REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RÉPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN

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

SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE REDD+ READINESS PHASE BY STAKEHOLDERS

REPORT

25/02/2019

REDD+ TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	Acronyms
AEZ	Agro-Ecological Zone
AWPB	Annual Work Plans and Budget
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CC	Climate Change
CCSPM	Consultation Circle of Civil Society Partner of MINFOF and MINEPDED
CF	Common Fund
CGAC	Adaptive Conflict Management Framework
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPIL	Steering Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DD	Deforestation Degradation
ERP	Emissions Reduction Program
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FESP	Forest-Environment Sectoral Program
FF	Functional Framework
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FODER	Forest and Rural Development
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FRL	Forest Reference Levels
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GESP	Growth and Employment Strategy Paper
GFOI	Global Forest Observations Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHGI	Greenhouse Gas Inventories
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internazionale Zusammenarbeit)
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples/Local Communities
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement *(Research Institute for Development)*
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KFW	German Development Bank (Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau)
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
MTR	Mid Term Review Report
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NIC	National Institute of Cartography
ONACC	Observatoire National sur les Changements Climatiques *(National Observatory on Climate Change)*
OSFACO	Spatial Observation of Central and West African Forests
OSFT	Spatial Observation of Tropical Forests
PNDP	National Participatory Development Program
PRPF	Population Resettlement Policy Framework
REDAFF	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Africa
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, Forest Degradation, Conservation of Forests, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks
REDD+ TS	REDD+ Technical Secretariat
RL	Reference Level
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
SDIAF	Sub-Division of Inventories and Forest Development
SDMESC	Sub-Department of Ecological and Climate Monitoring
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SLMS	Satellite Land Monitoring Systems
TFP	Technical and Financial Partners
TSM	Technical Support Mission
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UOSCF	Operational Forest Cover Monitoring Unit
USFS	United State Forest Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background and Introduction

Cameroon has been engaged in the REDD+ readiness process since 2008. Early 2009, Cameroon's Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) was validated and its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) document validated in 2012. In 2014, Cameroon engaged in elaborating its national REDD+ strategy, which was validated in June 2018 by all stakeholders and the multi-sector Steering Committee, which is the decision-making body of the REDD+ process. Cameroon has also engaged in the development of its Forest Investment Plan, its national implementation framework and an Emission Reduction Program Idea Note in the southern plateau of the country. Cameroon is towards the end of the readiness preparation phase, i.e at a stage when activities proposed in the readiness preparation proposal (R-PP) are well advanced and/or completed. The R-package is a major milestone and demonstrates a transition from REDD+ readiness preparation to the implementation of the reduction activities. Reason why a self-assessment by multi-stakeholders was carried out to assess the progress on the REDD+ readiness and to identify remaining gaps and further needs.

Methodology of the Self-Assessment

A self-assessment was done by multi-stakeholders in a participatory and inclusive process. The process consisted of consulting the stakeholders on the achievements of the readiness phase whereby the documentation produced during this phase by the Government and other stakeholders in the REDD+ process were systematically and continuously made available to stakeholders. A Stakeholder mapping was carried out to identify stakeholder groups (governments, civil society, indigenous peoples (Baka, Bagyeli, Bakola, Bedzang, and Bororo) and local communities, private sector, research and educational institutions, technical and financial partners, the media), that participated in the self-assessment process. A national workshop was launched on the self-assessment process and stakeholder consultation workshops were conducted in the 05 AEZ. Given the peculiarity of indigenous peoples, two specific workshops were dedicated to them. The assessment was guided by the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, which describes a participatory process and outlines a set of 34 structured criteria. The self-assessment consisted of data collection and analysis based on the different opinions of the stakeholders. This was done in two steps, individually and then group work. During the assessment, information tools on the achievements of the activities on the R-PP and an anonymous survey questionnaire were made available to stakeholders. The stakeholders gave their opinion on the achievement of the readiness activities and assess the process in a participatory, transparent and inclusive manner. The draft of the self-assessment report was shared with stakeholders to review the results and make final comments and validated in a multi-stakeholder national workshop.

The workshops were attended by 275 actors out of a total of 332 invited, which outlines a participation rate of 82.83%. A total of 43 representatives of Indigenous peoples were invited and 37 participated in the workshops, outlining a participation rate of 86.04% of indigenous people. The ratio of male to female participation was 29.81% for women and 70.1% for men.

Summary Results of Assessment with Identified Gaps

The compiled results of the self-assessment by the stakeholders. On the 34 criteria, REDD+ readiness is progressing well, but more effort is required.

- The **"yellow colour"** is predominant at 55.8% for 19 criteria;
- followed by the "**green colour**" at 32.3% for 11 criteria and;
- finally the "**orange colour**" at 11.7% for 4 criteria.

The assessment clearly points to a number of areas that require action if Cameroon is to be fully REDD+ ready. Efforts would therefore be required for 23 criteria (**yellow and orange**).

National REDD+ Strategy. The REDD+ Strategy has identified measures to address the policy and legal gaps or barriers to reducing deforestation and forest degradation or enhancing carbon stocks. It informs government's approaches to target interventions to key drivers of deforestation and address institutional gaps. Based on an in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation taking into account the country's 05 AEZs, strategic options have been proposed. What is outstanding is the need to undertake an evaluation of the economic contribution and the emission reduction potential of these identified strategic options. An assessment of the coherence of sectoral policies and laws related to REDD+ and an analysis of land rights and carbon rights for REDD+ have been made. To accompany the process of reform of laws including land and forestry, the development of an advocacy document (position paper for the review and amendment of existing Acts) for the approval of new laws taking into account aspects related to REDD+ have been proposed.

Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM). A study on the development of a benefit-sharing mechanism and a complaints and feedback redress mechanism were conducted. However, the FGRM needs to be operationalized starting from the sub-national level and will be tested and adjusted within the framework of a REDD+ pilot project or program. For the complaints and feedback redress mechanism, there is provision for the development of a conflict management manual (activities culminating in the development of this manual is seen in the next step of action). It would make sense to operationalize the FGRM starting from the Southern Plateau ER-P area.

With regards to the reference emission level, we can note during this phase the development of a concept for the construction of the Forest Reference Level of (FRL) in Cameroon disclosed at http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-

public&Itemid=94&lang=fr. This concept indicates the scope, presents a definition of the forest to consider within the framework of the REDD+ process, presents thematic classes according to the country's national circumstances, makes a prioritization of the carbon pools to consider in the different agro-ecological zones (AEZ) of the country, indicates the scale that will be national and presents the approach to consider in terms of historical data that is 2000-2015 for historical data and 2015-2035 for projections with an update of rate every 5 years. As for the perspectives, it will be a question of valorizing the gains of this concept by actually building the forest reference level for Cameroon and to submit to the UNFCCC while ensuring stakeholder capacity building for a better national ownership of construction tools for the subnational FRL and regular updates of this FRL.

Concerning the national monitoring system, there is the existence of an MRV action plan at http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr., the existence of an institutional arrangements for the management of this MRV system, the elaboration of the national MRV guidelines, the creation of an MRV National Task Force. Demonstrations of the first phases of monitoring are still to be done as programmed in the next step to be undertaken. The monitoring system should be operationalized by assessing the effectiveness of the emission reductions ongoing pilot projects. The strengthening of technical and logistical capacities and an extension of tools and methodologies. The functioning of the institutional mechanism will have to be finalized with the definition of protocols for collaboration and exchange of data, the operationalization of the monitoring units with coherent mandates and budgets at the decentralized level. The same is true for the institutional arrangements for monitoring multiple benefits, which should also take into account the Community non-carbon benefit monitoring institutions and the participation of the IPLC. Monitoring, notification and information exchange tools must be developed, tested and validated, particularly REDD+ projects register, the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and the National Forest Monitoring System. These tools will be developed within the FCPF additional grant for the period 2019-2020. This implies strengthening the technical and material capacities of the stakeholders for the ownership of each tool at local and national level.

For the organization of preparation, consultations and engagement with partners, several tools like the communication strategy, the consultation plan, the consultation approach based on the use of the FPIC tool, the guide for strengthening of stakeholders were developed. Efforts will need to be made for the feedback and grievance redress mechanism, outreach and communication with a focus on the private sector and local populations, stakeholder engagement and consultation specifically for women, youth and decentralized territorial communities; capacity building on all REDD+ themes; the national REDD+ strategy and related strategies/documents.

The southern Plateau REDD+ programme thereby represents an important pathway for mobilizing and upscaling private sector support and investment in REDD+. Under the ER-P, in November 2017 at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bonn, Germany, the Cameroonian Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development signed a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) with Taylor Guitars, the co-owner of the Yaoundé, Cameroon based ebony mill CRELICAM. Among other undertakings, the agreement called for a technical analysis of the feasibility, opportunities and obstacles of expanding the current Ebony Project into additional forest communities, agroforestry projects, and restoration projects areas within the Subnational REDD+ program. As Cameroon moves into full implementation of REDD+, it is imperative for these partnerships and collaborative efforts to be further enhanced and harnessed in a well-coordinated manner towards the attainment of the nation's REDD+ aspirations.

Cameroon has developed a Forest Investment Plan that was endorsed by the relevant sub-committee of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) in December 2017 subject to the CAFI Executive Board Comments. However, there is no committed Climate Investment Funds (CIF) financing for implementation of the identified priority investment projects. An advanced draft National Investment Framework (NIF)/FIP is being finalized and the final version is due by November 29, 2019.

Cameroon is also in the process of developing the Southern Plateau program on reducing emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. The Southern Plateau ER program covers the South Cameroon plateau that straddles the bimodal and monomodal rainfall agro-ecological zones covering an area of 93.328 km² (9.332.800 ha). It maintains the biological connectivity between protected areas in three neighbouring countries. However, Cameroon won't be able to meet the timeframe required. Additional thinking is required to develop a coherent ER-PD that could be submitted for further development to funding channels. Additional funding was provided by the FCPF following the approval of Cameroon's Mid-Term Report on REDD+ readiness that will allow to bridge the above listed gaps and contribute to:

- Develop a REDD+ Registry for Cameroon;
- Establish a National Forest Monitoring System;
- Complete the development of the national FRL/RL;
- Develop a Safeguards Information System) and;
- Most importantly, focus on language complexity to make information available and accessible.

There is a need to put significant efforts into deepening ownership at policy level beyond the forestry sector, and more work will be required to make reforms in key areas such as land tenure, tree tenure and benefit sharing.

Table 1: Self-assessment results by component

Components	Sub components	Criteria	National assessment of all stakeholders
1. Readiness organization and consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	C1: Accountability and transparency	
		C2: Operating mandate and budget	
		C3: Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	
		C4: Technical supervision capacity	
		C5: Funds management capacity	
		C6: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	
	1b. Consultation, participation and sensitization	C7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	
		C8: Consultation process	
		C9: Information sharing and accessibility to information	
		C10: Use and disclosure of consultation results	
2. REDD+ Strategy preparation	2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, laws, policies and forest governance	C11: Assessment and analysis	
		C12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development	
		C13: Links 1between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	
		C14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	
		C15: Impacts on forest laws and policies	
	2b. Strategic options REDD	**C16:** Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options	
		C17: Feasibility assessment	
		C18: Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies	
	2c. Implementation framework	**C19:** Adoption and implementation of laws and regulations	
		C20: Guidelines for implementation	
		C21: Benefit-sharing mechanisms	
		C22: National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities	
	2d. Social and environmental impacts	**C23:** Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues	
		C24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	
		C25: Environmental and social management framework	
3. Reference emission level/reference levels		C26: Demonstration of methodology	
		C27: Use of data and adaptation to the national situation	
		C28: Technical feasibility of the approach and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines	
4. Forest monitoring systems	4a. National forest monitoring system	C29: Explanation of the monitoring methodology	
		C30: Demonstration of the first monitoring phases	
		C31: Institutional arrangements and capacities	

Components	Sub components	Criteria	National assessment of all stakeholders
and safeguard measures	4b. Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	C32 : Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems	
		C33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	
		C34: Institutional arrangements and capacities - Multiple Benefits	

Legend

Stakeholder responses	FCPF colour code		Appreciations
Response 4		=	Green colour signifies: **Substantial progress** (i.e. the assessment criterion has improved since the validation of the RPP and it meets the conditions for the readiness phase)
Response 3		=	Yellow colour signifies: **Good progress, more effort required** (which means that the criterion does not yet meet the conditions of the readiness phase, even if considerable progress efforts can be noted).
Response 2		=	Orange colour signifies: **More effort required** (which means that there is some early brainstorming on the elements of the assessment, but there is still a lot of effort to meet the preparation requirements.
Response 1		=	Red colour signifies: **No progress** (which means that the country cannot provide evidence that it has engaged in serious discussions on the criterion for meeting the preparation requirements).

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

Section 1: Introduction

Since 2008, Cameroon has been engaged in the readiness process of Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+). Within this framework, it developed its Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) document which presented its forestry potential and sustainable management method. Following the validation of the R-PIN in early 2009, Cameroon developed its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) document with national funding and support of USD 200 000 received from the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) for the finalization of the document prepared by the national expertise.[1] This document, which presented the terms of reference for the activities to be carried out in preparation for the process, was validated in 2012 by the international community. The "R-PP" is a multi-component document that indicates that the country needs about USD 29 million to prepare for the REDD+ process. The country also benefited from the support of various technical and financial partners for the development of the national REDD+ strategy, which was validated in June 2018.

The National REDD+ Strategy

To begin its process of developing the national REDD+ strategy, the Government has set up a multisectoral Steering Committee, which is the decision-making body of the process with a Technical Secretariat in charge of the operational component. To fully play its role, this Technical Secretariat mobilized a team of consultants (International Technical Assistance and National Experts) whose main mission was to develop the participatory national REDD+ strategy that completes the readiness phase (phase I of the REDD+ process).

To frame the development of this strategy since 2014, Cameroon, in addition to its own resources, has benefited from two direct supports, namely that of the FCPF through the World Bank, the amount of USD 3.4 million and that of the German Cooperation (KFW) through the Common Fund of the Forest and Environment Sector Program, the amount of FCFA 1.2 billion. In the same vein, the Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) have carried out activities listed in the R-PP document with the main objective of fuelling the national REDD+ strategy.

REDD+ Process in Cameroon

Given the delay in its readiness phase, Cameroon has simultaneously entered the implementation/investment phase and the results-based payments phase. This has been practically transformed into the finalization of the national REDD+ strategy; the development of the Forest Investment Plan, and its implementation framework at the national level; and the proposal of an idea for an emission

[1]The Government has disbursed 100 million CFAF to finance the national expertise needed to develop the R-PP document.

reduction programme in the Southern Plateau of the country for which the Programme Document is being prepared.

SITUATION OF THE COUNTRY REGARDING THE THREE PHASES OF THE REDD+ PROCESS

According to the requirements of the international REDD+ process, countries complete the readiness phase by submitting a national REDD+ strategy or REDD+ action plan accompanied by a self-assessment report of the readiness process, also called "R-package". This document, based on 34 criteria defined by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), presents the various advances made in the REDD+ readiness process.

Phase I, REDD+ Readiness: Readiness Plan Idea Note has been developed and validated (2008-2009) while Readiness Preparation Proposal has been developed and validated for the period 2009-2013. The official launch of the national REDD+ strategy development process took place in June 2014, followed by the effective operationalization of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat in March 2016. To date, the country has endorsed its National REDD+ Strategy after validation by the REDD+ Steering Committee at its 3rd extraordinary session held on 6th June 2018 and after validation by stakeholders following national consultations. The strategy will orient interventions targeting Cameroon's key drivers of deforestation in partnership with all relevant stakeholders as well as highlight important reforms, institutional and capacity gaps that need to be filled. For the preparatory document (R-Package,) the country conducted national stakeholder consultations as part of the self-assessment of the readiness phase, of which this document is a review of the results.

Phase II, REDD+ Investment and Implementation: Cameroon was admitted into the Forest Investment Program (FIP- US$ 650.000) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI- US$ 1 million) to elaborate the FIP and CAFI investment plan. The Forest Investment Plan was developed and endorsed by the relevant sub-committee of the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) in December 2017 subject to the CAFI Executive Board Comments. An advanced draft National Investment Framework (NIF) was shared with the CAFI team, and their comments received on March 19, 2018 required extra effort to revise the NIF as well as to build country ownership. The Government presented a progress update on November 29, 2018 during the 11th meeting of the CAFI Executive Board (EB) in Brussels. The CAFI Executive Board, recognized the country's efforts in the NIF development process and encouraged to present a consistent vision across the main policies and measures in the different sectors to promote sustainable land allocation and use. The National Investment Framework is being developed (Implementation Framework of the Investment Plan) and the final version is due November 29, 2019. There is no committed Climate Investment Funds (CIF) financing for implementation of the identified priority investment projects.

To date, five REDD+ pilot projects in communal forests are ongoing with the National Participatory Development Program (PNDP) in the country's five agro-ecological zones. Other partners have started developing carbon projects, such as KFW, GIZ, Sangha Tri National, WWF, etc.

Phase III, Results-based payments: In June 2016, a project idea note for the Emission Reduction Programme in the Southern Plateau of Cameroon was introduced and approved by the FCPF Carbon Fund and the development of the descriptive document of this program (Emission Reduction-Programme Document) is being finalized. The Southern Plateau ER program covers the South Cameroon plateau that straddles the bimodal and monomodal rainfall agro-ecological zones covering an area of 93.328 km² (9.332.800 ha). It maintains the biological connectivity between protected areas in three neighbouring countries. This vast area known as the TRIDOM encompasses the Dja Wildlife Reserve and Nki National Park in Cameroon, the Minkébé National Park in Gabon, and the Odzale-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo. In addition, this accounting area forms a continuum with the Republic of Congo's ER Program area.

Section 2: Methodology of Stakeholder Assessment and Difficulties Encountered

In its vision for the implementation of the REDD+ process in Cameroon, the Government defined REDD+ as a development tool to achieve the objectives set in its Growth and Employment Strategy Paper. Cameroon has also indicated its interest in making REDD+ a national participatory process for which the engagement of all stakeholders is of great importance. This willingness to implement a participatory process guided the development of the national REDD+ strategy. Stakeholders were involved in all activities, from design to implementation.

At the finalization stage of the REDD+ readiness phase, a self-assessment of achievements is an affirmation of its maturation for a movement towards the investment and implementation phase of reduction activities. The self-assessment enables to measure the progress made by the country in REDD+ readiness and aims to present the stakeholders' perception of the implementation of activities at this stage by the various institutions and especially to identify the aspects to be corrected during the next phases of the process.

Stakeholder opinion is an indicator of participation and in the long term helps to build a process focused on stakeholder concerns. Stakeholder self-assessment allows for the emergence of concurring, mixed and sometimes contradictory views that would indicate that the process is under discussion.

Conducting a self-assessment is important for countries engaged in REDD+ as it builds trust between implementing agencies, national stakeholders and international donors. It influences and/or determines access to FCPF Carbon Funds and other funds intended for REDD+.

Given that countries that have not completed the readiness phase are allowed to submit an R-Package, a self-assessment also helps guide donors on corrective actions so that funding is geared towards responding to stakeholders' concerns. This is only possible if it ensures that achievements are made in a transparent, participatory manner and according to the rules of governance.

Methodology of Stakeholder Self-assessment

For stakeholder self-assessment, the Government developed a participatory and inclusive methodology that gathered the views of all major stakeholder groups, which are at the heart of Cameroon's readiness process. The approach consisted of reviewing the achievements of the readiness phase and consulting stakeholders to enable them to evaluate these achievements and prepare corrective measures. The methodology itself was based on an 8-step approach:

- **Step 1**: Distribution of key documents;
- **Step 2:** Selection of participants;
- **Step 3**: Definition of the methodological approach and consultation tools;
- **Step 4**: Organization of the national self-assessment launch workshop;
- **Step 5**: Organization of stakeholder consultation workshops in the 05 AEZs;
- **Step 6:** Analysis of the data collected and production of the self-assessment report;
- **Step 7**: Distribution of the draft self-assessment report;
- **Step 8:** Organization of the national workshop to consolidate and validate the results of the self-assessment.

Step 1: Distribution of Key Documents

As part of REDD+ readiness, sufficient documentation has been produced by the Government and other stakeholders in the REDD+ process. Since the RPP was developed, documents have been systematically and continuously made available to stakeholders for transparent, free and informed assessment. These documents are authentic and demonstrate that progress has been made and distributed (digital files and hard documents) whenever validated by stakeholders.[2] For example, we can quote: ***The national guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*** disclosed at http://www.cedcameroun.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/062014_Cameroon-National-FPIC-Guidelines_EN.pdf, ***the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) action plan document, the report of the in-depth studies on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the report on strategic options, the report on the development of a concept for the reference emissions level, the National REDD+ Strategy,*** *all disclosed at* http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-

[2]This distribution was done by direct mailing to email boxes and not posting on the website.www.reddcameroun.cm Hard copies of certain documents were distributed during the activities and made available to stakeholders who so wished at REDD+ Technical Secretariat.

public&Itemid=94&lang=fr.,*the report on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and its associated frameworks* *disclosed at* http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=267%3A2018-12-21-14-04-11&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr, *etc.* This distribution was intended to facilitate ownership of the process and stakeholder self-assessment.

Step 2: Selection of Participants

With a view to the participatory implementation of the readiness phase, a mapping of the stakeholders to be involved had been done during the drafting of the stakeholder consultation plan. These different stakeholders have been mapped on the basis of their dependence on forest resources, their way of life that causes deforestation and forest degradation, their capacity to act in favor of REDD+ and their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. These criteria made it possible to identify the following stakeholders: administrations, civil society, indigenous peoples (Baka, Bagyéli, Bakola, Bedzang, and Bororo) and local communities, the private sector, research and educational institutions, technical and financial partners, as well as the media.[3] In accordance with the results of this mapping, these stakeholder groups were involved in the activities of the readiness phase and are, of course, those who participated in the self-assessment.

The selection of participants for the self-assessment was based on the principle of self-designation of representatives and endorsed the proposal of representatives made by the different categories of stakeholders since the beginning of the readiness phase. Given the difficulty in consulting all stakeholders, those invited were those who met the following three criteria:

- Be a registered and designated representative of a category of stakeholder at the local level;
- Have participated in several REDD+ activities on various themes;
- Be available during the consultation workshop period for self-assessment.

The list of participants for the self-assessment was validated by stakeholders at the launching workshop.

Step 3: Definition of the Methodological Approach and Consultation Tools

This step consisted of developing an evaluation methodology and several tools to be used for self-assessment. As far as the methodology is concerned, it was decided to carry out **a participatory assessment of stakeholders**. This consisted in collecting and analyzing data on the basis of the independent and informed opinion of the stakeholders in the process, first taken individually and then grouped by categories. These data were then transformed into statistics and the results represent the projection of the perception of all stakeholders in the process by the group.

[3]Submission of the consultation plan, January 2017

The methodology note has been included in the terms of reference of this assessment, which also contain the timetable for completion, the list of targeted stakeholder groups, the budgets to be allocated and have been shared with the World Bank for advice and non-objection.

The tools developed were based on the guidelines of the FCPF methodological framework, which proposed 34 criteria and indicators for evaluating the REDD+ readiness phase in accordance with the components of the RPP document.[4] Exhaustively, these tools were as follows:

A PowerPoint presentation on R-Package. This electronic document used during the consultations helped to explain the importance of the preparatory document and the methodology of the self-assessment;

A PowerPoint presentation on the implementation of the RPP. This other soft copy document was used as a guide to explain to stakeholders the achievements (for each component of the RPP) made by the Government, civil society, indigenous peoples and technical and financial partners in the REDD+ readiness phase;

A comparative summary document. This paper version, which is a replica of the PowerPoint mentioned above, summarized the various achievements of this phase and compared them to the expectations of the FCPF's methodological framework through the prism of the 34 criteria;

An anonymous survey questionnaire. This paper document, developed on the basis of the FCPF's evaluation methodological framework, included questions whose answers constitute the essence of the self-assessment, was made to allow stakeholders to choose on a scale of 4 values, which best represents their perception of the progress of the FCPF's evaluation framework activities in relation to expectations.[5] These four levels were used to assess progress in each component and to assign the colour code to four colours in the FCPF assessment.

Step 4: National Self-Assessment Launch Workshop of the REDD+ Readiness

In accordance with the recommendations of the FCPF, a two-day launching workshop or inaugural workshop was organized in Douala (April 2018) with about 50 participants (representatives of major stakeholder groups). This preliminary information workshop made it possible to share and validate the methodological approach, the stakeholders to be consulted, the consultation tools and the evaluation questionnaires by the stakeholders in the assessment process.

Step 5: Stakeholder Consultation Workshops for Self-assessment in the 05 Agro Ecological Zones

[4]See Annex 1
[5]See Annex 2

The self-assessment was a participatory and inclusive process with the objective of taking into account the views and experiences of REDD+ stakeholders. At this stage, a series of consultation workshops was to be organized in all the agro-ecological zones of the country. These workshops were each attended by about 40 stakeholders representing major stakeholder groups. The work of each workshop lasted three (03) days during which the participants filled in individual and group survey questionnaires after having done presentations on the achievements and challenges of the exercise.

It should be noted that, in view of the specificity of indigenous peoples, two specific workshops were dedicated to them and organized with the support of the GIZ Pro- Forest Environment Programme (GIZ Pro-PFE).

Table 2: Calendar of consultation workshops in the 05 agro-ecological zones

Agro-ecological zones	Meeting date	Meeting venue
High Guinea Savannah AEZ	17 to 20 April 2018	Ngaoundéré
Western Highlands AEZ	17 to 20 April 2018	Bafoussam
Sudano-Sahelian AEZ	24 to 27 April 2018	Maroua
Bimodal rainforest AEZ	07 to 10 May 2018	Ebolowa
Monomodal rainforest AEZ	22 to 25 May 2018	Douala
Indigenous peoples consultation workshops		
1 Forest-based IPs	14 to 16 May 2018	Mbalmayo
2 Savannah IPs	22 to 24 May 2018	Bafoussam

Step 6: Analysis and Production of the Self-assessment Report

Once the consultations were completed, the assessment questionnaires filled by stakeholders were analyzed on the basis of the qualitative and quantitative data collected. The analysis was done by categories of stakeholders grouped into 5 groups, namely: Administrations; civil society; indigenous peoples; technical and financial partners; and others (including the media, private sector, and research institutes).

At this juncture, the analysis yielded various types of qualitative and quantitative results. Indeed, it revealed the statistics of stakeholder participation and their perception of the readiness phase. All these elements have contributed to the formulation of proposals for concrete corrective measures, based on the views of these stakeholders, to finalize REDD+ readiness.

Stakeholders carried out the self-assessment according to the 34 criteria (see Annex 1) set by the FCPF. They based their assessment on multiple-choice responses on a 4-level scale (from 1 to 4), of which each value (response) expressed the ratings included in the table above, which were expressed according to the FCPF colour code explained as follows:

Stakeholder responses	FCPF colour code		Appreciations
Response 4		=	Green colour signifies: **Substantial progress** (i.e. the assessment criterion has improved since the validation of the RPP and it meets the conditions for the readiness phase)
Response 3		=	Yellow colour signifies: **Good progress, more effort required** (which means that the criterion does not yet meet the conditions of the readiness phase, even if considerable progress efforts can be noted).
Response 2		=	Orange colour signifies: **More effort required** (which means that there is some early brainstorming on the elements of the assessment, but there is still a lot of effort to meet the preparation requirements.
Response 1		=	Red colour signifies: **No progress** (which means that the country cannot provide evidence that it has engaged in serious discussions on the criterion for meeting the preparation requirements).

Also, each questionnaire requested respondents to justify their choice with precise explanations. These comments allowed a better understanding of the level of understanding of the process, the achievements and the compliance of the achievement with the requirements of the readiness phase. It is also on the basis of these comments that the prospects for the finalization of this phase have been identified.

Step 7: Distribution of the Draft Self-assessment Report

After the analysis of the results and the preparation of the draft self-assessment report, a first draft of the document was distributed to stakeholders in preparation for the national consolidation workshop so that all stakeholders could assimilate the results and make final comments.

Step 8: National Consolidation and Validation Workshop of the Self-assessment Report

Following all consultations with the various stakeholder groups and the finalization of the draft self-assessment report, the participatory national workshop to consolidate the report was held in Douala on 18 and 19 July 2018, with the main objectives of improving, owning and validating the final report nationally.

Difficulties Encountered

The first difficulty was related to the participation of people who did not have a good understanding of the process. Indeed, some stakeholders were represented at the consultation workshops by their collaborators who sometimes had no mastery of the process, which made the self-assessment and analysis of their results more tedious.

Also, stakeholders complained about the length of the survey questionnaire, one of the main tools of the consultations. This, taking into account the requirements of the FCPF Methodological Guide, was based on 54 questions.

The complex nature of the different topics and the non-specialization of participants on all issues also made assessment difficult and caused inconsistency between the level of progress observed and the justification

given by the respondent. Indeed, sometimes participants ticked “no progress”, but justified by listing activities that demonstrate substantial progress. Sometimes participants selected an answer without justification and vice versa.

The difficulty of consensus in the groups was one of the significant limitations of the work. The stakeholders most involved and who have a better knowledge of the process tended to influence the group's positions. Also, culturally, people are used to endorsing the positions of community leaders. Therefore, during the consultations, when these leaders were present, the results of the self-assessment reflected their opinions.

Section 3: General Results of the Self-Assessment

The methodology defined above has made it possible to obtain perfectible results.

Participation in the Self-assessment

The self-assessment of the process was carried out in a participatory manner. In total, 332 stakeholders who participated in REDD+ readiness activities were invited and gave their appreciation of the process. 275 stakeholders effectively attended the workshops, representing a participation rate of 82.83%. The stakeholders consulted are from the stakeholder categories mapped for the process, including the Government, civil society, indigenous peoples, technical/financial partners and others that include researchers, the private sector and the media.

Special attention was paid to the views of indigenous peoples who were consulted, with the support of GIZ, during the two workshops specifically for them. A total of 43 representatives of Indigenous People were invited and 37 participated in the workshops. The participation rate of indigenous peoples is one of the highest in this activity, that is, 86.04%.

Civil society had a very good participation rate in the consultation workshops with a record attendance rate of 97.14%, i.e. 68 participants out of 70 invited, unlike the technical and financial partners, half of whom were not present with a participation rate of 44.4%, i.e. 8 participants out of 18 invited. This group also had the lowest representation rate of women at 12.5% with the presence of one woman out of 8 representatives.

Women's participation was diluted in the major stakeholder groups, but was effective throughout the consultation. The male to female participation ratio was 29.81% for women and 70.1% for men. This is still very insufficient and far from the minimum 30% participation of women required. Given that the invited structures and institutions themselves sent their participants, this ratio becomes an indicator of insufficient participation of women in discussions and decision-making on forest issues. The groups with the highest gender representation are IPs with 35.13% participation by women and civil society with 25%.

A summary of the participation of the different stakeholder groups in the self-assessment is presented in the table below.

Table 3: Participation figures per stakeholder groups

Stakeholder groups consulted	NUMBER OF PERSONS INVITED	NUMBER OF PEOPLE PRESENT			Participation rates per group	Women's participation Ratio
		WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	In %	In %
Local workshops by Agro-ecological zones						
ADMINISTRATIONS	50	8	33	41	82	19.512
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS	70	17	51	68	97.14	25
Indigenous Peoples	43	13	24	37	86.04	35.13
TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS	18	1	7	8	44.44	12.5
OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	26	3	16	19	73.07	15.78
Multi-actor Workshop						
National Launch Workshop	60	12	29	41	68.33	29.26
National Validation Workshop	65	28	33	61	93.84	45.90
TOTALS	332	82	193	275	82.83	29.81

National Self-assessment Results

As for the results after analysis and compilation, it should be noted that the results per stakeholder group are presented later in this document. Below is the compiled result of the self-assessment of the 34 criteria at the national level for all stakeholder groups.

Table 4: Self-assessment by REDD+ criteria

Criteria	National assessment of all stakeholders
C1: Accountability and transparency	
C2: Operating mandate and budget	
C3: Multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration	
C4: Technical supervision capacity	
C5: Funds management capacity	
C6: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism	
C7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders	
C8: Consultation process	
C9: Information sharing and accessibility to information	
C10: Use and disclosure of consultation results	
C11: Assessment and analysis	
C12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development	
C13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities	
C14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance	
C15: Implications for forest laws and policies	
C16: Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options	
C17: Feasibility assessment	

Criteria	National assessment of all stakeholders
C18: Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies	
C19: Adoption and implementation of laws and regulations	
C20: Guidelines for implementation	
C21: Benefit-sharing mechanisms	
C22: National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities	
C23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues	
C24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts	
C25: Environmental and social management framework	
C26: Demonstration of methodology	
C27: Use of data and adaptation to the national situation	
C28: Technical feasibility of the approach and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines	
C29: Explanation of the monitoring methodology	
C30: Demonstration of the first monitoring phases	
C31: Institutional arrangements and capacities	
C32 : Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems	
C33: Monitoring, reporting and information sharing	
C34: Institutional arrangements and capacities - Multiple Benefits	

Overall, it was noted that for stakeholders, REDD+ readiness is progressing well, but more effort is required. The yellow colour is predominant at 55.8%, that is, 19 criteria, followed by the green colour at 32.3% with 11 criteria and finally the orange colour at 11.7% for 4 criteria. Efforts of stakeholders would, therefore, be required for 23 criteria (yellow and orange). The key points that deserve particular attention and many efforts to finalize are among others: feedback, grievance redress and conflict management mechanisms, benefit-sharing; monitoring and accounting tools (REDD+ Project Registry, National Forest Monitoring System, Safeguard Information System) and above all, emphasis should be laid on simplifying language to make information accessible and on adequate stakeholder involvement in the technical aspects of the process. The next part of this document presents the detailed results criterion by criterion.

PART 2: INVENTORY AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS' READINESS FOR THE REDD+ PROCESS

Cameroon's readiness document defined the objectives to be achieved and the activities to be carried out for each component of the REDD+ strategy. An assessment of the current level of implementation of these activities made it possible to take stock of achievements by component. Based on the 34 FCPF criteria, these achievements were assessed by the various stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness process (Governments, civil society, technical and financial partners and other stakeholders). This exercise allowed them to assess the progress made, to identify the strengths and weaknesses observed in the implementation and to give orientations for each component in the continuation of the process.

1 INVENTORY AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANIZATION AND CONSULTATION

According to Cameroon's preparation document, this component should present the organization of institutions for the implementation of the RPP and how information sharing should help to achieve stakeholder consultations. It consists of 2 sub-components:

- Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements;
- Sub-component 1b: Information sharing and initial dialogue with key stakeholder groups.

According to the FCPF methodological framework, these two sub-components are assessed on the basis of the following 10 criteria:

1. Accountability and transparency;
2. Operating mandate and budget;
3. Multi-sector 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 process;
9. Information sharing and accessibility to information;
10. Use and disclosure of consultation results.

1.1 Achievements Concerning Readiness Organization and Consultation

Accountability and transparency

The implementation of an institutional framework guaranteeing accountability and transparency and ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, taking into account the technical capacities to meet the many challenges related to the implementation of REDD+, is necessary to ensure ownership of the process in Cameroon. In this momentum in Cameroon, a formal framework to manage the REDD+ readiness process was established by Decree No. 103/CAB/PM of 13 June 2012 signed by the Prime Minister and establishing the REDD+ Steering Committee. This Multi-sectoral Committee chaired by the Minister in charge of Environment is composed of 19 members (14 representatives of sectoral administrations; 1 representative

of civil society; 1 representative of indigenous peoples; 1 representative of the private sector; and 2 local elected officials). The REDD+ Steering Committee is the national REDD+ decision-making body. This committee is responsible for:

- Formulating draft policies and strategies for REDD+ initiatives;
- Issuing reasoned opinions on 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. Seven ordinary and 3 extraordinary sessions have been organized thus far.

The committee has approved the Annual Work Plan and Budget for the REDD+ process in 2015, 2016 and 2017. It has also reviewed and contributed to the various drafts of the national REDD+ strategy (I and II) by giving firm guidelines to be taken into account in the final version that is validated after consulting stakeholders in June 2018.

The Steering Committee is supported in its duty by a REDD+ Technical Secretariat (TS) which was established by the same decree. This secretariat is the technical and operational body of the Steering Committee. It is composed of the National REDD+ Coordinator, the National Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and a representative from the forest administration (designated 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 a Technical Coordinator. The units include:

- The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Unit, 2 experts;
- The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) Unit, 4 experts;
- The Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV), 3 experts;
- The Projects and Programs Unit, 2 experts;
- The Administrative and Financial Unit, 3 staff.

This team of experts developed the national REDD+ strategy, and contributed to the development of the investment plan for the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) and Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) initiatives, and to the development of the Emissions Reduction Program document, while the Administrative and Financial Units ensured efficient management of financial resources. The REDD+

Technical Secretariat was successfully audited for its management in 2016 and 2017. REDD+ Technical Secretariat works closely with other structures with similar missions such as the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC) and the VPA/FLEGT Unit of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). A FLEGT/REDD+ working group established, gathered to discuss synergies between both processes. The REDD+ TS holds monthly meetings with financial and technical partners involved in the REDD+ process to discuss progress made through activities directly funded or financed by these Technical and Financial Partners themselves, to address challenges and seek synergies.

In the same light, the TS has also set up a multi-sectorial technical working group comprising representatives of the key sectorial ministries. These groups, initiated in 2016, meet quarterly to contribute to discussions on specific themes to guide strategic choices in line with sectoral policies.

With a view to improving the current management framework of the REDD+ process at the national level, a proposal for a project to review the institutional arrangements was initiated with the main result of a new management and coordination architecture for the future phases of the national REDD+ process (phase I and phase II). Major changes to the existing architecture include:

- Embedding the Steering Committee in the office of the Prime Minister to enhance inter-ministerial coordination;
- The chairmanship of the Steering Committee by the Prime Minister with MINEPDED and MINFOF as 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairman respectively;
- A Technical Secretariat now coordinated by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Management in collaboration with the National Observatory on Climate Change and the decentralized structures;
- Creating two decentralised levels of the institutional arrangement (at regional and local levels). These decentralized structures will be set up in areas hosting REDD+ pilot projects;
- Integrating new key stakeholders as permanent members of the Committee, such as the Ministry in charge of Local Development and the Ministry of State Property, Surveys and Land Tenure.

It is noted that government's efforts are simultaneously addressing the three phases of REDD+ (readiness, investment/demonstration and performance-based payments). To ensure capacity to integrate the initiative efficiently, all these initiatives are under the supervision of the National REDD+ Coordinator. However, to foster cross-sectoral coordination, the REDD+ Steering Committee will be moved into the Prime Minister's Office as indicated above and the secretariat of the Steering Committee will be broadened to include non-forestry ministries whose agenda have direct implications for forest and land use such as Agriculture, Land Use planning and Land Affairs.

Further stakeholder consultations are planned to accompany the draft text to be presented to the Prime Minister for adoption and signature.

To ensure synergy with international REDD+ requirements, Cameroon actively participates in climate negotiations, both at the international level (during deliberations of the Conferences of the Parties and the work of its subsidiary bodies) and at the sub-regional level under the auspices of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). The country, in collaboration with other forest nations, has advocated the inclusion of REDD+ in the Paris Agreement and the promotion of non-carbon benefits.

Decentralization of the REDD+ Process. The creation of two decentralised levels of the institutional arrangement (at regional and local levels respectively). Decentralized structures will be set up in areas hosting REDD+ pilot projects; a bill for the creation of Regional Committees and Local Operational Units is being prepared. These are bodies at decentralized level which ensure the local management of the process. The result of the management carried out will be brought up to the central level by using the existing administrative channels.

Operating mandate and budget

For its preparation for the REDD+ process, Cameroon benefited from two direct financial supports, notably from the FCPF and the German Cooperation. The FCPF had USD 3.4 million available for the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy, and other readiness activities including readiness organization and consultations, reference levels activities, strategic environmental and social assessment, communication activities and forest monitoring systems and safeguards, etc. which is managed by the trust team in the REDD+ Technical Secretariat. KfW, for its part, has made FCFA 1.2 billion available to the Government through the Common Fund of the Forest-Environment Sectorial Program (FESP). The fiduciary risk and the disbursement of these funds are insured by the Fund Management Unit of the German Cooperation.

The national process also benefits from the results of activities directly funded by technical and financial partners or activities developed by TS but engaged by partners. These management procedures are clear, specific to these structures and known to all. The management of these funds is audited each year.

The operationalization of REDD+ Technical Secretariat was made possible thanks to funds from the Government of Cameroon, FCPF Readiness Funds and Forest Environment Sectoral Programme Common Funds. The grant period for the FCPF Readiness Funds has been extended from September 2016 to September 2018 while the current phase of the Forest-Environment Sectorial Program (FESP)) of the Common Fund ends on 31 December, 2018. The second phase of the FESP was agreed between the Government and KfW. Six (6) million euros have been set aside for REDD+ pilot projects in the North and South-West Regions and part of the funds to continue supporting the operation of the REDD+ Technical Secretariat.

Table 5: Update of the financial plan with other direct financial sources

Use of funds in thousands of dollars							
R-PP Component	**Total needed**	**Funds pledged**	**Funds disbursed**		**Funds available**	**Funds available**	**Request to FCPF**
			Funds committed	Funds committed			
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 MRV system and Component 4b: 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			
R-PP Component	28 431	5 778	3 108	2 542	674	21 647	4 993

Multi-sector Coordination Mechanisms and Cross-sector Collaboration

Ownership entails the implementation of coordinated sectoral 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+. Conscious of the fact that the problems of the forest sector often lie outside the sector, the Government has opted for multi-stakeholder and multisectoral management bodies, both decision-making and operational, to facilitate dialogue between key sectors of intervention in the forest. The Steering Committee with its Technical Secretariat is multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder. The same applies to the technical working groups, which bring together key administrations working on a specific theme on a quarterly basis.

The different functional groups since 2017 are: gender group; safeguard group; MRV group; REDD+/FLEGT group and access to information group. These groups ensure that cross-sector orientations are taken into account in the development and implementation of the REDD+ strategy in Cameroon.

In addition, all the studies and activities carried out in preparation for the process were carried out with the involvement of sectoral administrations at the decentralized level and all other stakeholders with knowledge in the subject area.

Technical Supervision Capacity

At the technical level, the Government has decided to operationalize the REDD+ Technical Secretariat by providing a team of multidisciplinary experts to implement the COPIL guidelines. These experts are at the service of the Technical Units according to the themes required by the REDD+ process (Information-Education-Communication, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment, Measurement-Reporting and Verification, REDD+ Projects and Programmes) with the supervision of an Administrative and Financial specialist, an accountant and a procurement specialist with well-defined expertise profiles and missions.

This REDD+ TS team ensures the planning, coordination and technical supervision of the implementation of REDD+ activities as approved by COPIL and ensures the involvement of all stakeholders during the implementation of these activities. It manages the work of the consultants recruited for the studies and accompanies the development of the results of the activities of the technical and financial partners.

The National REDD+ Coordination has been enhanced by setting up a team of 4 unit heads who ensure the capitalization of Government experiences in the choices for the national REDD+ strategy and also ensure

ownership by decision makers of the results of the work conducted by experts and other consultants. This national coordination ensures the link with the political decision-making bodies.

Other stakeholders in the process have their own management and supervision bodies. Civil society has organized itself into a platform of networks of associations which brings together more than a hundred organizations. Indigenous peoples have come together in a network led by an indigenous women's organization. The technical and financial partners are grouped within the REDD+ Sub-Group of the consultation framework of MINEPDED and MINFOF (CCPM) partners.

Funds Management Capacity

The fund's management capacity has improved since the validation of the RPP with the operationalization of the REDD+ TS since 2015 with a trusted team composed of: an Administrative and Financial Manager; an accountant and a Procurement specialist. This team manages the funds and ensures the fiduciary risk of the FCPF funds, mobilization and disbursement. It manages funds according to national rules and international standards of governance and anti-corruption. This management is guided by a Management Procedures Manual that was developed in 2014 and validated by all stakeholders and major donors of the process.

This team is responsible for the quarterly preparation of financial monitoring reports that are transmitted to the World Bank (presently, 09 reports have already been prepared, transmitted and validated by the World Bank).

Also, for the REDD+ funds of the PSFE Common Fund, a two-team mechanism has been set up to ensure effective governance of the funds, namely: the Technical Support Mission (MAT) and the Management Unit (UG).

- The Technical Support Mission (MAT) composed of two experts in the forestry and environment sector was set up. The mandate of this mission is to ensure consistency between the activities proposed for funding by the Government and the objectives jointly validated in the KfW grant agreement. This team validates the activities, the terms of reference and the reports on their implementation.
- The Management Unit is responsible for the management and fiduciary risk. It is composed of a unit head, two accountants, a logistician, a procurement expert and a Special Procurement Committee.

Be it FCPF or FC/PSFE funds, the annual external and independent audits in accordance with the procedures of both donors were carried out for 2016, 2017 financial years. The audit considered the funds allocated to the REDD+/Climate Change platform and the indigenous peoples. To date, they have judged the management satisfactory and in compliance with the procedures for the 02 audit reports forwarded to the

World Bank and the 2 audit reports of the PSFE Common Fund. However, the FCPF additional funds will support the organizational capacity assessment and the elaboration of an organizational development roadmap for the REDD+/Climate Change and IPs platforms.

Complaint Management and Grievance Redress Mechanism

Apart from the traditional mechanisms for managing complaints and conflicts related to the management of natural resources in Cameroon, there are no formal procedures for managing potential REDD+ conflicts, but a study for the proposal of the complaints management and grievance redress mechanism was conducted on the basis of strong stakeholder consultations throughout the country. The report of this study validated during a national workshop in December 2017 proposes approaches to handling complaints and grievances by agro-ecological zone taking into account the socio-cultural specificities of these zones. As part of the proposal of a new institutional arrangement for the management of REDD+ implementation, a structure is proposed with a mandate to manage complaints and potential grievances related to REDD+ implementation.

Participation and Engagement of Key Stakeholders

For stakeholder engagement, several stakeholder platforms and networks have been established to enable the Government to engage with organized stakeholders. This is how civil society has organized itself into a national REDD+ and Climate Change platform since 2011. The structure of this platform is decentralized in the regions, communes, and villages. It has benefited from funding under the FCPF grant for the technical capacity building of civil society. The indigenous peoples have structured themselves around a network that brings together the indigenous peoples of the savannahs and those of the forests. The network also received support through the FCPF grant for technical and material capacity-building of indigenous peoples. This support made it possible to sensitize on the key themes of the process and above all to train these stakeholders on subjects of interest that are important to encourage their participation. A working group on gender has been set up to implement the strategy for women's involvement in the REDD+ process, developed in 2014. This group, composed mainly of experts from several institutions working on gender and sustainable development issues, has made it possible to integrate women's participation issues into the REDD+ process.

Administrations have been engaged in specific thematic working groups. This forum allows them to be consulted continuously in order to ensure integrated development of REDD+ implementation strategies and thus ensure multisectoral coordination of activities. Partners are consulted within the REDD+ sub-group that the REDD+TS meets monthly to review the activities developed by each other and collect opinions for the implementation of the REDD+ process. For the continuous participation of the media, a REDD+ press club has been set up and it brings together journalists representing national television

channels, local radio stations, print and online media. These have benefited from several capacity building sessions of the REDD+ TS and other partners. Consultations have been initiated with the private sector under the aegis of the International Financial Corporation and the Carbon Fund. Discussions have been initiated with companies to set up a permanent consultation framework.

As regards the participatory approach, a stakeholder consultation plan was developed in January 2017 and guides the implementation of stakeholder opinion collection activities. As regards the consultation methodology, the Government has experimented with several of them and has expressed its support for the use of the approach of obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the populations. To this end, national guidelines for obtaining FPIC were developed in a participatory manner and validated in 2014 (disclosed at http://www.cedcameroun.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/062014_Cameroon-National-FPIC-Guidelines_EN.pdf. Following this, a methodological guide was developed for the consultation of specific stakeholders, in particular, local populations and roadside indigenous peoples of a REDD+ project. Subsequently, several groups of stakeholders were trained on the use of FPIC, including civil society, indigenous peoples, administrations, TFPs and especially REDD+ project developers.

Consultation Process

Stakeholder self-selection: the consultation plan report identified 12 stakeholder categories in a participatory manner, based on a preliminary participatory stakeholder mapping presented in the RPP. This refined mapping defined the roles and responsibilities of the following 12 categories: Government, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, local elected officials, technical and financial partners, media, researchers, local communities, the private sector, traditional leaders, women, and youths. Each of these categories, at the request of MINEPDED, was structured into groups organized to facilitate collaboration with the Government. [6]Each category, according to its mode of operation, has self-designated its representatives in the decision-making bodies of the REDD+ process, notably the Steering Committee, and has defined its working framework with the operational body.

Transparent consultation process: During the readiness phase, stakeholders were widely consulted after several information and sensitization activities. To carry out studies, prepare reports and implement activities, stakeholders were systematically consulted in the 5 agro-ecological zones and in all REDD+ project zones. They were informed before the activity, consulted during the implementation and the results of the consultations were returned to them either during a national workshop to validate the results or through the provision of the information shared in our various communication tools. Following the

[6] Some categories have joined together, notably researchers and TFPs in the REDD+ sub-group; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities within the IPLC network; civil society also includes the women's network and youth organizations; administrations and local elected officials.

consultations, reports are established with as key content, the table of discussions, list of participants actually present, the recommendations made by the participants.

Culturally appropriate consultations: In the implementation of the consultations, tools in local languages have been developed. These were used to sensitize stakeholders before their consultation, in particular, didactic materials in Baka, Zime and Bulu (IPLC language), picture boxes and documentaries. At the local level, sensitization was done in the local language through the use of community radios. The other consultation tools are developed in French and English. This allowed participants in the consultations to express themselves openly and well.

Consideration of indigenous peoples: the FPIC methodological guide was developed to guide the consultation of specific groups of indigenous peoples and communities and is implemented when collecting the opinions of these stakeholders. To address the vulnerability of this group, funding from the FCPF grant helped enhance their technical, organizational and structural capacities. The implementation of support to indigenous people has enhanced the capacities of 873 IPs during 11 meetings. Following these capacity-building efforts, indigenous peoples were systematically consulted during the implementation of the preparatory activities, sometimes separately when necessary.

Participation of the largest number: To ensure the participation of the greatest number of stakeholders, the Government implemented the recommendations of the consultation plan by holding strategic and thematic consultations through several consultation meetings regularly or in response to specific needs. For each activity, consultations were organized throughout the territory through agro-ecological zones. In total, more than 8 000 people were consulted during the development phase of the national REDD+ strategy. This figure comes from the different stakeholders identified in the consultation plan for this phase.

Information Sharing and Accessibility to Information

Bearing in mind the importance of information sharing in the REDD+ process, especially in preparing stakeholders for consultation, the Government has developed a communication strategy with an operational plan and a media deployment plan. Phase 1 of this strategy guided the implementation of the readiness phase activities.

Given the importance and especially the many obstacles that exist in accessing information, the Government, with its partners, had a guide on access to information on REDD+ developed in a participatory manner in 2016.

In accordance with these strategic orientations, several communication tools have been developed and shared with the targets. These include: a basic information booklet on REDD+; and an information website on the REDD+ process, www.reddcameroun.cm (link temporarily unavailable); image boxes as part of the

Pro-Poor REDD+ project, communication gadgets on REDD+, newsletters on activities implemented (7 editions have been distributed).

The implementation of the media plan of the strategy consisted of a test deployment in the media of the Emission Reduction Program (ERP) area, the first phase which enabled the *"press club"* journalists' capacities to be enhanced.[7] This was done during two training seminars for journalists and has already allowed some press feedback to be compiled in the "*press book*". The use of the "*press club*" has made it possible to promote the work done by community radio stations at the local level in sensitizing on the REDD+ process.

Nearby communication made it possible to reach targets directly in first contact through the local communication campaign during numerous consultation, information and capacity building meetings for stakeholders. Thanks to the contribution of the civil society REDD and Climate Change platform and the indigenous peoples' network, several community-based communication activities were carried out. A total of 21 local meetings reached 1 330 people as part of the implementation of civil society and indigenous peoples' advocacy and outreach activities.

In terms of events, the Government and its partners have set up national and international visibility activities by organizing national events (Ministerial Press Conference in 2013, etc.) and by participating in international events (Animation of UNFCCC Conference of Parties and meetings of subsidiary bodies, participation in Forest Initiatives, COMIFAC meetings, REDD+ GIZ Winter School). During these meetings, information on the progress of preparation and national experiences are shared with participants so that ideas for implementation are collected.

Use and Disclosure of Consultation Results

When it comes to consultations to carry out a study, all opinions are recorded in the executive reports of the regional workshops for integration, then the opposing views of the stakeholders are integrated as such in the study reports. Opposing views are analyzed and discussed during the national workshops which are systematically organized to validate the final reports of the studies. In the event that consensus is not reached at the national workshop, the opinions are brought to the COPIL for decision. In the case of consultations for projects, the views of stakeholders are recorded in the project document as is without changes.

The distribution of final project documents and study reports constitutes the distribution of final results of the study. This documentation is systematically sent to the stakeholders. These are included in a database

[7] The Pressclub brought together journalists from different media working on natural resources and forest issues. The Pressbook is a document that compiles all press releases.

of stakeholders developed for this purpose and whose e-mail addresses included in the various mailing lists allow a permanent exchange of documents.

In addition, final documents that include stakeholder views are published on the REDD+ website www.reddcameroun.cm and www.minep.gov.cm for wide distribution and international consultation.

1.2 Self-assessment results for Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

For this component, stakeholders have made an assessment that demonstrates a change for all criteria. There has been substantial progress in the management of funds, stakeholder engagement and participation, and access to information. Generally, for civil society and indigenous peoples, several criteria still need to be improved. The results of the self-assessment for the 10 criteria are presented in the following table.

Table 6: result

Table 6: Results of the self-assessment of component 1

Criteria	Administration	Civil Society	Indigenous Peoples	Technical and Financial Partners	Others	National result of all stakeholders
C1: Accountability and transparency						
C2: Operating mandate and budget						
C3: Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration						
C4: Technical supervision capacity						
C5: Funds management capacity						
C6: Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism						
C7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders						
C8: Consultation process						
C9: Information Sharing and Accessibility to Information						
C10: Use and disclosure of consultation results						

1.3 Analysis of Results based on Stakeholder Comments

C1: Accountability and transparency: According to the stakeholders' assessment, good progress has been made in this criterion, but efforts are required to set up decentralized structures so that accountability at the local level is effective and to mobilize resources useful for the operationalization of the various management bodies of the process. Stakeholders also believe that it is necessary to improve the representation of traditional leaders and forest Indigenous Peoples in the Steering Committee so as to enable their participation in decision-making. For the sake of transparency, COPIL reports should be distributed to all stakeholders.

C2: Operating Mandate and Budget: Stakeholders largely appreciated the fact that audits and annual work plans and budgets (PTBAs) are validated by donors and the Steering Committee. The criterion has therefore made good progress, but it remains that funding mobilization needs to be improved in order to have

sufficient funds to implement all the activities identified in the PTBA, operate REDD+ management structures, operate COPIL and finally ensure funding for IPs' organizations whose activities must be included in the PTBA.

C3: Multi-sector Coordination Mechanisms and Cross-sector Collaboration: Stakeholders had very different views between good progress for some and much effort required for others. In order for the criterion to progress, stakeholders proposed that the sectorial administrations should ensure permanence in representativeness at the level of management bodies through a self-designation of focal services, an increase in the frequency of work and regularity in working groups. Reports of cross-sector consultations should also be widely distributed to all targets.

C4: Technical Supervision Capacity: The self-assessment showed good progress in meeting this criterion. Stakeholders require efforts in technical supervision in terms of interaction with the grassroots and with the private sector. This would be feasible through the development of a mechanism that would allow the two-way flow of information and the inclusive and participatory development of PTBAs.

C5: Funds Management Capacity: Overall, stakeholders found that this criterion has made substantial progress. They appreciated the management of the readiness funds and requested that indigenous peoples and civil society organizations be accompanied and trained in the principles and procedures to manage donor funds.

C6: Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism: The feedback and grievance redress mechanism is the area that requires more effort in this component. The REDD+ process stakeholders requested that more efforts be devoted to the development and testing of this mechanism because, as it stands, it would be difficult to give an opinion on such an important tool but for which there is no visibility beyond the proposals made by the consultant.

C7: Participation and Engagement of Key Stakeholders: This point is one of the criteria for which there is a contradiction between the green level of the assessment and the many comments made by stakeholders. Indeed, substantial progress has been made, but it is deplored that the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities is not optimal because of inadequate tools and methodology since they are not consulted in their respective localities in their local languages. It is also hoped that young people, local authorities and the private sector will be better involved in the process. For those categories of stakeholders already engaged, coordination and collaboration problems within existing platforms (IP, CSOs) should be addressed, gender-based representation quotas instituted and made fully operational. On the use of the IPLC consultation tool, it will be necessary to improve the practice of FPIC in projects, build capacity to master the issues of this tool and make it available in local languages.

C8: Consultation Process: The self-designation of stakeholder group representatives and the effective implementation of the consultation plan were much appreciated and enabled this criterion to make

substantial progress. Civil society and indigenous peoples suggested improvements in the consultation process in terms of real-time distribution of information in local languages, feedback to the grassroots and not only to representatives as is currently the case. For this last point, they formulated wishes including that of increasing logistical support and resources to local organizations to promote local communication in communities through the use of local channels. Also, there are still efforts to be made to take gender into account in community representation.

C9: Information Sharing and Accessibility to Information: The diversification and multiplication of communication channels have enabled this criterion to make substantial progress, but these channels are still reserved for a specific elite and are not very well adapted to the grassroots populations. This justifies the need for additional efforts proposed by administrations and indigenous peoples. These efforts will, therefore, consist of intensifying the use of traditional media and social media; improving the REDD+ website; using organizations as local relays for local communication; and increasing financial resources for effective implementation of information sharing. Some evaluators proposed the operationalization of a permanent structure for REDD+ communication and also the inclusion of REDD+ in school curricula so that sensitization is done from the onset.

C10: Use and Disclosure of Consultation Results: According to the self-assessment, the method of reporting the results of the consultations has made good progress but is not sufficiently well received by stakeholders who believe that a mechanism should be established to ensure that reports are systematically made available to stakeholders down to the local level in real time. This wide distribution of reports will decentralize information on REDD+ and improve access to documentation for rural people and their participation.

Generally, there is good progress in terms of the institutional arrangements, accountability and transparency, cross-sectoral co-ordination, technical supervision, staffing and funds management. More work is needed to ensure proper cross-sectoral coordination and also ensure that funding in the medium to long term is assured and that relevant ministries (agriculture; land tenure; land use planning, forestry; etc.) are fully engaged. Attention is also needed towards the operationalization of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism at subnational levels. Substantial progress has been made in delivering a thorough communication campaign through a range of channels and ensuring widespread consultation and participation in the design of key aspects of REDD+ readiness. Going forward, engagement with government at the policy and strategic levels with a view to fostering institutional linkages for the implementation of REDD+, as well as engagement with the private sector is required.

2 INVENTORY AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENT 2: PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY

In Cameroon's preparation document, this component should present the use that is made of national forest lands according to a national definition of forest. The component also presents the coherence of the national REDD+ strategy with land use policies and environmental and social management frameworks. This component consists of 4 sub-components:

- Subcomponent 2a: Assessment of land use, land-use change factors, laws, policies and forest governance (criteria 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15);
- Subcomponent 2b: REDD+ strategic options (criteria 16, 17 and 18)
- Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework (criteria 19, 20, 21 and 22)
- Subcomponent 2d: Social and environmental impacts (criteria 23, 24 and 25)

According to the FCPF methodological framework, these four sub-components are evaluated on the basis of the following 15 criteria:

11. Assessment and analysis;
12. Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers and development of forests (Prioritization of direct and indirect favourable/unfavourable elements for forest development);
13. Links between favourable and unfavourable elements and REDD+ activities, Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, and governance;
14. Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance;
15. Impacts on forest laws and policies;
16. Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options;
17. Feasibility assessment;
18. Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies;
19. Adoption and enforcement of laws and regulations;
20. Implementation guidelines;
21. Benefit-sharing mechanisms;
22. National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities;
23. Analysis of issues relating to social and environmental safeguards;
24. Designing the REDD+ strategy according to impacts;
25. Environmental and social management framework.

The achievements for these different sub-components and criteria are as follows.

2.1 Achievements in the Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

Several strategic studies were conducted by the REDD+ Technical Secretariat and its partners to stimulate the development of the national REDD+ strategy, taking into account national circumstances and the country's development priorities. A catalogue of documents from these studies are annexed.

Assessment and Analysis

To assess land use, forest policy and governance, some work to assess the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation began during the development of the R-PP, using data produced by some natural

resource management programs and studies. Subsequently as part of the development of the strategy a synthesis report of existing studies on the drivers was produced. This information was further updated with an in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account the specificities of the five AEZs (the entire national territory) were carried out and validated in November 2017. Consultations with different stakeholder groups (administrations, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, Indigenous Peoples, and Traditional Authorities) were also conducted in the said areas to ensure that the results obtained reflect local realities.

Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development

The in-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation throughout the national territory made it possible to classify the drivers (direct and indirect) into past and future causes of DD at the national level and by AEZ. This analysis shows that agriculture (with small farms of less than one hectare) accounts for more than 60% of total deforestation, while degradation results from the extraction of wood and minerals associated livestock farming and the extension of cocoa plantations. Although historical rates (0.12% for the period 2001-2015) of deforestation and degradation are low, they are likely to increase in the coming years. The table below shows the associated immediate and underlying causes.

Table 7:

Table 7: Immediate and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Cameroon

Immediate causes of DD	Underlying causes of DD
Forest conversion for agriculture through livestock farming, subsistence farming, commercial perennial crops and agro-industry mainly for millet, maize and cotton crops for AEZ 1; maize, cassava and millet for AEZ 2; maize, plantain, cassava, oil palm for AEZ 3; plantain, maize, cassava, cocoa and oil palm in AEZ 4; plantain, cassava, maize, cocoa and oil palm for AEZ 5.	The underlying causes are linked to several factors: - Demographic factors with urbanization, growth and migration of the population; - Economic factors with increasing market demand and poverty; - Technological factors related to productivity, infrastructure and equipment; - Political and institutional factors related to forestry policy, agricultural policy, land tenure, planning, land use and sector development strategies ; - Sociocultural factors due to cultural habits, consumption patterns, ageing farmers, new arrivals, agro-industrialization and vision 2035; - Governance factors including the market, the need to enhance laws and the investment climate; - Environmental factors related to climate change and disease.

Extraction of wood resources for fuelwood consumption and coal production	The underlying causes are linked to several factors: - Demographic factors with population growth accentuating fuelwood collection; - Economic factors linked to the increase in demand for fuelwood and poverty; - Technological factors linked to productivity with the means of production remaining unchanged and to the improvement of the quality of transport infrastructures which facilitates distribution; - Political and institutional factors with the forestry policy marked by a low consideration of firewood and issues of land tenure and land use that deal very little with the allocation of space for reforestation; - Sociocultural factors due to consumer preference for fuelwood; - Governance factors related to the low level of regulation in the sector; - Environmental factors related to climate change that affect increase in species.
Logging	The underlying causes are linked to several factors: - Demographic factors leading to an increase in the demand for timber; - Economic factors with the continued increase in demand for timber in emerging markets and at the national level; - The technological factors linked to low productivity and the improvement of the means of transport; - Political and institutional factors due to insufficient monitoring that leave the way open for drifts and issues of land tenure and land tenure plans marked by the low recognition of indigenous peoples, local communities and vulnerable groups; - Socio-cultural factors marked by difficult collaboration between local residents and forest concession operators; - Governance factors with an exploitation that does not respect the principles of sustainable management and a strong loss of profits by the State for individuals.
Major development projects	The underlying causes stem from the emerging vision by 2035 with the accentuation of industrialization, the densification of the road and rail network, the extension of the asphalt road network, the construction of new hydroelectric dams, the deep-water port of Kribi in areas rich in forests and biodiversity and the development of artisanal and industrial mining.

The results were structured into drivers of DD, agents of deforestation and degradation, and population dynamics for each AEZ. This study also provided an analysis of the different value chains important for deforestation and degradation.

Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

The in-depth analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (drivers of DD) was coupled with an analysis of REDD+ strategic options that could reduce deforestation and degradation. This study, based on extensive consultations with major stakeholder groups in different ways, identified for each type of land use, the sources of DD at national, sub-national and local levels, the corresponding strategic option and associated actions to reduce deforestation and degradation. Value chains enabling to directly reduce deforestation have also been identified.

On the basis of the guidelines resulting from the analysis of the drivers of Deforestation and Degradation (DD) and those of the strategic options, REDD+ pilot activities were launched immediately in the 5 AEZs in order to have the first results of the effectiveness of the implementation of activities to reduce deforestation and degradation.

In addition, a study of projects with REDD+ potential identified at the national level, existing projects and programmes related to REDD+ projects whose experiences would inform the implementation of future REDD+ activities.

With regard to land issues related to forest governance, an analysis of the coherence of laws and policies related to natural resource management was conducted and completed with that related to land rights and carbon ownership. These analyses led to the proposal of an advocacy for an essential reform of the various legal and legislative instruments favourable for an effective implementation of REDD+ in Cameroon.

Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance

Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance are included in the analysis on land and carbon law and on coherence in laws and policies related to natural resource management in relation to forest governance. These analyses, therefore, aim to put in place a legal and regulatory framework favourable to the implementation of REDD+. Land tenure is currently characterized by three main challenges: the existence of a dualistic system for land management (statutory and customary), differences in land use policies and strategies, the complexity of land registration by the poor and their potential grabbing by elites. The government is increasingly recognizing customary land rights and management. Ministerial Order 2001 0518 / MINEF / CAB specifies additional community rights to acquire community forests and demonstrates the government's commitment to the community forest program. In order to better recognize customary land rights and improve tenure security for local communities, indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups in the implementation of REDD+, the government envisage to consider practical proposals from various stakeholders. For example, suggestions for agrarian reforms made by the Association of Traditional Chiefs, civil society organizations and the network of IPs and women.

Implications for forest laws and policies

With regard to forest laws and policies, an analysis of the coherence of laws and policies related to natural resource management was conducted with particular emphasis on forest and forest land use and management policy. These analyses led to the proposal of an advocacy strategy for essential reforms of the various legal and legislative instruments favourable for an effective implementation of REDD+ in Cameroon.

Selection and Prioritization of REDD+ Strategic Options

Following the identification of the drivers of DD, a comprehensive nationwide analysis was conducted to identify strategic options for reducing DD, increasing carbon stocks, promoting sustainable forest management and conservation. This analysis made it possible to prioritize them into cross-cutting strategic options that involve policy, legal and institutional adjustments; and sectoral strategic options that propose adjustments in sectors impacting forest cover; with local investment options specific to the value chains of agricultural and forest sectors that are sources of DD.

These proposed strategic options will be implemented at two levels, namely:

- At the national level, with regards to crosscutting and sectoral strategic options;
- At sub-national (regional and local) level for strategic options of local investments on the value chain.

Also, the strategic environmental and social assessment validated in December 2017 made it possible to rank the proposed strategic options according to their socio-ecological feasibility on the basis of current land use and forest management methods. This assessment resulted in refined strategic options.

Feasibility Assessment

Based on the strategic environmental and social assessment, the socio-ecological feasibility of REDD+ strategic options was established. The implementation of REDD+ pilot activities launched in the field has also made it possible to assess the feasibility of strategic options, notably through testing the local acceptability of REDD+ activities, the motivation of local populations to participate in REDD+ activities and the REDD+ project procedure.

Impact of Strategic Options on Existing Sectoral Policies

The proposed strategic options consist of a range of interventions that need to be implemented in a harmonized manner to improve land and forest management and develop value chains. Cross-cutting options are essential requirements for the implementation of the proposed interventions. This implementation should follow a logic of “REDD+ integrated programmes” including several cross-cutting and sectoral interventions to increase the productivity and sustainability of production chains.

Also, the analysis of the regulatory framework for the implementation of REDD+ strategic options made it possible to identify the policies and laws that must evolve to take into account REDD+ aspects; meetings organized to enhance the involvement of sectors in the REDD+ process (inter-ministerial meeting and workshops with sectoral ministries) also aimed to harmonize interventions in the context of REDD+ and the implementation of sectoral policies.

Furthermore, inconsistencies between strategic options and sectoral development policies of infrastructure, mining and agricultural development were noted. To reduce these inconsistencies, it has been proposed to improve the integration of environmental considerations into the implementation of infrastructural development projects, mining and agricultural activities to reduce their impacts on the forest. To mitigate the unavoidable damage, it has been proposed to design compensation modes (zero net loss / zero emissions). For the agricultural sector, the promotion of sustainable farming systems with low deforestation and forest degradation has been proposed. Specific measures will need to be taken at the level of the 03 programs identified in the national REDD+ strategy, to better reconcile the objectives of REDD+ with the current development of agriculture in the 05 AEZ.

Adoption and Implementation of Laws and Regulations

Overall, forest and environmental management in Cameroon is governed by the 1994 Forest Law and the 1996 Framework Law on Environmental Management. The REDD+ process in Cameroon will operate according to the predictions of these two laws pending the effective revision of sectoral laws in order to fully take into account the expectations of the principles of design and implementation.

The study on the coherence of laws and sectoral policies in relation to the REDD+ process highlighted all laws and regulations in force in the field of natural resource management that may have an impact on the implementation of REDD+. This study, which aimed to bring coherence to sectoral policies and laws, resulted in the proposal of the necessary regulatory and legal reforms to be taken into account in the context of REDD+ as well as an advocacy proposal to conduct said reforms.

Also, the study on land law and carbon law made it possible to establish the link between land tenure in Cameroon and access to natural resources. It emerged from the legislative and regulatory proposals to be taken into account in the context of REDD+ for the issue of the right to carbon benefits.

Guidelines for Implementation

As part of the development of the national REDD+ strategy, one of the expectations is that a mechanism in terms of management of funds resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities will be clearly defined. It is in this perspective that the study on funds management mechanisms was conducted with the result of proposing an institutional framework for REDD+ fund management. This study, validated in

December 2017, led to this proposal on the basis of the various existing mechanisms at the national level. The study also resulted in the proposal of an institutional framework for REDD+ implementation. It highlighted the relationship between the management of funds and the institutional arrangement structures of the whole process.

Benefit-sharing Mechanisms

Cameroon's national REDD+ strategy presents the different options to be taken into account in sharing the benefits from REDD+ implementation. These options are based on the results of the study sponsored by the Government and validated by all stakeholders in December 2017. The result of this study was a proposal for horizontal and vertical benefit-sharing that takes into account the specifics of the AEZ, the types of profits or revenues derived from the implementation of activities, the types of activities implemented and the different stakeholders, based on the different income sharing mechanisms existing in Cameroon. Two benefit-sharing options were proposed: one at the national level and the other at the local level.

The various horizontal and cross-cutting options proposed (national and local) are based on an institutional arrangement that guarantees a fair and equitable sharing of incomes/profits resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities.

National REDD+ Registry and Monitoring System for REDD+ Activities

For Cameroon, a national REDD+ registry is an essential tool for the implementation of the REDD+ process, which is intended to be transparent and effective in the monitoring and national carbon accounting. It aims to centralize all information concerning national REDD+ projects and programmes (intervention areas, reduction potential, reduced emissions, etc.) and to allow all stakeholders (national and international) to have access to this information.

At this stage, just a set of consultations have been conducted on the basis of the documents developed (project submission procedures, project approval procedure), in order to propose the construction of a register that will meet international register requirements and national circumstances.

Pending the establishment of the national REDD+ registry, other communication tools such as a website (www.reddcameroun.cm) have been set up to capture project achievements, facilitate exchanges with REDD+ project developers and inform stakeholders on the implementation of REDD+ project activities.

Analysis of Social and Environmental Safeguards Issues

The Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment study on REDD+ which ended with the development of an environmental and social management framework and other management frameworks, was completed in 2017 disclosed at http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=267%3A2018-12-21-14-04-11&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr. This study consulted all categories of stakeholders

throughout the country and aimed to make a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment of the REDD+ options identified, in order to ensure that environmental and social issues are taken into account in proposing measures leading to sustainable REDD+ policies and in favour of the poor and vulnerable groups.

This study highlighted the potential positive and negative social and environmental impacts of REDD+ programmes. This allowed to:

- Identify risks and possible risk management criteria;
- Propose measures to mitigate negative environmental and socio-economic risks during the implementation of REDD+ programmes;
- Propose measures to promote positive effects.

In addition to the study, sensitization activities on Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) were organized by civil society organizations and indigenous peoples to enable their best contribution to the consultations related to the study.

REDD+ Strategy Design with Respect to Impacts

The SESA study also highlighted the impacts of strategic options in terms of environmental and social priorities. The options selected for the national REDD+ strategy were those with the least negative impact and for which the pilot projects had already provided information on local acceptability and socio-ecological feasibility. National REDD+ strategy programmes are based on activities and value chains validated by the SESA analysis and whose residual negative environmental and social impacts have been identified and addressed in the management frameworks document.

Environmental and Social Management Framework

The SESA has been supplemented by management frameworks including the Environmental and Social Management Framework which defines how the residual negative environmental and social impacts due to the implementation of REDD+ activities will be mitigated, eliminated and/or compensated. The management frameworks developed and validated by the government and other stakeholders describe the procedures to be followed to manage the potential impacts of the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy and the monitoring of environmental and social safeguards in accordance with the Bank's operational policies and national socio-environmental standards.

These different frameworks are: the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Functional Framework (FF), the Indigenous Peoples Policy Framework (IPPF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF).

N.B: At this stage of preparation, where the country is located, concrete investment operations are not yet effective on the ground. During this process of self-evaluation of the preparation only the instruments developed during this phase have been highlighted.

In addition, the regulations in force in Cameroon concerning the protection of the environment provide for the carrying out of impact studies for activities that may be harmful to the environment and society. Thus during the actual investment phase, REDD+ activities will be subject to the said regulations in force.

2.2 Results of the Self-assessment of Component 2: Preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy

For the 15 criteria that constitute the assessment framework of component 2, stakeholders made the self-assessment of achievements by presenting substantial progress for criteria 13, 23, 24 and 25. In short, stakeholders find that the definition of drivers of DD and associated strategic options, the consideration of socio-environmental impacts and the development of an impact-based strategy have made real progress. Generally speaking, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society and Technical and Financial Partners find that much effort is still needed in the coherence of sectoral policies, the adaptation of national laws/regulations and especially for the development of a national registry of REDD+ activities. The table below details the results of the self-assessment by Component 2 stakeholder group.

Table 8: Results of the self-assessment of component 2

Criteria	Administrations	CSO	IP	TFP	Others	National result of all stakeholders
C11: Assessment and analysis						
C12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development						
C13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities						
C14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance						
C15: Implications for forest laws and policies						
C16: Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options						
C17: Feasibility assessment						
C18: Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies						
C19: Adoption and implementation of laws and regulations						
C20: Guidelines for implementation						
C21: Benefit-sharing mechanisms						
C22: National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities						
C23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues						
C24: REDD+ Strategy Design with Respect to Impacts						
C25: Environmental and social management framework						

This assessment shows that Cameroon is sufficiently advanced on most of the criteria for the administrations, but more needs to be done on criteria 19 and 22. Civil society organizations and indigenous peoples find that criteria 19 and 20 deserve more attention. The financial and technical partners have not seen any progress in the implementation of criteria 19 and 22 since the validation of the RPP. The other stakeholders consider that overall, Cameroon is sufficiently advanced in its readiness for REDD+ despite the efforts still to be made for criterion 22.

2.3 Analysis of Results Based on Stakeholder Feedback (component 2)

C11: Assessment and Analysis: Stakeholders find that this criterion has made good progress, but requires that the results of the study of drivers of DD be forwarded to public decision-makers for consideration. They also find that the studies have not sufficiently updated existing sectoral strategies to manage new REDD+-induced land issues. They propose to continue advocacy in order to take REDD+ into account in sectoral policies at the legislative and regulatory level.

C12: Prioritization of Direct and Indirect Drivers/barriers to Forest Value Enhancement: There has been good progress on this criterion, but the stakeholders have found some aspects of prioritization missing, notably the analysis of the impacts of the different drivers on the national economy. This would establish economic priorities.

C13: Link between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities: Stakeholders felt that the links between the drivers of DD and the proposed activities were well established. This criterion has therefore made substantial progress. However, they requested that the study on projects and programmes with REDD+ potential be updated.

C14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance: According to the stakeholders' assessment, this criterion has made good progress, but efforts must be made to develop a timetable for REDD+ actions. Stakeholders would like the action plan to be owned by the grassroots and be regularly updated.

C15: Impact on forest laws and policies (orange): On the basis of the self-assessment, this criterion is among those for which several efforts are required according to the stakeholders. They believe that it has missed the finalization of the reforms undertaken (laws and policies) and the pleas for taking REDD+ into account in the laws and policies being amended.

C16: Selection and Prioritization of REDD+ Strategic Options: To the stakeholders, this criterion shows good progress, but requires an outreach of the strategic options and an evaluation of the reduction potential of each option. According to the opinions, economic aspects should also be taken into account in the prioritization of strategic options which should be based on the assessment of opportunity costs and the cost-effectiveness analysis of each option.

C17: Feasibility Assessment: Despite the implementation of REDD+ pilot activities in the field to test strategic options, these are not mature enough to allow an assessment of the feasibility of these options. For this reason, the criterion deserves more effort to carry out mid-term evaluations of projects in order to capitalize on their results.

C18: Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies: The self-assessment analysis of this criterion shows that all stakeholders appreciate the efforts made in presenting the relationship between the implementation of strategic options and the coherence of sectoral land use policies. For this reason, the criterion is making good progress, but all stakeholders believe that efforts should be made to take into account the impact of strategic options on certain sectors which are not necessarily natural resource management sectors but which will be affected by them. Stakeholders agree that there is a need to move from potential impacts on sectoral policies to real impacts. To this end, they recommend improving coordination and cross-sector collaboration of REDD+ activities, accelerating land and forest policy reforms and defining a realistic timetable to achieve this criterion.

C19: Adoption and Implementation of Laws and Regulations: This criterion is among the criteria that still require much effort despite the identification of laws that should evolve to incorporate REDD+ and the proposal for advocacy to achieve reforms. Stakeholders consider that there is very little evolution outside the studies carried out, yet certain aspects of REDD+ absent in laws and regulations must be sufficiently integrated by the legislative power as well as in existing policies. Stakeholders believe that for an effective implementation of REDD+, the establishment of a legal framework (laws, bills, decree, etc.) specifically dedicated to REDD+ is necessary.

C20: Guidelines for Implementation: Despite the proposal for an implementation framework appreciated by stakeholders, they consider that the lack of testing of the proposed mechanisms and frameworks does not allow substantial progress to be described for this criterion. Therefore, it is necessary to pay more attention to the consolidation of the implementation framework through the outreach of the results of studies, the development and testing of different frameworks and mechanisms, including conflict management and benefit-sharing, the development of a normative framework for carbon rights and the enactment of laws and the implementation of these mechanisms/frameworks.

C21: Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms: The proposal of benefit/revenue sharing options resulting from REDD+ was welcomed by stakeholders who appreciated the fact that this mechanism took into account the specificities of potential beneficiaries. These stakeholders still believe that these options should be tested through pilot projects in order to learn and adjust them if necessary and then distribute them at the local level. For these limits, the criterion was considered “good progress, more effort required”.

C22: National REDD+ Registry and Monitoring System of REDD+ Activities: This criterion is one of the points that requires more effort in this component, it still requires much effort despite the fact that the certification procedure has already been developed, but the non-existence of the national REDD+ registry tool does not yet allow to have all the information related to REDD+ projects. All stakeholders agree that more effort is required, and partners find that there has been no progress since the RPP was validated. For

the future development of the registry, stakeholders wanted this tool to be based on transparency and effective stakeholder participation in REDD+ projects.

C23: Analysis of Social and Environmental Safeguard Issues: Stakeholders believe that issues relating to environmental and social safeguards have been sufficiently taken into account through the assessment and proposal of environmental and social management measures. They greatly appreciated the emphasis placed on stakeholder consultations and found that this criterion had made substantial progress.

C24: REDD+ Strategy Design with Respect to Impacts: Stakeholders found that the criterion has made substantial progress and propose that participatory impact monitoring be carried out in order to adjust the strategy and capitalize on the results.

C25: Environmental and Social Management Framework: Also for this criterion, stakeholders find that there has been substantial progress and appreciate that the proposed environmental and social management frameworks are consistent with World Bank operational policies and have taken into account marginalized groups. Nevertheless, the stakeholders call for capacity building on the understanding, use and monitoring of environmental and social management frameworks and for working groups to be involved in updating these frameworks.

No progress has been made in influencing key national policy development processes, and stakeholders believe that the establishment of a legal framework (laws, bills, decree, etc.) specifically dedicated to REDD+ is necessary. The linkages between drivers and strategy options are clear and logical. Cameroon's REDD+ Strategy is well-aligned with key national developmental strategies and policies. It will contribute to Cameroon's plans to pursue a high growth, and climate resilient development path as defined in the country's Strategy Document for Growth and Employment (2010-2020), forest policy (1993, currently under revision), and Nationally Determined Contribution to the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement. The REDD+ Strategy is synergetic with the national rural sector development strategy (2015 – 2020) which recognizes the REDD+ contributions to sustainable land management practices in rural areas. The Southern Plateau ER-P is nested in the Strategy and in the Draft investment plan and will be well elaborated. Cameroon would like to prioritize operationalizing benefit sharing in the ER-P area and the Additional Funding (AF) will be used to elaborate a benefit sharing plan for the southern plateau ER-P that builds on the initial work on benefit sharing mechanism. The AF will also contribute to develop the REDD+ registry.

3 INVENTORY AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENT 3: EMISSIONS REFERENCE LEVELS

Cameroon has set itself as an objective for its reference scenario the development of the basic elements that will enable policies to carry out international negotiations on the REDD+ process. It will thus serve as a decision-support tool to determine Cameroon's engagement in REDD+ while taking into account its development ambitions. Guided by these principles, Cameroon, since the validation of its R-PP document, has begun implementing a number of activities relating to the construction of its reference scenario.

This RPP component has no sub-component and is assessed on the basis of the following three criteria:

1. Demonstration of methodology;
2. Use of historical data and adaptation for the national context;
3. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines.

The achievements of this component are as follows:

3.1 Reference Level Achievements

The reflections and activities relating to the REL and the MRV are based on the Action Plan for the National Forest Carbon Monitoring System developed in July 2014 with the support of FAO. It is a guiding document that puts into practice the theoretical principles for the establishment of a NFMS and sets out the path that Cameroon will have to follow to achieve its NFMS objectives. On the basis of this document, several works have also been carried out such as:

- The proposition in 2015 with the support of the USFS of a new definition of the forest to be used for the REDD+ mechanism in Cameroon. According to this definition, the following are considered as forests: “lands with vegetation formation of trees and shrubs covering a minimum surface area of 0.5 ha comprising vegetation wherein trees and shrubs have a minimum coverage of 10%, and may reach maturity at a minimum height of 3m. There is an exception for economic-based mono-specific agro-industrial plantations, which require agricultural management technics. Also considered are forests, former forest areas which suffer from natural fragmentation thus leading to a reduction of vegetation cover to below 10%, and that can possibly regain their past status” (Ref. *Classes d’occupation des terres et proposition d’une definition de la forêt pour la REDD+ au Cameroun*). This definition of forest takes into account the forest definition thresholds proposed by the UNFCCC.
- On the basis of this definition of forest, there was a proposition in 2015, also with the support of the USFS, of a stratification of land occupations/uses within the framework of REDD+ in coherence with the main IPCC classes (Ref. *Classes d’occupation des terres et proposition d’une definition de la forêt pour la REDD+ au Cameroun*). The proposed classes were then grouped into more or less homogeneous broad classes in order to be usable at the current state of REDD+ implementation in

Cameroon and to support the evolution of the implementation of the REDD+ process in Cameroon (Ref. *Lignes directrices pour le MNV au Cameroun*) ;

- Elaboration of the document « *Lignes directrices pour le MNV au Cameroun* » which sets out the guidelines for implementing the MRV and monitoring of carbon stocks in Cameroon. This document also identifies and contextualizes the different REDD+ eligible activities that will be implemented, the different anthropogenic activities that can lead to deforestation, degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management, the different conversions and changes that can occur in the different occupations/land uses and carbon pools that can be affected. According to this document:
- Deforestation, the direct anthropogenic conversion of forest land to non-forest land.
- Degradation, anthropogenic changes in the forest that negatively affect the structure or function of the stand or forest site, thereby reducing carbon stocks and the forest's ability to provide products and / or services.
- Carbon stock enhancement (afforestation), the direct anthropogenic conversion of non-forest land to forest land through planting, seeding and/or human promotion of natural seeding.
- Carbon stock enhancement (reforestation), the increase of carbon stocks, within an existing forest by planting, seeding and/or human promotion of natural seeding.
- Sustainable forest management, the set of actions that aim to maintain and improve, through a participatory approach, the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks, maintenance of carbon stocks.

The main classes used to monitor Activity Data (AD) and therefore carbon stocks are as follows:

Table 9: Main thematic classes for monitoring carbon stocks, and their correspondence with IPCC classes *(Source. Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon)*

Level / Categories	Level I	Level II	Corresponding IPCC major classes
Vegetation	Dense humid forests (Forests developing in an ecological environment with precipitation exceeding 1800 mm/year; a dry season ≤ 3 months, trees exceeding for the most part 10m in height, sometimes exploited in the	Dense Primary humid Forest (Open undergrowth, trees covered > 80%, Cime ≥ 50 m ; Average tree diameter ≥ 60 cm)	Forest Lands
		Dense Secondary humid Forest (undergrowth not very open, presence of parasoliers (Musanga cecropioides) at the terminal stage, 60% ≤ covered ≥ 80% crown ≤ 35 m Average diameter <60 cm)	

	form of logs with a strong presence of vines		
	Dryland forests Forests growing in an ecological environment that rarely exceed 1800 mm/year precipitation; a dry season > 3 months; trees ≥ 3m harvested for firewood and service. Absence or rarity of vines	Dry dense forest (small or medium trees (> 8m), often 10 to 20 m with 40% ≤ covered <60% - spacing up to the diameter of a crown; often deciduous or semi-deciduous; grasses present (usually perennial) mixed with other herbaceous plants (herbaceous cover <40%; generally gregarious species	
		Open or degraded dry forest (Human presence noted, 30% ≤ tree cover 50%; tree size less than 10m. Significant herbaceous stratum up to 40%)	
	Artificial forests (Forests established at more than 50% per plantation, used for service wood, timber or protection wood, sylvicultural management)	Planted forests (Forests established at more than 50% per plantation, used for service wood, timber or protection wood, sylvicultural management)	
	Vegetation with dominant herbaceous strata (Herbaceous carpet ≥ 50%, trees, shrubs, bushes < 20%)	Savannah (Continuous herbaceous carpet (covered ≥80%), dominated by grasses. Woody stratum dominated by shrubs with a size between 0.1 and 2 m. Woody cover between 5 and 10%)	Prairies
	Cultivated land (Vegetation cultivated for food, income products, strong and regular human presence, mainly agricultural management techniques)	Annual crops (Cultivated land dominated by the presence of annual plants)	Cultivated lands
		Perennial crops (Cultivated land dominated by the presence of perennial plants and which may or may not be made up of woody plants, but whose vocation and management method are essentially exclusively agricultural)	
Non-Vegetation		Inland waters (Non-vegetation with water ≥ 10% total surface area)	Wetlands

	Zones of non-vegetation (Land covered less than 5% by plants)		
		Settlements (Non-vegetation with constructions ≥ 10% total surface area)	Settlements
		Other lands (Non-vegetation ≥ 10% covered by something other than wetlands and dwellings)	Other lands

Being aware that for a good REL with sufficient accuracy and a good MRV system, not only good activity data but also specific emission factors are needed, Cameroon, with the support of the USFS, has undertaken an analysis of national forest inventory data conducted between 2003 and 2005 with the support of FAO in order to assess the usability of these data. This work made it possible to assess carbon levels for a number of pools for some forest strata in Cameroon. These include the strata of dense humid forests and those of dry forests, including the cultivated land and grasslands of these different areas. These values were obtained using the Chave allometric equations and the regional allometric equation developed as part of COMIFAC's regional REDD+ project. This work also made it possible to propose a methodological concept for a future national forest inventory that will take into account REDD+ objectives.

Table 10 Carbon stocks in Basic land use classes analysis, moist forest zone using Chave and Fonton (Régional COMIFAC REDD+ project) allometric equations (Cf. FIN_Analysis_NFI_2003-2005_Cameroon for REDD+)

		Forest Chave	Forest Fonton	Cult. land	Grasland	Water	Settlement	Other
	n	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*
Sample size	n class	132	132	41	37	5	5	5
	t/ha	202,2	222,5	62,7	15,8	0,0	0,0	0,0
Living tree o.g. biomass	Rel. stand. err.	2,8%	2,7%	17,5%	37,7%			
	t/ha	5,1	7,0	4,7	0,5	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stand. dead o.g.tree biomass	Rel. stand. err.	11,3%	11,5%	20,2%	38,7%			
	t/ha	207,2	229,5	67,4	16,3	0,0	0,0	0,0
Liv. & stand. dead o.g.tree biomass	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%	2,7%	16,6%	37,4%			
	t/ha	48,5	53,4	15,1	3,8	0,0	0,0	0,0
Living tree b.g. biomass	Rel. stand. err.	2,8%	2,7%	17,5%	37,7%			
	t/ha	1,2	1,7	1,1	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stand. dead b.g.tree biomass	Rel. stand. err.	11,3%	11,5%	20,2%	38,7%			
	t/ha	49,7	55,1	16,2	3,9	0,0	0,0	0,0
Liv. & stand. dead b.g.tree biomass	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%	2,7%	16,6%	37,4%			
	t/ha	0,5	0,6	3,5	0,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Stump biomass	Rel. stand. err.							
	t/ha	257,5	285,2	87,1	20,3	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%	2,7%	16,6%	37,4%			
Total biomass	90% conf.interv.	4,7%	4,6%	27,5%	61,9%			
	t/ha	128,7	142,6	43,6	10,2	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%	2,7%	16,6%	37,4%			
Total carbon	90% conf.interv.	4,7%	4,6%	27,5%	61,9%			
	t/ha	471,7	522,5	159,6	37,2	0,0	0,0	0,0
	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%	2,7%	16,6%	37,4%			
Total CO2 equivalents	90% conf.interv.	4,7%	4,6%	27,5%	61,9%			

Table 11 Stump biomass calculation table, Moist (humid) Forest Zone (Cf. FIN_Analysis_NFI_2003-2005_Cameroon for REDD+)

		Forest	Forest	Cult. land	Grasland	Water	Settlement	Other
	n	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*	*135*
Sample size	n class	132	132	41	37	5	5	5
	n/ha	305,2	305,2	69,6	81,7	n.ass.	0,0	n.ass.
Number of living trees	Rel. stand. err.	2,2%	2,2%	12,6%	18,4%			
	n/ha	3,3	3,3	16,3	2,1	0,0	0,0	0,0
Number of stumps	Rel. stand. err.	19,1%	19,1%	32,4%	41,5%			
O.g. biomass	t per stem	0,66	0,73	0,90	0,19		0,0	
B.g. biomass	t per stem	0,16	0,17	0,22	0,05		0,0	

Table 12: Deforestation Emission Factors, in Moist (Humid) Forest Zone (Cf. FIN_Analysis_NFI_2003-2005_Cameroon for REDD+)

Emission factor of deforestations Forest based on CHAVE

		Forest	to	Cult. land	Grasland	Water	Settlement	Other	to	Fallow land	Annual crops	Perennial Crops
Total CO2 equivalents from	t/ha	471,7		159,6	37,2	0,0	0,0	0,0		153,5	121,1	192,6
tree biomass	Rel. stand. err.	2,9%		16,6%	37,4%					18,9%	29,7%	24,9%
Total CO2 equivalents for grass and crops (default values)	t/ha			3,88	7,06					3,88	3,88	3,88
	1 S error			37,5%	37,5%					37,5%	37,5%	37,5%
Emission factor CO2	t/ha			316,0	441,6	471,7	471,7	471,7		322,1	354,5	283,0
	1 S error +/-			9,4%	4,4%	2,9%	2,9%	2,9%		9,9%	10,8%	17,6%
	% conf.interv.+/-			15,6%	7,3%	4,7%	4,7%	4,7%		16,5%	18,0%	29,2%

A methodological concept for the forest REL was developed between 2016 and 2017. This concept sets out the approach for determining the REL for Cameroon from the sub-national adjusted with local adjustment factors (AEZ) level to the national level also adjusted on the basis of ongoing major development programmes. In order to illustrate this methodology, a certain number of data collected made it possible to propose a reference level and an ex-ante estimate by 2035 of the emissions related to the various REDD+ strategic options that will be implemented, based on the analysis of the drivers of deforestation has been carried out.

Demonstration of Methodology

In its submission to the UNFCCC, Cameroon proposed to establish a historical baseline with adjustment factors related to development projections to take into account national circumstances. The definition of forest, the data, the scope, the construction approach, and the scale are considered key elements for the development of the REL. Decisions related to these key elements are intrinsically linked to the information/data generated by the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). Hence the development of the two is closely linked. In order to harmonize the conduct of REDD+ activities, Cameroon proposed a definition of forest as part of the REDD+ process, providing more details on certain parameters such as minimum area and forest cover. According to this definition of forest for REED+ cited above, forest land can be found in the five AEZs and represents more than 65% of the national territory for the period 2000-2015 (based on mapping work carried out between 2016 and 2018 with the support of the University of Maryland). This reinforces Cameroon's status as an HFLD. For this reason, the REL must take into account historical trends and be adjusted upwards to take into account national circumstances as they are expected to change significantly from the past. Adjustment parameters include: population growth, population

distribution, food consumption, economic growth and development by sector (agriculture, mining, industry, etc.), GDP, land use plans and policies. The approach for calculating the adjustment must ensure the participation of all key sectoral ministries. In addition, the national NRF should be developed in a step-by-step approach, starting with the available data/information and incorporating the best data, improved methodologies and, where appropriate, additional carbon pools. REL must be consistent with the national GHG inventory and be established in a transparent manner, taking into account historical data and adapted to the national context. It must be updated every five years to take into account new knowledge, trends or any changes in scope and methodologies.

The approach proposed for Cameroon NRL places a strong emphasis on the agricultural sector. This is in line with all the literature on the drivers of deforestation in Cameroon, which identifies agriculture as the main driver of deforestation. The logical framework is simple: the evolution of demand for agricultural products within and out of the country will determine their level of production in the future. Impacts on the forest will be more or less pronounced depending on the production techniques and the location of the production. Initial results show a strong increase in deforestation and forest degradation in the absence of increased yields. The concept proposal work for the FRL in Cameroon based on the status of a country with high forest cover and low deforestation rate, proposed adjustment factors by AEZ. The historical emission adjustment factor ranges from 1.6 for AEZ 1 and 2 to 2.2 for AEZs 3 and 4 and to 2.5 for AEZ 5 (Table 13).

From the results obtained on the basis of initial data collected, it appears that average emissions over the period 2015-2035 will be 1.6 times higher than the historical average emissions over the historical period 2000-2015 in AEZ 1 and of the AEZ 2, then 2.2 times higher in of the AEZ 3 and 4, and finally 2.5 times higher in the of the AEZ 5 (Table 7). At the national level, estimated future emissions will be 2.3 times higher than the historical average. More comprehensive data collection will not only test this methodology, but also update this REL.

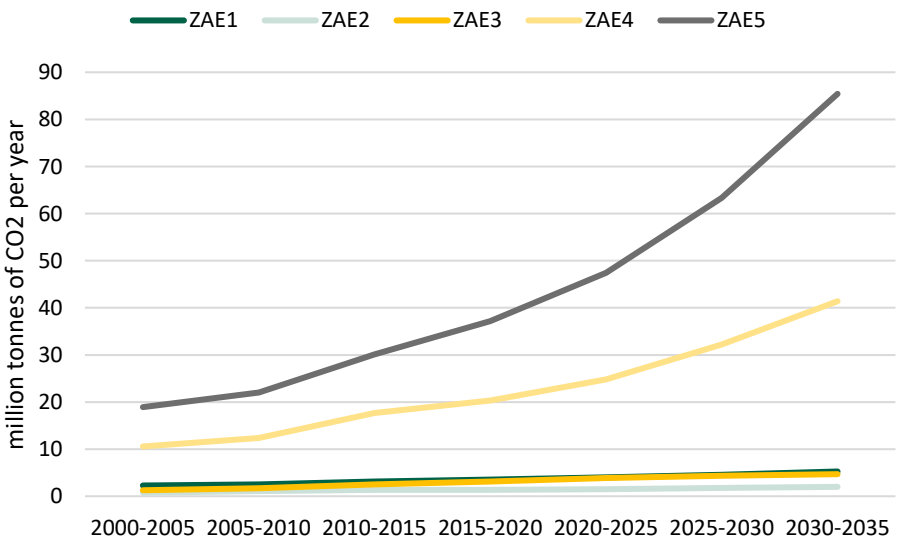

Figure 1. Evolution of total estimated emissions in tonnes of CO2 per year between 2000 and 2035 by EAZ

(Source. *Vers l'élaboration d'un niveau de référence des émissions issues des forêts cohérent aux niveaux sous-national et national pour le Cameroun*)

The following adjustment factors could be used to adjust historical emissions for Cameroon's REL

Table 13: Historical emission adjustment factors by AEZ and at the national level

	2000-2015	2015-2035	Adjustment Factor
AEZ1	2.6	4.3	1.6
AEZ 2	1.1	1.7	1.6
AEZ 3	1.8	4.0	2.2
AEZ 4	13.5	29.7	2.2
AEZ 5	23.7	58.3	2.5
TOTAL	42.7	98.0	2.3

(Source. *Vers l'élaboration d'un niveau de référence des émissions issues des forêts cohérent aux niveaux sous-national et national pour le Cameroun*)

Based on the emission reduction scenarios from the proposed policy options for reducing deforestation and forest degradation, an estimate of ex-ante emission reductions by 2035 has also been proposed

- SCEN 1 – Oil palm yields increased by 20% between 2015 and 2035
- SCEN 2 – Increase in maize yields by 100% between 2015 and 2035
- SCEN 3 – Cocoa yields increased by 35% in EAZ 4 and 20% in EAZ 5 between 2025 and 2035
- SCEN 4 – Widespread use of low-impact logging in forest concessions

Table 14: Estimated carbon mitigation potential for selected production chains for the period 2015-2035

Sector	AEZ concerned	Value Chain	Applicable area (1000 ha)	Emission Factor (tCO_2e/ha)	Carbon mitigation potential ($MtCO_2e$)	Remarks
Agriculture	3-5	Oil palm tree	33,7	Varies between 168 and 562 depending on the AEZ	14,96	
	1-5	Corn	149,75	Varies between 115 and 657 depending on the AEZ	36	
	3-5		199	Varies between 5.8 and 113 depending on the AEZ	67,62	

Forestry	4 & 5	Cocoa	All FMUs	3.89 for and 3.63 tCO2 per m3	12,40	
	5	Reduced Impact Logging (RIL)	All Ventes de Coupe (VdC) in AEZ 5 (135,000 ha)	561,51	4,07	Assuming that palm oil follows the conversion of VdC

- *(Source: Rapport sur les options stratégiques pour lutter contre la déforestation et la dégradation des forêts au Cameroun)*

The results of this work were validated at a national workshop extended to all stakeholders in August 2017.

Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context

Some of the partners' works (REDAFF, OSFT, GEOFORAFRI, JRC, etc.) made it possible to produce historical data on periods of 1990, 2000 and 2010 in 8 regions of Cameroon. With the support of the United State Forest Service-IP/UMD, additional work on historical data was conducted by the MINEPDED and made it possible to make exhaustive maps of the evolution of the national forest cover for the periods 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, periods retained for the historical data used for the concept of FRL and will be used for further development of the reference level. These maps were developed following the above-mention definitions of forest and deforestation:

This work confirmed a low rate of historical deforestation (0.12% for the period 2000-2015) in Cameroon and also made it possible to collect data in terms of national forest inventory and changes in forest cover, which will be capitalized for the construction of the reference level and the MRV system.

Forest cover loss areas for the period use for national forest cover maps for 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 were considered as activity data within the frame work of the Emissions Reduction Program based on the Global Forest Change methodology developed in 2012 by Global Land Analysis and Discovery Laboratory (GLAD) of the Geographical Science Department of the University of Maryland (UMD), led by Dr. Matthew HANSEN. The assessment of forest cover change was done at national level and statistics for the ER-P area were extracted. However, it did not distinguish between deforestation and forest degradation, but rather considered forest cover loss based on the definition of forest. Datasets used are developed within the framework of Global Forest Change, where all the images are of Landsat type (30 m resolution) and whose processing and pre-processing steps are well documented by Hansen et al, 2013.

Forest degradation was estimated using the Impact Toolbox CarbEF module, developed by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission to estimate $C0_2$ emissions from deforestation and forest degradation processes. This module exploited forest loss maps over two time periods 2000 and 2015 to develop degradation maps for the same period.

Technical feasibility of the approach and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines

The approach proposed in the concept for the FRL in Cameroon has been made taking into account the requirements of the IPCC and the UNFCCC. The land stratification used has been proposed taking into account IPCC requirements, the proposed forest definition is within UNFCCC thresholds and also takes into account national circumstances.

At the very beginning of the implementation of the REDD+ process, the Level I thematic classes will first be considered (Table 9). Thereafter, it will be possible to move to level II depending on the evolution in terms of the country's technical and financial capacities. Assuming that there should be methodological consistency between estimates and that double counting of GHG sources and sinks should be avoided, the same forest stratification will be used for the full range of REDD+ activities that Cameroon intends to follow. Sub-stratifications of these classes are also possible for more precision depending on the availability of data.

On the basis of this preliminary work, an FRL has been proposed for the Emissions Reduction Program area covering the entire Southern Plateau of Cameroon, in the framework of developing an Emission Reduction Programme for FCPF.

Table 15: Proposed Reference level for the ER Program

ERPA term year *t*	Average annual historical emissions from deforestation over the Reference Period ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	If applicable, average annual historical emissions from forest degradation over the Reference Period ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	If applicable, average annual historical removals by sinks over the Reference Period ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	Adjustment, if applicable ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	Reference level ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)
2020	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902
2021	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902
2022	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902
2023	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902
2024	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902
2025	6,456,339	6,375,126	n.a.	3,112,437	15,943,902

Table 16: Ex-ante estimation of the ERs expected from the ER Program

ERPA term year *t*	Reference level ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	Estimation of expected emissions under the ER Program ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	Estimation of expected set-aside to reflect the level of uncertainty associated with the estimation of ERs during the Term of the ERPA ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)	Estimated Emission Reductions ($tCO_{2\text{-}e}$/yr)
2020-2025	15,943,902	13,234,254	406,447	2,303,201

This much more refined work will serve as the basis for determining the FRL at the national level. In addition, in order to equip national experts with the necessary capacities for the establishment of the FRL and its follow-up, several training seminars on GIS/remote sensing and the production of forest cover maps were held during 2016, 2017, and 2018. These seminars, supported financially and technically by IRD, OSFACO, USFS-IP, GFOI, Wageningen University and the University of Maryland, took place both in Cameroon and abroad with the participation of experts from institutions identified for the implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in Cameroon.

Table 17: Summary of activities carried out for the REL in Cameroon

Activities planned by the RPP	Achievements
I- Establishment of a reference framework	
Setting the reference period	The work of the partners (REDAFF, OSFT) made it possible to produce data over the periods of 1990, 2000 and 2010 on 8 regions of Cameroon. With the support of the United State Forest Service-IP/UMD, additional work on historical data was conducted to make exhaustive maps of the evolution of the national forest cover for the periods 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 taken as reference period.
Definition and contextualization of key terms	Cameroon has a proposition for a new definition of forest that is consistent with the requirements of the UNFCCC and sets thresholds of parameters to be taken into consideration for the determination of land use strata and the assessment of carbon stocks. Eligible REDD+ activities that will be monitored have been identified and defined taking into account national and international requirements. These include the concepts of deforestation, degradation, conservation of carbon stocks, enhancement of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management. A national stratification of the main land use and Land Cover categories consistent with the IPCC categories has been defined. And on the basis of this stratification, potential conversions and modifications that may occur during the implementation of human activities have been established, as well as the main carbon pools that may be affected
II- Assessment and validation of existing data	
Identification of data for assessing forest cover	The work of several partners including REDAFF, OSFT, GEOFORAFRI, USFS, etc. has made it possible to identify a number of data in terms of national forest inventory and GIS/remote sensing that can be capitalized for the REL and the MRV system. Most of these data focus on the southern part of Cameroon, including historical images of forest cover. There are also data at the level of logging companies that could be useful at that time National forest inventory data from the past also exist. These include data from the IFN carried out in the 1980s with the support of CIDA and those from 2003 to 2015 with the support of FAO.

	In addition, an inventory of the capacities of national institutions responsible for implementing the NRE and the MNV System was carried out, which led to the identification of areas where capacities will gradually be strengthened to bring these institutions up to the required levels
Assessment and validation of existing data	With the support of the USFS, the NFI data (2003-2005) were evaluated from the perspective of their use to determine forest carbon rates for specific land uses. The result of this work has been positive, which allows Cameroon to already have some emission factors obtained with these historical data and the Chave allometric equation and the regional allometric equation obtained under the REDD+ COMIFAC project.
III- Development of the different methodologies for establishing the reference scenario	
Development of the methodological approach for the REL	A concept to establish the REL for REDD+ in Cameroon was developed with the support of IIASA and Unique Forestry and LandUse. This concept proposes a projection of historical emissions adjusted by national circumstances to establish the REL. Adjustment parameters include: population growth, population distribution, food consumption, economic growth and development by sector (agriculture, mining, industry, etc.), GDP, land use plans and policies.
Evaluation of methodologies for the development of reference scenarios	A methodological approach for the elaboration of the reference scenario has been proposed on the basis of the REDD+ strategic options. This made it possible to make an ex-ante estimate of the emissions related to the different policy options proposed.
IV- Consultation and capacity building	
Recruitment of experts to support the REL/MRV technical unit	The MRV/REL unit is currently functional with one senior expert and 2 junior experts (GIS/remote sensing and Greenhouse Gas Inventory) supported by the PSFE Common Fund.
National ownership and capacity building	Training seminars on GIS/remote sensing and the production of forest cover maps were held during 2016, 2017, and 2018. These seminars, supported financially and technically by IRD, OSFACO, USFS-IP, GFOI, Wageningen University and the University of Maryland, took place both in Cameroon and abroad with the participation of experts from institutions identified for the implementation of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) in Cameroon. Ongoing design of a participatory REDD+ monitoring system involving communities at the grassroots level (community monitoring).
Stakeholder consultation	All the above-mentioned work was carried out using a participatory approach. To this end, several technical meetings bringing together the member institutions of the institutional arrangements for the MRV and REL were organized to exchange on the various activities related to the MRV and REL. The final results were validated at the national workshops extended to all stakeholders. This includes work on the definition of forest and land use classes, the definition of the concept for the REL, the analysis of national forest inventory data and the proposal of a concept for the future NFI incorporating REDD+ objectives.

3.2 Results of the Self-assessment of Component 3: reference level

For the 3 criteria of component 3, all stakeholders appreciated the fact that the FRL definition is consistent with IPCC guidelines and takes into account national circumstances. The contextual definition of forest in the REDD+ framework to take into account the forests of the Sudano-Sahelian zone and the Guinea savannahs were widely appreciated by stakeholders as one of the important adaptations. On this basis, stakeholders found that there is good progress for this component, but further efforts are needed to move from defining a concept for the FRL to proposing a real national reference level. These stakeholders also stressed the need to develop tools to enable local ownership of concepts related to sub-national FRLs. The following table summarizes the assessment of the different stakeholders on the level of implementation of component 3.

Table 18: Results of self-assessment of component 3

Criteria	Administrations	CSO	IP	TFP	Others	National result of all stakeholders
C26: Demonstration of Methodology						
C27: Use of data and adaptation to the national situation						
C28: Technical feasibility of the approach and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines						

3.3 Analysis of Results Based on Stakeholder Feedback (component 3)

C26: Demonstration of Methodology: For the stakeholders who participated in the self-assessment, this criterion has made good progress, but it deserves strong attention in the construction of the FRL itself with an adjustment built on sub-national factors. In order to ensure national ownership and stakeholder participation in defining the FRL, stakeholders requested that several capacity building sessions be organized and that the methodologies used and the concepts developed to be distributed.

C27: Use of Data and Adaptation to the National Situation: Having participated in some FRL-related work, notably data collection and historical mapping, stakeholders agree that the proposed methodology is well adapted to the national context, but there is a need to validate the FRL development guidelines so that they are more reassured. For this reason, the stakeholders think that this criterion is perfectible because progress is good, but efforts remain to be made in the distribution of documentation to facilitate independent verification which is still not effective. There is an existing and accessible data base and documentation at the MINEPDED. Capacity building sessions are envisaged for different stakeholders of the MRV taskforce.

C28: Technical feasibility of the approach and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines: Stakeholders believe that substantial progress has been made on this

criterion because the preliminary work to define the FRL is in line with IPCC guidelines and UNFCCC guidance. It should be noted that civil society has voiced concerns that the FRL for Cameroon has not yet been determined and therefore compliance cannot be judged.

Some work has been done with the FCPF grant and has led to the development of the national concept for reference scenario (Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL). Key~~s~~ progress include: finalization of time series data for 1990, 2005, 2010 and 2015 with production of maps on the dynamics of forest cover; initial interpretation of the remotely sensed data is almost completed; development of National Forest Inventory protocols, allometric equations for assessing tree biomass and preparation of Cameroon's Third National Communication on Climate Change with focus on Green House Gas emission from Agriculture, forestry and other Land Uses is on-going; etc. The AF will contribute to collect missing data and establish the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL).

Table 19: Synthèse des activités à réaliser dans le cadre de cette composante

Activities planned by the RPP	Observations	Planned actions
I- Etablissement d'un cadre de référence		
Setting the reference period	Maps of forest cover change based on historical data have not yet been finalized and validated in the field. The validation of this work should lead to the establishment of an atlas of forest cover losses in Cameroon over the Reference Period. The work done does not take into consideration the non-carbon elements related to REDD+	Production and validation of activity data and thematic maps on deforestation and degradation in Cameroon with a focus on the ERP area Elaboration of an atlas of forest cover losses in Cameroon 2000-2015 Collect data on non-carbon elements of REDD+ for the same periods at the national level to determine a baseline for non-carbon benefits of REDD+
Definition and contextualization of key terms	Need for a test of the different parameters defined in the different agro-ecological zones to assess their applicability. The tests will make it possible to take into account the non-carbon dimension of REDD+ and the involvement of this new definition of forest in the socio-economic and cultural activities of populations.	Field missions to the different agro-ecological zones (AEZs) to test the different parameters defined and the impact of the new definition of forest on socio-economic development processes at the local level.
II- Evaluation and validation of existing data		
Identify data for assessing forest cover	The partial and limited nature of the information provided by existing data Limited accessibility to these data	Mobilization of missing data for the cause The establishment of an accessible database Establishment of a permanent functional data collection mechanism for assessing the carbon impact of development programmes

Evaluation and validation of existing data	The usefulness of some collected data not yet established. An analysis of the usefulness of these data will allow a better use of existing data, an inventory of gaps and additional actions to be carried out for the different agro-ecological zones.	Work to assess the quality of the various existing data on the basis of the chosen reference period
III- Development of the different methodologies for establishing the reference scenario		
Development of the methodological approach for the REL	Methodology defined but needs to be updated as part of the establishment of an REL with more exhaustive data	Improvement of the methodology proposed for the establishment of sub-national RELs and a national REL based on more exhaustive data
Evaluation of methodologies for the development of reference scenarios	Methodology defined but needs to be updated as part of the establishment of an REL with more exhaustive data	Improvement of the methodology proposed for the establishment of sub-national RELs and a national REL on the basis of more exhaustive data
IV- Consultation and capacity building		
Recruitment of experts to support the REL/MRV technical unit	Need for more experts to analyze and map forest cover change	Mobilization of GIS/remote sensing experts for the regular establishment of forest cover evolution and activity data estimation
National ownership and capacity building	Members of the institutions responsible for the MRV/REL are not yet able to collect and analyze data for the update of the REL and activity data to assess the REDD+ scenarios put in place. The grassroots communities do not yet know what the REL is and are not yet in a position to collect data that will allow it to be established and regularly updated.	Capacity building of the institutions responsible for the MRV/REL in order to collect the necessary data for its establishment and regular updating Organization of workshops and seminars to strengthen the capacities of central and decentralized technical units on reference level Design and implementation of a participatory monitoring system for REDD+ that integrates communities at the grassroots level
Stakeholder consultation	Populations regularly consulted but need to strengthen this consultation as part of the establishment of the REL	Organization of national and sub-national stakeholder consultation workshops for the implementation of the Reference scenarios

4 INVENTORY AND SELF-ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENT 4: NATIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM

Cameroon intends to set up a robust, transparent national forest monitoring system adapted to its national circumstances and in accordance with IPCC guidelines. This will make it possible to monitor and account for both carbon and non-carbon results. This component has two sub-components that capture the idea of carbon tracking and other benefits:

- Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System;
- Sub-component 4b: Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards.

These two sub-components are evaluated on the basis of the last 6 criteria:

29. Explanation of the follow-up method;
30. Demonstration of the first application phases;
31. Institutional arrangements and capacities;
32. Identification of non-carbon aspects and relevant social and environmental issues;
33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing;
34. Institutional arrangements and capacities.

For these 6 criteria, the achievements of the readiness phase are as follows.

4.1 Achievements regarding national monitoring system

Several activities have been implemented as part of the National Forest Monitoring System in Cameroon. In order to ensure consistency between the REL and the MRV, the work done in establishing the REL is also being used to establish the national forest monitoring system.

Explanation of the monitoring methodology

Work on the construction of the NFMS began with the development of an action plan for the implementation of a National Forest Carbon Monitoring System validated in October 2014 with FAO support. This document translates in a practical way the theoretical principles for the establishment of a NFMS and sets out the path that Cameroon will have to follow to achieve its NFMS objectives. According to this Action Plan, the implementation of an NFMS should be based on 3 main pillars:

- The Satellite Land Monitoring Systems (SSTS) to regularly collect human activity data
- National Forest Inventories (NFIs) to determine GHG emissions/removal factors related to these human activities
- Greenhouse Gas Inventories (GHG Inventories) for the country's regular GHG emission/removal review and reporting to the UNFCCC.

An inventory of these different pillars made it possible to assess the country's progress and to estimate the efforts to be made in terms of NFMS for REDD+.

A document entitled “Guidelines for the MRV”, a methodological guide for forest monitoring, carbon stock

assessment and GHG assessment has been prepared taking into account the requirements of the IPCC, the UNFCCC and Cameroon's national circumstances. It contextualizes the concepts of deforestation, forest degradation, carbon stock enhancement and conservation, and forest management. In addition, a land transition matrix has been developed to reflect all types of land transition representing the five (05) eligible REDD+ activities. It is based on the six (06) IPCC land use categories, namely forest land, cropland, wetlands, grasslands, habitats and other lands, moving towards different subcategories reflecting national circumstances.

It also identifies and sets the national framework for activities that can contribute to land use change and also clarifies the different carbon pools that may be affected by these activities and the methodological approach for assessing their trend in activity data.

Table 20: Potential conversions, pools that can be affected and degree of accuracy in case of deforestation (Source: Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon)

Thematic classes	Potential conversions	Carbon pools significantly affected	Accuracy level for evaluation
Humid forests	Cultivated land (annual and perennial crops)	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Prairies (Herbaceous dominant stratum vegetation) In practice this conversion is rare. Meadow in this context is most often a stage of vegetation reconstitution.	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
	Non-vegetation zone (Wetlands, Settlement, Other Lands) Wooded areas in residential areas with an area of more than 0.5ha, a cover of more than 10% and a minimum height of 3m will be considered as forests.	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
Dry forests Same as for deciduous forests except for the litter which is almost non-existent	Cultivated land (annual and perennial crops)	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Prairies (Herbaceous dominant stratum vegetation)	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
	Non-vegetation zone (Wetlands, Settlement, Other Lands) Wooded areas in residential areas with an area of more than 0.5ha, a cover of more than 10% and a minimum height of 3m will be considered as forests.	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
Artificial forests	Cultivated land (annual and perennial crops)	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1

		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Prairies (Herbaceous dominant stratum vegetation)	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
	Non-vegetation zone (Wetlands, Settlement, Other Lands) Wooded areas in residential areas with an area of more than 0.5ha, a cover of more than 10% and a minimum height of 3m will be considered as forests.	Aerial biomass	Tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Dead wood	Tier 2
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1

Tier 1 = accuracy level 1

In case of reforestation the following potential changes will be expected.

Table 21: Potential conversions, pools that can be affected and degree of accuracy in case of case of reforestation (Source. Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon)

Thematic classes	Potential conversions	Carbon pools significantly affected	Accuracy level for evaluation
Prairies	Planted wetland forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Planted forests in dry areas	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
Cultivated lands	Planted wetland forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Planted forests in dry areas	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
Areas of non-vegetation	Planted wetland forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1
	Planted forests in dry areas	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
		Soil organic matter	Tier 1
		Litter	Tier 1
		Underground biomass	Tier 1

Tier 1 = accuracy level 1

Table 22: Potential changes, carbon pools that may be affected and degree of accuracy in case of deforestation (Source: Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon)

Thematic classes	Possible substrates	Potential observable changes	Affected carbon pools	Accuracy level for evaluation
Dense humid forests	Evergreen forests	Modified evergreen forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead woods	Tier 1
	Semi deciduous forests	Semi-deciduous-modified forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
	Mountain forests	Modified mountain forests	Aerial biomass	Tier 1
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Tier 1
			Dead wood	Tier 1
Dryland forests	Forests of Sudanese areas	Modified Sudanese forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
			Litter	Tier 1
	Forests of Sahelian areas	Modified Sahelian forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
			Litter	Tier 1
Artificial forests	Planted forests	Modified planted forests	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
		Agroforestry lands	Aerial biomass	Min tier 2
			Dead wood	Tier 1
			Litter	Tier 1

Tier 1 = accuracy level 1

The approach for assessing carbon stocks according to IPCC guidelines is to combine Activity Data with Emission Factors.

Collection of activity Data

The collection of Activity Data for monitoring human-induced changes in forest cover and their impact on carbon stocks will be carried out using satellite imagery associated with field data. This will require compiling different information on the nomenclature of area data and samples that can represent these different land use categories. To determine areas, conversions between land use categories will be monitored on a spatially explicit basis to characterize and take into account all relevant land areas in as consistent and transparent a manner as possible.

The production process is based on a multi-sensor and composite multi-temporal change detection approach to map land use and land use change. An approach based on the classification of pixels or objects

is acceptable. Conversions in land use categories should be monitored on a spatially explicit basis in order to characterize and account for all relevant land areas in as consistent and transparent a manner as possible. Thus, the exhaustive mapping approach, although more complete and costly, will be used since it has the advantage of being spatially explicit in terms of detecting changes for entire regions and therefore facilitates the understanding of the drivers of change (more details are provided in the MRV guidelines document for Cameroon). Images with a resolution of 10 to 30 m will be used throughout the mapping process. Very high resolution images will be used to assess the accuracy and adjustment of statistics related to changes in forest cover. The priority will be to use free optical images available for exhaustive mapping. In the event that optical images do not provide complete coverage, RADAR images will be used to fill in the gaps. In addition to satellite imagery, field data on the human activities that led to the changes will be provided or collected from member institutions of the institutional arrangements for the MRV, according to a collaborative protocol to be put in place.

Table 23: Some anthropogenic activities to be monitored, monitoring tools and/or data sources

Human activities	Data to be collected	Where?	Tools	Minimum requirements	Frequency
Family farming	Estimated surface areas	MINADER	Reports and survey sheets	Less than 10 m resolution	Annual
Medium-sized farms	Surface areas	MINADER, Project Promoters,	Satellite images		Annual
Agro-industries	Surface areas	WRI, MINADER, Open Sources Satellite images	Satellite images	Less than or equal to 30	Annual
Road infrastructure	Grips, lengths	MINTP, Open Sources Satellite images	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Hydroelectric infrastructure and transmission lines	Surface area	EDC, MINEE, Sources of Satellite images	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Railway infrastructure	Grips, lengths	MINTP, MINTransport Sources of Satellite images,	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Port and airport infrastructure	Grips, lengths	MINTP, MINTransport Sources of Satellite images	Satellite images Project data	30m	Annual
BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS	Surface area	MINTP, Source of Satellite images	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Urbanization	Surface area	Decentralized Territorial	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual

		Communities, Imaging Source			
Logging operations	Road surfaces, rights-of-way and length	MINFOF, Forest Companies, WRI Imaging Source	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Mining operations	Road surfaces, rights-of-way and length	MINMIDT, Imaging Source	Satellite images Project data	Between 5 and 30m	Annual
Fires of anthropogenic origin	Surface areas	Imaging Source	Satellite images	30m	Annual
Grazing land	Surface areas	MINEPIA, SODEPA, Imaging Source	Satellite images	Between 5 and 30m	Annual

(Source: *Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon*)

Estimation of Emission Factors

The emission factor (EF) estimation will be based on ground inventory measurements adapted to national circumstances, repeated over time (every 5 years), and conducted using high-resolution activity data and disaggregated from subnational to smaller scale. A national forest inventory was carried out in 2003-2005. Pending the implementation of another national forest inventory, the 2005 NFI will serve as the main source for estimating PAs. To this end, the FEs produced on the basis of these inventory data and used to establish the NRE for the emission reduction plateau area will be used until the future national forest inventory, the concept of which has also been proposed, is completed, also to ensure methodological consistency.

Step-by-step approach to carbon accounting

As the long-term objective is to assess ADs based on spatially explicit measures of land use conversion (approach 3), coupled with level 3 emission factor estimates to account for carbon, as a first step, the country will use a combination of approaches and levels to account for changes in carbon stocks. A combination of data and statistics produced at the national level and data available at the global level should be used. An audit protocol has been developed to guide the use of third-party data sets and statistics.

Demonstration of the first monitoring phases

As Cameroon is still in the readiness phase, and the demonstration activities have not yet been implemented, it cannot really be said that the surveillance system and the Monitoring, Reporting and

Verification (S-MRV) is available and has been tested. Nevertheless, the work related to the production of historical maps of forest cover change have been done and this work led to the production of maps that presents the extent and forest cover loss for the period 2000 to 2015 in the ten regions of the country on the basis of the forest definition within the context of the REDD+ process. A guideline document for the MRV in Cameroon has been developed to highlight the elements that will be monitored including activities that contribute to deforestation, degradation, enhancement of carbon stacks, conservation of carbon stocks and sustainable forest management (see Guidelines for MRV in Cameroon).

Taking into account Cameroon's technical, financial, human and advanced capacities, the classification into two increasing levels has been proposed for monitoring carbon stocks. At the beginning of the implementation of the REDD+ process, it will be a question of first considering the thematic classes of level 1. Thereafter, it will be possible to move to level 2 depending on the evolution in terms of the country's technical and financial capacities.

Table 24: Description and spatial occurrence of activities related to the conversion of forest land to non-forest land

Activities	Description	Spatial Occurrence
Family farming	Practice of slaughter burned by households for mixed annual food crops (cucumber, maize, manioc, groundnuts, banana plantain, macabo...).	700m2 to 1ha/year in forest areas
Medium-sized farms	Clear-cutting of the forest and wood recovered under MINFOF authorization: Palm oil plantations, cocoa plantations, coffee, etc. operated by elites.	1 to 50 ha in the South, Southwest, Central, Coastal, etc. regions
Agro-industries	Clear-cutting with machines to clear the forest. Wood recovered under MINFOF authorization: Palm oil plantations, Banana plantations, Rubber plantations	50 ha and more of cultivated area in large areas such as Galim, Ngaoundéré, South, South West, Centre, Littoral, etc.
Road infrastructure	Road construction	Forest regions
Hydroelectric infrastructure and transmission lines	Construction of dams, construction of power transmission lines	The road right-of-way sometimes exceeds 80 m wide
Railway infrastructure	Construction of railways, buildings,	Forest regions
Port and airport infrastructure	Construction of ports and airports	Forest regions
BUILDING AND PUBLIC WORKS	Building construction	Forest regions
Urbanization	Urban sprawl (horizontal urban expansion, building densification, creation of new urban centres, playgrounds, soil sealing (bitumen, compaction...)	National territory

Logging operations	Life basics, woodlots, factories, forest roads	Forest regions Forest roads: 16.5% of the area deforested is 7 metres wide on average Wood yard: 1000-1550 m² for a rotation of 50 feet per day
Mining operations	Life bases; quarries, warehouses, factories, trenches, roads, galleries	Forest regions
Fires of anthropogenic origin	Pasture renewal, accidental fires, hunting fires, early fires.	Forest regions
Grazing land	Overgrazing through the creation of new camps and livestock parking areas	Far North, North, Adamaoua, East...

Still during this preparation phase, a concept for the reference level was developed, this concept indicates the essential parameters and the appropriate approach for the country that will allow the future construction of its Forest Reference Level (NRF).

Institutional arrangements and capacities

For the putting in place of the forest monitoring and MRV system, a technical and institutional capacity needs assessment was carried out and an Action Plan for the implementation of the NFMS in Cameroon was drawn up in 2014. Institutional arrangements involving national existing structures in charge of forest monitoring and land use change have been proposed. Subsequently, several workshops involving these institutions and several stakeholders were held in order to refine these institutional arrangements and especially to clarify the roles, mandates, and responsibilities of the main stakeholders within the forest monitoring and MRV system. Thus, the Forest Cover Monitoring Operations Unit (UOSCF) under the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) was mandated to provide information relating to the evaluation of activity data (forest cover areas and land use changes). It will be supported in this role by the National Institute of Cartography (NIC) and other research institutions. The estimation of emission factors (carbon stocks per unit hectare of forest) is the responsibility of MINFOF's Department of Inventories and Forest Management (SDIAF). Information relating to GHGI is the responsibility of the Sub-Directorate of Ecological Monitoring and Climate Monitoring (SDMESC) of MINEPDED and the National Observatory on Climate Change (ONACC). The REDD+TS ensures that data and results are produced in accordance with national and international MRV (norms and standards) requirements.

MINEPDED is supported in this mission by the MRV/FRL taskforce, a technical advisory body composed of experts in the MRV field.

During this preparation phase, In addition to this work to identify institutions, there are several capacity-building activities for the managers of these institutions on the use of GIS/Remote-Sensing technologies to assess degradation and deforestation, the development of allometric equations, forest inventories, etc.

A proposition of a national forest monitoring system involving local populations (community monitoring/participatory MRV) is ongoing and will be finalized by December 2019.

However, consultations to finalize the identification of the MRV's institutional framework structures and mandate will continue as well as the operationalization of monitoring units at different levels with coherent mandates and budgets. There will also be improved capacity building, in particular of institutions that are members of MRV institutional arrangements, local populations and IPs to train them in community monitoring and develop national expertise. This capacity building will consist in familiarising them with the basic principles of the MRV, in particular the use of the "Guidelines for the MRV", the dissemination of documents on the MRV, the involvement of the different stakeholders in the functioning and the implementation of participatory monitoring.

Table 25: Synthesis of capacity assessment results

S&MNV	SSTS (GIS/Remote sensing)	NFI	GHGI
Background information (data available and accessible)	Inadequate	Good	Inadequate
Technical capabilities (equipment and logistics)	Average	Inadequate	Inadequate
Human capacities for information processing (analysis)	Average	Inadequate	Inadequate
Human capacities for report preparation	Average	Average	Inadequate
Human and technical capacities for data verification	Average	Average	Inadequate
Level of training in the country	Average	Average	Inadequate
Availability of premises	Inadequate	Inadequate	Inadequate
Level of Communication	Inadequate	Average	Inadequate

Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems

Non-carbon benefits is a term that refers to other benefits of REDD+ that go beyond simply storing carbon and sequestrating carbon in forests. This definition of non-carbon benefits that could be generated during the implementation of REDD+ projects was carried out through a participatory study on the identification

and prioritization of non-carbon benefits validated at the national level in June 2017. This study provided a typology of the non-carbon benefits expected during REDD+ implementation, identified the main stakeholders involved and proposed an approach for accessing these benefits. The following non-carbon benefits were identified:

- Direct environmental benefits (or environmental co-benefits) which are the services provided by the forest itself or REDD+ activities to other components of nature at different scales. These include ecosystem services such as preservation of the soil and its fertility, preservation of water quality and quantity, the preservation of biodiversity, the positive effect on the micro-climate, protection of slopes and watersheds.
- Indirect environmental benefits which are REDD+ revenues re-injected into environmental protection projects.
- Direct socio-economic benefits or socio-economic co-benefits which involves those socio-economic activities implemented to address a REDD+ strategic option or resulting directly from the implementation of this option. It is also the investments undertaken to seek a REDD+ result. These are predictable such as jobs (wages), agricultural and agro pastoral research, technology transfer, diverse capacity building, ecotourism, preservation of the habitats of indigenous populations, scientific research (studies, etc.), revenues from agriculture and livestock, etc.
- Indirect socio-economic benefits being the reinvestments of REDD+ income by beneficiaries in various development sectors, will depend on the will of the beneficiaries or are closely dependent on the territorial development plan, hence their unpredictability. These include health, education, economic development (jobs, improvement of living standards, etc.) cultures, etc.

Prioritization was as a function of the impact of the benefit on the beneficiary. Stakeholders opted for type-specific prioritization according to beneficiaries based on the positive impact of the benefit on the beneficiary and the speed of occurrence of this impact. Direct socio-economic benefits come first (because of their high impact on the main beneficiaries and the rapidity of their occurrence), followed by indirect socio-economic benefits (despite the very slow pace of their occurrence), then by benefits related to governance and finally environmental benefits. However, it should be noted that these benefits for the most part are related, since a good implementation of these strategic options with priority direct socio-economic benefits, would generate other benefits such as indirect socio-economic benefits, environmental benefits and even the benefits of governance.

Table **Table 26** Trial prioritization by actor

Beneficiaries / Potential co-benefits	State		Communities, local populations		Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable groups (women, youths, etc.)		Private sector		Universities, research institutions	
	Impact	Speed of realization	Impact	Speed of realization	Impact	Speed of realization	Impact	Speed of realization	Impact	Speed of realization
Direct socio-economic benefits	+++	+++	++++	++++	++++	++++	++	+	++++	++++
Indirect socio-economic benefits	+++	++	++++	+	++++	+	+	+	+++	+
Benefits related to governance	++	++	+++	++	++++	++	++	+	++	+
Direct and indirect environmental benefits	++++	+	++	+	++	+	++	+	+	+

+ to ++++ from weak to very strong

Monitoring, Reporting and Information Sharing on risks and impacts

With the support of the FCPF, a study for the Strategic Environmental and Social and Assessment of the various REDD+ strategic options was conducted in accordance with the World Bank and UNFCCC safeguard guidelines. This study identified the main environmental and social risks and impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed strategic options. To manage residual risks and adverse effects, four management frameworks have been developed to complement the SESA and to monitor the mitigation of impacts on the environment and local and indigenous communities. These are the Functional Framework (FF), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The REDD+ stakeholders were consulted on these frameworks at the national level and the frameworks were validated by the World Bank.

Cameroon in the framework of REDD+ intends to set up a Safeguard Information System (SIS) which is an alert system that will provide information to all national and international stakeholders (UNFCCC) in order

to monitor the benefits and inform on the management of social and environmental risks related to the implementation of REDD+ in Cameroon. With resources from the Basket fund (KfW), principles, criteria and indicators for a national safeguard information system is being developed. Under the FCPF additional funding by December 2019, a Safeguard Information System will be set up. The design and establishment of the Safeguards Information System will entail the following activities:

- Define the scope of the SIS including information (variables, methods, periodicity, systems, etc.) and data sources;
- Establish SIS functions, institutional and governance arrangements;
- Identify practical indicators to track over time;
- Determine how to collect, store, manage and analyze information;
- gather feedback on the draft SIS prepared and adopt an official one;
- clarification/interpretation of the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards;
- Establish reporting, information use and access modalities;
- SIS training and instructions manual;
- Cameroon prepares its first report on safeguards to the UNFCCC.

Institutional Arrangements and Capacities - Multiple Benefits and Safeguards

The establishment of a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating non-carbon benefits at the project and programme level will be based on a number of principles, criteria and indicators to be identified in subsequent work. However, to ensure good involvement of all stakeholders and especially grassroots populations, a decentralized approach for REDD+ project management from central to decentralized structures has been proposed.

4.2 Self-assessment results of Component 4: national monitoring system

Stakeholders consulted for the self-assessment generally believe that good progress has been made in developing a monitoring framework, although the NFMS is still in the inception phase. According to these stakeholders, the methodology proposed in the guidelines for the MRV in Cameroon is clear enough and is in conformity with the national context. It is also apparent that the difficulties in understanding and ownership of the forest monitoring system and non-carbon benefits would come less from their complexity than from the very limited sharing of information on progress made in this area and the involvement of IPLC in forest and carbon stock monitoring activities. The following table presents what stakeholders thought about the implementation of this component. It should be noted that, on the basis of the count, the indigenous peoples, in equal measure, gave completely divergent argued answers on criterion 30.

Table 27: Result of the self-assessment of component 4

Criteria	Administration	CSO	TFP	IP	Other stakeholders	National result of all stakeholders
C29: Explanation of the monitoring methodology						
C30: Demonstration of the first monitoring phases						
C31: Institutional arrangements and capacities						
C32 : Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems						
C33: Monitoring, Reporting and Information Sharing						
C34: Institutional arrangements and capacities - Multiple benefits						

4.3 Analysis of results based on stakeholder feedback (component 4)

C29: Explanation of Monitoring Methodology: Stakeholders considered that this criterion fulfilled the conditions of the readiness phase. It has made substantial progress due to the fact that the MRV guidelines have been developed in a participatory manner. This was much appreciated. In the same spirit of stakeholder involvement, it was recommended that an appropriate community monitoring approach is implemented.

C30: Demonstration of the first Monitoring Phases: The assessment of this criterion contrasts with the comments. Indeed, the stakeholders find that it has made good progress, but efforts remain to be made in terms of stakeholder involvement and popularization of the approach. However, several comments felt that there was no practical demonstration made, either in the pilot projects or in the implementation of the MRV system in the field. The absence of a participatory MRV system means that stakeholders do not have mastery of the tools and therefore request technical and logistical capacity building and popularization of the methodologies used.

C31: Institutional Arrangements and Capacities: According to comments, for what has already been done in this criterion, there has been good progress, with efforts required to: continue consultations in order to finalize the identification of the MRV institutional framework structures and their mandate; operationalize monitoring units at the local level with coherent mandates and budgets; and update capacity building needs, especially those of IPs in order to train them in community monitoring and develop national expertise.

C32: Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems: Stakeholders fully endorsed the work that has been done in terms of identifying and prioritizing non-carbon benefits. Based on the positive impact of the benefit on the recipient and the speed of the impact, direct socio-economic benefits comes first. This is also explained by the context of relative poverty of some beneficiaries who are waiting for this opportunity to improve their living conditions. They are followed by indirect socio-economic benefits despite the very slow pace of their occurrence, followed by benefits related to governance and

finally environmental benefits, despite the fact that they are of a very high priority for the State which must honour its commitments taken at international level. However, it should be noted that these benefits for the most part are related, since a good implementation of these strategic options with priority being direct socio-economic benefits, would generate other benefits such as indirect socio-economic benefits, environmental benefits and even governance related benefits.

The integration of IPLCs as stakeholders and beneficiaries was appreciated. All that remains for this criterion is the distribution of the results of the study and their implementation. For this reason, substantial progress has been made on this criterion.

C33: Monitoring, Reporting and Information Sharing: Due to the fact that the monitoring tools, namely the register and the Safeguard Information System and the NFMSs, are still under development, stakeholders found that this criterion has made good progress, but further efforts are needed in the participatory construction of these tools. According to the comments, to ensure fair and transparent access and information sharing, stakeholders propose that technical information be reduced to its simple expression, distributed in real time and adapted to the specificity of each target.

C34: Institutional Arrangements and Capacities - Multiple Benefits: According to stakeholders, this criterion is also making good progress, but efforts are needed to clarify the mandates of the different institutions, take into account IPs' structures when developing participatory MRV, enhance the capacities of stakeholders and enhance local knowledge and community monitoring.

The NFMS is to be developed and operationalized and it will be closely linked to the construction of the REL. The design of the system, will be in line with latest international thinking and meets IPCC/UNFCCC standards will be able to measure deforestation, degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Clear roles and responsibilities will be agreed regarding the operationalization of the MRV system. However, the system will require significant running budget, institutional support and capacity and none of these parameters have yet been fully tested. With a view to complying fully with UNFCCC requirements, it will be necessary to establish a national safeguard information system that will report periodically on how safeguards are being “respected and addressed”. In line with the UN-REDD model for country-led safeguard development, it will be important to anchor this in existing legal and regulatory mechanisms and provisions for mitigating social and environmental impacts. A firm will be recruited under the AF.

Table 28: Summary of activities to be carried out under this component

Activities	Observations	Planned actions
Explanation of Monitoring Methodology	The protocols for processing and using satellite images have not yet been finalized and the capacity of the actors to carry them out is still insufficient	- Finalization of the document "Guidelines for the MRV", Validation and national dissemination - Capacity building of national actors to use the "Guidelines for the MRV".
Institutional Arrangements and Capacities	Need to develop collaboration protocols between the different national institutions responsible for the MRV system	- Operationalization of institutional arrangements for the MRV - Equipment of the laboratories of the institutions in charge of the Land Monitoring Satellite System - Capacity building of MINEPDED, MINFOF and other institutional arrangements staff on the MRV on all aspects related to the Land Monitoring Satellite System, GHGI and the establishment of Emission Factors;
Demonstration of the first Monitoring Phases	MRV system not yet functional. Populations not sufficiently involved	- Organization of small-scale tests of the MRV system (on the most advanced site of one of the municipal PNDP pilot projects) and the emission reduction programme area - Finalization of the REDD+ Participatory Monitoring System involving local communities
Identification of non-carbon aspects and social and environmental problems	Backup Information System None	- Development and Construction of the SIS - Capacity building (SIS) of project promoters and technology transfer
Monitoring, Reporting and Information Sharing	Need to put the NFMS online	- The development of a web portal for the online implementation of the NFMS in Cameroon, which will be integrated into the National REDD+ Registry

PART 3: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FINALIZATION OF THE READINESS PHASE

5 PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FINALIZATION OF THE READINESS PHASE

The self-assessment of the REDD+ process by stakeholders from the different sector ministries, civil society and indigenous peoples, identified some perspectives for the finalization of Cameroon's readiness phase, based on recommendations made regarding the achievements of the various assessment criteria[8].

5.1 Perspectives for the organization and consultation of stakeholders

In Component 1, the emerging perspectives are formulated mainly with regards to the feedback management mechanism, communication, and stakeholder consultation.

The feedback mechanism should be developed, tested and formally established. The proposals made in the national strategy must be reviewed on the basis of the results of the tests that would be carried out as part of the pilot projects underway. The civil society and IPs insisted that this mechanism must be based on fair access to information, transparency of information relayed and the principle of protection of information sources.

Sensitization and communication should reach out to grassroots stakeholders with a focus on the private sector and local populations that represent stakeholder groups that have not been sufficiently affected. Communication tools must be adapted to the specificities of the targets by AEZ and the approach must favour community information tools in local languages. According to IPs campaigns in traditional media and on social media must be intensified in addition to improving the website. It would, therefore, require a substantial budget.

The engagement and consultation of stakeholders must be enhanced with regards specifically to women, young people and Regional and Local Authorities by defining quotas for the representativeness of these groups. It will be necessary to improve FPIC practice in projects and its ownership by the various stakeholders. All this would be possible by increasing logistical support and resources to local organizations.

Capacity building should be both material and technical for all stakeholder groups especially the CSOs as well as the administration. This capacity building should cover all REDD+ themes and allow training on all new tools, mechanisms, and management framework developed during the implementation of the RPP, also training on the national REDD+ strategy and related documents.

Gender equality and social inclusion must be the subject of capacity building themes for the finalization of the readiness phase.

[8]For issues where stakeholders gave a positive "substantial progress" rating, the comments simply indicate that the country's activities are sufficient for the criterion.

5.2 Perspectives for the finalization of the national REDD+ strategy

Although the national REDD+ strategy is already developed, it is dynamic and will need to be updated with new data and information. The promotion of an adequate framework for its implementation is also necessary.

In Component 2, the perspectives that emerge are formulated mainly with regards to the law reform process, the economic analysis of strategic options, the benefit-sharing and conflict management mechanism, the REDD+ project monitoring plan and capacity building.

The process of land and forest law reform, in particular, must be accompanied and requires the development of an advocacy document for the approval of new laws that take into account aspects related to REDD+. Ongoing legislative reforms must be known and influenced in favour of REDD+ by sectors so that the process can be effectively taken into account.

The economic analysis and the analysis of the reduction potential of the proposed strategic options must be carried out for a better prioritization on the basis of the opportunity costs and the evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with each of them.

The benefit-sharing mechanism, which is of great interest to stakeholders and for which guidance has been given, should be tested at least as part of an ongoing REDD+ project. Following successful testing, the proposed mechanism needs to be adjusted and formally created. It must compensate for actual efforts and losses due to REDD+ activities and be based on the principles of equity, transparency, participation and governance.

The complaint management and redress mechanism must move from development to testing under real conditions. As a result, a conflict management manual has yet to be developed that clearly indicates how to receive and record a complaint, recognize it, analyze its admissibility, assign responsibility for or respond to it, develop a proposed response, communicate the response to the complainant, seek agreement on the response, take the actions indicated in the response, and evaluate the effectiveness of the response. In addition, a plan will need to be developed to monitor and control the REDD+ management and implementation process. The mechanism must ensure that priority is given to the amicable settlement of disputes.

The national REDD + registry to be developed should be a transparent monitoring tool that will capture all the country's reduction efforts in order to value them in carbon credits, monitor REDD+ outcomes and avoid double counting of carbon stocks. The country will have to make functional this technological tool adapted to its national circumstances. It will enable stakeholders to monitor REDD+ activities, have easy access to information on different REDD+ projects and assist in decision-making on REDD+ projects. This

current phase of preparation has identified the elements necessary for the development of the future REDD+ registry. In terms of perspective, it will be a question of the construction of this registry, the building of capacities of the actors on the use of the registry to facilitate its operationalization for phases II and III.

5.3 Perspectives for the reference level

As a reminder, the methodological approach for establishing the forest reference level and its concept was proposed as well as the approach for determining adjustment factors. This made it possible to estimate projected emissions up to 2035 and to simulate ex-ante the reduction capacities of the various strategic options proposed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. The perspectives for this component concern capacity building and the definition of the actual reference level.

Continuous capacity building of stakeholders should ensure national ownership of the tools for defining sub-national FRLs and regular updates of the FRL to be done. This capacity building will also cover the collection of data needed to carry out these updates.

FRL construction must be effective, participatory and submitted to the UNFCCC. A distribution of the selected methodology is important.

5.4 Perspectives for the national monitoring system

For this component, the emerging prospects are formulated mainly with regards to early monitoring demonstrations, institutional arrangements and capacities, monitoring, reporting and information sharing, and institutional capacity mechanisms-multiple benefits.

Demonstrations of the first phases of monitoring are still to be done. The monitoring and MRV system should be operationalized in Phase II and Phase III by assessing the effectiveness of reductions in ongoing pilot project. This would test the feasibility of the proposals made in the national guidelines with regards to MRV. Simplified MRV systems should incorporate community monitoring aspects (participatory MRV). This involves strengthening technical and logistical capacities and popularizing tools and methodologies.

The establishment of institutional capacity mechanisms initiated in this preparation phase will be finalized with the definition of collaboration and data exchange protocols, the operationalization at the decentralized level of the monitoring units with coherent mandates and budgets. The same is true for the institutional arrangements for monitoring multiple benefits, which should also take into account the Community non-carbon benefit monitoring institutions and the participation of the IPLC.

Monitoring, reporting and information sharing tools are to be developed, tested and validated, in particular, the REDD+ project registry, the Safeguards Information Systems (SIS) and the National Forest Monitoring System (S-MRV). These tools will track project activities, social and environmental aspects and GHG

emission reduction outcomes. These tools will be constructed in a participatory manner and information should be distributed in a timely manner and in simplified language to ensure fair and transparent access and information sharing. This implies enhancing the technical and material capacities of stakeholders for the ownership of each tool at local and national level.

The table below presents the action steps and proposed activities to be undertaken in order to complete the REDD+ readiness phase for Cameroon.

Table 29: Action steps to be undertaken to conclude proposed activities

Proposed activities	ACTION STEPS	Responsible	deadline	REMARKS
Perspectives for the organization and consultation of stakeholders				
Operationalization of the FGRM in the ER Program area	Developing/ Testing of the FGRM	REED+TS and a consultant	*Oct, 2019*	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Organizational capacity assessment and elaboration of an organizational map road for CSOs/IPs platforms	Develop ToR/recruit a consultant; Capacity building, etc.	CSOs platform REDD+ &CC	August 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Foster gender equality and social inclusion	Data collection in the ERPD area	CSOs platform REDD+ &CC	September 19	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Advancing decision-makers and private sector companies, **indigenous people** and grassroots stakeholders' engagement in the process	Organize a regional stakeholder REDD+ forum (south plateau) Identification and mobilization of "REDD+ ambassadors" for outreach activities.	REDD+ TS communication team CSOs platform REDD+ &CC	February 2020	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Broaden the membership of the REDD+ Steering Committee to include IPs and other line ministries	A draft decree is available and was submitted to the Prime Minister's office	Ministry of Environment	September 19	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Finalization of the national REDD+ strategy				
Developing technical approaches to mobilize resources for implementation	Develop a clear, realistic and costed action plan that defines roles and responsibilities for implementation	REDD+ TS	August, 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Prefeasibility studies of the proposed strategic options for the National REDD+ Strategy/cost-benefit analysis	Data collection and analysis Collect data promote buy-in of other sectoral administrations and private sector	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	Dec, 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Support the finalization of the South Plateau ERPD	Overall theory of change, planning of activities and interventions, financing plan, benefit sharing arrangements, or other aspects required for an ER program	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	Dec, 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds

Develop the national REDD + registry	design through a multi-stakeholder process and operationalize	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	Oct, 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Operationalization of institutional arrangements for benefit Sharing in the ERPD area or as part of an ongoing REDD+ project	Design of benefit sharing institutional plan for the ERP Test as part of the ERP or as an ongoing REDD+ project Formalisation of institutional framework for benefit sharing	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	Beyond June 2020 because Process likely to take up to 2 years for completion	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Influence in favour of REDD+ ongoing reforms (land and forest law) including New Legislation on benefit sharing, carbon rights and REDD+ funding modalities	Development of a position paper through a multi-stakeholder process Preparation of advocacy documents and consultations with parliamentarians, production and dissemination of REDD+ policy brief notes	REDD+ TS International REDD+ Advisor	February 2020	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
	Receipt of policy approval from Cabinet on the Bill;	Ministry of Environment		Funding largely unavailable and could take 3-5 years completion
	Introduction of Bill to Parliament/ passage as an Act of Parliament and assent by President	Ministry of Environment		
Reference level				
Finalise the development of the national and sub-national (ERP) level FRL/RL in line with UNFCCC requirements	Collect missing data and update forest cover change maps Capacity building Finalize and submit its first FREL to the UNFCCC in the next round of submissions.	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	*Sept, 2019*	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
National monitoring system				
Institutionalize/operationalize and implement the MRV	MoU between the Ministry of Environment and entities in charge of collecting data, and data exchange Consultation and identification of the current gaps and additional needs, in data, resources, and technical capacity needs Capacity building Acquisition and installation of IT Infrastructure Develop protocols for data generation and sharing Etc.	REDD+ TS and Consultant firm	*Nov, 2019*	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds
Design and establishment of the Safeguards Information System	Define the scope of the SIS including information (variables, methods, periodicity, systems, etc.) and data sources	REDD+ TS and Consultant	Dec, 2019	To be funded with FCPF AF readiness funds

	Establish SIS functions, institutional and governance arrangements Identify practical indicators to track over time. Determine how to collect, store, manage and analyse information gather feedback on the draft SIS prepared and adopt an official clarification/interpretation of the UNFCCC REDD+ safeguards Establish reporting, information use and access modalities SIS training and instructions manual Cameroon prepares its first report on safeguards to the UNFCCC.			

Approach for taking into account the perspectives

For the activities that fall under the section for perspectives, note that Cameroon has benefited from an additional donation from the World Bank to the tune of $ 5 million to be used during the period from 2019 to 2020 (24 months). Additional activities that may contribute to the finalization of the preparatory phase must be carried out during this period. The use of these resources will therefore make it possible to respond to the aforementioned perspectives for the finalization of the preparatory phase. In addition, the Common Fund for the Forest - Environment Sector Program in its Phase 2 has committed to continue to finance the technical expertise to be mobilized as well as other activities. Other technical and financial partners such as GIZ, the French Development Agency (AFD), and United States Forests Service (USFS) will continue to provide support and technical contribution to the finalization of the preparation. The table below indicates the sources of finalization available by component.

Table 30: Sources of financing for the finalization of the preparatory phase for REDD +

Financial sources	component	Amount in dollars (USD)	State
FCPF	1,2,3,4	5 000 000	Mobilization is ongoing
KFW (FC-PSFE II)	2d	155 000	mobilized
US Forest Program	To be determined	To be determined	Discussion is ongoing
JICA	To be determined	To be determined	Discussion is ongoing
CAFI		1 000 000	Mobilized
PIF		250 000 000	Mobilized

PART 4: ANNEXES

5.5 Appendix 1: Attendance list for the validation workshop of the self-assessment report

https://drive.google.com/open?id=13ji1Yr-nGkT5hnbjrg9zF6tV8aJUMRrm

5.6 Appendix 2: 34 Criteria of the Methodological Framework for the Evaluation of Readiness (FCPF source)

Components	Sub-components Component	Assessment criteria
Composante1: Readiness organization and consultation	*Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ management mechanisms*	Accountability and transparency
		Operating mandate and budget
		Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration
		Technical supervision capacity
		Funds capacity management
		Feedback and grievance redress mechanism
	Sub-component 1b. Consultation, participation and sensitization	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders
		Consultation process
		Information sharing and accessibility to information
		Use and disclosure of consultation results
Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy	*Sub-component 2a. Assessment of land use, land-use change drivers, laws, policies and forest governance*	Assessment and analysis
		Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development
		Links between drivers/barriers and REDD activities
		Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance.
		Impact on forest laws and policies
	Sub-component 2b. Strategic options REDD	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options
		Feasibility assessment
		Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies
	Sub-component 2c. Implementation framework	Adoption and implementation of laws and regulations
		Guidelines for implementation
		Benefit-sharing mechanisms
		National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities
	Sub-component 2d. Social and environmental impacts	Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues
		REDD+ Strategy Design with Respect to Impacts
		Environmental and social management framework
Component 3: Reference emission level/reference levels		Demonstration of Methodology
		Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context
		Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines
Component 4: Forest monitoring systems and safeguard measures	*Sub-component 4a. National forest monitoring system*	Explanation of the monitoring methodology
		Demonstration of the first application phases
		Institutional Arrangements and Capacities
	Sub-component 4b. Information system on multiple benefits, other impacts, governance and safeguards	identification of non-carbon aspects and relevant social and environmental issues
		Monitoring, reporting and information sharing
		Institutional Arrangements and Capacities

5.7 Appendix 3: Survey questionnaire (example in English)

ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of this questionnaire is to assess the progress made by the country during its REDD+ readiness phase. It was designed based on the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Assessment Framework Application Guidelines (based on the 34 criteria). We thank you in advance for taking out time to answer this questionnaire as frankly and openly as possible.

NB: Tick the appropriate boxes

1= "no progress", 2 = "more effort required", 3 = "good progress, effort required", 4 = "substantial progress",

Component 1: Readiness organization and consultation

Sub-component 1a: REDD national management mechanisms	
C1	*Accountability and transparency*

- Is there evidence of progress in accountability and transparency in the functioning of national REDD+ management mechanism at the national level? (for example: is there evidence that national REDD+ institutions and management bodies are functioning in a manner that is accountable and transparent?

1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C2	*Operating mandate and budget*

- Is there evidence of progress in defining the tasks of management bodies and budget planning for the implementation of activities? (for example, is there evidence that national REDD+ institutions operate under clear, mutually reinforcing mandates with adequate, predictable and sustainable budgets?

1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C3	*Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration*

- Are there elements that show progress in the multi-sector coordination process and collaboration with sectors in programming and implementing activities (for example, are there elements that demonstrate how national REDD+ institutions and management bodies verify that activities are aligned according to the sectoral policies that influence them (agriculture, environment, infrastructure development and land use planning)?

1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C4	*Technical supervision capacity*

- Is there progress in technical supervision capacity (e.g., do national REDD+ institutions and management bodies effectively and efficiently conduct and supervise the technical planning, including routine supervision of technical preparations through multi-sector involvement?).

1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C5	*Funds capacity management*

- Is there progress in the management of funds? (for example, are there elements that demonstrate effectiveness, efficiency and transparency in the way national institutions and management bodies ensure budgetary management, monitoring and coordination of activities financed by development partners?

1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

C6	*Feedback and grievance redress mechanism*

- Is there progress in the grievance and conflict management process (for example, is there evidence of a transparent and impartial grievance and conflict management mechanism or body that operates at the national, subnational and local levels with a clearly defined mandate, expertise and adequate means?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the grievance and conflict management process (e.g. is there evidence that potentially affected communities are aware of, have access to and respond to feedback (grievance) and redress (complaint management)?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

Sub-component 1b. Information sharing and initial dialogue with key stakeholder groups

C7	*Participation and engagement of key stakeholders*

- Is there progress in the involvement, participation and engagement of key stakeholders? (For example, are there elements that demonstrate how the full, ongoing and effective participation of key stakeholders is done primarily through institutional mechanisms (such as additional operations to mobilize marginalized groups such as women, youth, indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities)?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the involvement, participation and engagement of key stakeholders? (for example, are there participatory elements or mechanisms that are used so that indigenous peoples and forest-dependent local communities can meaningfully participate in the REDD+ readiness and implementation phases?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C8	*Consultation process*

- Is there progress in the consultation process? (for example, is there evidence that consultations at national and local level are clearly carried out, representative, transparent, and provide access to information in a timely and culturally appropriate manner?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the consultation process? (for example, is there evidence that the country applied a self-selection process to identify beneficiaries and stakeholders during consultations?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the consultation process? (for example: is there evidence that indigenous peoples' institutions and decision-making processes are used in consultations to enrich consultations and enhance participation?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the consultation process? (for example: is there evidence that consultations take gender equality into account?) .

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C9	*Information sharing and accessibility to information*

- Is there progress in the information sharing process and accessibility to information? (for example: is there evidence that national REDD+ institutions and management bodies have provided timely, transparent, ongoing and comprehensive sharing and disclosure of information (associated with all preparatory activities, including the development of the REDD+ strategy, reference levels and monitoring systems) in a manner appropriate to the national context?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the information sharing process and accessibility to information? (for example, is there evidence that the information is accessible to all stakeholders (that it is shared in a form and language that they understand) and they actually receive it?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the information sharing process and accessibility to information? (for example: Are there communication means used to properly inform stakeholders, especially those with little or no access to relevant information?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C10	*Use and disclosure of consultation results*

- Is there progress in the process of using and reporting the results of consultations? (for example: are there elements that demonstrate how the results of consultations are integrated (shared, and taken into account) in, the national REDD+ strategy document as well as in the technical activities associated with the construction of reference levels and monitoring systems (MRV)?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

Component 2: Preparation of the REDD+ strategy

Sub-component 2a. Land use evaluation, forest policy and governance

C11	*Assessment and Analysis*

- Is there progress in the land use assessment and analysis process? (for example: does the synthesis of the work carried out during the formulation and readiness phases of the R-PP document present an analysis of recent land use changes and an assessment of problems associated with land tenure and title registration, natural resource rights, livelihoods (including traditional/customary), laws, policies and forest governance?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C12	*Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development* *(Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest development)*

- Is there progress in prioritizing the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, for example: are there elements that demonstrate how the analysis has been used to prioritize the main direct and indirect factors related to forest management that will be addressed by the programmes and policies proposed in the REDD+ strategy?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

- Is there progress in the land use assessment and analysis process? (for example: has the analysis examined the main obstacles to forest carbon stock enhancement operations that will be addressed by REDD+ integrated programmes and policies?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

_____

C13	*Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance*

- Is there progress in the land use assessment and analysis process? (for example: is there evidence that systematic links between drivers and barriers to carbon stock enhancement operations have been established and that REDD+ activities have been identified.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C14	*Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure and governance.*

- Is there progress in the process of addressing natural resource rights, land tenure and governance? (for example: have action plans been established to make short, medium and long-term progress in addressing land use, tenure and title, natural resource rights, livelihoods and governance issues in priority areas associated with specific REDD+ programs? Are there elements indicating the proposed further steps and resources needed?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C15	*Impact on forest laws and policies*

- Is there progress in the process of proposing forest law and policy reform or implementation? (for example: does the assessment process highlight impacts on long-term forest laws and policies?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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Sub-component 2b. REDD+ strategic options

C16	*Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategic options*

- Is there progress in proposing strategic options and in selecting and prioritizing them? (for example: has the process of proposing REDD+ strategic options including selection and prioritization been done in a transparent and participatory process?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there progress in proposing strategic options and in selecting and prioritizing them? (for example: Has the emission reduction potential of these strategic options been estimated to the extent possible and what is the evidence that these policy choices informed the development of the REDD+ strategy?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C17	*Feasibility assessment*

- Is there progress in proposing strategic options as well as in assessing the feasibility of these options? (for example: is there evidence that REDD+ strategic options have been assessed and prioritized in terms of their social, environmental

and political feasibility, as well as the risks and opportunities they present, and all this associated with a cost-benefit analysis?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C18	*Impact of strategic options on existing sectoral policies*

- Is there progress in proposing strategic options and in analyzing the impact of these options on existing sectoral policies?

  (For example: have major discrepancies between REDD+ priority strategic options and policies or programmes in other sectors associated with the forest sector (for example: transport and agriculture) been identified?

- 1☐ 2☐ 3☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there progress in the search for procedures to address major discrepancies between priority REDD+ strategic options and sectoral policies in other sectors associated with the forest sector?

  (for example: has a timetable and procedure been established to address and integrate REDD strategic options with applicable development policies?

- 1☐ 2☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there progress in proposing strategic options and in analyzing the impact of these options on existing sectoral policies? (For example: do these strategic options support broader development objectives and mobilize community buy-in?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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Subcomponent 2c: Implementation framework:

C19	*Adoption and implementation of laws and regulations*

- Is there progress in the adoption and implementation of laws and regulations? (for example: have laws and/or regulations associated with REDD+ programmes and activities been adopted?)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there progress in the adoption and implementation of laws and regulations? (for example: is there evidence that relevant REDD+ laws and policies are being implemented?).

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C20	*Guidelines for implementation*

- Is there progress in the process of developing an implementation framework? (for example: is there evidence that the implementation framework defines carbon rights, benefit-sharing mechanisms, REDD+ financing modalities, formal accreditation procedures (for pilot or REDD+ projects) and grievance and conflict management mechanisms?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C21	*Benefit-sharing mechanisms*

- Is there progress in developing a benefit-sharing mechanism for REDD+?

  (for example: is there evidence that benefit-sharing mechanisms for REDD+ are transparent?)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C22	*National REDD+ registry and monitoring system for REDD+ activities*

- Is there progress in the construction of a national REDD+ registry as well as in the monitoring system for REDD+ activities? (for example: is there a national geo-referenced information system or an operational registry of all relevant information (e.g. location, ownership structure, carbon accounting and financial flows for national and subnational REDD+ programmes and projects)?
- Is there evidence of public access to REDD+ information?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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Subcomponent 2d: Social and environmental impacts

C23	*Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues*

- Is there progress in the analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues? (for example: is there evidence that social and environmental safeguards issues applicable to the national context have been fully identified/analyzed through appropriate studies or diagnostics and consultation processes?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C24	*REDD+ Strategy Design with Respect to Impacts*

- Is there progress in building the REDD+ strategy based on impacts? (for example: are there elements that indicate how the results of the SESA and the identified social and environmental impacts (positive and negative) have been used to prioritize and define REDD+ strategic options?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C25	*Environmental and social management framework*

- Is there progress in developing environmental and social management frameworks? (for example: is there evidence that the CGES has been defined to manage the potential environmental and social risks and effects associated with REDD+ activities?

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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Component 3: Reference emission level/reference levels

C26	*Demonstration of Methodology*

- Is there evidence of progress in describing the methodology for developing the forest reference level (FRL)? (For example, is the sub-national or national preliminary FRL presented (in the preparatory document) using a clearly documented methodology and a step-by-step approach?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

- Is there evidence of progress in describing the methodology for developing the forest reference level (for example, is there information on planning additional measures for additional data collection?

  Have relationships between the sub-national reference level and the national reference level been demonstrated?)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C27	*Use of historical data and adaptation to the national context*

- Is there evidence of progress in the use of historical data and adaptation to the national context? (for example, to what extent does the establishment of the FRL take into account historical data, and, if it is adapted to the national situation, what are the reasons and data that demonstrate that the projected adjustments are credible and justifiable?
- Is there evidence of progress in the use of historical data and adaptation to the national context? (for example: are the data and documents provided in a transparent manner and in sufficient quantity to allow reconstruction or independent verification of the FRL?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C28	*Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines*

- Is there evidence of progress in the technical feasibility of the methodological approach that is consistent with UNFCCC guidelines and IPCC recommendations and guidelines? (for example: is the FRL(presented in the preparatory document) based on transparent, complete and accurate information, consistent with UNFCCC guidance and the latest IPCC guidance and guidelines, for the technical assessment of the data sets, approaches, methods, models and assumptions used to define the FRl? .

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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Component 4: Forest monitoring system and safeguard measures

C29	*Explanation of the monitoring methodology*

- Is there evidence of progress in explaining the monitoring methodology (for example: explicit reasons or analytical evidence to support the choice of methodology used or proposed (combining remote sensing and ground-based measurements for forest carbon inventory, system resolution, coverage and accuracy, integration of carbon and gas reservoirs) and improvements over time?
- Is there evidence of progress in explaining the monitoring methodology (for example: has the system was technically reviewed and approved at the national level? Is it compatible with existing national and international guidelines and under development?
- Is there evidence of progress in explaining the monitoring methodology (for example: are potential sources of uncertainty identified to the extent possible?

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C30	*Demonstration of the first application phases*

- Is there evidence of progress in the early stages of implementation (demonstration)? (for example: is there evidence that the system is able to track activities to which the national REDD+ strategy gives priority?

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in the early application phases (e.g. demonstration) (for example: are there elements demonstrating how the system identifies and evaluates emission displacement (leakage) and, if so, what are the first results?).

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in the early implementation (demonstration) phases (for example: is there evidence of how key stakeholders are involved in the development and early implementation phases of the monitoring system (including data collection and possible verification of results), is there evidence of how these stakeholders are consulted in this regard?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in the early implementation phases (demonstration) (for example: is there evidence that the system can compare changes in forest cover and carbon content (and associated GHG emissions) with baseline estimates used to establish the FRL?).

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C31	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*

- Is there evidence of progress in institutional arrangements and capacities for monitoring? (for example: is there evidence that mandates for forest monitoring tasks are clearly defined (satellite data processing, forest inventory, information sharing)?

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Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in institutional arrangements and capacities for monitoring? (for example: is there evidence that transparent mechanisms for public distribution of forest and GHG emissions data have been presented and are at least in their early stages of implementation?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in institutional arrangements and capacities for monitoring? (for example: is there evidence that related resource requirements have been identified and estimated (e.g. capacity, training, hardware, software and budget required)?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C32	*Identification of non-carbon aspects and relevant social and environmental issues*

- Is there evidence of progress in identifying non-carbon aspects and progress in identifying relevant social and environmental issues? (for example: are there elements that demonstrate how non-carbon aspects and relevant social and environmental issues of REDD+ readiness have been identified? Are there any recommendations for capacity building?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C33	*Monitoring, reporting and information sharing*

- Is there evidence of progress in monitoring, reporting and sharing of information? (For example: is there evidence that a transparent mechanism for regular sharing of information relating to non-carbon aspects and safeguards has been developed and is at least in its early stages of implementation?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in monitoring, reporting and sharing of information? (for example: is there evidence of how the following information is shared: quantitative or qualitative variables of primary importance reflecting improved living conditions of communities, biodiversity conservation, valuation of ecosystem services, key governance factors of direct relevance to REDD+ readiness, and application of safeguards with due regard to monitoring requirements contained in the CGES.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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C34	*Institutional arrangements and capacities*

- Is there evidence of progress in monitoring, reporting and information sharing mainly in terms of institutional arrangements and capacities?

(for example: is there evidence that mandates for non-carbon-related tasks and safeguards are clearly defined?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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- Is there evidence of progress in monitoring, reporting and information sharing mainly in terms of institutional arrangements and capacities? (for example: is there evidence that related resource requirements have been identified and estimated in terms of capacity, training, hardware/software, and budget)?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

Justifications/Comments (please specify) _____

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THANK YOU FOR FILLING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!

5.8 Appendix 4: Updating the financing plan for REDD+ readiness activities, including other partners

Cameroon currently receives direct financial support for REDD+ readiness from two sources: the FCPF (estimated at USD 3.6 million) and the German Development Bank (KFW) through the Forest Environment Sector Programme (FESP) Basket Fund estimated at USD 2.8 million for climate change and REDD+.

Some financial and technical partners provide financial and human resources for REDD+ readiness activities and PIN-RE preparation. It should be mentioned that the International Union for Conservation (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) support activities related to components 1 and 2. IUCN and WWF have also sponsored consultations in the area of BR programmes. German International Cooperation (GIZ) identifies activities jointly with TS (Technical Secretariat) and provides technical assistance and financial support. Under the regional REDD+ project (PREREDD), the country uses part of its budget allocation to also finance readiness activities. US Forest Service (USFS) has helped advance MNV developments. Work plans are developed in collaboration with the TS and assistance provided in the form of technical and monetary assistance. French Development Agency (AFD) sponsors the implementation of REDD+ pilot projects in communes, the results of which fuel the REDD+ strategy. AFD is providing the financial resources necessary to create two forest cover monitoring centres and for human capacity building.

The other technical partners simply identify the activities contained in the R-PP and in the Annual Work Plan of the TS, in relation to their competence. The TS is using the results of these activities to inform the emerging national strategy. Transparency International (TI) and Forest and Rural Development (FODER) addressed issues related to REDD+ governance.

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

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

5.9 Appendix 5: Catalogue of Documents/Reports Produced Under Readiness Phase

Catalogue of documents produced under the Readiness phase

Documents	Web link
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines	http://www.cedcameroun.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/062014_Cameroon-National-FPIC-Guidelines_EN.pdf
Strategy to involve Indigenous Peoples in the REDD+ process	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Strategy for the consideration of women in the REDD+ process	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
National REDD+ stakeholder consultation plan	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Communication strategy on REDD+ and an operational plan	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
In-depth analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
In-depth analysis of strategic options to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Concept note for the national forest reference level/forest reference emission level	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Study for the proposal of the grievance and redress mechanism	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Study for the proposal of institutional arrangements	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Strategic environmental and social assessment with proposed Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Functional Framework (FF), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Population Resettlement Policy Framework (PRPF)	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=267%3A2018-12-21-14-04-11&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Study for the harmonization of sectoral policies and laws for an effective implementation of REDD+	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
National reflections on carbon rights and land tenure	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
National MRV guidelines	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Assessment of MRV capacity building needs	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr

National REDD+ strategy	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Action Plan for the implementation of a national system for forest carbon monitoring (MRV Action plan)	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Identification and Prioritization of non-carbon benefits in the REDD+ process	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Re-Analysis of the Cameroon NFI 2003-2004 for REDD+ Reporting	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
A National Forest Inventory Concept for Cameroon taking into consideration REDD+ reporting requirements	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Land use classes/land coverage and forest definition for REDD+ in Cameroon	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr
Order creating the REDD+ Steering Committee	http://minep.gov.cm/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=268%3A2019-01-15-21-25-47&catid=121%3Apour-le-public&Itemid=94&lang=fr