will be used to improve market information, buyer linkages and traceability. Farmer associations, cooperatives and potential micro-enterprises will receive training and tailored coaching on organisation, leadership, governance and micro-enterprise management, including the preparation of bankable business plans, climate-resilient micro-Enterprise Development Plans (EDPs) and credit applications, in collaboration with interested financial institutions. A training-of-trainers approach will be used so that association leaders can subsequently train their members according to an agreed roadmap, covering topics such as group objectives and benefits, estimation of costs, projection of revenues and risk management under climate variability. By combining stronger market linkages with improved organisational, financial and business-planning capacities, the activity will enable well-structured producer organisations to secure buyers and green credits, reduce their vulnerability to climate shocks, stabilise and increase incomes, and reinvest in sustainable, low-emission agroforestry and NTFP production systems.

Activity 3.1.4 Train local artisans in equipment maintenance and repair. The installation of processing equipment shall be accompanied by training in the maintenance and management of the equipment. This training will target not only the members of the beneficiary group but also the local craftsmen and technicians (machine mechanics) identified in rural and urban areas near the installation sites while considering gender and cultural diversity. The objective is to have a pool of craftsmen experienced in the maintenance of the machines and easily mobilized in case of need for the maintenance and repair of the machines. Local technical capacity will improve the maintenance and longevity of equipment, ensuring sustained functionality of climate-resilient value chain infrastructure.

Component 4: Strong project monitoring and knowledge-driven partnerships

This component will facilitate effective and efficient implementation of project activities to achieve the intended outcomes and impacts. It will also create and maintain innovative and strategic partnerships to facilitate implementation, upscaling, and dissemination of results after the project ends. It will also ensure that the project is monitored, evaluated, and audited.

Output 4.1 Project is monitored, evaluated, and audited

This output describes the organization of project monitoring, evaluation, and auditing.

Activity 4.1.1 Update and implement the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project and especially restoration activities. This activity aims at updating and implementing the project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan; and internal monitoring of application of M&E plan, based on results from ROAM 2 about the roles and responsibilities of villages, communities, and communes. For the specific case of monitoring of restoration activities in Waza, Dja-Lobéké and Bakossi-Bamboutous, this activity will use the forest landscape restoration (FLR) blockchain application to allow restoration stakeholders to distribute, track and earn restoration certificates and related funds in a way that minimizes costs and maximizes impact. Effective implementation of the M&E plan will benefit communities and stakeholders by improving transparency,

tracking restoration progress, and ensuring that restoration efforts generate measurable ecological and socioeconomic impacts.

Activity 4.1.2 Provide support on FPIC and safeguards implementation. This activity aims at ensuring that environmental and social safeguards policy, and Cameroon FPIC guidelines are effectively implemented. This activity will also ensure the implementation of FPIC guidelines step 6 to 10. Step 6 relates to negotiating with local stakeholders on specific roles and responsibilities, 7 is about formalizing agreements between different communities and the project, step 8 will develop a roadmap for community led activities, step 9 is about the monitoring of the implementation of the roadmap, while step 10 pertains to the monitoring and verification of FPIC implementation.

Activity 4.1.3 Facilitate and support audit of activities, project and food safety and quality monitoring of value chain products. This activity will prepare terms of reference, launch a call and recruit an external independent third-party expert or firm for MTR. It will also prepare terms of reference, launch a call and recruit an external independent third party for final monitoring and evaluation and auditing of project activities. In addition, this activity will establish NTFP quality and food safety standards; control NTFPs quality and monitor food safety; and support food safety compliance. This activity will benefit the communities by ensuring that their rights, priorities, and participation are respected, fostering equitable and socially responsible restoration outcomes.

Activity 4.1.4 Assess governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for each of the PAs in the landscape targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas**.** The SAGE initiative aims to improve the governance and equity of protected areas, other conservation measures, and conservation-related actions. It is based on the relatively simple SAGE methodology, which enables stakeholders to assess the status of governance, plan actions to improve, and monitor progress. SAGE is fully aligned with IMET. The SAGE activity will be led by an international governance consultant and national governance consultant. The activity will comprise a capacity building session and thereafter a two-day stakeholder workshop in two parts per protected area. In the first part, different stakeholder groups complete the SAGE questionnaire in their separate groups. In the second part these groups come together to share their findings. The SAGE questionnaire is similar to the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) and, like IMET, SAGE also captures qualitative information including specific governance challenges identified by different stakeholders, reasons for differences in perspective, and suggested actions to address the challenges and promote convergence of perspectives. In addition to the actual assessment, and effective communication of the results, SAGE will include planning actions to improve governance and equity and monitoring of progress. SAGE is simpler and less costly than most other methodologies. Although this limits the depth of analysis, this reduces the risk of causing conflict around sensitive issues, which makes SAGE an excellent entry point for work to improve governance and equity. Thereafter, the IMET will be used for each of the PAs targeted by the project to progressively monitor the performance of the sites under the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas. This activity will address unsustainable resource use, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation, which can reduce the resilience of protected areas to climate impacts like floods, droughts, and temperature extremes. Improved governance and management will enhance the resilience of IUCN-listed species, supporting both biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation.

Output 4.2 Project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels

Activity 4.2.1 Prepare and disseminate communication and knowledge management products. This activity is first aimed at preparing knowledge products (books, book chapters, scientific articles, theses) on restoration, SFM, REDD+, value chains, adaptation, and livelihood resilience, organizing national policy dialogue on project activities and results, and translating communication and knowledge products into French and English. Second, this activity is aimed at disseminating lessons learned, best practices and experiences to facilitate replication and capitalization of results, and statutory annual, semesterly and quarterly technical reports as well as policy briefs and to seek feedback from project stakeholders. This activity will disseminate project reports, policy briefs, information briefs, and advocacy materials on restoration, SFM and climate change best practices, and lessons learned. It will support participation of project stakeholders in national,

regional, and international conferences to share experiences and lessons learned (COP, UNFCCC, UNCBD, New-York Climate Week, CBFP, etc.). It will provide knowledge products to the local communities (councils) through community radios, meetings, and other events. Strengthening access to information and fostering knowledge exchange will enhance stakeholder capacity, replication of best practices, and resilience building across landscapes and communities exposed to climate hazards.

B.3. Project/programme description

B.4. Implementation arrangements

For the financing of the Project, GCF will enter into an FAA with IUCN, in the form of a grant agreement, under which IUCN, in its capacity as the Accredited Entity, shall administer the relevant GCF Proceeds to be used for the financing of the Project, in accordance with the AMA and the FAA.

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 provide implementation support and quality control. IUCN has robust fiduciary and technical oversight and quality assurance systems, and will closely support the RoC and its partners during project implementation. IUCN will provide bi-annual financial reports and progress reports annually to the GCF on the overall implementation of the project based on quarterly reports from the RoC received from the PMU. IUCN as an Accredited Entity will execute a subsidiary contractual agreement with MINFOF as the Executing Entity at the beginning of the project. The agreement will detail the specific roles and responsibilities, expectations, deliverables, reporting frequency and format, among others. IUCN, as an accredited entity, plays a crucial role in overseeing the entire project lifecycle and is accountable for the management, monitoring, and reporting of project progress, as well as engaging with various stakeholders to maintain transparency and inclusivity throughout the project.

Executing Entities

The project is implemented by two Executing Entities (EEs):

- The Ministry of Forest and Wildlife of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon “MINFOF”; and
- IUCN acting through its Cameroon Country Office.

The table below contains the Executing Entity for each Activity.

Activity	Executing Entity
Activity 1.1.1 Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving protected areas (PA) management plans.	MINFOF
Activity 1.1.2 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.	MINFOF
Activity 1.1.3 Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests.	MINFOF
Activity 1.1.4 Create and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests.	MINFOF
Activity 1.2.1 Develop integrated restoration land use planning and ownership.	MINFOF
Activity 1.2.2 Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza	IUCN

intervention site	
Activity 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	IUCN
Activity 1.2.4 Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site	IUCN
Activity 1.2.5 Develop and disseminate agro-climatic information for increased resilience of agriculture and land use activities in the three landscapes.	MINFOF
Activity 1.3.1 Support the development/operationalisation of the Warsaw REDD+ instruments - the National Forest monitoring system (NFMS), REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system (SIS).	MINFOF
Activity 1.3.2 Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level.	MINFOF
Activity 1.3.3. Support the establishment of a legal framework to support green investment in Cameroon.	MINFOF
Activity 1.3.4. Support the development of Cameroon's National Forest Reference Emission Level and the finalization of the country's REDD+ MRV system	MINFOF
Activity 2.1.1 Conduct a prioritisation of high-potential NTFPs per AEZ	MINFOF
Activity 2.1.2 Support the development /upgrading of the NTFPs micro and small enterprises' equipment	MINFOF
Activity 2.1.3 Support the simplification of policy and regulatory processes	MINFOF
Activity 2.1.4 Engage with financial institutions on green investments	MINFOF
Activity 3.1.1 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.	MINFOF
Activity 3.1.2 Train stakeholders and disseminate information on revised instruments, new restoration, forest monitoring systems, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information systems to relevant stakeholders.	IUCN
Activity 3.1.3 Provide technical capacity to State and non-State actors to prepare a legal framework for green investment	MINFOF
Activity 3.1.4 Train farmer associations and cooperatives on the monitoring and management of micro-enterprises, notably on agriculture and NTFPs	MINFOF
Activity 3.1.5 Train local artisans in equipment maintenance and repair.	MINFOF
Activity 4.1.1 Update and implement the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project and especially restoration activities	MINFOF
Activity 4.1.2 Provide support on FPIC and safeguards implementation.	MINFOF
Activity 4.1.3 Facilitate and support audit of activities, project and food safety and quality monitoring of value chain products.	MINFOF
Activity 4.1.4 Assess governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for each of the PAs	MINFOF

Activity 4.2.1 Prepare and disseminate communication and knowledge management products.	MINFOF
PMC Act 1.1 Operationalise the Project Steering Committee.	IUCN
PMC Act 1.2 Project Management Unit (PMU) leads the implementation of activities and use office equipment for project implementation.	IUCN

Project Implementing Partners

During project implementation, Implementing Partners may be engaged by the Executing Entities and shall be selected in accordance with IUCN's Procurement Policy and may receive a portion of GCF Proceeds. The Executing Entities shall remain fully accountable for the implementation of the respective Outputs and Activities they are allocated to, and the use of GCF Proceeds disbursed to or through such Implementing Partners and will report on their performance as part of the Project's regular reporting obligations to the Accredited Entity and the GCF. The Executing Entities will enter into relevant agreements with Implementing Partners procured for the implementation of the Activities under the respective Component.

Service Providers and Consultants

Executing Entities, IUCN and MINFOF may engage service providers and consultants for the delivery of goods and services under the Project, which shall be selected and paid by the respective Executing Entity for service delivery in accordance with the IUCN's Procurement Policy. The Executing Entities may use GCF Proceeds to engage such service providers and consultants for the implementation of the relevant Activities.

Project governance

The Project will have a (i) Project Steering Committee ("PSC") chaired by MINFOF responsible for the overall direction of the Project; (ii) a Project Management Unit ("PMU") recruited and supervised by IUCN, and responsible for the day to day implementation and fiduciary activities of the Project.

- **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.

The PSC will be chaired by the government, MINFOF, with MINEPDED as Vice-Chair, and will be composed of representatives from various government entities who will support execution, development partners, the GCF NDA, IUCN and the Project Coordinator, as well as civil society and indigenous groups' representatives.

However, any other relevant institutes or agencies can be invited when necessary. Decisions and recommendations of the PSC will be based on agreement by a majority of members and be subject to approval by the Accredited Entity. The PSC will hold meetings at least once a year to supervise the effective implementation of the Project, ensure sound management and propose relevant recommendations.

Project Steering Committee
Chair: MINFOF; Vice-Chair: MINEPDED; Secretariat: National Project Coordinator

Members: Representative of the Prime Minister's office (RPM); Director of Forestry (DF-MINFOF); Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DWPA-MINFOF); Director of NTFP Promotion and Transformation (DPT-MINFOF); Head of Cooperation and Programming Division (HCPD-MINFOF); NDA; MINADER; MINEPDED; MINEPIA; MINEPAT; MINDEVEL; Ministry of Tourism and Leisure; REDD+ National Coordinator; ONACC; IUCN, FAO, Community representative.
Observers: Representatives of NTFP producers; Representatives of Financial Institutions; Representatives of logging concessions; Representatives of CSOs

Table 4: Composition of the National Project Steering Committee

- **Project management Unit**

The Project Management Unit will operate under the strategic guidance of the Project Steering Committee and in full compliance with IUCN's fiduciary, safeguard and reporting standards, as well as GCF requirements. The PMU will include professional and technically qualified staff recruited through a competitive process following IUCN procedures and presented to the Ministry for non-objection. The PMU will be supervised by IUCN and responsible for the day-to-day implementation and fiduciary activities of the Project.

The PMU will be composed of a core project team based in the capital and three field teams deployed in each project landscape.

The central project team will include the following key positions:

- ***Project Manager:*** The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall coordination and day-to-day management of the project. He/she will lead the preparation and implementation of annual work plans and budgets, ensure timely and high-quality delivery of outputs, oversee financial and procurement processes, supervise project staff and consultants, and coordinate reporting to IUCN, the Government and the GCF. The Project Manager will also facilitate the functioning of the Project Steering Committee and ensure effective coordination with ministries, implementing partners and other relevant initiatives.
- **National Forest Specialist:** The National Forest Specialist will provide strategic technical leadership on all forest management and governance aspects of the project, ensuring alignment with Cameroon's national forestry policies, the REDD+ National Strategy, the Forest Investment Plan and the applicable legal and regulatory framework governing Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs). He/she will guide the development and implementation of sustainable forest management plans, support the design of REDD+ payment mechanisms and forest landscape restoration interventions across the three target sites, and ensure that project activities contribute to measurable reductions in deforestation and forest degradation.
- ***Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Specialist:*** The M&E Specialist will design, operationalize and oversee the project's monitoring, evaluation and learning system, fully aligned with the GCF Integrated Results Management Framework and IUCN evaluation policies. He/she will develop indicators and data collection tools, consolidate data from the field teams, ensure data quality and integrity, and produce periodic performance reports. The M&E Specialist will also support mid-term and final evaluations and promote learning and adaptive management throughout the project.
- ***Finance and Administration Coordinator:*** The Finance and Administration Coordinator will manage the project's financial, administrative and procurement functions in accordance with IUCN rules and procedures and GCF fiduciary standards. Key responsibilities include preparation and monitoring of budgets, management of disbursements and financial records, support to procurement planning and contract administration, supervision of administrative support staff, and preparation of interim and annual financial reports. The position will also support external audits and ensure that robust internal controls are maintained.
- ***Safeguard and Gender Specialist:*** The Safeguard and Gender Specialist will ensure that environmental and social safeguards, gender equality and social inclusion are fully integrated into project design, implementation and monitoring. He/she will operationalize the project's safeguard instruments and gender action plan, identify and manage environmental and social risks, and support the meaningful participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups. The Specialist will provide capacity building to project staff and partners on safeguards and gender, support grievance redress mechanisms, and track safeguard and gender-related indicators.

- ***Driver:*** A dedicated Driver will provide safe and efficient transportation for the central PMU staff, consultants and official visitors, and support the logistics of missions and events. He/she will be responsible for the proper use, regular maintenance and record-keeping of the project vehicle(s) assigned to the central team, in line with IUCN safety and fleet management procedures.

In each of the three project landscapes, a field project team will be established with the following minimum staffing:

- ***Project Field Coordinator:*** The Project Field Coordinator will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination and supervision of project activities in the respective landscape. He/she will translate the overall project work plan into detailed field-level plans, coordinate implementing partners and community-based actors, ensure technical quality and timely execution of activities, and consolidate field reports and data for submission to the central PMU. The Field Coordinator will also represent the project at landscape level and maintain close collaboration with decentralized government services, local authorities and community structures.
- ***Driver:*** Each landscape team will include a Driver responsible for the safe transportation of staff, partners and equipment to and from field sites. The Driver will support the organization of field missions and community events, ensure proper maintenance and cleanliness of vehicles, and keep accurate vehicle and fuel logs, following IUCN's security and operational procedures.

These staffing arrangements will ensure that the project has adequate technical, fiduciary, safeguard, gender and communication capacity at both central and field levels to deliver the expected results and comply with GCF standards.

Flow of Funds

The Accredited Entity, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), may request disbursement of the GCF proceeds in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). Upon receipt of such proceeds from the Green Climate Fund, the Accredited Entity shall transfer the relevant GCF proceeds to the Executing Entities as follows: (i) to IUCN, acting through its Cameroon Country Office, in accordance with IUCN's internal financial management procedures; and (ii) to the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), in accordance with the terms of the Subsidiary Agreement.

Each Executing Entity shall, in turn, transfer the relevant GCF proceeds to: (i) the Project Management Unit (PMU) to implement the project activities assigned to it; (ii) the relevant Implementing Partners contracted to support the implementation of the Funded Activity, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable Implementation Agreements; or (iii) the relevant service providers and consultants for the delivery of goods and services under the Project.

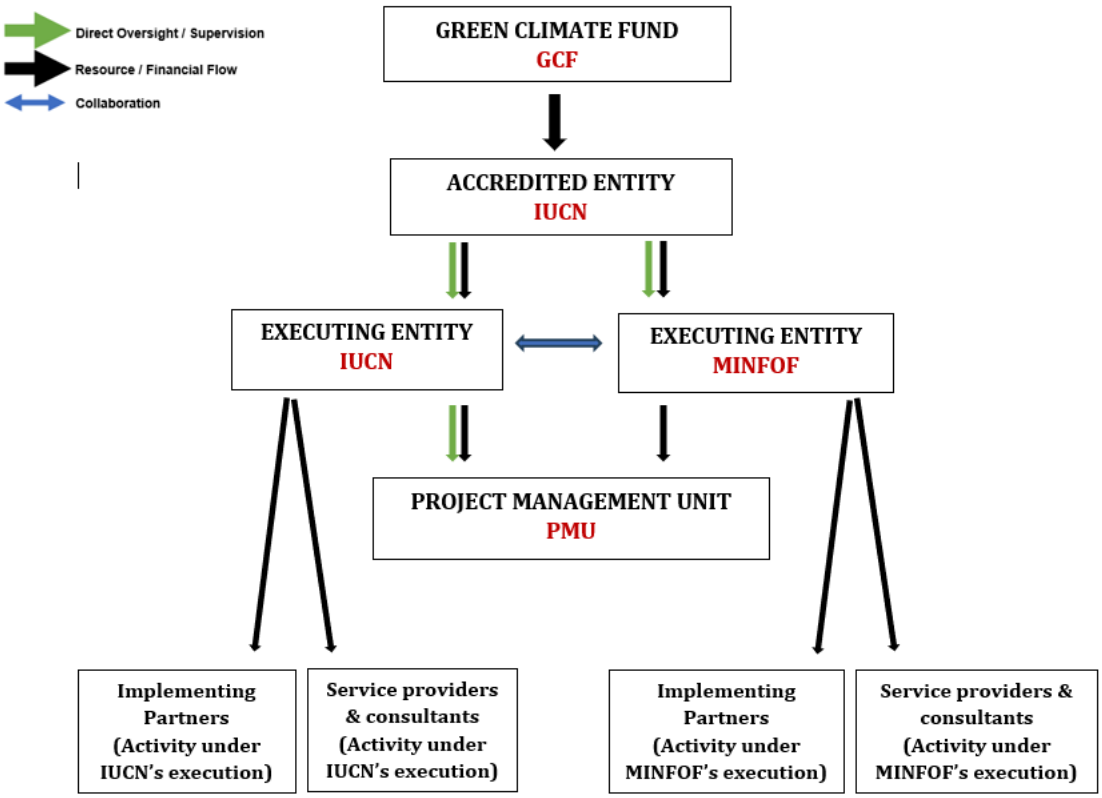


Figure 3. Financial flows of the project

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi + vii)	Total amount		Currency	
	$29 740 699		million USD ($)	
GCF financial instrument	**Amount**	**Tenor**	**Grace period**	**Pricing**
(i) Senior loans	Enter amount	Enter years	Enter years	Enter %
(ii) Subordinated loans	Enter amount	Enter years	Enter years	Enter %
(iii) Equity	Enter amount			Enter %
(iv) Guarantees	Enter amount	Enter years		
(v) Reimbursable grants	Enter amount			
(vi) Grants	$ 29 740 699			
(vii) Results-based payments	Enter amount			

(b) Co-financing information	Total amount			Currency		
	$16 304 936			Options		
Name of institution	**Financial instrument**	**Amount**	**Currency**	**Tenor & grace**	**Pricing**	**Seniority**

Government of Cameroon	Grant	$15,100,424	million USD ($)			
IUCN	Grant	$1,204,512	million USD ($)			Options

Total financing (c) = (a)+(b)	**Amount**	**Currency**
	$46 045 635	million USD ($)

C.2. Financing by component[24]

Component	**Output**	**Indicative cost** million USD ($)	**GCF financing**		**Co-financing**		
			Amount million USD ($)	**Financial Instrument**	**Amount** million USD ($)	**Financial Instrument**	**Name of Institutions**
Component 1. Climate-smart sustainable forest management and restoration	Output 1.1 Improved governance systems and management plans for SFM of PFAs	5,779,294	1,690,994	Grants	4,088,300	Grants	Government of Cameroon
	Output 1.2 Increased restoration of degraded lands and forests in and around permanent forest areas	18,485,251	16,195,751	Grants	2,289,500	Grants	Government of Cameroon
	Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved	3,554,400	2,474,000	Grants	1,080,400	Grants	Government of Cameroon
Component 2. Value chain development and transformation are operational and accessed	Output 2.1 Strengthened NTFP Value Chains and Market Linkages	9,033,146	5,714,525	Grants	3,318,621	Grants	Government of Cameroon
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	4,331,318	762,000	Grants	3,569,318	Grants	Government of Cameroon & IUCN
Component 4. Strong project oversight and knowledge-driven partnerships	Output 4.1 Project is Monitored, Evaluated and Audited	1,487,681	1,487,681	Grants			
	Output 4.2. Project results, knowledge,	1,196,797			1,196,797	Grants	Government of Cameroon

[24] The details of this part are contained in the economic and financial analysis document (ANNEX 3 B)

	lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels						
Project Management Component	PMC Output 1. The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Team are functional	2,177,748	1,415,748	Grants	762,000	Grants	IUCN
Indicative total cost (USD)		$46 045 635	$29 740 699		$16 304 936		

C.3 Capacity building and technology development/transfer

C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance capacity building activities?	Yes ☒ No ☐
C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance technology development/transfer?	Yes x No

Capacity building is a central pillar of the SPEFOCE project, embedded across all four components and directly funded by GCF resources. The project addresses critical capacity and knowledge gaps that are hindering the transfer and adoption of climate-resilient practices in forest management and restoration in Cameroon. Component 3 (Stakeholder Capacity Strengthening) is entirely dedicated to capacity building. Under Output 3.1, the project will strengthen the capacities of at least 2,000 stakeholders (30% women) on climate-resilient land-use practices, including government officials at national and decentralised levels, community forest managers, indigenous peoples, women's groups, and private sector actors. Under Component 1, GCF funds support extensive capacity building for restoration at scale, including farmer field schools on agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration techniques across the three landscapes (Waza, Dja-Lobeke, Bakossi-Bamboutous), training of nursery operators and community restoration brigades on seed collection, nursery management, planting, and maintenance, and capacity building of communal councils and community forest committees on governance, participatory mapping, SFM practices, and fire management.
Under Component 2, GCF resources finance capacity building of NTFP micro and small enterprises on the use and maintenance of improved processing equipment, food safety and HACCP standards, business development, and market access strategies. Financial institutions are also engaged through training and awareness programmes on green investment opportunities in the forestry sector.Under Component 4, the project strengthens institutional M&E capacity within MINFOF and other government agencies through training on GIS/remote sensing, results-based monitoring, and data management systems. Across all components, the project applies a gender-responsive approach to capacity building, ensuring a minimum of 30% women's participation and designing training content to address the specific needs and constraints of women, youth, and indigenous peoples.

The SPEFOCE project finances the transfer, adaptation, and deployment of climate-relevant technologies across its target landscapes. The project addresses the barrier that "technologies and practices needed for low-emission and climate-resilient forestry in Cameroon are still at an infancy stage" and that communities rely on "rudimentary processing techniques, equipment and facilities." Technology transfer occurs in the following areas:

- Forest monitoring and spatial planning technologies (Component 1 and 4): The project procures and transfers GIS and remote sensing hardware, software, and technical skills to MINFOF and partner institutions, including high-performance workstations, GIS software licences, and climate-risk analysis tools. These technologies enable spatial analysis, deforestation monitoring, land-use change detection, and forest inventory data processing. The project strengthens the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and supports ONACC's GHG accounting system using IPCC Tier 2 methodology, satellite imagery (Landsat/Sentinel-2), and allometric equations calibrated to Cameroon's forest types. Equipment

investments include GPS units, diameter tapes, and field measurement tools for permanent sample plots across the three landscapes.

- Climate-smart restoration technologies (Component 1): GCF funds support the establishment of 15 permanent nurseries across the three landscapes, equipped with shade structures, water supply systems, irrigation infrastructure, and associated tools. The project transfers improved restoration techniques, including assisted natural regeneration protocols, agroforestry models (shaded cocoa systems in Dja-Lobeke, parkland agroforestry in Waza, highland agroforestry in Bakossi-Bamboutous), enrichment planting designs, and riparian restoration methods. Species selection, planting densities, and management regimes are informed by the ROAM analysis and adapted to each agro-ecological zone with support from international technical experts.
- NTFP processing and value-addition technologies (Component 2): A core investment of approximately USD 2,000,000 in GCF funds (Activity 2.1.2) finances the procurement, delivery, and installation of improved processing, packaging, and storage equipment for approximately 25–30 decentralised NTFP processing and aggregation units across the three landscapes. These include cleaning and sorting tables, shelling and cracking machines, oil presses, dryers, mills and grinders, filling and sealing machines, and packaging equipment tailored to priority NTFPs (cashew nuts, bush mango, bitter kola, raffia, safou). Auxiliary equipment includes scales, moisture meters, stainless-steel utensils, and food-grade containers. The technology transfer is accompanied by international expertise in food safety and HACCP standards, energy-efficient processing, and maintenance systems to ensure sustained operation beyond the project period.
- REDD+ results-based payment instruments (Component 1): The project tests and develops REDD+ instruments (Activity 1.3), including MRV methodologies, carbon accounting systems, and results-based payment mechanisms. These represent the transfer of international best practices in REDD+ implementation to Cameroon's institutional context, with a target of three REDD+ instruments tested by the end of the project.
- Digital and information management platforms (Components 1 and 4): The project finances the development and hosting of online platforms for sharing guidelines, climate-risk information, market data, and knowledge products. These tools support long-term institutional memory and continued technology use beyond the project lifecycle.

All technology transfer activities are accompanied by training and capacity building to ensure effective adoption, maintenance, and sustainability. The project follows a South-South and North-South technology transfer approach, combining international expertise with national and local knowledge to ensure context-appropriate solutions.

EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

D.1. Impact potential

The SPEFOCE project has strong potential to contribute to the GCF's objectives by delivering both mitigation and adaptation outcomes within the forestry and land use mitigation result area and the adaptation result areas of most vulnerable people and communities, ecosystems and ecosystem services, and health, well-being and food and water security. By transforming forest governance systems, restoring degraded landscapes and strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs), the project will generate measurable climate benefits for both ecosystems and forest-dependent populations while supporting Cameroon's transition toward climate-resilient and low-emission development.

In mitigation terms, the project contributes through two pathways: (i) avoided emissions through reduced degradation and deforestation pressures on forested PFAs; and (ii) enhanced sequestration through the introduction of agroforestry systems on cropland and active restoration of community forests, parklands, reserves and riparian buffer zones. Over the 20-year accounting lifetime, the combined portfolio mitigation potential is estimated at approximately 2,467,777 tCO_2e, comprising 1,589,313 tCO_2e from avoided emissions and 878,464 tCO_2e from enhanced sequestration, across approximately 60,008 ha of forest and agricultural landscapes. Full methodology and calculations are provided in Annex 22.

At a total mitigation budget of USD 22,495,915 for the relevant output activities, this yields a cost-effectiveness of approximately USD 9.12/tCO_2e against the 20-year portfolio total. This figure is within the GCF AFOLU portfolio cost-effectiveness range, where land use mitigation projects typically range from approximately USD 5 to USD 30 per tCO_2e, with projects combining governance-intensive SFM components and active restoration in complex multi-landscape contexts tending toward the lower-middle of this range.

The project also generates substantial **adaptation benefits** by strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and forest-dependent communities exposed to increasing climate risks. Through ecosystem restoration, climate-smart agricultural practices and diversified forest-based value chains, the project will reduce vulnerability and strengthen adaptive capacity for approximately 197,669 direct beneficiaries and 1,346,605 indirect beneficiaries living in and around the Waza, Dja-Lobeke and Bakossi-Bamboutous landscapes. These populations rely heavily on climate-sensitive livelihoods such as rain-fed agriculture, livestock grazing and non-timber forest product harvesting, which are increasingly threatened by rising temperatures, rainfall variability, droughts, floods, erosion and wildfires. In addition, approximately 60,008 ha of vulnerable ecosystems, including forest and agricultural landscapes will be brought under improved low-emission and climate-resilient management practice, contributing to ARA4.

Restoration and sustainable land management interventions will enhance ecosystem resilience by stabilizing soils, increasing water infiltration, protecting watersheds and reducing erosion, flooding and landslide risks. Agroforestry systems and assisted natural regeneration will improve soil fertility, enhance microclimate regulation and increase landscape connectivity, strengthening the capacity of ecosystems to withstand increasing climate variability and extreme events. Protection and restoration of riparian forests and watershed areas will also contribute to improved water regulation and reduced climate-related damage to agricultural lands and settlements.

At the livelihood level, diversified income opportunities based on agroforestry and non-timber forest product value chains will strengthen household resilience by reducing dependence on climate-sensitive agricultural practices while generating more stable and diversified income sources for smallholder farmers, women and Indigenous Peoples. Climate-resilient production systems will also help stabilize agricultural yields under conditions of increasing temperature and rainfall variability, contributing to improved food security and household income stability.

The project will further strengthen institutional and regulatory systems for climate-responsive planning and development. Climate-smart management plans for protected areas, production forests and communal forests will be revised and operationalized to integrate climate risk considerations into forest governance and land-use planning. Multi-stakeholder land-use coordination platforms will improve dialogue and decision-making across forestry, agriculture, livestock and infrastructure sectors, helping prevent the lock-in of climate-vulnerable land-use practices.

In addition, the project will enhance the generation and use of climate information by improving access to agro-climatic services such as seasonal forecasts, weather advisories and early warning information for droughts and floods. These services will enable farmers, pastoralists and forest-dependent communities to better anticipate climate shocks, adjust agricultural practices and manage natural resources more sustainably.

Through these combined interventions, the project will increase adaptive capacity, reduce climate vulnerability and strengthen awareness and adoption of climate-resilient land-use practices among communities and institutions, contributing to long-term climate-resilient development in Cameroon.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential

The project is designed to catalyse a paradigm shift in Cameroon’s forest and landscape management systems by transitioning from fragmented, sectoral, and reactive approaches toward an integrated, climate-resilient and low-emission development pathway. It does so by simultaneously addressing the underlying

drivers of forest degradation, climate vulnerability, and limited access to climate-aligned finance, while establishing institutional, financial, and technical systems that can sustain and scale impacts beyond the project lifecycle.

The paradigm shift potential of the project lies in its ability to combine climate-resilient sustainable forest management (SFM), large-scale restoration, climate-resilient livelihood development, and innovative financing mechanisms into a coherent, scalable model that aligns ecological sustainability with economic incentives. By embedding climate risk considerations into planning, governance, and investment systems, the project moves beyond site-specific interventions to enable systemic transformation across Cameroon's forest landscapes.

Potential for scaling up and replication

The project adopts a landscape-based and systems-oriented approach across three ecologically distinct regions, Sudano-Sahelian (Waza), humid rainforest (Dja-Lobéké), and highland ecosystems (Bakossi-Bamboutous) providing a robust demonstration of climate-resilient and low-emission land-use models under different climatic and socio-ecological conditions. This diversity enables the development of tested, context-specific models that can be replicated across other forest landscapes in Cameroon and the Congo Basin.

Scaling is further enabled through the integration of restoration planning tools (ROAM 2), sub-district action plans, and standardised climate-smart management guidelines, which provide replicable frameworks for implementation. The project's financial mechanisms, including green financing instruments are specifically designed to mobilise additional public and private investment, thereby enabling expansion beyond the initial project footprint. By aligning financial incentives with sustainable land-use practices, the project creates conditions for long-term scaling of both adaptation and mitigation outcomes.

Potential for knowledge sharing and learning

The project will generate and disseminate knowledge on climate-resilient SFM, restoration approaches, climate-smart value chains, and innovative financing mechanisms. Through structured knowledge management systems, including monitoring platforms, policy briefs, and participation in national and international fora (e.g. UNFCCC, CBD, Congo Basin Forest Partnership), the project will contribute to broader learning and replication. Lessons learned from implementation across diverse ecological zones will inform national and regional policy processes and contribute to global knowledge on ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient land-use systems.

Contribution to enabling environment

The project contributes to a paradigm shift by strengthening the enabling environment required for climate-resilient and low-emission development. This includes enhancing institutional coordination, improving access to climate information, and building technical and operational capacity across government, communities, and private sector actors. By integrating climate considerations into forest management systems, restoration planning, and investment decision-making, the project embeds climate resilience into core development processes rather than treating it as an external add-on. Capacity building across stakeholders—including forest managers, local communities, financial institutions, and micro-enterprises—ensures that adaptation and mitigation practices are sustained and scaled beyond the project lifetime.

Contribution to regulatory frameworks and policies

The project supports the development and operationalisation of key policy and regulatory frameworks that are essential for long-term transformation. This includes strengthening REDD+ systems (NFMS, MRV, registry, safeguards), supporting the development of a national green investment framework, and integrating climate change considerations into forest and land-use planning guidelines. By aligning project interventions with Cameroon's NDC, NAP, and REDD+ strategy, the project reinforces national climate policy objectives while providing practical implementation pathways. The development of policy instruments and regulatory frameworks for green finance and climate-resilient land use creates the conditions for sustained investment and institutionalisation of project approaches.

Contribution to climate-resilient development pathways

The project contributes to a structural shift toward climate-resilient and low-emission development by simultaneously addressing ecosystem degradation, livelihood vulnerability, and financial barriers to

sustainable investment. Through restoration and climate-resilient SFM, the project enhances ecosystem integrity and stabilises critical ecosystem services, including water regulation, soil fertility, and microclimate buffering. At the same time, the promotion of climate-resilient value chains and diversified livelihoods reduces dependence on climate-sensitive and unsustainable practices, thereby lowering vulnerability and reducing pressure on forest resources. The integration of financial mechanisms ensures that these practices are economically viable and scalable.

By combining these elements, the project establishes a model for development that is both climate-resilient and economically sustainable, contributing to long-term transformation in land-use systems and supporting Cameroon's transition toward a low-emission, climate-resilient development pathway.

D.3. Sustainable development

The project will make a significant contribution to improving sustainable climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for Cameroon's forest sector. While working towards improving SFM instruments of PFAs, enhancing forest restoration activities, and improving the livelihood support systems and resilience of communities, the project additionally contributes to sustainable development through significant environmental, economic, and social co-benefits.

Environmental: The use of agroforestry to restore degraded land, hills, slopes, riparian forests in parks and production forests could provide benefits in terms of erosion control, regulation of water quantity and quality, increased groundwater recharge, creation of riparian buffer zones, enhancement of biodiversity including forest ecosystem health and improved agricultural yields. Successful application of this approach in the different landscapes of the project could provide potential for scaling up to benefit many communities and ecosystems at national and regional levels.

Social: The success of nature-based solutions in improving forestry production, incomes and community well-being can be replicated at scale to benefit many communities in the region. By investing in sustainable forestry and agricultural practices, promoting the conservation of natural resources and integrating ecosystems into production systems, it is possible to improve food security, livelihoods, the equity and participation of local people in all project activities and the resilience of communities to climate challenges. This model can then be widely disseminated and adopted for positive impact at scale.

Economic: Mobilizing banks for green LOC represents a major opportunity for the production, processing and marketing of forest and agricultural products, including VCD. This will improve the incomes of local communities through increased access to markets. The regional / African coverage of some banks could encourage learning and replication of green financing models in other countries. This would stimulate the adoption of more sustainable financing and investment practices across the sub-region, helping to promote sustainable development at a more global level.

Gender-sensitive development: The Gender Action Plan developed could help to ensure gender mainstreaming in all project activities, as well as increased participation of women in green initiatives and climate solutions at national and regional levels. This would promote gender equality and increase women's participation in climate-smart sustainable development initiatives on a wider scale.

The project contributes directly to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting climate-resilient and low-emission land-use systems in and around Cameroon's PFAs. It supports SDG 13 (Climate Action) through large-scale forest restoration, sustainable forest management and strengthened climate governance that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing adaptation capacity. The project advances SDG 15 (Life on Land) by restoring degraded landscapes, conserving biodiversity and improving ecosystem services critical for watershed protection and soil stability. By strengthening climate-resilient livelihoods, agroforestry systems and non-timber forest product value chains, the project contributes to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) through improved incomes, food security and diversified livelihood opportunities for rural communities, including Indigenous Peoples and women. The project also supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting the participation and economic empowerment of women in forest value chains and local governance processes, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through the development of sustainable green businesses linked to restoration and forest-based value chains. Together,

these outcomes support inclusive, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways in Cameroon.

D.4. Needs of recipient

Cameroon faces a structurally high level of climate vulnerability, compounded by persistent rural poverty and limited fiscal space, which severely constrains its capacity to undertake the scale of investments required for climate-resilient land-use transitions in high-vulnerability, low-adaptive-capacity contexts. Climate change is already degrading forests, soils and water resources in the targeted landscapes, undermining the livelihoods and food security of smallholders, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples who depend on climate-sensitive sectors. At the same time, these populations often lack secure access to productive assets, climate information, technical support, markets and finance, leaving them with very limited options to adjust their practices, diversify income sources or invest in long-term resilience.

Domestic public resources are insufficient to address these challenges at the necessary scale and speed, and are further constrained by competing development priorities, debt pressures and the lingering socio-economic impacts of recent crises. Commercial finance is scarce and risk-averse in rural areas, particularly for long-tenor investments in adaptive forest management, large-scale restoration and climate-smart agroforestry systems that have long payback periods and diffuse benefits. As a result, there is little incentive or capacity for households, communities, cooperatives and local enterprises to mobilize the upfront capital needed to shift towards low-emission, climate-resilient production systems. This structural financing gap is particularly acute in and around Permanent Forest Areas, where climate risks are rising but local economic opportunities remain limited and highly exposed to weather variability.

In parallel, institutional and technical capacity constraints significantly limit Cameroon's ability to operationalize its NDC, REDD+ strategy and forest landscape restoration commitments at the landscape level. Line ministries and decentralized services responsible for forestry, environment, agriculture and land-use planning often lack the staff, tools and resources necessary to integrate climate risk into planning, enforce sustainable forest management, and design bankable, integrated investment programmes that can attract public and private co-finance. Policy and regulatory frameworks are evolving but are not yet fully equipped to steer land-use decisions in and around PFAs towards climate-resilient, low-emission trajectories, nor to ensure the effective and equitable participation of women, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups in decision-making and benefit-sharing.

Against this backdrop, concessional GCF funding is essential to address the combined challenges of high climate vulnerability, institutional and capacity gaps, and structural barriers to finance, and to maximise adaptation and mitigation impact per GCF dollar invested. The proposed project will use GCF resources to de-risk and crowd in green investment in climate-resilient forest and land-use systems, strengthen the institutional and policy framework for climate-informed forest and land governance, and build the technical and organizational capacities of local communities, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples. By targeting highly vulnerable landscapes and population groups, and by unlocking investments that would not materialize at the required scale, speed or level of ambition through domestic budgets or commercial finance alone, the project directly responds to the "needs of recipient" and "country ownership" investment criteria of the GCF, and positions GCF support as a critical catalyst for Cameroon's transition towards climate-resilient, low-emission development pathways.

D.5. Country ownership

Alignment with the National Determined Contributions: The project will contribute to the implementation of the NDC in Cameroon, particularly the contributions that seek to address emission reduction in the forestry and land use sector. Project activities align with key forestry sector actions of the NDC such as (i) SFM through the exploitation and development of production forests, (ii) Contribution to economic growth and the fight against poverty through job creation, and (iii) Conservation of biodiversity.

Alignment with the National REDD+ Strategy: The project will contribute to the implementation of the REDD+ strategy in Cameroon. By enhancing the enabling environment for REDD+ implementation and by

implementing direct forestry and land use activities (restoration, protection, climate smart agriculture etc.) the project will contribute to (i) the reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, (ii) help conserve and increase forest carbon stocks, (iii) improve SFM, and (iv) improve livelihoods.

Alignment with National Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategic Framework: The FLR strategy has made commitments to restore about 12 million hectares of degraded forest and land. This will require a combination of actions on the ground, policy, and institutional change. The project direct investment in restoration activities will contribute to the objectives of the strategy.

Alignment with the 2030 National Development strategy: The strategy stresses the need to (i) strengthen actions for the sustainable management of natural resources; and (ii) adapt and mitigate effects of climate change. Concerning flora, the Government intends to: (i) create and use seed banks of forest species and the establishment of reference nurseries; (iii) promote reforestation; and (iv) improve forest resource information. The project activities related to SFM and restoration will contribute to achieving these objectives.

Alignment with Rural Sector Development Strategy and the National Investment Plan: It includes four priority areas: (i) development of production systems and improvement of food and nutrition security; (ii) modernisation of rural infrastructure and improved access to financing; (iii) sustainable natural resource management and value addition; and (iv) governance and institutional development.

Alignment with Cameroon's Climate Change National Adaptation Plan (NAP): The NAP addresses the impacts of climate change in the country by proposing actions such as reducing population vulnerability by increasing the resilience and quality of life, as well as, increasing adaptive capacity to new opportunities for the country's development. The project will contribute to the objectives of the NAP through promoting access to sustainable livelihoods and project activities that will enhance the climate change resilience of local forest-dependent communities and forest ecosystems.

Alignment with the GCF Country program: Six out of the 12 priority programs of the GCF Cameroon country program are linked to forests and land use. These include the protection, conservation, SMF, and emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation, resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change, development of integrated, and resilient agriculture in response to the effects of climate change. Project interventions are directly aligned and will contribute to these priority areas.

Capacity of accredited entity: IUCN, GCF Accredited Entity since 2016 has the capacity to facilitate and support the design and implementation of medium-sized projects up to $250 million, and projects with medium environmental and social risks. IUCN is active in Cameroon, through its country office, and under the West and Central African regional program where it is implementing projects covering forest and ecosystem protection, protected area, and climate mitigation and adaptation.

Role of the NDA: The NDA office was heavily involved in the project formulation process, from the concept note to the funding proposal. The NDA was involved in all the meetings that took place throughout the design process and provided strategic guidelines on the project scope and interventions along the way. Observations and comments from the NDA were incorporated in the final version of the funding proposal. The NDA will be closely involved in implementing project activities and will be part of the steering committees.

Engagement with civil society, IPs, Women, and other groups: The project development process conducted two rounds of consultations at the national, sub national and local levels. The consultations engaged with sectoral ministries, development partners, FIs, CSO, local communities, women groups, traditional authorities, IPs etc. These stakeholders were involved in defining and identifying the problems, interventions, activities, ongoing and planned activities, and roles and responsibilities. They were involved in the ESIA, IP and gender assessments that facilitated the elaboration of the ESMP, the gender action and IP plan. Stakeholder engagement (operations under ROAM 2) will continue during project implementation.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness

The economic efficiency of the project considered the incremental benefits and costs from the implementation of project activities while the financial analysis was conducted from the point of view of the private sector (entrepreneurs and smallholders).

Cost-effectiveness: Project design and implementation strategies are based on experience and lessons learned from similar previous and ongoing projects in Cameroon and Central Africa. Additionally, project frameworks have been designed from primary and secondary literature and data collection from sites where similar projects have been implemented. Analysis of the project was identified and built around best practices, thereby ensuring solutions identified are to be completed with a high level of confidence in their outcome and cost-effectiveness. The project's financial and economic approach entails the training of a critical mass of smallholders, especially women, to ensure up-scaling through farmer-to-farmer interactions and knowledge exchange on technical issues, value chain, management, and financing.

Financial viability: The Government of Cameroon is requesting US$29.7 million in GCF grant finance, with US$15.1 million in confirmed co-financing (co-financing ratio 1.97:1), to implement the proposed project's interventions. This seven-year investment will secure household incomes/food security and long-term ecosystem services critical to climate adaptation in Cameroon's landscapes. The financial analyses show that the results of the planned interventions (with grant) are sufficiently high to justify the project's investment. With a grant, using a financial discount rate of 9.43%, the Project becomes particularly important from a financial point of view with a net present value (NPV) of US$ 32 million and a FIRR of 7%. The payback period is approximately 10 years. Moreover, the economic benefits that will be generated by the project are expected to be significantly high with the project economic cost-benefit ratio of 5.8, meaning for every US$1 invested, it will expect to generate US$5.80 in economic benefits. This shows that the project is financially viable while also expecting to provide exceptional indirect benefits. Although the NPV is positive for this model, a grant to cover part of the investment cost is necessary as credit is not currently available. Smallholders are not bankable in Cameroon, even for large landowners, only a small fraction of loans is provided by banks and microfinance institutions for forestry and agricultural purposes. Based on the concerns that smallholders in Cameroon are having difficulties to access loans, traditional financial institutions do not take sufficiently into account their rural context. Consequently, grants have been selected as the most appropriate support to cover the project costs focusing on smallholders, women, and IPs. This choice of support is intended to minimize risk of failure of the project from liquidity issues and repayment obligations while also act as a catalyst to mobilize financial institutions to provide green LOC to support the replication and scaling up. To this end, project activities are well designed to encourage financial institutions to develop and operationalize new green financial products, specifically in component 2. The activities conducted under Component 2, including adoption of a legal framework for green investment in Cameroon, technical assistance to FIs in the creation of green LOC and definition of access criteria, are expected to ease credit constraints, and access to LOC by creditworthy smallholders, and entrepreneurs. Regarding the actual economic context, the option of a loan is likely not feasible. Additional parameters preventing the use of a loan is that it can result in the failure of the project in the following ways: i) The poverty level of beneficiary communities: it would be unrealistic to require repayment from communities struggling to meet their basic needs; and ii) The non-continuation and unsustainability of restoration activities without a grant support. From a financial perspective, analysis of the results indicates that the figures for the proposed interventions (with grant) are sufficiently high to justify financing the project's activities.

From an economic perspective, with a grant and over a 20 years period, the Economic Rate of Return is 34% with an ENPV of US$ 196 million when carbon benefits are taken into account at a social cost of carbon at $44 per tonne CO2eq and a social discount rate of 6%. Without carbon emission benefits, ENPV falls to $85 million. This implying that the project is still recommendable even without carbon emission benefits in terms of its contribution to the local and national economies, under the assumption that in the BB Landscape, the total surface area of restoration activities is estimated at 15,075 ha, at 16,524 ha in the DL Landscape, and at 158,730 ha for Waza Landscape. The inclusion of incentive schemes makes the results significantly more interesting. This can only be achieved by funding from an institution such as the GCF, which provides grants, as it is necessary to provide grants to the small farmers in their first few years to motivate them to adopt the agroforestry and forestry systems. Once these become established and financial institutions, helped by the project, develop appropriate products for such activities, sustainability will follow.

E. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

E.1. Project/Programme Focus

☒ Reduced emissions (mitigation)
☒ Increased resilience (adaptation)

E.2. GCF Impact level: Paradigm shift potential

Assessment Dimension	Current state (baseline)	Potential target scenario (Description)		How the project/programme will contribute (Description)
	Description	**Rating**		
Scale	Improved SFM practices are not being applied at scale in production forests, protected areas, due to low uptake of improved management instruments. Efforts to replicate SFM and restoration practices beyond pilot sites remain fragmented due to limited coordination among stakeholders, insufficient documentation of best practices, and weak institutional frameworks for scaling. Cross-landscape policy integration and private sector incentives are underdeveloped, limiting systemic adoption. Landscape restoration is not being scaled up because of low uptake and involvement of stakeholders. Multi-stakeholder platforms for knowledge-sharing and adaptive governance—critical for paradigm shifts—are absent, leaving replication dependent on ad hoc donor funding rather than systemic institutionalization. Value chain actors are not well organized, structured to enhance product value addition and market access.	Low	Increase in the number of PFA types applying improved management practices. Increase in the surface area for restored forest and degraded lands Increase in the number of structured and organised group of stakeholders involved in product value chain	The project will demonstrate how mixed and sustainable agroforestry can reconcile objectives of livelihoods and conservation / prevention of deforestation and land degradation. Output 1.1 relates directly to improve uptake of SFM practices with activities that support the preparation of the improved management instruments and an approach to incentivise uptake in logging concessions. Output 3.1 on capacity building will contribute to build capacity of relevant stakeholder's concern with the management of PFAs. On restoration, output 1.2 will contribute to upscaling restoration by supporting restoration actions, creating incentive approaches, improving the enabling environment (e.g. preparing restoration investment plans). Upscaling of restoration will also benefit from capacity building under output 3.1 that relates to improved capacity of stakeholders on approaches and instruments to enhance restoration. Value chain organisation and structuring will benefit from output 2.1 that organises and strengthens priority agriculture and NTFPs value chains. Output 3.1 will strengthen the capacity of stakeholders on market and VCD will also contribute to upscaling VCD activities.
Replicability	The project activities will target intervention areas with the intentions for replication throughout the impact areas and beyond. Unsustainable practices	Low	Improved SFM practices applied to production forest types in the project impact area and beyond. Management plans of protected	Output 1.1 relates directly to improve uptake of SFM practices with activities to incentivise the uptake in logging concessions in and out of the project impact areas. Output 3.1 on capacity building will contribute to build capacity of relevant stakeholder's concern with the management of PFAs

	dominate: outdated forest plans, weak enforcement, and low stakeholder capacity drive degradation. Communities lack long-term incentives (e.g., tenure security) and rely on deforestation-prone livelihoods. Green finance access is minimal, value chains are informal, and institutions lack tools to monitor REDD+ or illegal logging.		areas out of the intervention areas and beyond the impact areas will be revised. Restoration activities to be carried out in and around PFAs in the project impact areas and beyond. Experiences from the targeted value chain commodities will be applied to other relevant commodities in and out of the intervention areas.	that are out of impact areas. On restoration, output 1.2 will contribute to the replication of restoration by creating incentive approaches, improving the enabling environment (e.g. preparing restoration investment plans). Replication of restoration will also benefit from capacity building activities under output 3.1, that relates to the improved capacity of stakeholders on the approaches and instruments to enhance restoration. Value chain organisation and structuring of stakeholders in other commodity value chains or same structured and organised stakeholders will be pick-up on other commodities following activities in output 2.1 that organises and strengthens priority agriculture and NTFPs value chains. The cross-cutting activities under output 4.2 will disseminate project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices at the national, sub-regional and local level will contribute immensely to replication. Similarly, activity 1.3.4 will contribute to helping the country finalize both its FREL and its MRV system. This will ensure that international standards and quality are integrated into these processes, which would help attract carbon compensation funding, whether regulatory or voluntary
Sustainability	The project is responding to gaps and barriers identified by PFAs managers, technical and financial partners, and beneficiaries with the objectives to enhance long-term adaptive and sustainable management of PFAs. Unsustainable practices dominate: outdated forest plans, weak enforcement, and low stakeholder capacity drive degradation. Communities lack long-term incentives (e.g., tenure security) and rely on deforestation-prone livelihoods. Green finance access is minimal, value chains are informal, and institutions lack tools to monitor REDD+ or illegal logging.	Medium	All eight barriers identified will be addressed to the benefit of public institutions, communities, private sector, and development partners. Green finance and capacity building will ensure ownership. Legal frameworks (REDD+ registries, green laws) and certified NTFP value chains will stabilize incomes. Financial institutions will offer low-risk green credits with blockchain monitoring. Multi-stakeholder platforms and government adoption of project tools (NFMS/SIS) will institutionalize climate-smart practices.	Sustainability of the project will be based on activities under outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 related to improving the enabling environment for SFM, restoration and REDD+ implementation. All activities under output 2.1 will contribute to build a long-term business environment related to value chain and market access. For example, the development of viable business plans, access to credits, platforms to bring stakeholders together (buyers-producers-investors). In addition, all outputs under the capacity building component will contribute immensely to project sustainability including output 4.3 activities

E.3. GCF Outcome level: Reduced emissions and increased resilience

GCF Result Area	IRMF Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target		Assumptions / Note
				Mid-term	Final[25]	

[25] The final target means the target at the end of project/programme implementation period. However, for core indicator 1 (GHG emission reduction), please also provide the target value at the end of the total lifespan period which is defined as the maximum number of years over which the impacts of the investment are expected to be effective.

MRA4 Forestry and land use	Core 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed/sequestered	Project-level MRV system	0 tCO2eq	604,946 tCO_2eq	2,467,777 tCO_2eq	No implementation delay which results in lower GHG abatement. Accounting period: 20 years 20-year target of mitigation potential: 2,467,777 tCO_2eq. Yearly average over accounting period) 123,389 tCO_2eq
ARA1 Most vulnerable people and communities	Core 2: Direct beneficiaries reached. Number of beneficiaries (% women): Investing in agriculture and forestry commodities and value chains; Trained on: approaches and instruments to enhance SFM and restoration; socio economic and climate resilience; livelihood systems; VCD, market, micro-enterprise	Annual reports from project Total number of individuals benefiting from better access to food through improved management practices Total number of new practices or options adopted by beneficiaries that contribute to food security	0	98 835	197 669	Project anticipates 197 669 direct beneficiaries within the intervention sites
	Suppl. 2.1: Number of beneficiaries (% women) adopting improved CR livelihood options.	Annual reports from project Study report on beneficiaries' perception of the effectiveness of improved livelihood options Total number of individuals who have adopted improved livelihood options	0	40 256	80 515	
	Suppl. 2.2: Number of beneficiaries (% women) taking advantage of the food security effect of sustainable management and restoration, as well as better livelihood options.	Annual reports from project Total number of individuals benefiting from better access to food through improved management practices Total number of new practices or options adopted by beneficiaries that contribute to food security	0	40 256	80 515	
	Core 2: Indirect beneficiaries reached.	Annual project reports	0	673,303	1,346,605	Project anticipates reaching 1,346,605 indirect beneficiaries
ARA4 Ecosystems and ecosystem services	Core 4: Hectares of natural resources brought under improved low-emission and/or climate-resilient management practice	Report on the evolution of forest Cover and land restoration Annual reports from project, decentralised regional and municipal authorities in charge of forestry	0	**Total:** 17,446 ha **In Waza Landscape:**	**Total:** 21,739 ha **In Waza Landscape:**	Beneficiaries have secured land access and / or tenure rights. Beneficiaries engage in restoration activities covering 7,509 ha in Waza; 6,917 ha in DL;

			D	Agroforestry on farms/ hillsides = 408 ha Community forest restoration (forest) = 206 ha Riparian restoration (forest) = 82 ha Degraded parkland restoration (forest) = 84 ha SFM governance = 20,000 ha **In Dja-Lobéké:** Cocoa agroforestry on farms = 299 ha Community forest restoration (forest) = 647 ha Council/ parks/ reserves restoration (forest) = 282 ha Riparian buffer restoration (forest) = 425 ha	Agroforestry on farms/ hillsides = 1,020 ha Community forest restoration (forest) = 516 ha Riparian restoration (forest) = 207 ha Degraded parkland restoration (forest) = 210 ha SFM governance = 20,000 ha **In Dja-Lobéké:** Cocoa agroforestry on farms = 748 ha Community forest restoration (forest) = 1,618 ha Council/ parks/ reserves restoration (forest) = 706 ha Riparian buffer restoration (forest) = 1,063 ha	and 7,312 ha in BB. Restoration activities will include agroforestry, reserve and park areas, reforestation. See annex 24, ROAM methodologies.

			D	SFM governance = 15,000 ha **In Bamboutos-Bakossi:** Agroforestry on farms = 133 ha Forest reserve/ hills restoration (forest) = 300 ha Riparian protection/ restoration (forest) = 1,135 ha SFM governance = 15,000 ha	SFM governance = 15,000 ha **In Bamboutos-Bakossi:** Agroforestry on farms = 333 ha Forest reserve/ hills restoration (forest) = 750 ha Riparian protection/ restoration (forest) = 2,837 ha SFM governance = 15,000 ha	

E.4. GCF Outcome level: Enabling environment (IRMF core indicators 5-8 as applicable)					
Core Indicator	**Baseline context (description)**	**Rating for current state (baseline)**	**Target scenario (description)**	**How the project will contribute**	**Coverage**
Core Indicator 5: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks for low emission climate-resilient development pathways in a country-driven manner	Current regulatory instruments for the management of PFAs do not take into consideration climate change mitigation and adaptation explicitly, in addition to other gaps related to institutional technical capacity in the forestry and related sectors. Institutional capacity gaps also exist in relation to engagement in REDD+ RBP activities	low	High Regulatory instruments for production forests improved. Regulatory instruments for protected areas management revised. Institutional capacity on revised instruments improved. Institutional capacity on REDD+ results -based instruments improved	The project will provide technical assistance to revise regulatory instruments and developed guidelines for integrating mitigation and adaptation in the management of PFAs. This will be followed by capacity building of stakeholders from the local to the national level to enhance uptake.	National level (one country)
Core indicator 7: Degree to which GCF Investments contribute to market development/transformation at the sectoral, local, or national level	Value chain and market development is faced with barriers in different sub national areas in relation to the organization and structuring of actors, their interactions and networking for better market access and development	medium	Increase in the number of structured and organised stakeholders (micro-enterprises) with business development ideology. Platforms created to federate organisations in the value chain and to enhance market access and development.	The project will contribute to provide technical assistance and capacity building to help structure and organise local stakeholder groups into viable micro-enterprises involve in targeted commodities. Technical assistance will be provided to create and enhance stakeholder networks to enhance market access, mobilise investors and access to micro-credits	Multiple sub-national areas within a country
Core indicator 8: Degree to which GCF investments contribute to effective knowledge generation and learning processes, and use of good practices, methodologies and standards	Insufficient knowledge, lessons, and experiences have been generated on low emission / resilient forestry and land use practices at scale, including adapted methods and approaches.	medium	Project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels	The project has three major activities that will contribute to achieving this target related to knowledge management. They will be generated from the intervention and impact areas, but will be disseminated throughout the national territory	National level (one country)

E.5. Project/programme specific indicators (project outcomes and outputs)

Project/programme results (outcomes/ outputs)	Project/programme specific Indicator	Means of Verification (MoV)	Baseline	Target	Assumptions / Note	
				Mid-term	Final	
Component 1. Climate-smart sustainable forest management and restoration						
Output 1.1 Improved governance systems and management plans for SFM of PFAs	Number of sustainable forest management policy instruments for permanent forest areas revised or created (% participation of women) Forest area regenerated or restored in permanent forest areas (PFAs), deforestation rate in permanent forest areas (PFAs) and rate of reduction of illegal logging	MINFOF records Management plan for the permanent forest concerned Project monitoring report	TBD	1 additional (With 30% participation of women) 0.2 % rate of deforestation	3 additional (With 30% participation of women) 0.1 % rate of deforestation	The revision or creation process shall be participatory involving ONACC, MINFOF, MINEPDED, CSOs, logging concessions, council forests managers, representatives of local communities and IP groups, financial and technical partners.
Output 1.2 Increased restoration of degraded lands and forests in and around permanent forest areas	Number of hectares of degraded forests / lands restored by means of agroforestry, assisted natural regeneration, and reforestation (% participation of women)	Tree planting, forest cover Monitoring and annual reports by PMU, WRI, MINFOF, MINEPDED	0 ha	95 165 ha (With 30% participation of women)	190 330 ha (With 30% participation of women)	Tenure rights are secured and respected. (See SG-ROAM) Beneficiaries engage in restoration activities covering 158 730.3 ha in Waza; 16 524.6 ha in DL; and 15 075.1 ha in BB. See annex 24, ROAM methodologies.
Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment strengthen and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved	Number of REDD+ instruments tested with (% participation of women)	Documents and reports detailing the REDD+ instruments tested, including statistics on women's participation in annual reports	0	1 (With 30% participation of women)	3 (With 30% participation of women)	Scientifically sound IPCC and UNFCCC protocols for REDD+ are used

Component 2. Value chain development and transformation are operational						
Output 2.1:Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages	Number of beneficiaries (% women) integrating into equitable supply agreements	Project monitoring report. Financial institutions records.	0	5,000 producers (With 30% participation of women)	10,000 producers (With 30% participation of women)	Consistent technical and extension support is provided to beneficiaries and FIs. No major climate disruption of agricultural and NTFPs production calendar
	Area of degraded forest and agroforestry landscape restored using climate-resilient practices that enhance ecosystem services critical for climate adaptation (ha)	Remote sensing analysis Forest restoration monitoring reports Field verification surveys	0 ha restored under climate-resilient management	10,000 ha restored	21,738 ha restored	Restoration improves soil moisture retention, micro-climate regulation and erosion control, strengthening ecosystem resilience to drought and extreme rainfall. Assumes land tenure agreements and community participation remain stable.
	Number of beneficiaries (% women) trained on market, value chain and micro-enterprise development	Project monitoring report. Participants survey after training sessions	0	300	Number of beneficiaries (% women) trained on market, value chain and micro-enterprise development	Project monitoring report. Participants survey after training sessions
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.	Number of stakeholders demonstrating improved capacity to implement climate-resilient land management and livelihood practices (disaggregated by gender)	Project monitoring report Training completion records Post-training knowledge assessments Field adoption verification	0	600 (With 30% participation of women)	2,000 (With 30% participation of women)	Consistent technical support is provided to beneficiaries. Capacity building improves adaptive capacity of communities, government agencies and value chain actors to respond to climate variability.
	Percentage of trained stakeholders applying climate risk management practices	Follow-up surveys Field verification visits	0%	50%	70%	Measures actual adaptation impact through behavioural change and adoption of

	within one year of training	Extension service reports				climate-resilient practices.
	Number of operational multi-stakeholder coordination platforms supporting climate-resilient value chain development	Meeting minutes Platform governance documents Annual platform activity reports	0 platforms	3 platforms	6 platforms	Coordination improves adaptive governance, enabling faster response to climate-related shocks affecting forest landscapes and value chains.
Component 4. Strong project oversight and knowledge-driven partnerships						
Output 4.1 Project is monitored, evaluated, and audited	Number of effective MEL systems in place	Project monitoring report	0	1	2	IUCN and GCF guidelines and procedures will be used
Output 4.2 Project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels	Percentage of project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices consolidated, upscale and disseminated	Published knowledge products Project monitoring report	0	25%	75%	The remaining 25% will be finalised with partners and publishers, disseminated and upscaled after the end of the project.
Project/programme co-benefit indicators						
Co-benefit 1: Social	Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached. Number of beneficiaries (% women) trained on SFM, restoration, market value chains through their social / community groups	Project monitoring reports: annual, mid-term, final reports	0 male 0 female	1,500 (With 30% participation of women)	3,000 (With 30% participation of women)	Consistent technical support is provided to beneficiaries
Co-benefit 2: Economic	Core 2: Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached. Number of beneficiaries (% women) who got new and enhanced job / business opportunities	Project monitoring reports: annual, mid-term, final reports	0 male 0 female	2,500 (With 30% participation of women)	5,000 (With 30% participation of women)	Consistent technical and extension support is provided to beneficiaries and financial institutions

Co-benefit 3: Environmental	Core 4: Ha of natural resource areas brought under improved low-emission and /or climate-resilient management practices Number of ha of degraded forests / lands restored to: boost watershed functions around Mt Bamboutous; improve health of dry forests and arid environmental conditions in Waza and conserve biodiversity in DL. (% of women participation)	Project monitoring reports: annual, mid-term, final reports	0 ha	10,000 ha	21,738 ha	Targeted restoration Land available in the project areas: Waza total 7,509ha Dja-Lobéké total 6,917ha Bakossi-Bamboutos total 7,312ha Portfolio total 21,738 ha

E.6. Project/programme activities and deliverables

Activities	Description	Sub-activities	Deliverables
Output 1.1 Improved governance systems and management plans for SFM of PFAs			
Activity 1.1.1	Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into the guidelines for improving PA management plans.	SA1. Assess past, present and future climate in and around PAs SA2. Analysis of impacts of climate change in and around PA SA3. Vulnerability analysis of socio-ecological systems SA4. Identification and prioritization of adaptation options SA5. Revision of the strategic axes of PA management plan by integrating the adaptation options	Updated PA management plan, guidelines that integrate climate change, SFM considerations and IUCN best practices prepared, and validated
Activity 1.1.2	Develop guidelines for preparing and implementing 03 production forests management plans including the integration of climate change mitigation, and other improved SFM practices and update the status of illegal logging in Cameroon.	SA1. Assess climate gaps/options in management plan SA2. Stakeholder consultations SA3. Revise guidelines for PA management plans SA4. Raise awareness and validate updated guidelines SA5. Monitor state of illegal logging in project sites	Updated production forest management plan guidelines Illegal logging trend update

Activity 1.1.3	Implement management plans of 3 Communal forests.	SA1. Integrate CC into council forest management plans SA2. Stakeholder engagement SA3. Implementation council forest management plan SA4. Monitor management plan implementation	At least 3 Climate-smart council forest management plans, implemented and monitored
Activity 1.1.4	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 SA2. Bring land use stakeholders together for dialogue SA3. Create dialogue platform, organize meetings SA4. Engage people affected by human-wildlife, agropastoral conflicts SA5. Collaborate with ministries on land use planning SA6. Support transhumance related conflict resolution SA7. Identify and agree on corridors for transhumance SA8. Map grazing areas, enhance pasture production SA9. Monitor illegal logging, wildlife poaching in project	Dialogue and stakeholder engagement reports Maps of corridors for transhumance Maps of grazing areas Illegal logging and wildlife pocahing reports
Output 1.2 Increased restoration of degraded lands and forests in and around permanent forest areas			
Activity 1.2.1	Develop integrated restoration land use planning and ownership.	SA1. PRA in 3 Waza Landscape districts and implementation of SG-ROAM SA2. Land use planning in 3 Waza Landscape districts SA3. PRA in 3 Dja-Lobeke Landscape districts and implementation of SG-ROAM SA4. Land use planning in 3 Dja-Lobeke districts SA5. PRA in 3 Bakossi-Bamboutous Landscape districts and implementation of SG-ROAM SA6. Land use planning in 3 BB Landscape districts	Restoration land use maps the project restoration intervention sites
Activity 1.2.2	Implement restoration activities in agricultural lands, mountains, degraded park areas, and community forests in the Waza intervention site	SA1. Select healthy climate-resilient planting materials SA2. Implement restoration with NTFPs species SA3. Identify and select nursery management experts SA4. Identify suitable sites and create nurseries SA5. Purchase of seeds and inputs SA5. Prepare planting fields (clearing, pecking, digging) SA6. Transport seedlings and plants SA7. Manage planting: irrigation, weeding, dead plants SA8. Monitor seedlings/trees and forest growth	05 Nursery plots of 20 000 seedlings capacity per landscape 73 937.50 ha of agroforestry and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) established 26 925.4 ha of community forests 16 315.7 ha of riparian forest and buffers of water bodies 41 551.7 ha of restoration of degraded parks
Activity 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	SA1. Select healthy climate-resilient planting materials SA2. Implement restoration with Cocoa agroforestry and NTFPs species SA3: Identify and select nursery management experts SA4. Identify suitable sites and create nurseries SA5. Purchase of seeds and inputs SA5. Prepare planting fields (clearing, pecking, digging) SA6. Transport of seedlings and plants SA7. Manage planting: irrigation, weeding, dead plants SA8. Monitor seedlings/trees and forest growth	Nursery plots (05 nurseries of 20 000 seedlings capacity per landscape) 1 457 ha of agroforestry and ANR established 8 970.5 ha of community forests restored 1 524ha of council forests, parks and reserves restored 4 573.1 ha of protective forests areas of buffer of water bodies

Activity 1.2.4	Implement restoration activities in degraded agricultural lands and forest reserves in Bakossi-Bamboutous intervention site	SA1. Select healthy climate-resilient planting materials SA2. Implement restoration SA3: Identify and select nursery management experts SA4. Identify suitable sites and create nurseries SA5. Purchase of seeds and inputs SA5. Prepare planting fields (clearing, pecking, digging) SA6. Transport of seedlings and plants SA7. Manage planting: irrigation, weeding, dead plants SA8. Monitor seedlings/trees and forest growth	05 Nursery plots 20 000 seedlings capacity landscape 8 569.1 ha of agroforestry and ANR established 3 006 ha of restoration of degraded forest reserve and hills areas 3 500 ha of protection forests on riparian areas and buffers of water bodies Degraded mount Bakossi-Bamboutous site restored with 220 trees per ha (number of ha to be determined)
Activity 1.2.5	Develop and disseminate agro-climatic information for increased resilience of agriculture and land use activities in the three landscapes.	SA1. Produce climate information –with ONACC SA2. Disseminate climate information through radio, farmers' network, and mobile message	Timely climate information resources disseminated to farmers including women,
Output 1.3 Enabling environment for green investment and REDD+ results-based payment instruments improved			
Activity 1.3.1	Support the reporting on the Warsaw REDD+ instruments - the National Forest monitoring system (NFMS), REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system (SIS).	SA1. Expert support on NFMS, SIS, REDD+ registry,RL SA2. Organize 3 National validation workshops SA3. Finalize the legal framework for carbon SA4. Finalize definition of forest in REDD+ context	01 NFMS REDD+ SIS, Forest definition, Carbon legal framework
Activity 1.3.2	Test Forest monitoring system, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information system and forest reference level.	SA1. Identify REDD+ pilot initiative SA2. Develop and implement forest monitoring system SA3. Develop and implement a REDD+ registry SA4. Develop and implement a REDD+ SIS SA5. Private sector forestry/agri-business REDD+ pilot SA6. ONNAC GHG accounting and certification system SA8. Monitor the implementation of REDD+pilot	01 REDD+ pilot initiative is established in one project site
Activity 1.3.3	Support the establishment of a legal framework to support green investment in Cameroon.	SA1. Prepare advocacy materials for decision makers SA2. Elaborate legal framework for adoption SA3. Elaborate text of application to implement SA4. Validation of the legal framework by lawmakers	1 legal framework is prepared, and submitted to Parliament for adoption by lawmakers
Activity 1.3.4	Support the development of	SA1. Prepare and collect data for FREL SA2. Updated the national FREL for adoption	1 FREL updated and validated

	Cameroon's National Forest Reference Emission Level and the finalization of the country's REDD+ MRV system	SA3. Validation of the FREL SA4. Prepare and collect data for MRV system REDD+ SA5. Updated the national MRV system REDD+ SA6. Validation of MRV system REDD+	1 MRV system updated and validated
Output 2.1: Strengthened non timber forest product (NTFP) Value Chains and Market Linkages			
Activity 2.1.1	Conduct a prioritisation of high-potential NTFPs per AEZ	SA1.Expert to support identification of NTFPs SA2. Procurement of equipment SA3. Training sessions, workshops, and consultations	02 to 03 promising NTFPs selected
Activity 2.1.2	Support the development /upgrading of the NTFPs micro and small enterprises' equipment	SA1. establishment or upgrading of small-scale processing, packaging and storage facilities SA2. Provide business development training, financial literacy and cooperative management skills, with emphasis on women and youth entrepreneurs.	Establishment or strengthening of 25 processing or aggregation units;
Activity 2.1.3	Support the simplification of policy and regulatory processes	SA1. Organize discussion regards simplify administrative processes for NTFP commercialisation SA2. Support dialogue between MINFOF, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) and the Ministry of Finance (MINFI) to align taxation, permit and export procedures for certified planted NTFPs. SA3. Expert to support the process	Integration of producers (50 % women) into equitable supply agreements;
Activity 2.1.4	Engage with financial institutions on green investments	SA1. Engage microfinance institutions and commercial bank per AEZ to co-develop financial products for NTFP-based enterprises (such as low-interest credit and guarantee schemes). SA2. Explore public–private partnerships where verified restoration records serve as collateral enhancers for access to credit.	Engagement of 2 to 4 financial institutions in green investment partnerships
Output 3.1 Improved capacity of stakeholders on the use of enhanced SFM instruments, restoration, and climate-friendly livelihood systems.			
Activity 3.1.1	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.	SA1. Conduct needs assessments SA2. Develop training tools /manuals SA3. Select participants including at least 30% women SA4. Organize capacity building workshops SA5. Monitor application of knowledge	02 needs assessment report 01 training manual on PFAs M+A 20 Training reports
Activity 3.1.2	Train stakeholders and disseminate information on revised instruments, new restoration	SA1. Conduct needs assessment. SA2. Develop training tools /manual. SA3. Select participants, at least 30% of women. SA4. Organize capacity building workshop.	02 needs assessment report 02 training manual 19 Training reports

	schemes, forest monitoring systems, REDD+ registry and REDD+ safeguard information systems to relevant stakeholders.	SA5. Monitor application of knowledge	
Activity 3.1.3	Provide technical capacity to State and non-State actors to prepare a legal framework for green investment and support the initiation, adoption and implementation of a national green investment law.	SA1. Conduct needs assessment. SA2. Develop training tools/manual, SA3. Identify participants with at least 30% women, SA4. Training workshop on preparing green investment. SA5. Monitor application of knowledge3.1	1 Capacity building workshop organised
Activity 3.1.4	Train farmer associations and cooperatives on the monitoring and management of micro-enterprises, notably on agriculture and NTFPs	SA1. Conduct targeted market and capacity needs assessments	01 needs assessment report 01 training manual 15 Training reports
Activity 3.1.5	Train local artisans in equipment maintenance and repair.	SA1. Define local context SA2. Conduct capacity need assessment SA3. Develop training tools /manual SA4. Select participants including at least 30% women SA5. Organize capacity building workshop SA6. Monitor application of knowledge	01 needs assessment report 01 training manual 10Training reports per landscape
Output 4.1 Strong project monitoring and knowledge-driven partnerships			
Activity 4.1.1	Update and implement the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project and especially restoration activities..	SA1. Conduct ROAM 2 to finalise village, community and commune roles and responsibilities. SA2. Develop and implement project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan. SA3. Internal monitoring of application of M&E plan SA4 Monitor implementation of restoration in Waza landscape. SA5 Monitor implementation of restoration in Dja-Lobeke landscape. SA6 Monitor implementation of restoration in Bakossi-Bamboutous landscape.	ROAM 2 report M&E plan developed Annual M&E report Internal mid-term M&E report Internal final M&E report Digitally driven restoration M&E
Activity 4.1.2	Providesupport on FPIC and safeguards implementation.	SA1. Recruit and manage consultants as necessary for carrying out assessments SA2. Implement ESMP, SEP, GAP and SG-ROAM SA3. Implement FPIC where identified as per ESMP	ESMP, GAP, SG-ROAM, SEP, Grievance Register updated annually with implementation status;

		SA4. Provide annual reports on implementation status of ESMP, SEP and SG-ROAM SA5. Set up project-level grievance mechanism and handle grievances received	FPIC implementation report and evidence of FPIC as relevant
Activity 4.1.3	Facilitate and support audit of activities, project and food safety and quality monitoring of value chain products.	SA1. Prepare terms of reference, launch a call and recruit an external independent third-party expert or firm for MTR SA2. Prepare terms of reference, launch a call and external independent third-party for final monitoring and evaluation of project activities SA3. Establish NTFP quality and food safety standards. SA4. Control NTFP quality and monitor food safety. SA5. Support food safety compliance	Mid-term M&E, auditing report Final M&E, auditing report Food safety, quality monitoring and compliance system
Activity 4.1.4	Assess governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) for each of the PAs	SA1. Assess governance and management in Waza landscape PA using SAGE and IMET SA2. Assess governance and management in Bakossi-Bamboutous landscape PA using SAGE and IMET SA3. Assess governance and management in Dja-Lobeke-Ngoyla landscape PA using SAGE and IMET SA4: Facilitate the compensation for ecosystem services rendered through restored PF activities. SA5. Operationalize PA governance and management that align with SAGE and IMET tools in each of the 3 landscapes. SA6: Monitor implementation in each landscape	Enhanced adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas IMET and SAGE reports for each PA, report on PA performance
Output 4.2 Project results, knowledge, lessons learned, and best practices are consolidated, upscaled and disseminated at the national, sub-regional and local levels			
Activity 4.2.1	Prepare and disseminate communication and knowledge management products.	SA1. Prepare knowledge products (books, book chapters, scientific articles, theses) on restoration, SFM, REDD+, value chains, adaptation, and livelihood resilience, climate change best practices, and lessons learned SA2. Organize national policy dialogue on project activities and results, and participate in national, regional, and international conferences to share experiences and lessons learned (COP, UNFCCC, UNCBD, New-York Climate Week, CBFP etc.) SA3. Translate communication and knowledge products into French and English, and Provide knowledge products to the local communities (councils) through community radios, meetings. SA230. Prepare project reports and policy briefs	Knowledge products Project technical reports, briefs National policy dialogue (15)
PMC Output 1. The Project Steering Committee and the Project Management Team are functional			
PMC Activity 1.1	Operationalize the Project Steering Committee	SA1. Identify and establish project steering committee members SA2. Define and finalize modalities for operations SA3. Monitor applications of modalities SA4.Facilitate and support audit of project activities	Steering committee annual report

PMC Activity 1.2	Project Management Unit lead the implementation of activities and use office equipment for project implementation	SA5. Define project positions and their roles and responsibilities SA6. Launch and finalise staff recruitment SA7. Management of project SA8. Define project office equipment SA9. IUCN Cameroon office consultant cost, travel costs, administrative expenses SA10. Prepare and sign purchase agreements SA11. Purchase project office equipment SA12. Maintain project office equipment SA13. Monitor the use of project equipment	Project staff recruited (07) Annual project management report Project office equipment purchased (Number to be determined)

E.7. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation arrangements

Project-level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be undertaken in compliance with the GCF Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF), the GCF Monitoring and Accountability Framework (MAF), the GCF Evaluation Policy, and the Evaluation Policy of IUCN. The M&E system is anchored in the project's Theory of Change and structured around the three-level IRMF results architecture — GCF impact level (paradigm shift potential), GCF outcome level (core and supplementary indicators), and project/programme level (outputs and activities). A comprehensive M&E Plan is provided as Annex 11 of this Funding Proposal.

The project monitors six GCF Core Indicators: CI1 (GHG emissions reduced, avoided, or removed/sequestered), CI2 (direct and indirect beneficiaries reached — 197,979 direct, 50% female, and 1,346,605 indirect), CI4 (190,330 hectares of natural resource areas under improved management), CI5 (institutional and regulatory frameworks strengthened), CI7 (market development and transformation), and CI8 (knowledge generation and learning). Three supplementary indicators are also tracked: SI 2.1 (beneficiaries adopting climate-resilient livelihoods), SI 2.2 (beneficiaries with improved food security), and SI 4.1 (hectares under restoration). In addition, project-level output indicators are monitored for each of the four components, along with co-benefit indicators covering social, economic, and environmental dimensions. All indicators are mapped to baselines, mid-term targets (Year 3.5), and end-of-project targets (Year 7) in the Results Framework presented in Annex 11.

Each indicator is supported by a rigorous data collection methodology. GHG emissions are measured using IPCC Tier 2 methodology with Cameroon-specific emission factors, forest inventories through permanent sample plots, satellite remote sensing (Landsat/Sentinel-2), and allometric equations calibrated to the country's forest types, in collaboration with ONACC and WRI. Hectares under management and restoration are tracked through GIS/remote sensing platforms operated by WRI, complemented by field surveys, GPS mapping, and integration with MINFOF's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). Beneficiary data is collected through registration databases with unique identification codes, household surveys at baseline, mid-term, and project end, and community-level focus group discussions. All beneficiary data is sex-disaggregated as a default standard. Institutional indicators are assessed through capacity scorecards and SAGE/METT tools, while market and knowledge indicators are tracked through surveys, value chain analysis, and publication/dissemination analytics. Data quality is ensured through double-entry verification, range and consistency checks, field supervision by the M&E Specialist, inter-rater reliability testing, and external verification for GHG data. In landscapes where indigenous peoples (Baka, Bagyeli) are present, all data collection follows FPIC-compliant protocols.

The primary responsibility for day-to-day project monitoring rests with the Project Coordinator (PC), supported by a dedicated M&E Specialist and a Gender and Safeguards Specialist within the Project Management Unit (PMU). The PC develops annual work plans, validated by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) at the beginning of each year, and ensures timely monitoring of all indicators. The PMU prepares quarterly progress reports identifying emerging risks, implementation challenges, and opportunities for adaptive management. Annual monitoring of each IRMF core and supplementary indicator is conducted well in advance of reporting deadlines. Risk monitoring is integrated into the quarterly cycle through an updated risk register that tracks identified risks, mitigation measures, and residual risk levels. Monitoring of environmental and social safeguards, the Gender Action Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and FPIC compliance is conducted on an ongoing basis with quarterly reporting. An environmental and social grievance mechanism is maintained throughout the project lifecycle.

IUCN Cameroon Country Office provides M&E oversight through annual supervision missions, quality assurance of reports before GCF submission, and coordination of NDA and stakeholder input. IUCN Headquarters (PPME unit) provides technical M&E support, quality assurance of evaluation processes, and IRMF compliance review. MINFOF, as Executing Entity, provides government forest monitoring data, participates in joint monitoring missions, validates restoration and management data, and facilitates access to national forest inventory data. WRI operates GIS monitoring systems and conducts remote sensing analysis, while ONACC manages the GHG accounting system and provides national emission factors. The

GCF Secretariat receives and reviews Annual Performance Reports and provides feedback on project performance.

A project inception workshop will be held within the first three months of project effectiveness to: (i) re-orient stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss any contextual changes; (ii) clarify roles, responsibilities, reporting lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms; (iii) review the Results Framework, confirm baselines, and finalize M&E protocols and data collection tools; (iv) review financial reporting and audit arrangements; and (v) finalize the first-year annual work plan and schedule PSC meetings. The PC will prepare the inception report within one month of the workshop. The report, including the finalized M&E Operations Manual, will be cleared by IUCN Cameroon Country Office and approved by the PSC.

An Annual Performance Report (APR) will be prepared for each year of implementation, reporting progress against all IRMF indicators, financial expenditures, risk updates, and ESS/gender/FPIC monitoring results. The IUCN Cameroon Country Office will provide objective input and coordinate NDA and stakeholder contributions. APRs will be shared with the PSC and submitted to the GCF Secretariat. The quality rating of the previous year's APR will inform the preparation of the next. In addition, the PMU prepares quarterly progress reports for IUCN, and the Project Completion Report at operational closure will consolidate final results, lessons learned, and sustainability assessments.

An independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) will be conducted at the end of Year 3 / beginning of Year 4. The MTR will provide a comprehensive assessment of progress, relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency; review all IRMF indicator achievements; assess paradigm shift potential (scale, replicability, sustainability); evaluate ESS, gender, and FPIC compliance; and inform adaptive management decisions for the remaining implementation period. The MTR will employ mixed methods — quantitative analysis of monitoring data and household surveys, qualitative key informant interviews and focus group discussions at national, landscape, and community levels, and in-depth case studies. The evaluation will apply six assessment criteria: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. The terms of reference, process, and final report will follow IUCN and GCF standard templates. The final MTR report will be cleared by IUCN Cameroon Country Office, quality-assessed by the IUCN internal Independent Evaluation system, and approved by the PSC. Within 30 days of receiving the report, the PMU and IUCN will prepare a formal management response with an action plan that is tracked through the quarterly reporting system.

Terminal Evaluation. An independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) will be conducted no later than three months before operational closure. The TE will assess the full achievement of project objectives, outcomes, and outputs; evaluate sustainability of results and paradigm shift contribution; assess IRMF outcomes; and document lessons learned and best practices for replication. The TE will follow the same mixed-methods approach, assessment criteria, and quality assurance procedures as the MTR. The final TE report will be available in English, cleared by IUCN Cameroon Country Office, quality-assessed by IUCN's Independent Evaluation system, and approved by the PSC.

Adaptive management and sustainability. M&E data feeds into project management through structured feedback loops: quarterly reports provide early warning of implementation challenges, APRs inform annual work plan adjustments, and the MTR informs strategic course corrections approved by the PSC. The M&E system is designed for sustainability beyond the project period. Throughout implementation, MINFOF staff receive training on M&E methodologies, GIS/remote sensing, and results-based management. M&E tools, databases, and GIS platforms are developed for integration with the National Forest Monitoring System. A comprehensive handover plan is prepared in the final year, including data migration, system transfer protocols, and documentation of all methodologies and standard operating procedures.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

F.1. Risk factors and mitigation measures

The risks below have been identified and mitigation measures developed to allow for effective implementation of the project activities. The risks listed refer to project and contextual/external risks as

defined by IUCN's Enterprise Risk Management Policy[26]. Environmental and social risks (ESS risks) are addressed in the following section. A project risk register will be used monitor and mitigate risks.

Selected Risk Factor 1: Insufficient land available for large-scale restoration		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Low	High
Description		
ROAM phase 1 has identified areas including the different restoration options to be implemented in the intervention areas. Annex 24 describes the process by which opportunity areas were identified.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
The project includes different land categories to be restored, including: degraded protected areas, community forests, council forests, degraded agricultural land, riparian zones, degraded mountain slopes, etc. Based on the analysis conducted in ROAM 1, there is already sufficient public land that meets the criteria of ROAM and is eligible for restoration, such as degraded protected areas (Annex 0 Agreement land tenure arrangements). This land is also largely free from tenure disputes as it is under the ownership and governance of the government of Cameroon. Access restrictions due to project activities on such land will be addressed as laid out in the Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework, described in the Safeguards-enhanced ROAM. Stakeholder consultations have also demonstrated that there is interest in agroforestry and other restoration options on community forests and private land. Such land parcels will be identified during the implementation of ROAM II using the methodology described in Safeguards-enhanced ROAM. SG-ROAM incorporates community engagement and FPIC processes in site selection, ensuring that communities have full understanding of the benefits and restrictions involved in the restoration process and that they have the right to accept or refuse participation. This process will ensure community level sensitization on the social, economic, and environmental benefits of restoration, and be a criterion in site-selection.		
Selected Risk Factor 2 Risks of pre-existing conflicts between stakeholders at the community level interfering with the achievement of project objectives related to restoration		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		
Conflicts between farmers and herders in Bakossi-Bamboutous and Waza landscapes are mainly due to competition over access to and use of grazing land for livestock, freshwater resources as well as due to the setting of bush fires by livestock owners to regenerate fodder grass. In the Dja-Lobeke Landscape, conflict is common between communities and their respective councils regarding exploitation of forest resources, mainly around logging interests. Such conflicts may complicate the implementation of project activities related to restoration, delaying or disrupting them.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
Specific project activities e.g. Activity 1.1.4. Create and operationalise multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests'interests will focus on addressing such risks as well as attempt to reduce the conflict levels. The safeguards-enhanced ROAM will be applied during the operationalisation of ROAM II to conduct land use planning for restoration activities. SG-ROAM engages different community stakeholders working with local partners with an understanding of local dynamics and power relations in order to identify areas for the implementation of restoration activities. Only land free of disputes will be chosen for restoration to avoid exacerbating conflicts. An equitable benefit sharing plan as drafted in the ESMP and implemented after community consultations will reduce insecurities and competition among various community groups..		

[26] https://iucn.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/iucn-enterprise-risk-management-policy-2022.pdf

Selected Risk Factor 3 Ambiguity between statutory and customary regulatory frameworks		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Legal	Medium	Medium
Description		
This risk is specific to Waza Landscape where the population was settled in the park even before its creation.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
Although this is a sensitive and long-standing issue, Activity 1.1.4. 'Create and operationalise multi-stakeholder platforms to strengthen dialogue between sectors or stakeholders with different land use interests' will attempt to build consensus. Customary regulatory frameworks will be equally respected in all project activities, with traditional elders and customary community representatives consulted on activities relevant to them. An agreed approach to plan access to land and tree resources will be elaborated during safeguard-enhanced ROAM building on the ProPFR GIZ funded project[27].		
Selected Risk Factor 4 Risks related to climate variability and change		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Low
Description		
The rainfall and temperature patterns in Cameroon in general are indicating a decrease in average rainfall and an increase in temperature. Restoration and agriculture related activities of the project will depend on the seasonal availability of rainfall. Currently, the seasonal calendar and distribution of rainfall is becoming irregular. This might affect timing for land preparation and planting of trees and crops, and productivity. Furthermore, climate hazards such as droughts and floods may damage project interventions such as agroforestry or restoration stands, slowing their implementation and maturation.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
To mitigate this risk, agroclimatic information will be monitored regularly and made available to relevant stakeholders. Different communication means will be used to disseminate agroclimatic information in the intervention sites. This will help to inform farmers' and PMU's decision-making processes regarding farm management and on-the-ground activities. This measure will keep the impact low. Project interventions such as agroforestry and restoration will be implemented in consideration of climate hazards, such as droughts and floods, with measures being taken to protect them as needed. Such as the provision of water during droughts and not planting in flood prone areas during the rainfall season.		
Selected Risk Factor 5 Development of the capacities of members of beneficiary groups could be slow and difficult, particularly for women and vulnerable groups		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Governance	Medium	Medium
Description		
The level of capacity required by the Project for selected beneficiaries of micro-enterprise development initiatives in particular could prove to be a barrier to participation if applications are poorly mastered and requirements not met technically by the beneficiaries. For example, the preparation of business plans, which women and other vulnerable groups may not be equipped to meet. Vulnerable groups are also generally less likely to have access to information and may be less willing to participate in capacity building activities due to linguistic barriers or other forms of systemic discrimination. Management capacity limitations may also affect project planning.		

[27] https://www.giz.de/en/downloads/giz2025-en-factsheet-ProPFR-CM.pdf

Mitigation Measure(s)		
The Project will aim to accurately match capacity building needs with training and other technical assistance through capacity needs assessments tailored to different stakeholder groups (Component 3). The Project will assign mentors with established experience to each group of beneficiaries for mentoring support in respect to the development and implementation of their respective business plans. The gender analysis and action plan lays out specific measures for the inclusion of women, as well as strategies for capacity building and equitable benefit sharing.		
Selected Risk Factor 6 Private sector entrepreneurs could decline to participate in Platforms as they perceive risks in terms of potential costs of time and effort to outweigh potential benefits		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Technical and operational	Medium	Medium
Description		
The creation and operationalization of platforms can be a lengthy process from the perspective of private entrepreneurs. Thus, they might see it as a waste of time with little benefits.		
Mitigation Measure(s)		
Platforms[28] will be designed to reach consensus around the development of specific value chains by involving all stakeholders . Private sector stands to gain from stable markets for inputs and outputs based on reliable production volumes. By entering formal or semi-formal partnerships with smallholder organizations for production, together with technical assistance agencies and others, entrepreneurs can mitigate uncertainty in the supply of produce and augment the possibilities of significant returns on investments in production or post-harvest handling. The collaboration of government agencies and NGOs in these partnerships will reduce risk to entrepreneurs and smallholders by providing diverse technical and marketing support.		
Selected Risk Factor 7: The possibility of insecurity, political instability, armed conflicts and terrorism in the project sites		
Category	**Probability**	**Impact**
Legacy and contextual	Low	low
Description		
Waza, and the other two sites (Southern Cameroon and along the border with Central African Republic) could be subject to insecurity, political volatility, armed conflict and terrorism.		
Mitigating measures		
In all three landscapes, project intervention will take place on sites with no security concern. The Dja-Lobeke site is not near the conflict zone in Central African Republic (CAR) as Cameroon has secured its borders with CAR. Because the Dja Lobeke site is free from armed conflict and insecurity many projects have been implemented in this site. Anexample includes the GEF project entitled “Conservation and sustainable use of the Ngoyla mimtom Forest” that was implemented by the World Bank from 2012 – 2019. In the Waza site, concerns about Boko Haram insecurity, armed conflict and terrorism are mostly in the northern frontier of Cameroon with Nigeria around Lake Chad, as well as in the Mora district which is not part of the project site. Furthermore, the Waza region is also free from insecurity, political volatility, armed conflict, and terrorism as IUCN is currently implementing a project in the region entitled” Increasing local communities’ resilience to climate change through youth entrepreneurship and integrated natural resources management” that is funded by the Adaptation Fund. With regards to the Bakossi-Bamboutos Landscape, most activities of the project will be carried out in the Bamboutous side of the Landscape which is free from any insecurity, armed conflict, and political instability. Results from field work indicated that there are some internally displaced people coming from the anglophone regions of Southwest and Northwest regions to resettle in the Bamboutous region. This is		

[28] Annex 0_Letters of intent

concrete evidence that the region is safe from insecurity, political volatility, and armed conflict and therefore can accommodate most activities of the project.

The project activities (restoration, value chain, etc.) cut across the three landscapes so in situations of prolonged insecurities, they will be transferred to secured sites within the same landscape or to other more secured landscapes while meeting the expected results or targets for the activities concerned.

A conflict sensitivity analysis is presented in Annex 22E and details how risks will be identified, anticipated and mitigated. The safeguard-enhanced ROAM process builds in a site-specific conflict assessment whereassessments a high probability of conflict will lead to rejection of the site with a preference for alternate sites.

GCF POLICIES AND STANDARDS

G.1. Environmental and social risk assessment

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, includingdesigned a safeguard instrument for finalising the assessment of restoration opportunities at the community level, called the Safeguard-enhanced ROAM (SG-ROAM). Below is a summary of the results of the ESMS screening. The full ESMS Screening Report is attached as an Annex to the ESMP.

The **Standard on Access Restrictions** is triggered due to the high likelihood of use and access restriction**s** 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, and 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 subdistrict or district level to align with government development plans.

The **Indigenous Peoples Standard** is triggered due to the presence of Bantu and Baka 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, 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.

G.2. Gender assessment and action plan

A gender assessment and action plan have been developed following GCF guidelines. The process involved a combination of secondary and primary data. The desk review of secondary data involved policy and strategy documents, national and international development reports. Existing national legal frameworks, policies, mechanisms, and institutional initiatives were reviewed to reveal those relevant to the environment (particularly around forests,) and climate change and promotion of gender equality and equity, supporting assessment of each and their capacity to integrate gender. The desk review also included gathering of statistical data and evidence at a national (and sometimes subnational) level on the current state of gender (in) equalities. This information was supplemented with interviews with stakeholders' risks and impacts from forest management. Group discussions were held with women from the local community and indigenous community in their localities. Data was collected from 3 villages from the BB Landscape, 3 villages in DL and 4 villages in the Waza area (The ESIA Report provides details on the general field methodology). Differences exist between men and women regarding access, use and benefits related to natural resources exploitation. The assessment identified risks for both the local and indigenous communities related to: (i) Discrimination against women or other groups based on gender with regards to access to resources, services, or benefits provided by the project, (ii) Gender related inequalities, (iii) Gender-based violence including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment, (iv) Restrictions on 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. For each category of risk, specific and separate mitigation measures are provided for local and indigenous peoples (see annex 8). A Gender Action Plan is proposed that provides a gender-balanced and responsive approach to the Project. It identifies gender equality issues, activities and measures and targets. It also takes into consideration risks/impacts and mitigation actions and other relevant issues identified during the E&S and ESIA (more in annex 8). Implementation of the plan will build on the vast experience of the country and project partners. In this context, women's active participation will be ensured during the project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, according to the IUCN Policy on Gender Equality and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the Project. The gender-related indicators will be integrated in the monitoring and evaluation plan of the project.

G.3. Financial management and procurement

In terms of purchases/acquisitions, fiduciary responsibility will be assumed by IUCN in line with its standards and procedures, as well as with the terms of the Accreditation Master Agreement (AMA) with the GCF. As the AE and fiduciary agent with the GCF and IUCN will therefore be responsible for the disbursement of Project funds, as well as accounting and production of financial reports on the use of funds. Further to approval of the Project by the GCF, IUCN will disseminate its Operations Manual and Procurement Procedure Manual among the members of the Project Management Unit, the Steering Committee, and other relevant stakeholders prior to the start of the Project's activities. During implementation of the Project, IUCN will support and build the capacities of the PMU and SC in the areas of strategic planning, technical control, financial management and procurement. Finally, the PMU will be first in line to determine and control effective use of funds. This PMU will be made up of personnel recruited by IUCN and personnel assigned by the government (MINFOF), including environmental and social safeguard and gender experts and a qualified public accountant. The procurement and financial management standards will comply with IUCN standards and procedures. Monitoring and evaluation missions will be conducted to ensure effective implementation of the Project in compliance with the procurement plans and procedures, as well as budgetary monitoring. This monitoring and evaluation report will be presented to the SC during biannual meetings. The acquisition of goods or services necessary for Project implementation, training, consultation,

as well as financial services, will be governed by the applicable IUCN guidelines in accordance with IUCN Operations Manual and Procurement Procedure Manual. All procurement will be carried out by the PMU.

G.4. Disclosure of funding proposal

☒ No confidential information: The accredited entity confirms that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may be disclosed in full by the GCF, as no information is being provided in confidence.
☐ With confidential information: The accredited entity declares that the funding proposal, including its annexes, may not be disclosed in full by the GCF, as certain information is being provided in confidence. Accordingly, the accredited entity is providing to the Secretariat the following two copies of the funding proposal, including all annexes:

- full copy for internal use of the GCF in which the confidential portions are marked accordingly, together with an explanatory note regarding the said portions and the corresponding reason for confidentiality under the accredited entity's disclosure policy, and
- redacted copy for disclosure on the GCF website.
  The funding proposal can only be processed upon receipt of the two copies above, if containing confidential information.

ANNEXES

H.1. Mandatory annexes

☒	Annex 1	NDA no-objection letter(s)
☒	Annex 2	Feasibility study - and a market study, if applicable
☒	Annex 3	Economic and/or financial analyses in spreadsheet format
☒	Annex 4	Detailed budget plan
☒	Annex 5	Implementation timetable including key project milestones
☒	Annex 6	E&S document corresponding to the E&S category (A, B or C; or I1, I2 or I3): ☒ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ☐ Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) ☐ Others (please specify – e.g. Resettlement Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework, Indigenous People's Plan, Land Acquisition Plan, etc.)
☒	Annex 7	Summary of consultations and stakeholder engagement plan
☒	Annex 8	Gender assessment and project/programme-level action plan
☒	Annex 9	Legal due diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance)
☒	Annex 10	Procurement plan
☒	Annex 11	Monitoring and evaluation plan
☒	Annex 12	AE fee request
☒	Annex 13	Co-financing commitment letter, if applicable
☒	Annex 14	Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule

H.2. Other annexes as applicable

☐	Annex 15	Evidence of internal approval
☒	Annex 16	Map(s) indicating the location of proposed interventions
☐	Annex 17	Multi-country project/programme information
☐	Annex 18	Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
☐	Annex 19	Procedures for controlling procurement by third parties or executing entities undertaking projects financed by the entity
☒	Annex 20	First level AML/CFT (KYC) assessment
☐	Annex 21	Operations manual (Operations and maintenance)
☒	Annex 22	Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects)[29]
☒	Other Annexes	Annex A Acronym table Annex B Land tenure arrangements Annex C Agroforestry notebook Annex D Host agreement Annex E Letters of intent/interest bank Annex F Minis dec Agroforestry notebook Annex G Baseline Assessment Annex H Restoration Opportunities Assessment Report Annex I Grievance Mechanism Annex J Beneficiaries Calculation Annex K Eligibility Criteria Annex L Project Theory of change

[29] Annex 22 is mandatory for mitigation and cross-cutting projects.