

Mid-Term Progress Report

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN



Paix – Travail – Patrie

**MINISTERE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE LA PROTECTION DE LA
NATURE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE**

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Date of submission or revision: [[January 2017]]

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Readiness Fund

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Note: [FMT Note 2012-7 rev](#) lays out the process for REDD Country Participants to submit, and the Participants Committee (PC) to review mid-term progress reports and requests for additional funding of up to US\$5 million.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Platform for Enhanced Action
AFD	Agence Française de Développement
AIWO CAN	African Indigenous Women's Organization, Central African Network
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
C2D	Debt reduction and development contract
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CC	Climate Change
CED	Center for Environment and Development
CF	Common Fund
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
CoP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTD	Decentralized Territorial Committee
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ENEF	National School of Water and Forests
ER-PIN	Emission Reductions Program Idea Note
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FESP	Forest-Environment Sectoral Program
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FMS	Fund Management System
FODER	Forest and Rural Development
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FRL/FREL	Forest Reference Level/Forest Reference Emission Level
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
GICAM	<i>Groupe inter-patronal du Cameroun</i>
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for International Cooperation)
GLOBIOM	Global Biosphere Management Model
GOFC GOLD	Global Observation of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IKI	International Climate Initiative

INS	National Statistical Institute
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRD	<i>Institut de Recherche pour le Développement</i> (Research Institute for Development)
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KFW	German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau)
MINEPAT/MTBF	Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Land Management/Medium-Term Budgetary Framework
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NC-REDD	National REDD Coordination Office
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPFE	Non-permanent forest estate
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
ONACC	<i>Observation Nationale sur les Changements Climatiques</i> (National Observatory on Climate Change)
PAGEFF	<i>Projet d'Aménagement et de Gestion Forestière et Faunique</i> (Forest and Wildlife Development and Management Project)
PACO	Central and West Africa Program
PCI	Principles, Criteria and Indicators
PFE	Permanent forest estate
PM	Prime Minister
PNDP	National Participatory Development Program
PREREDD	REDD Regional Project
REDD-PAC	REDD+ Policy Assessment Center
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, conservation of forest stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
REDDAF	Framework Project REDD for Africa
REFACOF	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests
REL/RL	Reference Emissions Levels/ Reference Levels
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
OSFT	Satellite Observation of Tropical Forests
SPOT	Earth Observation Satellite System
SYNDUSTRICAM	Manufacturers' Trade Union of Cameroon
TNS	Sangha Trinational
TRIDOM	Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Trinational
TS-REDD	REDD Technical Secretariat

UMD	University of Maryland
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USFS	United States Forest Service
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1. REDD+ READINESS IN CAMEROON

In view of its tremendous forest potential, Cameroon is a key player in the international climate change negotiations and strategy development. Its rainforests cover approximately 46.3 percent of the national territory and account for 11 percent of the Congo Basin forests; Cameroon therefore has the third largest forest range in the Congo Basin, after the DRC and Gabon. As is the case with the other countries in the Congo Basin, Cameroon is grappling with the adverse effects of climate change and with increasing pressure on forests. To tackle these major challenges, the Government has made a commitment in its Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce emissions by 32% from its projected baseline by 2035. The forest sector is expected to contribute significantly to the realization of this objective. The contribution of the forest sector will be achieved through the country's engagement in the REDD+ process. Government's efforts are addressing simultaneously the three phases of REDD+. Cameroon's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP), which was approved by the FCPF Participants Committee in 2013 states that the sum of US\$28.911 million is needed to formulate the national REDD+ strategy and roughly US\$60 million to implement pilot projects in all agro-ecological zones.

For the Readiness Phase, Cameroon is currently receiving direct financial support from two sources: the FCPF (estimated at 3.6 million USD) and the German Development Bank (KfW) through the Basket Fund of the Forest-Environment Sectorial Program (FESP) estimated at 2,8 million USD for climate change and REDD+. Other technical and financial partners are providing support through the implementation of activities jointly identified with the REDD+ Technical Secretariat (TS), in conformity with the R-PP and emerging national strategy.

With regards to the Investment and Demonstration Phase, the country has been admitted into the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and is currently preparing an investment plan for these initiatives, which will serve as the basis to mobilize investments to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation within and outside the forests. To ensure coherence and synergies between developments in FIP, CAFI and the national strategy, the elaboration of the FIP and CAFI investment plan is under the supervision of the National REDD+ Coordinator. This allows for the efficient use of human and financial resources and provides a direct link between the FCPF funded readiness phase and the investment funds, which will lay the groundwork for carbon payments through the Carbon Fund.

In terms of Performance based payments (Phase 3), the Government submitted an Emission Reduction Project Idea Note (ER-PIN) to the Carbon Fund. The ER-PIN was approved in June 2016 and the elaboration of the ER Program Document is underway.

1.1. Overview of the Progress Made in the Implementation of the R-PP

Table 1: Summary of progress made with FCPF criteria

Criteria	Assessment
1. Accountability and transparency	
2. Operating mandate and budget	
3. Multisector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	
4. Technical supervision capacity	
5. Funds management capacity	
6. Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	
7. Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	
8. Consultation processes	
9. Information sharing and accessibility of information	
10. Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	
11. Assessment and analysis	
12. Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement	
13. Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance	
15. Implications for forest law and policy	
16. Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options	
17. Feasibility assessment	
18. Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies	
19. Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations	
20. Guidelines for implementation	

21. Benefit-sharing mechanism	
22. National REDD+ registry and monitoring system	
23. Analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues	
24. REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	
25. Environmental and Social Management Framework	
26. Demonstration of methodology	
27. Use of historical data and adjustment for national circumstances	
28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines	
29. Documentation of monitoring approach	
30. Demonstration of early system implementation	
31. Institutional arrangements and capacities	
32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues	
33. Monitoring, reporting, and information sharing	
34. Institutional arrangements and capacities	

	Significant progress
	Progressing well, further development required
	Further development required
	Not yet demonstrating progress

2. PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE R-PP

Component 1: Organization and Consultation

1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements/Institutional Arrangements

The implementation of an innovative institutional framework that guarantees the involvement of all stakeholders, ensures accountability and transparency, with the technical capacity to address the numerous challenges that come with the implementation of REDD+, is required to ensure ownership of the process in Cameroon. Ownership entails the implementation of coordinated sectorial policies where the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders are identified and known by all, and the setting up of mechanisms to address grievances that may arise during the implementation of REDD+.

A formal framework designed to manage the REDD+ readiness process was established by Decree No. 103/CAB/PM of June 13, 2012 signed by the Prime Minister and Head of Government, thus creating the REDD+ Steering Committee. This is a 19-member multi-sectorial committee: 14 representatives from sectorial administrations; 1 representative from Civil Society (the National REDD & CC Platform); 1 representative of the Indigenous Peoples; 1 representative from the private sector (SYNDUSTRICAM); and 2 elected officials (representing the mayors and the National Assembly).

Steering Committee

The REDD+ Steering Committee is the REDD+ decision-making body. The President is the Minister in charge of Environment and the Vice President is the Minister in charge of Forestry. The committee is responsible for:

- Formulating draft policies and strategies for the REDD+ initiative;
- Issuing reasoned opinions on the implementation strategies for the REDD+ mechanism;
- Developing project selection criteria with a view to their submission for validation by the Minister of Environment;
- Assessing and submitting for the approval of the Minister of Environment project ideas proposed by developers;

- Promoting REDD+ activities; and
- Validating the work and approving the action plan prepared by the Technical Secretariat.

The Steering Committee meets twice a year on ordinary sessions and can organize extraordinary sessions upon convocation of the President or 2/3 of the statutory members. Six sessions have been organized thus far. The committee has approved and validated the Annual Work Plan and Budget for the REDD+ process in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The committee also reviewed and validated the first draft of the national strategy, and provided orientations for the second draft. It endorsed the ER-PIN prior to submission, and reviewed and validated project idea notes for 6 pilot projects to be implemented by local councils in collaboration with the National Program for Community-driven Development.

The Steering Committee is supported in its duty by a Technical Secretariat (TS).

Technical Secretariat

The Technical Secretariat, which was established by the same decree (Decree No. 103/CAB/PM of June 13, 2012), is the technical body of the Steering Committee and is composed of the National REDD+ Coordinator, the National Focal Point of the Convention on Climate Change, and a representative from the forest administration (the Director of Forests). The Technical Secretariat coordinates the activities to be implemented in connection with the national REDD+ strategy development process now under way. To perform its tasks, the Technical Secretariat is supported by a group of recruited experts in four technical units and one administrative and financial unit working under the supervision of the Technical Coordinator. The units include:

- The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Unit;
- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Unit;
- The Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) and Reference Scenario Unit;
- The Projects and Programs Unit; and
- The Administrative and Financial Unit.

The technical units are responsible for the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy, the elaboration of Investment Plan for the FIP and CAFI initiatives and the elaboration of ER Program Document, whilst the financial unit ensures efficient management of financial resources. A first draft of the national strategy was elaborated and distributed among stakeholders on the 31st of March 2016, and a second draft is due

on the 31st of January 2017. A third draft, which will capitalize on all the strategic studies is due in the second half of 2017. The TS was successfully audited in March 2016.

The TS works closely with the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) and the FLEGT Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). A FLEGT/REDD+ working group has been initiated by WWF, and it meets regularly to discuss synergies between both processes. The TS holds monthly meetings with financial and technical partners involved in the REDD+ process to discuss the progress on the elaboration of the strategy, address challenges and seek synergies. In the same light, the TS has also put in place a multi-sectorial technical working group comprising representatives of the sectorial ministries. This inter-ministerial working group initiated in 2016 is expected to meet on quarterly basis. It reviews the various drafts of the strategy ensuring that strategic orientations are in line with sectorial policies, and providing input to maximize synergies across sectors and initiatives.

The operationalization of the TS was enabled by the FCPF readiness funds and the KfW Basket funds. The grant period of the FCPF readiness funds was extended from September 2016 to September 2018 while the current phase of the Forest-Environment Sectorial Program (FESP) of the Basket fund ends 31st of December 2017. The second phase of the FESP has been agreed in principle between the Government and the KfW. Six (6) million Euros have been set aside for REDD+ pilot projects in the North and Southwest regions and a portion of funds to continue supporting the functioning of the TS.

Involvement of civil society organizations and indigenous peoples

The Government of Cameroon has set aside a portion of the funds received from the FCPF to provide direct financial support to civil society and indigenous peoples for their full and effective participation in the readiness process. To date, these activities have focused on capacity building aimed at increasing meaningful participation, and include the purchase of IT equipment, training, recruitment of staff, and the establishment of decentralized commune-level civil society coordination forming local REDD+ and Climate Change platforms, as well as a separate initiative focused on enabling indigenous peoples to be involved in REDD+ (activities largely under way).

CSOs and IPs have made great strides in improving their capacity and participation in the process. However, as the REDD+ process moves from a more central process out to the initial regions of implementation, CSOs support will need to expand both in terms of geographic reach and in terms of technical depth. The involvement of CSOs and IPs becomes crucial as REDD+ moves in its

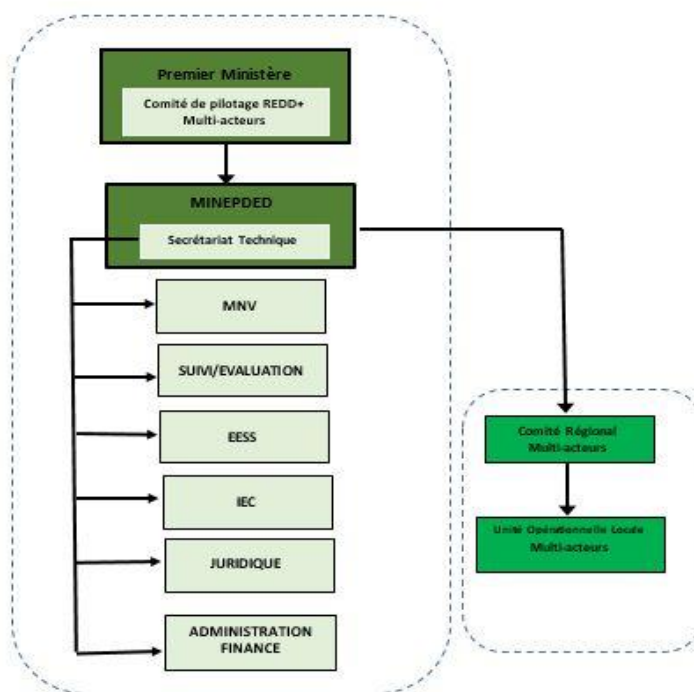
implementation phase. More support is necessary to continue strengthening the capacity of CSOs and IPs, and enable their active participation at all levels of the process.

Implementation of the REDD+ process

In view of the implementation of REDD+, an analysis of the present management/institutional arrangements has been carried out and an institutional arrangement for the management and coordination of phases 2 and 3 of REDD+ proposed. This was carried out by reviewing current processes in the existing organs (Steering Committee and TS) and through consultations with different stakeholders. The analysis identified the following shortcomings in the current institutional arrangements:

- Lack of strong inter-ministerial coordination;
- Low representation of local actors in the REDD+ management organs;
- Poor understanding of the process by sectorial administrations;
- Low representation of certain vulnerable groups (women, youth ...).

To address these shortcomings, an architecture for the management and coordination of phases 2 and 3 has been proposed, with clear roles and responsibilities defined (see figure).



Proposed

architecture for the

institutional arrangement

Major changes from the existing architecture include:

- Embedding the Steering committee in the office of the Prime Minister to enhance inter-ministerial coordination;
- Creating two decentralized levels of the institutional arrangement - at the regional and local levels respectively. The decentralized structures will be set up in areas that have REDD+ pilot projects;
- Including the Director of the National Observatory on Climate Change as a permanent member of the TS;
- Formalizing regular meetings between members of the TS and the technical units

Further consultations are planned in 2017 to inform a draft text to be presented to the Minister in charge of Environment for transmission to the Prime Minister. Moreover, two workshops are planned within the first half of 2017 to sensitize and strengthen the capacity of resource persons within sectorial administrations at central and decentralized structures.

As with CSO support, much has been accomplished in terms of institutional arrangement and capacity building for the more centralized roles and institutions in REDD+ readiness. However, the demands on the central bodies in terms of collaboration and technical engagement, and the need to shift focus to the decentralized government institutions means that much work lies ahead in the next phase. More funds are required to continue to ensure the functioning of the central organs, strengthen human and infrastructure capacity, and operationalize the decentralized ones in preparation for the ER program implementation as well as other REDD+ pilots.

Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism

The TS has carried out an analysis of existing FGRM in the management and utilization of natural resources in Cameroon to provide initial input to the planned study on FGRM. Key guidance drawn from this preliminary analysis include:

- Integrate local conflict management structures into the FGRM being developed;
- Put in place measures to ensure the availability of technical assistance at all levels of the FGRM;
- Privilege participatory, gradual and impartial regulations;
- Ensure that procedures and results are sufficiently transparent to address public interest concerns;

- Set up a regular capacity building scheme for actors at all levels.

The national study on FGRM has been launched and the outline of a transparent, impartial and accessible mechanism is expected by June 2017.

Following the national validation of the FGRM outline, additional resources will be needed to operationalize the FGRM and sensitize all REDD+ stakeholders on the mechanism.

Representation abroad

Cameroon participates actively in climate change negotiations both at the international level (during the Conference of Parties and its Subsidiary Bodies) and at the sub-regional level under the umbrella of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). The country, in collaboration with other forest nations defended the inclusion of REDD+ in the Paris Accord and the promotion of non-carbon benefits.

The country intends to continue playing its leadership role in the sub-region, hence the active participation in sub-regional and international climate change and REDD+ negotiations, and the exchange of information and experience on REDD+ implementation with other countries in the Congo Basin and the other main tropical basins.

Table 2: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of financing (USD)			
	FCPF	BF/FESP	Others	Observations
Coordination of the REDD+ process (NC-REDD /TS-REDD+ operations)	282 154	0	00	
Recruitment of the fiduciary management team: Finance officer, Procurement officer and Accountant (February 2015)	100 250	0	00	
Mobilization of a Social and an environment expert (April 2015)	58 750	0	00	
Recruitment of support staff for the TS-REDD+: 2 secretaries, 1 driver, 2 security guards, 2 house keepers (April and September 2014)	88 558	0	00	

Mobilization of senior expert: MRV, IEC, SESA, Projects and programs (December 2015)	0	224 000	00	
Mobilization of junior experts: MRV1, MRV2, IEC, SESA, Projects and programs (March 2016)	0	185 600	00	
Mobilization of Technical Coordinator/Program Manager supporting the TS-REDD+ (June 2015)	0	333 000	00	
Equipment for the TS-REDD+ (purchase of vehicle, computer equipment, office supplies, etc.)	140 620	0	00	
Consultation workshop with decentralized administrations (regional and divisional delegates MINFOF-MINEPDED) – (February 2016)	6 485	0	00	
Steering Committee meetings (6)	0	0	12 444	Government
Support for the REDD and CC platform (civil society representative) with capacity-building and decentralization activities for this platform	105 739	0	00	
Support for Indigenous Peoples with their capacity-building activities	90 613	0	00	
Analysis of the present institutional arrangements and deliberations with stakeholders on a new institutional architecture for REDD+	23 664	0		
Mission for monitoring implementation of the contracts with civil society and indigenous peoples	2 085	0	00	
Cameroon's participation in international negotiations (CoP 21) – represented by two national experts	0	0	-	PREREDD (Undisclosed budget)
Workshop to prepare the Cameroon delegation to COP21			2 633	IUCN
Participation in preparatory work for climate negotiations (SBSTA, ADP1, ADP 2, COP22)	0	17 324	00	
REDD+ national planning meeting 2014-2015			21 652	USFS
Support workshop for the elaboration different TOR related to the REDD+ process			6 805	USFS
Organization of a meeting to identify the roles and responsibilities of the institutions involved in MRV	1 578	0	0	
TOTAL	900 496	759 924	43 534	

1b. Information Sharing and Initial Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups

The REDD+ process in Cameroon seeks to be participatory and inclusive, in an effort to take the concerns of the various stakeholders into account. The participation of the Cameroonian people is a guarantee for achievement of the REDD+ objectives and, in particular, is the best assurance of good governance. This vision has guided development of the communication strategy and the consultation plan for the key stakeholders.

Development of the communication strategy

In an effort to share initial information on the national REDD+ process to facilitate consultations with the Cameroonian people, a communication strategy was developed in a participatory manner in 2015 with financial support from the REDD+ Regional Project (PRE-REDD) and validated at the national level in May 2016. This strategy includes an operational plan and was supplemented by a rollout plan in the media.

Information sharing on REDD+ and implementation of the communication strategy

Outreach activities have been conducted since the R-PP was validated in January 2013. These include:

- The ministerial press conference held by the Minister of Environment in February 2013 to inform the national and international community about Cameroon's level of engagement in this process;
- The local communication campaign, which was carried out through several consultations, information and capacity-building workshops for stakeholders, including sectorial administrations, journalists, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, local communities, researchers, and locally elected officials (cf. list of workshops in Annex 2). Organized by the Ministry in charge of Environment (MINEPDED), its partners, and civil society, these workshops sought to create an environment of transparency and trust among stakeholders;
- The National Program for Community-driven Development carried out REDD+ sensitization campaigns in the 58 divisions of Cameroon targeting local council leaders prior to the elaboration of Project Idea Notes for REDD+ pilots by some councils.

Communication tools were developed and rolled out by the technical partners of the MINEPDED in zones where they are implementing REDD+ projects and initiatives:

- An EU-financed documentary series on the REDD+ targeting local and indigenous populations was developed by the organization *Forêt et Développement Rural* (FODER) and then translated into

three local languages (Bulu, Zimé, and Baka). These films are based on basic information about the REDD+ process translated in local languages. These are used to educate communities on REDD+ subjects in languages they understand;

- A guide on access to information on REDD+ was prepared in a participatory manner in 2015 (FODER/EU). This advocacy document is intended to incentivize partners involved in REDD+ to work towards increased accessibility of information on REDD+ so as to respect the right to information of the citizens;
- REDD+ booklets (in French and English) explaining basics of the process and its implementation in Cameroon have been produced and distributed to stakeholders. The objective is to harmonize the understanding of the process amongst stakeholders;
- A website to facilitate the distribution of information regarding the REDD+ process is now accessible at www.reddcameroun.cm. The website provides interactive tools enabling REDD+ stakeholders to exchange among themselves and with the TS;
- An information bulletin is produced on a trimester basis and it is currently on its third edition. The bulletin highlights major activities carried out in the course of a trimester and provides an opportunity for other stakeholders to showcase their activities. They are posted on the website;
- In an effort to harmonize REDD+ sensitization and capacity building programs in Cameroon, the TS has developed an outline for REDD+ sensitization modules. These modules have been presented to other actors carrying out REDD+ sensitization campaigns and will be consolidated in February 2017. The sensitization and capacity building program is structured into three modules: a Module 1 on “Basics of Climate Change and Introduction to REDD+” which targets the general population; Module 2 on “REDD+ process and its implementation in Cameroon”, which targets REDD+ stakeholders, and Module 3 on “Specialized Training on specific REDD+ themes”, tailored for REDD+ stakeholders who want to improve their knowledge and skills in specific areas like carbon accounting, carbon finance, developing REDD+ projects, FPIC consultations etc. The modules allow coordinating REDD+ training without constraining individual organizations from using specific communication materials or sharing distinct perspectives. Participating organizations agree to conduct REDD+ training based on the agreed topical structure and sequence, but are free to use their own relevant material or to use information developed by the TS.

Information networks have been gradually set up to disseminate information on an ongoing basis, initiate discussions, and elicit feedback from the various stakeholder categories. This is done primarily through the use of:

- Contact lists to share information;
- The press club, which to date has produced several articles on REDD+ in the national media¹ and on the web – a total of more than 30 articles on REDD+ in Cameroon;
- Civil society's REDD+ and CC platform, composed of a group of networks of affiliated civil society organizations heavily involved in grassroots awareness-raising through branches that extend across regions, departments, communes, and even villages.
- The indigenous people and local population platform which comprises associations protecting the rights of Bororo, Baka, Bagyeli, Bedzang and Bakola (officially recognized by the Government) benefitted from support to strengthen their management and technical capacities on REDD+.

In an effort to continue to disseminate information on the REDD+ process, the TS has planned the course of 2017, the production of two documentaries on REDD+ (13 minutes and 5 minutes respectively) and 9 publicity spots on REDD+ (30 seconds each).

More resources are required to sustain the ongoing communication activities and carry out others identified in the media plan, such as the production of audio-visual programs in local languages, recording micrograms on REDD+ in local and community radio stations, creation of regional centers for information sharing etc.

Involvement of civil society

Given their importance, Civil Society Organizations were among the first stakeholders that MINEPDED involved in the REDD+ process. Given their plurality, CSOs organized themselves in structured networks and platforms to better cooperate with Government on the REDD+ process. A REDD+ and Climate Change Platform was created on the 23rd of July 2011. The Government provided 100 million FCFA to the REDD+ and Climate Change platform to enable its decentralization right down to community level. At present the REDD+ and Climate Change platform is represented in 10 administrative regions, 58 divisions, and 53 local councils. Part of the funds were also used to strengthen capacity of CSOs and allow them participate in REDD+ Readiness activities as well as the elaboration of the ER-PIN.

In order to reach out to other CSOs that are not within the platform, the TS has put in place information sharing mechanisms to ensure all stakeholders are informed on the progress of the process and participate

¹ The Cameroon Tribune, Mutations, CRTV Radio et Télévision, Radio Ndefcam de Bamenda

in discussions. These include the elaboration of a comprehensive list of all CSOs, guaranteeing access to all stakeholders to the REDD+ website, and invitation to all REDD+ related workshops.

The national REDD+ and Climate Change platform carried out an analysis of the REDD+ process in order to inform the MTR and ameliorate their collaboration with Government and the TS in particular. This analyses culminated with a press release and position paper published on the 13th of October 2016. The position paper highlights the achievements and constraints that are summarized as follows (original note is posted on the TS website):

- The elaboration of the REDD+ National Strategy requires not just the mobilization of 29 million USD (as stated in the R-PP), but also the implication of technical and sectorial administrations, local population at grass root level, CSOs, private sector, technical and financial partners, and all other social and economic actors;
- The TS with support from several technical and financial partners (KFW, FCPF / World Bank, IUCN, etc.) has launched technical studies for the elaboration of the REDD+ national strategy. The TS has conducted public consultations and information sharing and sensitization meetings involving village communities and traditional leaders; women and youth groups, Indigenous Peoples and community-based organizations in villages; CSOs, local councils, administrators at regional and divisional level, as well as technical and financial partners;
- The difficulties facing the national REDD+ process are organizational, managerial and financial. These difficulties need to be addressed urgently:
 - Organizational: the TS, which is the centerpiece of the REDD+ process, does not have sufficient room to manoeuvre, take initiatives and respond in real time to stakeholders needs. The TS is trapped in cumbersome administrative procedures resulting in delays in delivering results;
 - Managerial: there is an over-centralization and a confusion of responsibilities leading the TS to carry out activities, which fall within the competences of the REDD & CC Platform, CSOs and other experts. This situation gives the impression that the REDD & CC Platform and CSOs are on the fringes of the REDD+ process.
 - Financial: the lack of institutional support funds is likely to weaken the mobilization of members of the REDD&CC platform and the functioning of its decentralized structures. Furthermore, the crystallization of all activities within TS and some international partners hinders the Platform and the national CSOs from receiving specific financial support to carry out activities in line with the REDD+ process.

- The Platform notes with satisfaction the achievements already recorded and encourages the TS to strengthen its collaborative approach with partners and civil society for a greater contribution and promotion of the knowledge, skills, abilities and expertise of national CSOs.
- The REDD+ process should be decentralized and fully embedded within local councils and should have an equitable benefit-sharing mechanism in place;
- Customary rights should be integrated into the benefit sharing mechanism and the feedback and grievance redress mechanism;
- The Platform questions the organization of meetings between the TS and technical and financial partners without the participation of representatives of national CSOs. These meetings seem to serve as a forum to attribute contracts to other international organizations without taking into account national interests;
- The TS should engage in direct and transparent dialogue with the REDD & CC Platform of civil society on all issues, ranging from the negotiations with the technical and financial partners to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities.
- The TS should outsource certain studies and the implementation of certain activities (public consultations, sensitization, organization of technical meetings and workshops etc.) to national CSOs through a flexible mechanism based on accountability and close monitoring. This will strengthen the involvement of CSOs and enable CSOs to take ownership of the entire process;
- The TS should support and accompany CSOs in their quest to mobilize funding;
- The Platform invites all CSOs and networks to produce annual reports of their respective climate change and REDD+ activities to enable the TS better inform the national strategy.

Development of the strategy for integrating women and indigenous peoples

These strategies, which were projected in the R-PP, were formulated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) — in December 2014 for the integration strategy for women and in March 2015 for the integration strategy for indigenous peoples. These strategies were elaborated with the active involvement of indigenous peoples thus ensuring that their opinions were taken into consideration.

The overall goal of the strategy is to "bring the women to get involved in the reduction of the GHG due to the deforestation and forest degradation and thus increase their contribution to the development of the country in accordance with the Strategic Document of Growth and Employment while ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits of REDD +".

Gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the R-PP

An analysis of the efforts to mainstream gender in the implementation of the REDD+ process reveals that some progress was made with respect to the participation of women in decision-making bodies, and, especially, in decision-making meetings.

With regard to REDD+ Technical Secretariat staff, women account for 56.4 percent of the technical team, 58.3 percent of the support staff.

On the issue of female participation in consultation activities, since November 2015, of the 785 key stakeholders consulted, 34.1 percent of the people consulted were women. Although this is still a relatively low rate, it is an improvement of the rate (25 percent) observed during the drafting of the R-PP and reflects a greater willingness of the government and others partners to include women in decision making.

Table 3: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activity	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Development of the communication strategy (March 2015)	0	0	0	PREREDD (Undisclosed budget)
Identification of funding opportunities and capacity building of the REDD&CC platform	0	0	2 730	GIZ
Workshop for setting up the gender working group	0	0	17 776	IUCN
Training of the gender working group and gender focal points in sectorial ministries on the gender and development approach (20-22 December)	0	0	12 350	IUCN
Workshop on the presentation and validation of the strategy to involve women in the REDD+ process	0	0	13 064	IUCN
Field mission to develop the media plan (February 2016)	7 503	0	0	
National communication strategy validation workshop (April 2016)	0	0	11 416 4 075	GIZ IUCN
Participation by the TS-REDD+ team in the national communication strategy validation workshop (April 2016)	2 317	0	0	
REDD+ training workshop for journalists (March 2016)	3 031	0	11 891 4 300	GIZ IUCN
Development of REDD+ newsletter	0	0	0	
Development of REDD+ bilingual website (December 2016)	4 917	0	0	

Development of REDD+ Booklets in French and English version (January 2017)	0	0	7 050	GIZ
Workshop to raise awareness of local councils on the possibilities of integrating management action with the Green Sahel program in REDD+ (June 2016)			1 972	GIZ
TOTAL	17 768	0	84 167	

1c. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

Establishment of CSO platform branches in local councils

A REDD+ and climate change platform was launched in 2011, composed of networks of civil society associations focused on REDD+. The platform was organized through a national coordination office, with branches in the 10 administrative regions and some 40 councils.

This more localized structuring of civil society engagement is very often useful to relay information on the REDD+ process at the local level, to bring awareness for local communities, facilitate data survey for studies and field activities, and facilitate the mobilization of local stakeholders.

Development of the stakeholder consultation plan and stakeholder consultations

In 2015, the Government launched the stakeholder consultation plan preparation project. The document was drafted based on surveys carried out among key actors identified at the national level (about 474 persons had been consulted among representatives from sectorial administration, civil society, indigenous people, private sector, women, youth association, traditional and religious rulers, local elected officials) and based on their opinions gathered during consultation workshops in the five agroecological zones. Development of this plan allowed detailed mapping of stakeholders by zones based on information in the R-PP and the strategy documents (stakeholders mapping is a part of this study report). Mapping of the stakeholders helped categorize them based on their level of influence and dependence on forest resources, their knowledge of REDD+, and their capacity of action and helped define their respective roles in the implementation of the consultation plan.

Stakeholder consultations on REDD+ have been ongoing ever since Cameroon became a member of the FCPF. In this respect, all REDD+ related activities have been carried out in a consultative approach with MINEPDED ensuring adequate representation of different stakeholder groups (CSOs, IPs, Private Sector, Sectorial Ministries at central and decentralized levels, local council representatives and local leaders).

The REDD+ and CC platform is essential in identifying and mobilizing the local actors in their respective constituencies. Stakeholder consultations took place for the following:

- Preparation of the FPIC Guide documents (close to 400 people); communication strategy (approximately 300 people); consultation plan (474 stakeholders); Action plan for forest carbon monitoring (approximately 100 actors); first draft of the national REDD+ strategy (150 members from the contact list);
- Preparation of the Emissions Reduction Program concept note (approximately 150 actors for the first draft submitted and over 300 local actors and 150 national and international actors to prepare the second draft);
- Consultation with populations in monomodal and bimodal agro-ecological zones on the drivers of deforestation and possible strategy options (report available on www.reddcameroun.cm);
- Consultations with stakeholders to prepare REDD+ Pilot Project Idea Notes for councils under the National Program for Community-driven Development were planned and will continue until the project implementation phase.

Further consultations have been planned between January and June 2017 for the realization of the following strategic studies: in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, analysis of strategic options to address deforestation and forest degradation, development of a concept for forest reference (emission) level, SESA, ESMF, benefit sharing mechanism, feedback and grievance redress mechanism.

As the REDD+ strategic development moves into its final stages and the country is addressing the investment and performance-based phases, further consultations with all stakeholders are required. Moreover, the mobilizing of key actors like the private sector is crucial.

Preparation of the FPIC Guide

Following a comparative study of consultation approaches, Cameroon indicated that it would implement consultation with key actors using the FPIC approach, defined as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, which stakeholders must give before, during, and after implementation of REDD+ activities. To this end, the Government prepared a national methodological guide using a participatory approach to obtain FPIC. This

document² was validated by the stakeholders during a national workshop in February 2014 after several meetings and discussions in the five agro-ecological zones, which helped gather the opinions of the five recognized groups of indigenous peoples (Baka, Bakola, Mbororo, Bedzang, and Bagyeli) in eight different locations, while focusing on local communities.

After completion of the FPIC methodological guide, capacity-building sessions were held on its use, particularly for promoters of REDD+ projects/initiatives, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, and local communities. Training of trainers helped create a pool of skills in implementation of the FPIC Guide principles. These trainers (civil society actors and administrators) are now available to promoters of REDD+ initiatives to assist with implementation of this requirement of the project submission procedure.

More training sessions on FPIC are required to create a critical mass of trainers around the country to support project promoters and sponsor their work in communities.

Engagement and participation of indigenous people

In a “learning by doing” approach, MINEPDED granted a service contract to the platform of indigenous people’s organizations to build the technical and material capacities of indigenous people to enable their participation in the process. This contract enabled the implementation of the following activities:

- Organization of training workshops on the REDD+ process (understanding of the R-PP, FPIC, Consultation plan and SESA);
- Strengthening operational capacities (purchase equipment and consumables, support and administrative staff);
- Participation in different thematic workshops related to the elaboration of the REDD+ National Strategy.

The implementation of this agreement allowed capacity building of 287 indigenous people (representing 32 indigenous associations of Bororo, Pygmies and Kirdi mountaineers) from November 2014 to September 2016.

² The Guide to obtaining FPIC was prepared with the support of GIZ, WWF, and the CED as well as technical partners, and, in particular, the validation of over 200 stakeholders in the REDD+ process.

The TS has commenced discussions with IPs for the creation of decentralized structures similar to CSOs. Additional finance is required to support the decentralized IP networks in administrative divisions and councils where IPs are located.

Elaboration of roadmap to enhance private sector involvement

The TS has started consultations with private sector companies in an effort to enhance their implication in the three phases of REDD+. In collaboration with the International Financial Corporation of the World Bank a provisional plan to enhance partnership with Cameroon private sector actors has been outlined. This involves organizing a workshop with private sector actors that are members of the *Groupe inter-patronal du Cameroun* (GICAM). GICAM is an association comprising companies, trade unions and professional groups. It has about 350 members comprising 15 associations and professional trade unions, including companies with links to the ER Program area. The objective of the workshop will be to elaborate a road map for the involvement of private sector actors in the different phases of the REDD+ process.

Parallel to this the TS has commenced direct discussions with some companies that are active in the agricultural sector. The objective of these preliminary consultations is to engage those with a vested interest in the structure and outcomes of the REDD+ Program in the design process, and to explore opportunities for potential public-private ventures in sustainable agricultural activities during the investment phase.

Recent developments in discussion with private sector reveal that there are potentially significant untapped resources in terms of technical support, human capital and financial partnership that may be realized through more intensive work with private sector actors. More resources will be required to strengthen the partnership with private sector companies.

Table 4: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Preparation of the consultation plan Regional consultation workshops National validation workshop (from 2015 to 2017)	5 757	125 000	0	
Preparation, replication of the FPIC Guide (2,000 copies) (June 2014)	0	0	-	WWF / CED / GIZ Pro-FESP (undisclosed budget)
Training of trainers on the use of FPIC tools (December 2014)	0	0	11 490	PREREDD

Implementation of the contract for the engagement and participation of indigenous people (From October 2014 to September 2016)	108 280	0	0	Activity implemented with funding from the AIWO-CAN contract in the Indigenous Peoples budget
Implementation of the contract for the engagement and participation of civil society (From June 2014 to September 2016)	160 000	0	0	Activity implemented with funding from the REFACOF contract in the Indigenous Peoples budget
Support consultations and sensitization of local stakeholders in the ER Program area	0	0	27 751	IUCN
Workshop on the presentation and validation of the strategy to involve IPs in the REDD+ process	0	0	5 183	IUCN
TOTAL	274 037	125 000	44 424	

Component 2. Preparation of the REDD+ Strategy

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance

Analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

In the scope of the elaboration of the ER-PIN for the South Plateau of Cameroon, the TS conducted an in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the area. Furthermore, to complement the work done during the elaboration of the R-PP and pending the finalization of the national study on driver of deforestation and forest degradation, the TS has carried out an extensive review of literature on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation coupled with quantitative analysis of land use demand from different sectors and remote sensing based analysis of spatial forest cover change. A synthesis report is now available as well as the in-depth report for the South plateau. Both reports are posted on the website of the TS (www.reddcameroun.cm).

The reports identified the following as direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at national level: slash-and-burn agriculture, cash crop expansion, agro-industry, small holder development, bush fires; infrastructure development; logging, illegal and unplanned exploitation of forests for wood energy; mining; urban and rural development. The indirect causes identified are: population growth, interregional migration, growth of the local and international markets for timber and commodities, fluctuations in cash crop prices, monetary policy (devaluation of the CFA franc), insecure land tenure.

Future trends in deforestation and forest degradation based on the analysis of development policies include infrastructure development, expansion of agriculture and agro-industry, mining, lack of coherence in sectorial strategies.

The national report identifies five major hotspots within the humid forest area in Cameroon. These include: the Buea-Douala, Yaounde-Ayos, Kribi, Bertoua and Yokadouma. Of these, the Yaoundé-Ayos and Kribi hotspots are within the ER-Program area, and thus will be a target for testing approaches to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. A further analysis has been carried out to categorize the administrative divisions within each agro-ecological zone according to their historic deforestation rates: Monomodal (Wouri, Mounjo, Sanagha Maritim), Guinean Savanna (Mbere, Mayo-Bano, Faro et Deo), Sudano-sahelian (Mayo-sava, Mayo-kani et Benoue), Haut Plateaux (Nde, Noun and Haut Nkam), Bimodal (Mfoundi, Mefou & Akono and Mefou & Afamba).

These quantitative assessments will guide the field work for in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation study which was commissioned to a consultancy firm in December 2016. The results of the in-depth analysis are due in May 2017.

Table 5: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Study on drivers in the South west region and workshop to review the results (June – November 2013)	0	0	14 751	GIZ
Support mission to identify REDD+ pilot projects (June 2014)	0	0	11 032	GIZ
Consultation meeting to define the “vision” of the national REDD+ strategy (February 2016)	1 493	0	0	
Organization of an inter-ministerial meeting on the REDD+ process	12 092	0	0	
Preliminary collection and analysis of data to identify the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the South Cameroon Plateau (March – May 2016)	56 060	0	0	
Technical meeting on the development of the conflict management mechanism (March 2016)	545	0	0	
Technical workshops for the consideration of “+” in REDD (August 2016)	0	0	14 826	GIZ

National study on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (December 2016 – May 2017)*	428 723	0	0	
TOTAL	498 912	0	40 609	

**The contract containing the study on the in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation also contains the studies on the in-depth analysis of strategic options and informing the FRL. The total amount of the contract is reported in this Table. To avoid double counting, it is not reported in 2b and 3.*

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

Some progress has been made on the strategic options since the R-PP.

In order to test the strategic options proposed in the R-PP, the National Program for Community-driven Development is carrying out feasibility studies for REDD+ pilot projects in the five agro-ecological regions in collaboration with the local councils of Limbe/Tiko, Lagdo, Pitoa, Yoko, Bana/Bangagte/Bangou.

The TS has carried out an assessment of different projects in the natural resource management and utilization sectors to identify and characterize those with a REDD+ potential. The study regrouped the projects according to their contribution to the five eligible REDD+ activities and categorized them with the five agro-ecological zones. The results show that the activities to be promoted vary according to the agro-ecological zone. The Sudano-Sahelian and Guinean Savannah zones require the development of forest and fodder plantations in order to improve the energy supply, the conditions for animal welfare and the diversification of sources of income. The Highland Plateaus, Bimodal and Monomodal agro-ecological zones have in common the development of the activities to protect and sustainably manage forest resources. Added to these activities are improved energy supply, diversification of sources of income and increased productivity. Some initiatives underway could be capitalized as part of the REDD+ strategy. They relate overall to the development of production chains, community and communal management of forest resources, including afforestation and certification activities, agroforestry and conservation.

The study on strategic options was commissioned together with that of in-depth analysis on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The results are due in May 2017.

It is worth mentioning that in the scope of the Forest Investment Program (FIP), an investment plan is also being elaborated. To ensure coherence and synergies between developments in FIP, CAFI and the national strategy, the elaboration of the FIP and CAFI investment plan is under the supervision of the National

REDD+ Coordinator. This allows for the efficient use of human and financial resources, and enables the investment phase to capitalize on readiness funds, building the framework for future results-based payments.

The implementation of the investment plan will require strong collaboration with other sectorial administrations, private sector and CSOs. Additional funds will be required to coordinate resource management between different sectors and ensure the integration of REDD+ in sectorial policies and strategies.

Table 6: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Inventory and characterization of REDD+ pilot initiatives/projects developed by civil society and development partners (April – May 2016)	11 302	0	0	
Preparation of REDD+ PIN in the Southwest region			26 988	GIZ
Study on strategic options for REDD+ (December 2016 – May 2017)*				
TOTAL	11 302	0	26 988	

**The study on in-depth analysis of strategic options is merged in a single contract with the studies on the in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and informing the FRL. The overall budget of the contract has been reported in Table 5 (Component 2a).*

2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework

Adoption and implementation of legislation

The TS is carrying out two studies to analyze the coherence between sectorial laws and policies related to the management and utilization of natural resources, and land and carbon rights for the effective and equitable implementation of REDD+. Specific objectives include assessing the implications for REDD+ of the various sectorial laws and policies, and identifying potential conflicts, overlaps and weaknesses in the legislative framework.

The following sectors are being examined: regional land use planning, land and property, agriculture, environment, forestry, mining, energy, infrastructure, transport, urbanization and industrialization. The preliminary results indicate that the environmental and forest laws and legislation provide a good legal framework on which REDD+ could build, while there is no consideration of REDD+ in the other sectorial laws and policies.

With regards to land and carbon rights, the study will include an analysis of the status of customary law in relation to statutory law as regards land ownership, and outline the limits in relation to the REDD+ requirements; provide an assessment of the current status of carbon as a property right within the legal framework of Cameroon; provide guidance on land rights and carbon rights, institutional and legal provisions to guarantee access to beneficiaries and recourse procedures in the event that these rights are not respected.

An information and advocacy strategy will be prepared and consultations carried out with members of parliament and other influential persons to push for amendments in the current legislative framework in support of clear and efficient REDD+ implementation. The additional grant will support these activities.

Guidelines for implementation

A REDD+ operations manual was produced in 2013 following consultations at the national level. The manual presents procedures for the planning and monitoring of activities for the elaboration of the national strategy, procedures for the submission of REDD+ pilot projects and eligibility criteria, procedures for fund management, procedures for the management of resources, and procedures for management of human resources in the TS. With the evolution of the process and the demonstration phase in sight, the TS has embarked on revising the manual.

To accompany REDD+ actors in the development of REDD+ projects and to have a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the projects, a template for the elaboration of project idea notes has been developed by the TS in collaboration with other partners and stakeholders. This template is to be used by all actors seeking to implement REDD+ activities, so that the government will have a standardized approach to assessing proposals and confirming compliance with design requirements.

Benefit-Sharing Mechanism

Discussions and consultations have been carried out between the TS and various key stakeholders on the identification and categorization of benefits and the identification of potential REDD+ beneficiaries. To date, an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of existing mechanisms has been carried out. This preliminary analysis provided useful guidance for the benefit-sharing mechanism to be developed including:

- Propose legislation to frame the mechanism and define the criteria the distribution of benefits among stakeholders;
- Determine the mechanism for monitoring and reporting;
- Provide mechanisms for capacity building;
- Establish distribution mechanism which takes into consideration the international, national, regional, local and other sectorial levels;
- Establish a distribution mechanism that takes into account other sectors that are directly or indirectly involved in the management of forest resources.

The ongoing study builds on these preliminary findings and will propose an efficient and equitable mechanism to share REDD+ benefits. The study also addresses issues related to a REDD+ funds management mechanism. The outcome of the study is due June 2017.

While this initial effort composed of consultations and initial study study have informed the BSM development process, much of the work on this topic remains. Additional funding is needed to complete the design operationalization of the benefit sharing and funds management mechanisms.

Setting up the REDD+ Registry

Discussions and consultations to define the technical characteristics, technology configuration and

functionality of the national REDD+ registry are under way. However, some progress has been made in setting up pilot projects to inform the registry, elaborating a manual, which sets out eligibility criteria for REDD+ pilot projects/initiatives. It emerged from the first reflections that the register will be used to:

- Enable the effective and equitable development of REDD+ projects through a transparent process;
- Develop regulations and procedures to guide the development and implementation of REDD+ projects;
- Ensure that all projects meet national standards and fit into international frameworks;
- Facilitate integrated accounting and reporting of GHG emissions and removals;
- Provide a transparent platform for public access to information on all REDD+ projects;
- Monitoring carbon transactions in the country;
- Ensure clarity around the nature and ownership of REDD+ assets in order to transparently and credibly pay for performance-based payments;
- Promoting credibility and ensuring legality (preventing money laundering and other illegal activities related to carbon financial transactions);
- Promoting environmental integrity (avoiding double counting, managing leaks and setting emission reference levels, etc.);
- Ensure compliance with social and environmental standards and safeguards;
- Contribute to the national preparedness process (information sharing and capacity building).

Additional funding will enable the TS to:

- Conduct a feasibility study for the construction of the national registry of REDD+ pilot projects, which will define and validate the parameters, functionality, architecture and technologies to be used;
- Build the national REDD+ registry (using free/cheap technology options) according to the results of the feasibility study validated by the stakeholders;
- Strengthen the capacities of the managers and administrators of the platform on updating the data in the developed registry;
- Acquire the necessary hardware and software to operate the registry;
- Develop the Procedure and Accreditation Manual and Worksheets for Project Identification Notes;
- Train project promoters on the use of the registry and electronic tracking cards to enable effective interaction with the system.

Table 7: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Technical meeting to analyze the existing benefit-sharing mechanisms in natural resource management (March 2016)	558	0	0	
REDD+ Operations Manuel (2013)	0	0	0	
Elaboration of template for REDD+ project idea notes (November 2016)	0	0	1 725	GIZ
Study on benefit sharing and FGRM mechanisms for REDD+ (January to June 2017)	262 263	0	0	
Mapping the rights of local communities and IPs with regards to different strategic options to address deforestation and forest degradation	0	0	2 600	GIZ
TOTAL	262 820		4 325	

2d. Environmental and Social Impacts

The SESA study and ESMF were launched in November 2016. A work plan and consultation plan have been elaborated by the Consultancy firm and validated by the TS. The study has been suspended pending the finalization of the studies on drivers of deforestation, strategic options, benefit sharing mechanism, feedback and grievance redress mechanism, institutional and legal framework, so that it can benefit from these inputs, which are not yet finalized. The SESA study will resume in June 2017 and will be finalized three months later.

As this initiative is still in its early phase, additional capacity building of stakeholders on the SESA and ESMF will be prioritized in the budgeting of additional finance.

Table 8: Activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented or in progress	Source of Financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations

Elaboration of SESA and ESMF (November 2016 – August 2017)	265 958	0	0	
TOTAL	265 958	0	0	

Component 3: Status of Activities on the Forest Reference Level (FRL)/Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)

The country intends to use historic changes and future adjustments to develop its FRL. This approach requires statistics on historic forest cover changes and statistics related to planned developments.

MRV Guidelines, which takes into consideration national circumstances have been elaborated. A national forest definition for the REDD+ process has been elaborated and validated by stakeholders. Other key concepts like deforestation, forest degradation have been defined taking into consideration national circumstances. A classification scheme for mapping has also be outlined, tier levels required for different carbons pools and land use changes as well as prioritization of carbon pools in the different agro-ecological zones.

In the scope of the REDDAF/OSFT projects, datasets have been generated for historic deforestation for the years 1990, 2000, 2010. Historic trends of deforestation have been established based on these datasets. These results have been compared with global datasets to ascertain the high forest low deforestation (HFLD) status of the country. Discussions are currently underway with the University of Maryland (UMD) to revise the entire historic time series in order to ensure that the maps are in conformity with the specifications in the national guidelines for MRV and ensure consistency with the 2015 update. This process will be carried out in two phase and in close collaboration with MRV experts from the TS. A phase in in UMD with a small group of experts from the TS and a second phase at the TS that will involve a bigger group of experts to ensure a methods and technology transfer to a wider group of MRV actors. A consistent and coherent time series for 2000, 2010 and 2015 is expected by June 2017.

With regards to emission factors data, the only country-specific information stems from the national forest inventory of 2005. These datasets have retrieved and an analysis of its quality and gaps carried out by the TS. It has been reprocessed using the allometric equation of Chave 2014.

Furthermore, allometric equations specific for the humid forest area are being generated in the scope of the Regional REDD+ Project implemented by COMIFAC. The Government of Cameroon also decided to use a portion of its budget share in the Regional REDD+ Project to develop allometric equations for the Guinean Savanna agro-ecological zone.

Progress in the methodological developments related to the elaboration of FREL/FRL draw from the experience of the REDD+ Policy Assessment Centre (REDD-PAC) project. The project used the

GLOBIOM model, which uses the demand for land as the basis to make future projections in land use. The same model was used to develop the FRL presented in the ER-PIN of the ER program proposed to the Carbon Fund.

The TS has been collecting information, statistics, and spatial datasets required for the development of the FRL. Data collected relate to planned development projects like railways, Hydroelectric Plants, power lines, deep seaport, mining concessions, forest concessions, food consumption.

The contract for the development of a concept for the FRL has been launched and a first draft of the FRL will be produced in May 2017.

The additional grant will enable the collection of missing data, implementing a national forest inventory and updating the FRL. Furthermore, capacity building on the FRL development will be carried out among different stakeholders as well as national workshops to discuss the outcome of the FRL.

Table 9: Summary of activities implemented and ongoing as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented and ongoing	Source of financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
FRL methodological developments in REDD-PAC (2011 – 2016)				IKI (undisclosed budget)
Expert group research on forest definition, land use classes and NFMS forest attributes (March to June 2015)			16 040	USFS
Validation of national forest definition for REDD+ process (July 2015)			24 317	USFS
Finalization of land use key categories and cover classes			10 381	USFS
Generation of historic deforestation maps 1990, 2000, 2010 (2015)			-	REDDAF/OSFT (undisclosed budget)
2015 update of deforestation trends (February – June 2017)			100 000	USGS
Development of allometric equation for humid tropical forest (2012 – 2017)				PREREDD (undisclosed budget)
Development of concept for FRL/FREL (December 2016 – May 2017)*				
TOTAL			150 738	

**The study on informing the FRL is merged in a single contract with the studies on the in-depth analysis of strategic options and the study on the in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The overall budget of the contract has been reported in Table 5 (Component 2a).*

Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards

4a. National Forest Monitoring System

Setting up the national MRV system commenced with the elaboration of the MRV Action Plan. In the scope of the elaboration of the Action Plan, MRV outreach activities were organized.

Recent MRV developments can be viewed into two main components – methodological developments and institutional arrangements.

Methodological developments have been centered around the elaboration of the national guidelines for MRV, which presents a stepwise approach for the assessment of activity data and emission factor for the REDD+ process by the TS. The document is based on generic guidelines in GOFC GOLD, GFOI but customized to reflect country-specificities. It provides definitions of forest and the REDD+ eligible activities based on national circumstances, presents and defines thematic classes for mapping, analysis of key categories etc. Thematic workshops were organized between the TS and technical experts and resource persons identified in research and academic institutions as well as administrations to address specific themes. The organization of the thematic workshops was supported by the US Forest Service (USFS).

As it is essential to align the MRV development with the FRL elaboration to ensure consistency and coherence, the national guidelines for MRV also set the requirements for the FRL. The ongoing FRL development will provide the opportunity to test some of the specifications in the guidelines and if necessary certain aspects of the guidelines may be revised.

The TS has also sought to identify all institutions carrying out relevant MRV related activities. In order to institutionalize the MRV system for Climate Change in general and REDD+ in particular, the government has operationalized the following institutions:

The *National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC)* created by Presidential Decree No. 2009/410 of 10 December 2009 has as mission to monitor and evaluate the socio-economic and environmental impacts of measures of prevention, mitigation and / or adaptation to adverse effects of climate change; to propose to the Government preventive measures for the reduction of greenhouse gases as well as measures to mitigate and / or adapt to the adverse effects and risks of climate change;

The *Forest Cover Monitoring Operations Unit* established by Order No. 0086 / MINFOF / C2D-PSFE2 /

of 18 May 2016 is responsible for collecting, processing, archiving and providing satellite imagery and aerial photography in order to monitor the evolution of the forest cover of Cameroon in connection with the REDD+ process;

The *Operational Unit for Capacity Building on Forest Management* created within the National School of Water and Forests (ENEF), by Order No. 0084 / MINFOF / C2D-PSFE2 / of 18 May 2016 is responsible for capacity building and applied research in the field of geomatics and forest inventories as well as to contribute to the development of the REDD+ MRV system.

These newly created institutions will play major roles in the implementation of the national MRV system.

A provisional arrangement has been outlined but further consultations are required at the political level to accord roles and responsibilities to the different institutions identified. The TS has carried out an assessment of the human resource and infrastructural capacities of all the institutions identified. The assessment indicates that the ability of national institutions to monitor forest cover, carry out forest inventory and report GHG emissions is basic. Infrastructure (hardware and software) resources are non-existent in most cases and when they exist, it is necessary to update them. Some staff have benefited from different training programs and projects, but the lack of adequate infrastructure contributes to their inability to practice, leading to the need to always repeat training modules rather than build on previous ones.

The TS has also launched consultations with the different MRV institutions for the creation of an MRV Task Force. The Task Force constitutes a group of experts from administrations, research and academic institutions, resource persons that will regularly provide technical support on different components of the MRV system. More specifically, the Task Force will:

- Propose technical guidance for the establishment and functioning of the national MRV system;
- Support technical reflections of the state authorities in the quality control of MRV related activities;
- Ensure the sharing of information and knowledge transfer;

Consideration is also being given to the establishment of a participatory MRV system that will involve all stakeholders at all levels including local communities in field activities.

Parallel to the elaboration of MRV Guidelines and Institutional Arrangements, the TS has received support in the form of satellite image interpretation training and hardware/software procurement in the scope of

the GEOFORAFRI project implemented by IRD.

The additional grant will enable reinforcing the human and infrastructure capacity of the MRV structures, and updating the national guidelines for MRV.

Table 10: Summary of activities implemented and ongoing as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented	Source of financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Preparation of a detailed action plan for establishment of the MRV system	0	0		FAO/CBFF (undisclosed budget)
Workshop for the validation of the objectives of Cameroon's NFMS			55 145	USFS
Technical meeting to create MRV national task force (13-15 December 2016)			5 251	USFS
Capacity building on satellite image interpretation for forest cover change mapping (July, October, December 2016)	0	0	-	GEOFORAFRI (undisclosed budget)
Outreach to stakeholders on the MRV system	0	0		FAO/CBFF (undisclosed budget)
TOTAL	0		60 396	

4b. Design of an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

The TS has carried out a study to identify and prioritize different types of non-carbon benefits. The study identified and mapped non-carbon benefits, identified beneficiaries, established a link between the strategic options proposed in the R-PP and the identified benefits, and proposed indicators for monitoring each potential non-carbon benefit. The report categorizes benefits into direct environmental benefits, indirect environmental benefits, direct socio-economic benefits and indirect socio-economic benefits and presents their corresponding monitoring indicators (www.reddcameroun.cm).

A study is currently ongoing to outline the concept for the design and setting up of the Safeguards Information Systems. The study will identify practical criteria and indicators needed to track how safeguards are being addressed and respected; define the scope of the safeguards information system

including information and data sources; establish institutional and governance arrangements; determine how to collect, store, manage and analyze information; establish reporting, information use and access. The results of the study are expected in March 2017.

The activities to be financed by the additional grant will include: collection of data and preparation of the matrix for monitoring of co-benefits, consultations on the national Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) for the national safeguard information system (SIS), and setting up the SIS.

Table 11: Summary of activities implemented and in progress as of January 15, 2017

Activities implemented	Source of financing (USD)			
	FCPF	FESP	Other	Observations
Identification and prioritization of non-carbon benefits in the REDD+ process in Cameroon*	5 000	0	0	
Concept for SIS*	5 000	0	0	
TOTAL	10 000			

**Deducted from the SESA budget*

3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMON APPROACH

The national REDD+ process will follow the World Bank's social and environmental safeguard guidelines, a number of World Bank policies applicable to Cameroon with respect to stakeholder engagement and consultation (social policy regarding indigenous peoples (OP 4.10)), strategic environmental and social assessment tools (EIA OP / BP 4.01), and governance (benefit-sharing and grievance redress mechanism).

With respect to governance, the multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder steering committee guarantees the involvement of all relevant actors. The legal and regulatory framework and the grievance redress and benefit-sharing mechanism will be developed to ensure efficiency and equity in REDD+ implementation, management of carbon and non-carbon benefits, as well as conflict management.

The national REDD+ process in Cameroon is highly consultative, transparent, inclusive, and participatory. Stakeholder engagement and consultation occur at every level – municipal, regional and national levels meetings have been organized. Feedback received from civil society on ways to improve the consultation process have been reviewed and integrated with an adaptive management approach. The TS-REDD+ organizes monthly meetings with CSOs and technical and financial partners. This approach strengthens communication and trust among actors. There is a gap in terms of the skills and structuring of CSOs and it is the express aim of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) unit of the TS-REDD+ to close this gap. A consultation plan, communication strategy, and media plan have been prepared. Communication tools such as the REDD+ information bulletin (produced every three months), REDD+ brochures (in English and French) and an interactive website allowing stakeholders to interact with the TS and hosting all program reports/information has been developed.

Regarding the strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA), the FCPF supports the SESA process, which will take the form of preparation of an environmental and social management framework. This framework will propose measures to mitigate social and environmental impacts. Moreover, national social and environmental standards (PCI REDD+) will be established.

4. ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ACTIVITIES FUNDED BY THE FCPF READINESS GRANT

The activities financed by the FCPF during this phase relating to preparation of the national strategy for Cameroon comprise the following: operationalization of the TS-REDD+, for which, since April 2014, the related activities have consisted of the leasing of a building in which to house the TS-REDD+, furnishing it with computer and office equipment, then contracting experts and support staff with FCPF financing; as well as the financing of preliminary and strategic studies. These studies include in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradation; analysis of strategy options; development of a national design for preparation of the reference scenario; the REDD+ Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment; preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework; the design and implementation of a national grievance and conflict management mechanism; and the analysis of options for a REDD+ legal and institutional framework (including benefit-sharing mechanisms, ownership of emission reduction credits, and management of REDD+ funds). These studies are grouped within three contracts:

Contract 1: study on SESA;

Contract 2: studies on in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, in-depth analysis of strategic options, and informing the national reference emission level;

Contract 3: studies on legal and institutional framework (including benefit sharing mechanism, feedback and grievance redress mechanism, management of REDD+ funds, carbon rights).

The elaboration of the REDD+ strategy hinges on the realization of these studies. Due to administrative hurdles related to the tendering of Government contracts, the procedure to contract these studies encountered severe delays that have impacted negatively on the progress of the REDD+ process. The initial grant period ended 30th September 2016 and the Government requested and obtained a further two-year extension – till 30th September 2018 to achieve Readiness objectives. A work plan detailing the allocation of the remaining financial resources during the extension period was elaborated and approved by the Task Team Leader.

All the studies have now been launched, work plans and methodological approaches discussed and approved by the TS, and some preliminary drafts and findings presented and discussed with the TS. The final outcomes of the respective studies are expected by June 2017. A comprehensive Draft of the national REDD+ strategy is envisioned for the second half of 2017.

The work to prepare the National REDD+ Strategy is proceeding in accordance with the distribution of grant funds presented in the table below. It should be noted that the fact that groups of studies have been merged within single contracts, there some discrepancies in some components. This is further compounded by fluctuations with the USD in the last couple of years. Overspending in certain subcomponents (Coordination of the REDD+ readiness process and FGRM) are compensated by underspending in other subcomponents (Preparation of the REDD+ implementation framework, SESA, Preparation of the National REDD+ strategy).

Table 12: Distribution of grant funds by component

	COMPONENT	Projected amount (USD)	Amount Used (USD)	Amount Committed (USD)	Balance after commitments (USD)
1	SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL READINESS MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	1 334 815	1 057 619	220 423	56 773
	COORDINATION OF THE REDD+ READINESS PROCESS	750 833	718 461	190 537	-158 165
	SUPPORT FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	583 981	339 158	29 887	214 937
2	SUPPORT TO THE DESIGN OF A NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY	1 126 250	176 246	419 273	530 731
	PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY	250 278	86 025	0	164 253
	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT (SESA)	500 556	89 676	155 958	254 921
	FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM	166 852	545	263 314	-97 007
	PREPARATION OF REDD+ NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK	208 565	0	0	208 565
3	INFORMING THE NATIONAL SCENARIO FOR REDD+	542 269	0	412 032	130 236
	INFORMING THE NATIONAL REFERENCE SCENARIO FOR REDD+	542 269	0	412 032	130 236
	TOTAL	3 003 333	1 233 865	1 051 728	717740

Table 13: Summary of progress made as of January 15, 2017

Grant Component and Planned Activities	Outcomes Planned and Achieved
<p>Grant component: Coordination of the REDD+ readiness process</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Coordination of the REDD+ readiness process</p> <p>Support to ensure the functioning of REDD+ bodies at central and decentralized levels</p> <p>Grievance redress mechanism and conflict management</p>	<p><u>Outcomes Expected:</u></p> <p>Human and technical capacity available; resources available and operational</p> <p>Structures that will lead the coordination and implementation of the REDD+ readiness process in Cameroon are in place namely: the Steering Committee, TS-REDD+, and decentralized bodies at regional and departmental level (CTD and conflict management bodies)</p> <p>Setting-up of a TS-REDD+ team composed of consultants recruited to strengthen the REDD+ National Coordination Office</p> <p>Setting-up of a fiduciary team consisting of a specialist in financial management, a procurement specialist, and an accountant</p> <p>Purchase of office supplies, rental of office space, vehicle maintenance, payment of expenses for the annual financial audits, purchase if necessary of financial management software</p> <p>Grievance redress and conflict management mechanism developed</p> <p><u>Outcomes Achieved:</u></p> <p>TS-REDD+ operational and staffed with consultants</p> <p>Fiduciary team—consisting of a financial management specialist, a procurement specialist, and an accountant—operational</p> <p>Procurement Plan developed</p> <p>Diagnostic report on various grievance redress and conflict management mechanisms in the management of natural resources completed</p>

Component 1b. 1c. Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

Grant component: Support for stakeholder engagement

Activities:

- **Consultation and participation as regards activities to be implemented under FCPF funding**
- **Strengthening REDD+ sub-national structures**
- **Implementation of the REDD+ communication strategy**

Outcomes Expected:

Consultation (through meetings, workshops, seminars, etc.) of key stakeholders developed and implemented in five agro-ecological zones. The views of stakeholders are known and addressed on key topics including: the drivers of deforestation and degradation, strategy options, SESA, the institutional framework, benefits-sharing and grievance redress mechanism

Material and technical capacities of the decentralized coordination bodies and of civil society strengthened and their functioning guaranteed

The communication strategy developed is implemented in support of REDD+ activities

Outcomes Achieved:

Capacities of civil society strengthened in terms of use and ownership of the FPIC guide

Civil society organized at the national level, and its branches at departmental and commune level are established and functioning

Views of stakeholders are known and taken into account in the development of all REDD+ activities

The validated communication strategy is being implemented gradually. Stakeholders communicate on REDD+, and communication tools are gradually being developed and disseminated

The technical capacity of decentralized structures and of civil society is gradually being strengthened

Component 2a: Support to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy

<p>Grant component:</p> <p>Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>Study on the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the five agroecological zones of Cameroon</p> <p>In-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the five agroecological zones</p>	<p><u>Outcomes Expected:</u></p> <p>Quantitative data on forest cover, the level of deforestation and degradation</p> <p>A thorough analysis of the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation</p> <p>Recruitment of a consultant to conduct analyses and disseminate the results of the study</p> <p><u>Outcomes Achieved:</u></p> <p>Identification of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the south plateau.</p> <p>Synthesis report based on existing information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the entire country.</p> <p>Consultancy firm recruited for the in-depth study of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and results expected May 2017</p>
<p>Component 2b: Analysis of Strategy Options to Address the Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation</p>	
<p>Grant component:</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>An analysis of strategy options for responding to the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation</p>	<p><u>Outcomes Expected:</u></p> <p>Consultant recruited to refine the strategic options identified in the RPP and align them with the most detailed study on the drivers of deforestation and degradation of forests</p> <p>Lessons learned from REDD+ pilot projects provide information for development of the REDD+ strategy</p> <p><u>Outcomes Achieved:</u></p> <p>Feasibility studies for five pilot projects with local councils ongoing. TS accompanying the process and informing the national strategy</p>

	Consultancy firm recruited for the analysis of strategic options and results expected May 2017
Component 2c: Preparation of REDD+ Implementation Framework	
Grant component: Preparation of REDD+ implementation framework Activities: Analysis of the legal and institutional aspects of implementing REDD+ (benefits-sharing options, analysis of the legal framework, analysis of governance, as well as economic and tax incentives to promote REDD+)	<u>Outcomes Expected:</u> Establishment a benefits-sharing mechanism; improvement of the option for the legal framework and governance <u>Outcomes Achieved:</u> Diagnostic report on the legal and governance frameworks of natural resources; preliminary analysis of benefits-sharing
Component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	
Grant component: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Activities: Funding for two experts (an environmentalist and a social development expert). SESA and the development of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	<u>Outcomes Expected:</u> SESA unit operational Recruitment of a consultation firm to conduct SESA study Development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) <u>Outcomes Achieved:</u> Two experts (an environmentalist and a social development expert) recruited; TOR of SESA developed; Consultancy firm to conduct the SESA study recruited; SESA and ESMF launched in November 2016; Work plan and consultation plan has been validated by TS.

Component 3: Status of Activities on the Forest Reference Level (FRL)/Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL)

Grant component:

Informing the development of a reference emissions scenario

Activities:

Recruitment of a consultant to develop a national reference scenario

Outcomes Expected:

Design for the development of the reference scenario available

- Completion of assessment of the availability of data necessary for the development of the reference scenario with a precision level of at least two (*tier 2*)
- Completion of analysis of existing national historical data in order to estimate activity data for at least three time intervals
- Collection and analysis of preliminary data in the field in order to produce a national conservative estimate for emission factors (while prioritizing the most important carbon sinks) for forest types, where significant deforestation and forest degradation took place
- Data gaps identified and proposal made for developing or obtaining the missing data

Outcomes Achieved:

National definition of forest elaborated

Historic trends of forest cover change established (1990, 2000, 2010)

Reprocessing of 2005 inventory data

Consultancy firm recruited for the elaboration of FRL and results expected May 2017

Table 14: Lessons learned from the REDD+ readiness process

Component	Lessons learned from the REDD+ readiness process
Subcomponent 1a	<p>The necessity to have coordination at a higher administrative level;</p> <p>The importance of formalizing the relations and inter-relationships between the TS and technical and financial partners;</p> <p>The importance of strengthening the capacity and understanding of sectorial ministries on the stakes of the REDD+ process;</p> <p>It is essential to consider vulnerable groups like women and youths in REDD+ management organs;</p> <p>The necessity to integrate local conflict management structures into the FGRM being developed;</p> <p>The importance of putting in place measures to ensure the availability of technical assistance at all levels of the FRGM.</p>
Subcomponent 1b	<p>The necessity to keep expectations from different stakeholders at a realistic level. REDD+ should not be presented as a panacea that will make every citizen rich;</p> <p>The importance of focusing the REDD+ discussion on non-carbon benefits rather than on monetary benefits;</p> <p>REDD+ will be successfully implemented in Cameroon only if stakeholders at grass-root level adhere to the process; Community strategy should prioritize stakeholder at this level.</p> <p>The importance to exchange information and involve all CSOs – even those that are not members of the REDD+ and Climate Change platform but still active in the REDD+ process;</p> <p>The need for more awareness-raising activities in the field with a simple language adapted to the general public.</p>
Subcomponent 1c	<p>The necessity to assist in the creation of organized platforms for other groups like (indigenous people) to ease collaboration with the TS;</p> <p>To facilitate the use of the FPIC Guide by all stakeholders, further sensitization is required;</p> <p>It is essential to reflect on potential private-public partnerships opportunities in the scope of REDD+ implementation in the quest to enhance the involvement of private sector in the process;</p>

	The importance of taking into consideration the outcome of the consultations in the elaboration of the national strategy to ensure ownership by the stakeholders.
Subcomponent 2a	To optimize the use of resources, it is paramount to focus consultations on the deforestation and forest degradation hotspots and widen the consultations to other areas depending on the availability of resources.
Subcomponent 2b	It is important that the strategic options are aligned with the sectorial strategies
Subcomponent 2c	The necessity to revise the operating manual to reflect implementation of REDD+ considering that it was elaborated prior to the launching of the elaboration of the national REDD+ strategy.
Subcomponent 2d	It is paramount that the vulnerable actors like women, youths, IPs have ownership of the SESA
Component 3	The need to align the FRL developments with those of the MRV system;
Subcomponent 4a	<p>Considering the different institutions involved in the MRV and their overlapping mandates, it is paramount to quickly define roles and responsibilities in the MRV system;</p> <p>The need to accompany the MRV institutions in defining practical programs that will enable trained experts to actively support the MRV system;</p> <p>The importance of associating academic institutions in capacity building activities to ensure the training of a critical mass of specialists.</p>
Subcomponent 4b	The importance of developing a mechanism to incentivize non-carbon benefits

5. UPDATE OF THE FINANCING PLAN FOR REDD+ READINESS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE OTHER PARTNERS

Cameroon is currently receiving direct financial support from two sources for REDD+ preparation: the FCPF (estimated at 3.6 million USD) and the German Development Bank (KfW) through the Basket Fund of the Forest-Environment Sectorial Program (FESP) estimated at 2,8 million USD for climate change and REDD+.

Some financial and technical partners provide financial and human resources for the realization of REDD+ readiness activities and the preparation of the ER PIN. Worth mentioning are the International Union for the Conservation Nature (IUCN) and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) that support activities related to Components 1 and 2. IUCN and WWF also sponsored consultations within the ER program area. German International Cooperation (GIZ) identifies activities jointly with the TS and provides technical assistance and financial support. In the scope of the REDD+ Regional Project (PREREDD), the country is using part of its budget allocation to also fund readiness activities. US Forest Service (USFS) have been instrumental in driving forward the MRV developments. Work plans are elaborated in collaboration with the TS and support provided in the form of technical and monetary assistance. The French Development Agency (AFD) is sponsoring the implementation of REDD+ pilots in municipal councils, the results of which are informing the REDD+ strategy. AFD is providing the required financial resources for the creation of two centers for monitoring forest cover as well as building human resource capacity.

Other technical partners simply identify activities in the R-PP and the TS annual work plan related to their competence. The TS uses the outcome of these activities to inform the emerging national strategy. Transparency International (TI) and Forest and Rural Development organization (FODER) have been addressing issues related to REDD+ governance.

Finally, it is important to mention international projects implemented by foreign institutions in collaboration with national institutions and whose results have been crucial in informing the reference emission levels. These projects include EU FP7 REDDAF implemented by GAF, OSFT by IGNFi and REDD PAC by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

Due to the varying nature of the funding and the fact that not all information related to financial support is provided to the TS, it is difficult to present a realistic picture of the contribution of the different partners.

Table 15: Update of financial plan with other direct financial sources

Uses of funds in USD thousands							
R-PP Component	Total needed	Funds pledged	Funds used		Funds available	Financing gap	Request to FCPF
			Funds committed	Funds disbursed			
Component 1a : National Readiness Management Arrangements	5 275	3 100	1 450	1 702	0	2 123	1 280
FCPF		1 100	210	900	0		
FESP		2 000	1 240	760	0		
Government				12			
PREREDD							
IUCN				2			
USFS				28			
Component 1b : Information Sharing and Initial Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups	971	50	32	103	0	836	
FCPF		50	32	18	0		
GIZ				33			
IUCN				52			
Component 1c : Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	9 020	828	385	443	0	8 192	1 050
FCPF		650	376	274	0		
FESP		178	53	125	0		

PREREDD				11			
WWF							
IUCN				33			
Component 2a : Assessment of Land Use, Forest Policy and Governance	1 165	150	498	41	-348	626	
FCPF		150	498				
GIZ				41			
Component 2b : REDD+ Strategy Options	1 830	150	0	38	150	1 642	80
FCPF		150		11			
GIZ				27			
Component 2c : REDD+ Implementation Framework	2 094	250	262	4	-12	1 828	360
FCPF		250	262	-			
GIZ				4			
Component 2d : Environmental and Social Impacts	536	600	266	0	334	-64	90
FCPF		600	266				
Component 3: Forest Reference Level (FRL)/Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL)	1 590	650	100	51	550	789	1 013
FCPF		650					
USFS				51			

USGS			100				
PREREDD							
Component 4a : National Forest Monitoring System & Component 4b : Design of an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5 950	0	115	160	0	5 675	1 120
FCPF			10				
USFS			60	60			
FAO							
USGS			45				
IRD				100			
	28 431	5 778	3 108	2 542	674	21 647	4 993

6. SUMMARY OF THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

In its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Cameroon requests the sum of US\$28.911 million for the development of the national REDD+ strategy. Considering the different funding sources (FCPF, CF, FESP, and others), the country is developing its national strategy at an estimated 1/3 of requested funds.

With the extension of the grant period to 30th September 2018, the Government elaborated a work plan and budget indicating how the remaining funds will be used. It is evident that key components of the REDD+ process will not reach maturity with the resources available, hence the request for additional funds.

The additional funds requested from the FCPF should enable the following set of activities to be accomplished:

6.1. Subcomponent 1a: National Readiness and Management Arrangements

The current FCPF grant agreement ends September 2018, while the current phase of the FESP ends December 2017. The sustainability of the TS is crucial to the REDD+ process in Cameroon. Moreover, REDD+ pilot projects are being set up in the different agro-ecological zones thus necessitating the operationalization of the decentralized structures (regional and local REDD+ committees). The country will continue to play its role as one of the climate change leaders of the sub-region. In this respect, participation in sub-regional and international climate change negotiations is paramount. Lastly, exchanges with other forest nations is essential to learn from the experiences of other countries.

Under this subcomponent, the additional grant will fund:

- The functioning of the TS-REDD+;
- The operationalization and functioning of the decentralized structures (regional and local REDD+ committees);
- Participation in sub-regional and international climate change and REDD+ negotiations;
- Participation in various fora with other REDD+ countries to exchange experience;
- Sensitization of stakeholders on FGRM
- Operationalization of the FGRM; and
- The strengthening of the technical and material capacities of CSOs and IPs.

Table 16: Activities of subcomponent 1a to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Functioning of the Technical Secretariat as well as operationalization and functioning of the decentralized structures for the period 2016-2018	980 000	180 000	800 000
Participation in sub-regional and international meetings and forum on climate change and REDD+	50 000	25 000	25 000
Sensitization of stakeholders on FGRM	50 000	50 000	0
Establishment of conflict management bodies (FRGM)	50 000	50 000	0
Strengthening of the technical and material capacities of CSOs and IPs	150 000	75 000	75 000
TOTAL	1 280 000	380 000	900 000

6.2. Subcomponent 1b and 1c: Communication, Consultation, and Stakeholder Engagement

According to the communication strategy and the consultation plan 2,1 billion FCFA are required for their implementation respectively. So far, the country has mobilized 141 million FCFA for communication and consultations (excluding sporadic support provided by partners like GIZ, IUCN etc.). Resources are required to sustain the production of current information tools, update some and develop new ones. With the finalization of the strategic studies due September 2017 and the elaboration of a comprehensive draft of the strategy envisaged by December 2017, extensive consultations are envisaged.

The additional grant will thus fund:

- Development and proliferation of communication tools by target and agro-ecological zone;
- Awareness raising/training of central and decentralized governments and of the private sector on REDD+; and
- Stakeholder consultations on key issues (e.g., institutional arrangements, national REDD+ strategy, clarification of carbon rights, and development of the MRV system).

Table 17: Activities of subcomponent 1b and 1c to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Development and proliferation of communication tools by target and agro-ecological zone	400 000	250 000	150 000
Extension of the branches of IP organizations throughout the national territory	135 000	80 000	55 000
Awareness raising/training of central and decentralized structure and of the private sector on REDD+	50 000	25 000	25 000
Capacity building of stakeholders on consultation tools	65 000	40 000	25 000
Stakeholder consultations on key issues (e.g., institutional arrangements, national REDD+ strategy, clarification of carbon rights, and development of the MRV system)	400 000	200 000	200 000
TOTAL	1 050 000	595 000	455 000

6.3. Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options

The ongoing study on strategic options is expected to prioritize REDD+ strategic options for the different agro-ecological zones. It is important to further assess the political feasibility, risks and opportunities of the proposed options, as well as their consistencies with sectorial policies and programs thus guaranteeing broad community support.

The following activities are foreseen under the additional grant:

- Assessment of the political feasibility of strategic options and their consistency with sectorial policies and programs;
- Prioritization of proposed activities, based on emission-reduction capacity, stakeholder valuation, financial leverage potential, and other transparently-developed indicators.

Table 18: Activities of subcomponent 2b to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated costs (US\$)	2018	2019
Assessment of the political feasibility of the proposed strategic options and alignment with sectorial strategies	80 000	80 000	0
TOTAL	80 000	80 000	0

6.4. Subcomponent 2c: REDD+ Implementation Framework

Following to the proposition of policies and laws to guarantee the effective implementation of REDD+, and advocacy strategy will be written and consultations carried out among critical stakeholders. Furthermore, the BSM and Fund Management system (in case the current study justifies the necessity of its creation) need to be operationalized. As the country moves towards Phase 2 and 3, the development of a national REDD+ registry become critical.

The activities for the additional grant include:

- Operationalization of BS and FM mechanisms
- Preparation of advocacy strategy and consultations with parliamentarians
- Setting up of the REDD+ registry.

Table 19: Activities of subcomponent 2c to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Operationalization of the BS and FM mechanisms	100 000	50 000	50 000
Preparation of advocacies and consultations with parliamentarians	60 000	30 000	30 000
Setting up the REDD+ registry and training	200 000	100 000	100 000
TOTAL	360 000	180 000	180 000

6.5. Subcomponent 2d: SESA and ESMF

After carrying out the SESA study and establishing the ESMF, the main activity proposed for the additional grant is the strengthening of the capacities of those responsible for implementing the SESA and the targeted actors.

- Capacity building on SESA

Table 20 : Activities of subcomponent 2d to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Capacity building on SESA	90 000	45 000	45 000
TOTAL	90 000	45 000	45 000

6.6. Component 3: Development of a National Forest Reference Level

The ongoing study will propose a concept for the elaboration of the FRL/FREL aligned to the MRV developments. It will assess the data needs, identify data gaps and use available data to elaborate a FREL/FRL. The proposed FREL/FRL must be discussed at political level to ensure its alignment with the national strategic vision in general and the sectoral policies and programs in particular. Furthermore, the stepwise approach adopted for the FRL development, requires updating/improving the quality and precision of the used data and filling data gaps to improve on the FRL. In this respect, there is a pressing need to implement a national forest inventory. The additional grant will complement finance from JICA (training and material), USFS (training), and AFD via the debt relief program C2D (material and training). The TS has elaborated a budget for the implementation of the inventory taking into consideration the other funding sources. Another area where grant support is required is on assessing changes in forest land remaining forest land. Updating the existing map products to address forest degradation is important and likewise the training of local staff on forest degradation assessment techniques. Lastly, sensitization and consultation of stakeholders on the FRL is of utmost importance.

In the scope of the additional grant the following activities are planned for this Subcomponent:

- Collect updated and missing information/statistics for the development of FRL/FREL;
- Update forest cover change maps to address forest degradation;
- Training national experts on forest degradation mapping;
- Contribute to the implementation a national forest inventory;
- Organization of workshops to present and discuss the FREL/FRL with different stakeholders.

Table 21: Activities of subcomponent 3 to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Update thematic maps to address forest degradation	60 000	30 000	30 000
Data collection	100 000	50 000	50 000
Implementation of national forest inventory	713 000	213 000	500 000
Participation in capacity building programs on forest degradation mapping	40 000	20 000	20 000
Organization of national workshops on FRL	100 000	100 000	0
TOTAL	1 013 000	413 000	600 000

6.7. Subcomponent 4a: Development of a National MRV system

With the elaboration of the MRV guidelines and the clarification of roles and responsibilities of the various institutions involved in the MRV, and the assessment of human and infrastructure capacity to perform their duties, the focus will switch to addressing institutional capacity, human resource and infrastructural capacity of the key institutions. The implementation of the MRV system will be ensured with the support from AFD in the operationalization of the *forest cover monitoring operation unit* and the *Operational Unit for Capacity Building on Forest Management*. The additional grant will address issues related to the institutionalization of the MRV system:

- Participation in trainings on GHG inventory, carbon accounting, activity data assessment
- Development of national standards and protocol for reporting on emission factor and activity data;
- Updating the national guidelines for MRV
- Elaborate information sharing arrangements and protocols;
- Organizing meetings of the MRV Task Force
- Develop a concept for participatory MRV
- Building capacity of other relevant MRV actors

Table 22: Activities of subcomponent 4a to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Participation in trainings on GHG inventory, carbon accounting, activity data assessment	200 000	100 000	100 000
Updating the national guidelines for MRV	60 000	30 000	30 000
Elaborate information sharing arrangements and protocols	30 000	30 000	0
Organize working sessions of the MRV Task Force	100 000	50 000	50 000
Developing a concept for participatory MRV	30 000	30 000	0
Capacity building of other MRV actors (decentralized structures, local actors etc.) relevant for the system (training, material support	200 000	100 000	100 000
TOTAL	620 000	340 000	280 000

6.8. Subcomponent 4b: Design of an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards

After the identification and prioritization of non-carbon benefits and the concept note for SIS, the next logical step is the setting up of SIS. The additional grant for this subcomponent will thus fund:

- National consultations on Principles, Criteria and Indicators;
- Data collection
- Setting up of SIS.

Table 23: Activities of subcomponent 4b to be funded by the additional grant

Activities	Estimated cost (US\$)	2018	2019
Collection of data and preparation of the matrix for the monitoring of co-benefits	100 000	100 000	0
Consultations on the national PCI (national safeguard system)	100 000	100 000	0
Setting up of SIS	300 000	300 000	0
TOTAL	500 000	500 000	0

6.9. Summary of Activities to be funded by the Additional Grant

Table 24: Summary of activities to be funded by the additional grant by component

COMPONENTS	Amount of additional grant requested (US\$)
Component 1 (Subcomponent: 1a; 1b; and 1c)	2 330 000
Component 2 (Subcomponent: 2b, 2c and 2d)	530 000
Component 3	1 013 000
Component 4 (Subcomponent: 4a and 4b)	1 120 000
TOTAL	4 993 000

ANNEX 1 – PRESENTATION OF CAMEROON

Cameroon is located in the intertropical zone. The climate varies with terrain, from tropical along the coast to semi-arid and hot in the north. Exceedingly hot and humid, the coastal belt include some of the wettest places on earth. Rainfall varies according to proximity to the sea, altitude, and latitude, it diminishes as one moves from the sea to inland areas and from the south to the north. Owing to its geographic location, Cameroon is home to a wide variety of ecosystems and climates, and is divided into five agro-ecological zones:

- The monomodal forest zone or coastal plain, a coastal, mountain zone with a wet equatorial climate. This zone receives the most rainfall in the country;
- The bimodal forest zone or South Cameroon Plateau, which has tropical rainforests with a particularly dense hydrographic network;
- The high plateaus zone with an equatorial climate; the country's second "water tower";
- The high savanna zone, the Sudano-Guinean savanna and Adamaoua plateau, the country's first "water tower." A large number of the country's water bodies originate in this zone; and
- The semi-arid Sudano-Sahelian zone, which is located in the north.

Demographic data

In January 2012, Cameroon's population³ stood at an estimated 20,386,799 people (50.5 percent women and 49.5 percent men), and is projected to rise to 26.5 million by 2020. Population density (43.7 inhabitants per Km² on average) varies by region. With an urbanization rate of 52 percent in 2010, the urban population surpassed the rural population for the first time. The population age pyramid reflects the high proportion of young people in the country.

³ 3rd General Population and Housing Survey (RGPH) conducted in 2005

Table 25: Population trend in Cameroon

Indicators	2005	2010e	2012p
Population			
Male	8,632,036	9,599,224	10,672,800
Female	8,831,800	9,806,876	10,926,300
Total	17,463,836	19,406,100	21,599,100
Urban	8,514,938	10,091,172	...
Rural	8,948,898	9,314,928	...
Urbanization rate (%)	48	52	...
Population density per Km ²	37	41	46.35
Annual growth rate (%)	2	2	2.6

Source: Cameroon Statistical Yearbook 2011, RGPH 2005. e = estimated, RGPH; p = projected

Economic data

A positive economic growth trend has been observed in Cameroon since 2008. The country's growth rate was 4.4 percent in 2012, up from 4.1 percent in 2011, owing to growth in the three sectors of the national economy (primary, secondary and tertiary). Cameroon posted a growth rate of 4.8 percent in 2013, and is targeting an average growth rate of 5.3 percent over the period 2014-2016 (MINEPAT/MTBF, 2013).

The National Statistical Institute (INS) notes that the primary sector continues to drive the national economy, in view of its contribution to GDP (45 percent in 2009) and the ratchet effects on the other sectors. More than half of the working population is employed in the primary sector, while the manufacturing sector contributes 27.6 percent of GDP.

Forest sector

The 2004 national forest inventory shows that the dense humid forest covers 21.1 million hectares, and that of all the types of existing forests, 19 percent are primary forests, 48 percent are adult secondary forests, 25 percent are young secondary forests, and 8 percent are marsh forests. Inventories for the 1980s noted that the surface area at that time was 22.3 million hectares, thus confirming the loss of forest cover caused by human activities, with agriculture and urbanization posing the main threats. Mining operations and the construction of such major infrastructure as dams and transport routes will also contribute to the decline in forest cover in the years ahead.

Cameroon's forests are classified as follows:

- The permanent forest, established on land that has been permanently allocated, also known as the permanent forest estate (PFE). This entire area is composed of forest ranges belonging to the State

(State-owned forests) or to public authorities (communal forests) and covers approximately 16.85 million hectares;

- The multipurpose forest established on forest land on national property and comprising the non-permanent forest estate (NPFE). This entire area, which covers 4 million hectares, is made up of community forests, privately-owned forests, and forests that could be allocated for other uses (e.g., agricultural and pastoral activities).

A forest land allocation plan for southern Cameroon was validated by Decree No. 95-678-PM to serve as a planning and policy tool. This land allocation plan was used to assign a specific use to each delineated plot with a view to granting it special status and specific protection measures. The forest classification procedure is currently governed by a Decision issued by the Minister of Forests (MINEF Decision No. 135 of 11/26/99). The forest law provides specific definitions and system of tenure for State-owned forests, communal forests, and privately-owned forests (Articles 20 to 26; 30, 35, 37, and 39 of the law establishing the forestry, wildlife, and fisheries regime). The architecture of the forest zoning system in Cameroon includes:

- State-owned forests established on private State property. The procedure established by decree for classification, demarcation, and issuance of a land title is used to incorporate this category of forests into private State property;
- Communal forests established on the private property of communes. This category of forests stems from a procedure for classifying forests from either private State property or national property. As is the case for State-owned forests, the classification procedure is completed with the issuance of a land title in the name of the commune in question;
- Community forests established on national property. The beneficiary communities have use rights to these forests and do not own the land in question. The aim of creating this category of forests is to involve local populations in sustainable forest management;
- Privately owned forests are forests that are planted by individuals on land that they own, in accordance with the land tenure legislation in force. They are therefore established on property owned by private persons (2020 strategy for the forest and wildlife subsector).

Biomass energy industry

There are five main flows: in the south, industrial wood waste sold as fuelwood, charcoal derived from the carbonization of wood waste, and wood cut and sold as firewood bundles, while in the north, wood harvested and cut in natural forests and charcoal obtained from carbonization. Volumes exceed 12 million metric tons of wood each year and over 200,000 metric tons of coal. While the economic value is unknown, this activity provides thousands of direct jobs, from production to transport and sale on the market. In cities, charcoal is a strategic product for wholesalers, semi-wholesalers, and retailers.

Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

Several Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) contribute to food security and are raw products for traditional pharmacopeia, the pharmaceutical industry, construction, and ornamentation. The estimated value of exports is 12 billion FCFA per year, while the overall value of NTFPs sold on the market each year is projected to be around 17 billion FCFA.

The agricultural sector

The rural sector is the main employer in Cameroon. Agriculture employs roughly 60 percent of the working population, primarily for family farms, and plays an irreplaceable role in generating income in rural areas for the approximately two million agricultural households surveyed.

Cameroon has numerous and diverse agricultural production systems and is thought to have roughly two million farms. An estimated 72 percent of these farms are multifunctional (crop and livestock production in the north and, in the south, crops and agroforestry related systems), 25 percent specialize in crop production, while 3 percent specialize in livestock production. There are two major types of production units:

Family farms, which are composed of one or more members connected by family ties or by customs and jointly using the factors of production to generate resources, and are led by one of the members, who is appointed manager and may be a man or a woman.

Medium and large farms, which are operated as a sole proprietorship or as a corporation and use only hired labor, in accordance with the labor legislation in force.

Family farms

Family farms may focus on the use of extensive traditional systems, traditional industrial crops (cocoa, coffee), or on extensive multifunctional systems, which are devoted to the production of food primarily for

self-sufficiency.

In the case of livestock production in particular, pastoralism and agropastoralism are part of farm activities. With regard to pastoralism, little or no agricultural activity takes place as traditional cattle rearing is practiced full time by sedentary, semi-sedentary, and nomadic livestock farmers.

Medium and large farms

These production systems are based on large farms that are relatively integrated into agroindustrial complexes and specialize in a single product. The main crops cultivated are oil palm, cocoa, coffee, pineapple etc. These farms are managed by senior executives or skilled producers with significant resources at their disposal (land, capital). The farms employ production techniques that rely heavily on mechanization and inputs, use hired labor, and produce primarily for the market (both domestic and international).

Agribusiness

Agribusiness comprises primarily large agroindustrial enterprises that specialize in palm oil, banana, rubber, and tea production. These enterprises occupy roughly 170,000 hectares of generally good quality land and well linked to main roads. They play an important role, given their direct and indirect impact on the agricultural and rural economy, both in the region in which they are located and in the country. This category also includes large forest operations, and industrial poultry and pork farms.