

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

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

.....
CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE

.....
PROTOCOLE DE NAGOYA SUR APA

.....
DIRECTION NATIONALE DU PROJET APA



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROUN
Peace-Work-Fatherland

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION
OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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NAGOYA PROTOCOLE ON ABS

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NATIONAL DIRECTORATE ABS PROJECT



Project " Support to Nagoya Protocol implementation, research, and development, on Biodiversity value chain for smallholders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon "

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ASSIGNMENT N°3

Habitat assessment of *Acacia nilotica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Irvingia wombolu* and *Monodora myristica*, their availability and status of germplasm in project locations and proposal of strategies for mainstreaming ABS into biodiversity conservation and community development around protected areas.

Reference in the year 1 annual work plan: activities, 36, 38, 43.

I. CONTEXT

As part of the efforts to implement the ABS framework in Cameroon, the project entitled " Support to Nagoya Protocol implementation, research, and development, on Biodiversity value chain for smallholders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon ", has been approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project aims to support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrue tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner.

This objective will be achieved through two Components, namely: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework (Component 1); and Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework (Component 2). The project will then build on the two Components above to demonstrate the potential benefits of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge for four plant species (Component 3): *Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, and *Acacia nilotica*.

The project is located in two sites: Mayo Kani Division in the Far north Region and Meme, Manyu and Kupe Muanenguba Divisions in the South west Region of Cameroon. In the Mayo Kani Division where two species are targeted (*Acacia nilotica*; *Balanites aegyptiaca*), the major vegetation is acacia and open Yaéré savannah woodlands in the transition zone between the Sahel and Sudan savannas, open combretaceous shrub savanna, *Anogeissus leiocarpus* woodland, *Lannea humilis* open grass savanna, *Acacia seyal* tree savanna, and Yaéré floodplains with perennial grasses are found. In the project sites of the South-West Region where two other species are targeted by the project (*Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*), the typical vegetation is dense evergreen rainforest. The choice of these species were based on their potential value for use in the fragrance, flavor and pharmaceutical sectors.

However, all these species are threatened in Cameroon by overexploitation, habitat loss and poor or weak governance. In addition, there has been weak implementation of the access and benefit-sharing legislative, regulatory, policy, and institutional frameworks to effectively operationalize the Nagoya Protocol in their value chain. Also, despite its potential as an alternative financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation, the level of ownership of ABS by local protected area managers among communities in the project locations is still very low.

Under Output 2.1.2., the current project ambitions to ensure that sustainable regeneration and associated management practices are well established and applied where GRs are harvested as part of the value chain. More specifically, this project is concerned with how drivers of habitat loss impact these species and their habitats, how to ensure both ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation in protected areas, and ABS compliance, sensitize local communities and policymakers on drivers of habitat loss, and design gender-sensitive approaches to assess the availability and status of plant germplasm, and to mainstream the development of value chains of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge into protected areas management.

This is the context that justifies the formulation of the present terms of reference. The Project is looking for a consulting firm to carry out this assignment.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this assignment are as follows:

- Identify and map degraded habitats in project locations, as well as assess the rate of conversion of degraded and threatened habitats by human activities;
- Mapping the spatial distribution of target species on the project site;
- Collect through local, and gender-sensitive approaches information on the availability and status of these plant species germplasm;
- Analyze the opportunities and constraints for the integration of ABS in biodiversity conservation and community development around protected areas taking into account the regulatory and institutional legislative framework of stakeholders;
- Design a strategy to support the development of participatory protected area management plans in project locations and gender-responsive alternative livelihood

options based on value addition on genetic resources with commercial value for communities adjacent to protected areas.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

- Land use and land cover change map of project locations are developed showing the rate of conversion of degraded and threatened habitats by human activities;
- The availability and status of germplasm of *Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, and *Acacia nilotica*. assessed;
- A report analyzing the opportunities and constraints for the integration of ABS into biodiversity conservation and community development around protected areas, based on the legislative, regulatory and institutional framework of stakeholders is developed and available;
- A strategy is proposed to support the development of participatory protected area management plans in project locations and a gender-responsive alternative livelihood options based on value addition on genetic resources with commercial value for communities adjacent to protected areas.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The consulting firm should provide a detailed methodology demonstrating how results will be achieved.

The key steps to undertake this work can be summarized as follows:

- literature review, elaboration, and validation of methodology and work plan;
- GIS/Remote sensing analysis and ground truthing surveys;
- interview with relevant stakeholders;
- Production of maps and interim reports;
- Participation in a validation workshop to share the findings and sensitize the stakeholders.

V. DELIVERABLES AND TIMING

At the end of the consultation, the following deliverables are expected:

Deliverables	Deadline
Deliverable 1: A literature review and a methodological note including timetable for carrying out the assignment, These documents will be submitted for amendment and validation by the PMU	No later than 2 weeks after the signing of the contract.
Deliverable 2: A report containing maps of land use and land cover change in target areas.	No later than 2 months after the validation of

Deliverable 3: A guide or strategy to support the development and implementation of participatory protected area management plans in project sites, and to support alternative gender-sensitive livelihood options based on the valorization of genetic resources of commercial value to communities adjacent to protected areas	the methodology.
Deliverable 4: A report on the availability and status of target species germplasm.	
Deliverable 5: A report of the workshop to present the findings and a final report integrating inputs from stakeholders	No later than 2 weeks after the submission of the draft report.

VI. PROFILE OF CONSULTANT

Consulting firms interested in this assignment must provide a qualified team with a good understanding of the ABS mechanism and experience in carrying out similar work. The team should comprise:

- a Team Leader (at least Msc degree) with a minimum of 10 years' general experience, and expert in biodiversity, natural resource management, or related discipline. He must also have a good understanding of the ABS mechanism, and justify good experience in biodiversity management, remote sensing, and GIS;
- two junior experts (Bac + 3) with a minimum of 5 years' general experience, with proven skills in sustainable management of biodiversity.

They must also have a good command of French and English (read, written and spoken). Knowledge of local languages (Ffulde, Pidgin) will be an asset.

VII. APPLICATION

The application to be presented in a single-volume file will include the following administrative and technical documents:

Administrative documents

- a letter of motivation duly signed by the legal representative of the consulting firm;
- a certificate of non-exclusion from public contracts issued by the Public Contracts Regulatory Agency (ARMP);
- a tax clearance certificate;
- a certificate of location;
- Banking information;
- Certificate of incorporation or valid tax document

Technical documents

- a document presenting the consulting firm;
- Dated and signed CVs of key personnel to be mobilized for the assignment, with copies of diplomas;
- references of previous experience, with supporting documents;

- a technical proposal including the methodology for carrying out the assignment;
- any other relevant documentation.

Financial file

- a financial offer;

Failure to provide one of the above documents shall entail a zero (0) mark for the expert concerned.

VIII. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

The duration of the consultancy is 25 days spread over 2 months.

Date **23 FEB 2024**

Approved by:



Joseph
**Dr. Dingom Aurélien
Taylor Patience**