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TRI-NATIONAL
DE LA
SANGHA

A Carbon Fund to Reduce Deforestation and Improve Living Conditions of population in the Sangha tri-national forest complex (TNS).



Project Idea Note

May 2017

Summary Information

Project Title	A Carbon Fund to Reduce Deforestation and Improve Living Conditions of population in the Sangha tri-national forest complex (TNS) .
Project Location – Country/Region/District	<p>The Tri-National Sangha Complex (TNS) is a transboundary area estimated at 4.4 million hectares between the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Republic of the Congo. The TNS administratively covers four divisions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The division of “<i>Boumba and Ngoko</i>” in Cameroon whose capital is Yokadouma; • The division of “<i>Sangha Mbaéré</i>” in the Central African Republic with Nola as its capital; • The divisions of “<i>Sangha</i>” and “<i>Likouala</i>” whose capital are Ouesso and Impfondo, respectively.
Project Coordinator & Contact Details	<p>Tri-national trust Fund (FTNS) Contact : Dr. Theophile ZOGNOU Executive Director Tel : +237 222 21 69 54 / +237 698 30 45 33 Email : secretariat@fondationtns.org Website : www.fondationtns.org</p>
Summary of Proposed Activities (Max 30 words)	<p><u>Project activities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agroforestry 2. Actions against illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife resources <p><u>Additional activities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Sustainable use of forest resources 4. Carbon and biodiversity monitoring and assessment 5. -Community Micro-projects
Summary of Proposed Target Groups (Max 30 words)	<p>☞ 06 villages in Cameroon: <i>Méziong, Mang, Yenga, Mbatekadjong, Socambo</i> and <i>Mongokele</i> which are managing four community forests;</p> <p>☞ 02 villages in Central African Republic: <i>Mossapoula</i> and <i>Bayanga</i>.</p>

Part A: Project Aims & Objectives

TNS includes an integral protection zone in which there are three contiguous protected areas extending over 767 200ha; and a buffer zone of 3 632 000 ha in which participatory processes for the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources are developed. As a **world heritage site since 2012**, TNS is an important reserve of biodiversity and a carbon sink in the heart of the Congo Basin tropical forest. It therefore plays an important role in the fight against climate change. However, TNS is subject to a gradual deforestation and degradation. The rate of deforestation, considered low between 1990 and 2000 (0.18%), almost doubled in the decade 2000-2010 (0.32%).¹ This phenomenon is particularly important in community areas as a result of expansion of agricultural lands, illegal logging and wildlife exploitation as well as illegal mining.

The aim of the project is to put in place a pilot mechanism for payment of environmental service (PES) in the TNS to support community efforts towards conservation of forest and biodiversity in the buffer zone.

More specifically, the project's objectives are to:

- ☞ (i) Strengthen community capacity on sustainable and cost-effective agricultural practices to reduce agricultural land extension in the buffer zone of TNS
- ☞ (ii) Encourage community participation in efforts to protect forest and wildlife resources from illegal logging and wildlife criminality
- ☞ (iii) Put in place a mechanism to assess and monitor community efforts for carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation in the buffer zone of TNS
- ☞ (iv) Generate financial compensation for the community's efforts from the voluntary carbon market and environmental services payments (PSE) and support community micro-projects.

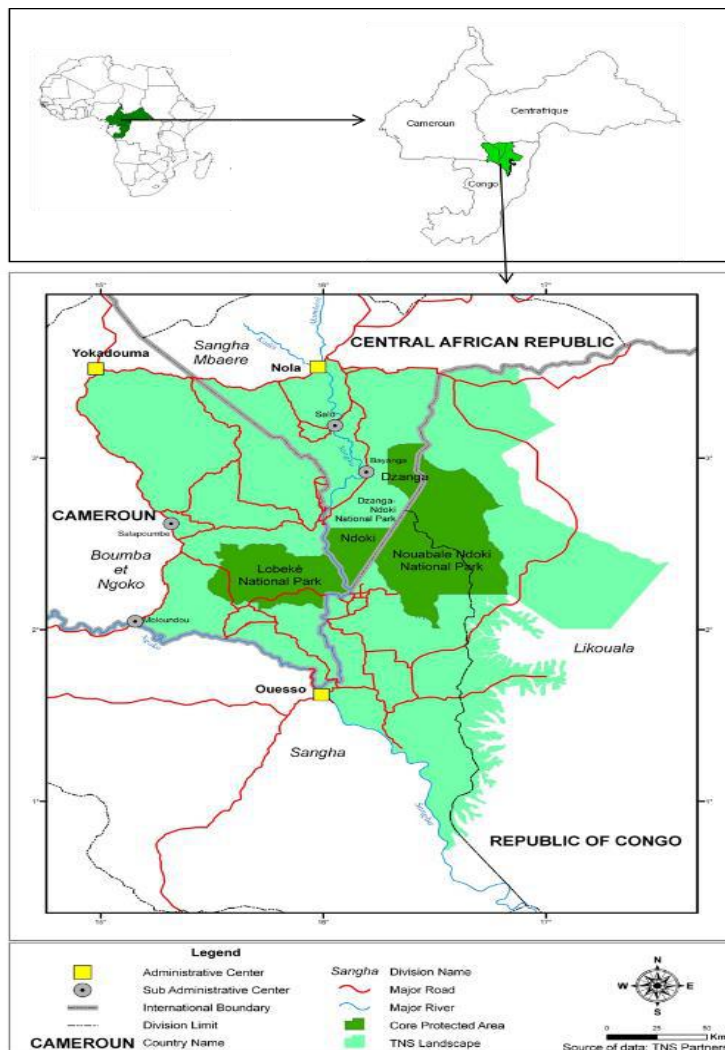
¹ Usongo, L. and Nzooh, Z. 2008 Chapter 9. Sangha Tri-National (TNS) Landscape In: de Wasseige, C., Evers, D., de Marcken, P., Eba'a Atyi, R., Nasi, R. and Mayaux, Ph. (eds), State of the forest 2008. The Congo Basin forest partnership priority landscapes. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg. ISBN 978-92-79-13210-0, doi: 10.2788/32259;

The forests of the Congo Basin-State of the forest 2013. Eds: de Wasseige, C., Flynn J., Louppe D., Hiol Hiol F., and Mayaux, Ph.- 2014. Weyrich. Belgium. 328 P.

Part B: Proposed Project Area

Base on the TNS land use plan, the project's intervention zone is located in the buffer zone² and more precisely in agroforestry areas adjacent to forest concessions. They are generally managed by local populations and intended for multiple uses. More specifically, the project will work on four community forests with an overall area of 14,891 ha in Cameroon side and a rural land of 4,000 ha in CAR.

Map 1: Overview of TNS landscape



² The buffer zone includes several Forest concessions (for industrial logging and hunting) and agroforestry areas.

Map 2: Project areas in the TNS landscape

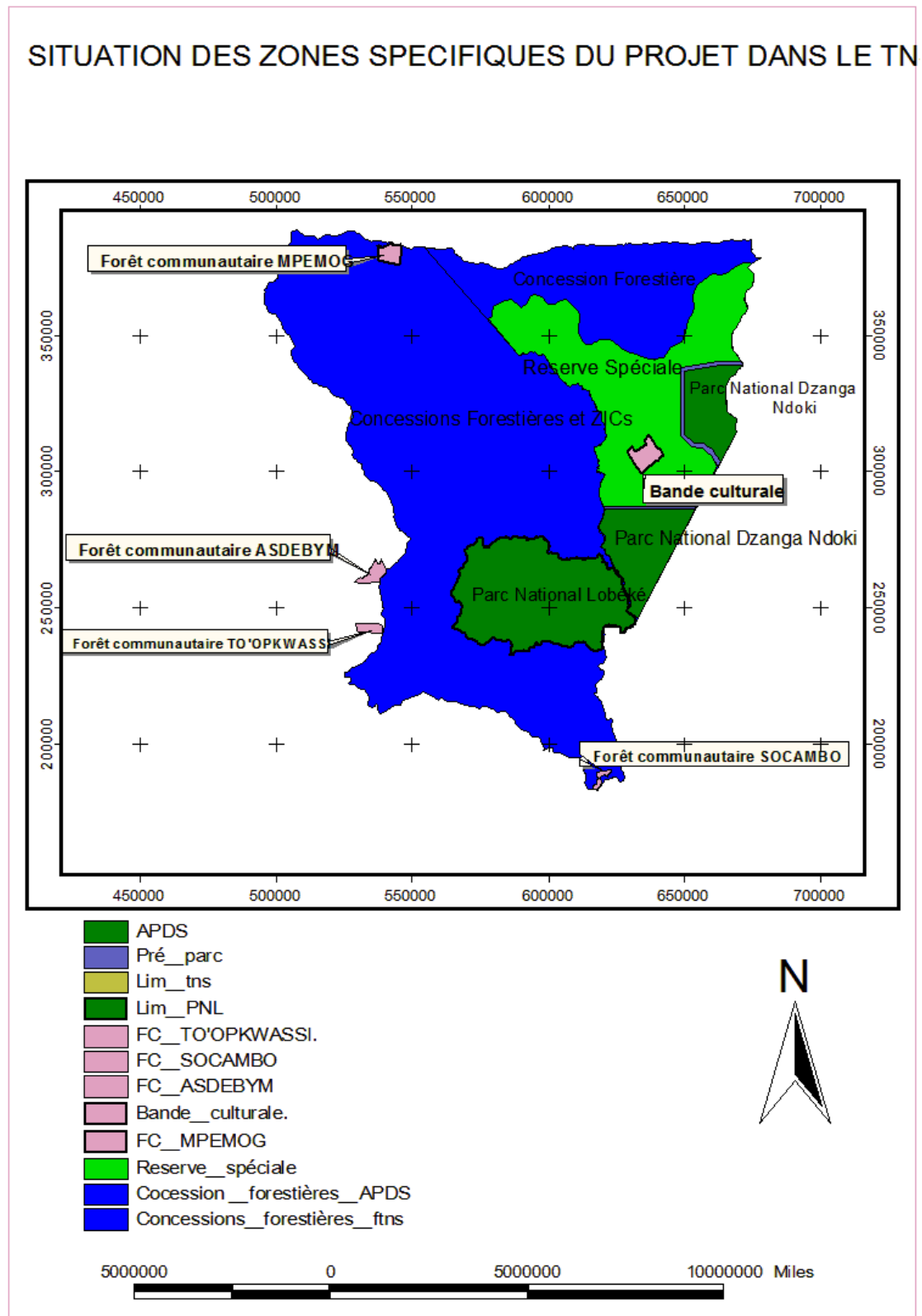


Table 1: Targeted organization/villages and relevant regulations in Cameroon area

Legal organization or community forest	Village	Relevant Laws and regulations
ASDEBYM	Yenga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ordonnancy N°74-1 of July 6th 1974 governing land tenure in Cameroon; - Law N° 94/01 of 20 January 1994 governing forests, wildlife and fishing in Cameroon; - Joint Order 0076 MINADT/MINEFI/MINFOF of 26 June 2012 fixing the modalities of use, planning and monitoring of revenues from forest and fauna resources exploitation to Municipalities and neighborhood village communities; - Manual of procedures for attribution and management of community forest, 2009 version
Emergence of Socambo and Mongokele	Socambo	
	Mongokele	
TO'OPKWASSI	Mbatekadjong	
MPEMOG	Méziong	
	Mang	

Table 2: Targeted villages and relevant regulations in CAR area

Legal organization or community forest	Village	Relevant Laws and Regulations
RECAB	Mossapoula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law n° 07 modifying and completing the dispositions of the law n° 90.018 of 29 December 1990, defining the creation of the Special Reserve of Dense forest of Dzanga Sangha of May 11; - Order N°179 /MEFCPET/CAB/SG/DGSR, DGSR governing the redefinition of the agricultural zone in the special Reserve of Dzanga Sangha in CAR; - Decree n°75/026 of 31 January 1975, establishing the National Commission for environmental management in CAR;
	Bayanga	

	- Decree N°89/047 defining creation of a national committee in charge of the protection and rational use of the environment and fixing its attributions in CAR creation;
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The TNS has an equatorial climate with four seasons, two rainy seasons and two dry seasons, with a maximum rainfall of about 1,500 mm / year. The average monthly temperature range from 23.1 ° C to 25.0 ° C. The average annual temperature is 24.0 ° C. The relative humidity of the air varies from 60 to 90%.

There are five types of land cover in the targeted areas.

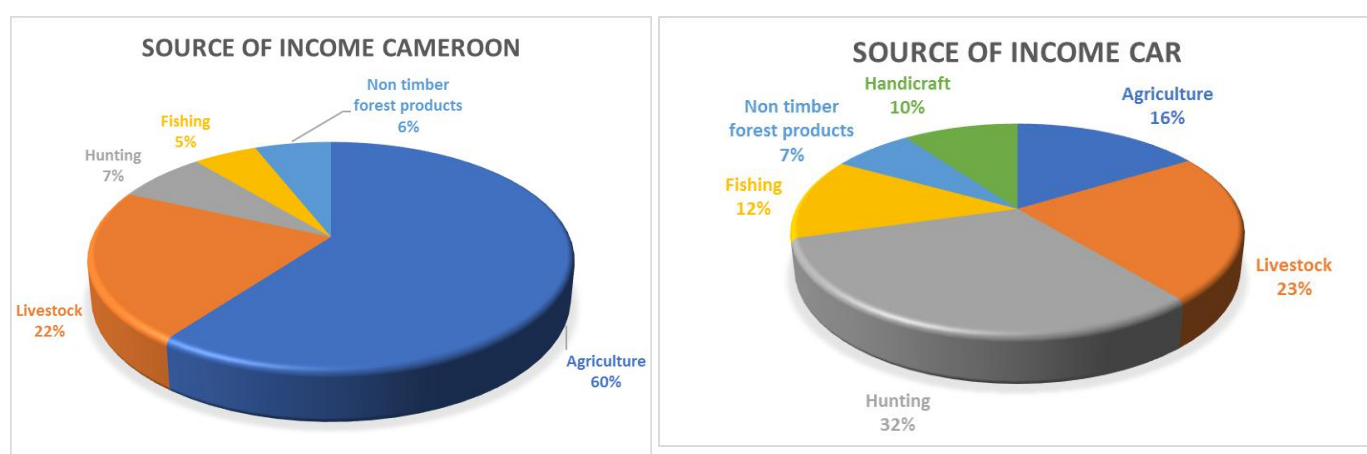
- ✓ **Mature forest:** Which have not yet subject to logging but have faced slight natural disturbances occasionally caused by human.
- ✓ **Degraded forest:** Which have suffered of logging and serious disturbances caused by human
- ✓ **Fallows and farms:** Areas disturbed and occupied by active agricultural plantations or agricultural areas that have been fallow for some time in order to reconstitute soil fertility. In some community forests, they account for about half of the land use.
- ✓ **Swamp area:** Located along watercourses, this zone is temporarily flooded, unsuitable for logging and farming and is fully protected.
- ✓ **Settlements:** Areas occupied by dwellings and socio-economic infrastructure. The vegetation around the dwellings is made up of agro-forest trees including fruit trees (*Mangifera indica*, *Cola acuminata*, *Persea americana*).

A socioeconomic survey was conducted in 2011 in TNS landscape³. On the Cameroon side of the TNS, the average daily income per inhabitant⁴ was estimated at about US \$4 in 2011 (The daily income at national level was about US \$6). On the CAR site of TNS, it was estimated at about US \$3 (The daily income at national level was about US \$2). However, it should be noted that the income per capita income of men is three times higher than that of women and the income per capita of a Pygmy BAKA is six times less than that of a Bantu. The main sources of income are shown in the charts below. Women and Pygmy Baka/Ba'aka who constitute the majority of the target population

³ Endamana et al., 2011. Situation de base des indicateurs socioéconomique du Trinational de la sangha, UICN, Yaoundé, Cameroun, 69 P.

⁴ Include market value of subsistence production

are under national poverty line.. They are more involved in Non-timber forest products and crops production which are their main source of income.



Part C: Identification of Target Groups & Communities

The main beneficiaries are inhabitants of eight villages in two TNS countries. Six villages in Cameroon (Mézieng, Mang, Yenga, Mbatekadjong, Socambo and Mongokele) which have four community forests and two villages in CAR (Mossapoula and Bayanga) located in the rural land.

There are nine different ethnic groups in the villages in Cameroun: *Bagando, Mbimo, Baka, Baya, Bakwele, Bamileke, Fulbe, Mpiemo, Bogondo*; and four different ethnic group in CAR villages: *Sangha Sangha, Bilo, Ba'Aka* and *Bororo*. The total population of these villages is estimated at about 15,638 inhabitants, 53% of whom are men and 47% of women. The Pygmy populations Baka, Ba'Aka and the Bororo constitute the minority ethnic groups. The distribution of the population by sex is presented in the table below.

Table 3: Populations of targeted areas

Country	Legal organization	Village	Male	Female	Total
Cameroon	ASDEBYM	Yenga	638	642	1280
	Emergence of Socambo and Mongokele	Socambo	293	288	581
		Mongokele	66	34	100
	TO'OPKWASSI	Mbatekadjong	1585	1415	3000
	MPEMOG	Mézieng	1400	1376	2776

		Mang	1275	1225	2500
Central Africa Republic	RECAB	Mossapoula	379	363	742
		Bayanga	2587	2072	4659
Total			8 223	7 415	15 638

Part D: Land Tenure & Carbon Rights

In Cameroon, the legal basis for Community Forests (CF) was established by the Law No. 94, governing forestry, wildlife and fisheries. This law recognizes the right of communities to create and manage a CF for a renewable period of 25 years. The process of creation of a CF in Cameroon involves different stages:

- Information and awareness of local population about the project
- Creation of a legal community organisation in charge of the management of the process
- Consultation meeting presides over by an administrative authority to validate the boundaries of the CF and obtain the approval of different components of the community for the project
- Application to Ministry of Forest to get an official reservation of the CF (2-year renewable convention)
- Preparation and submission of a simple management plan
- Final management agreement (25 years renewable convention with the government)

The four CFs are at different stages as indicated below:

Table 4: State of CF management

CF	Year of attribution/creation	Type of convention	Status of Management plan	Villages involved
ASDEBYM	2009	25 years renewable	Revised in 2015 for five years	Yenga
MPEMOG	2006	25 years renewable	Revised in 2016 for five years	Mézion and Mang

SOCAMBO ET MONGOKELE	2015	2 years renewable ⁵	Approved in 2015.	Socambo and Mongokele
TO'OKPWASSI	2013	2 years renewable ⁶	To elaborate	Mbatekadjong

The legal existence of community forests and the recognition by the State of rights to manage forest resources by communities is not disputed, and all forestry and mining operators in the area recognize the boundaries of the CFs. From a legal perspective, the CF cannot exceed 5,000 ha and more than one village can cooperate to create a CF.

Although communities remain *usufructuaries* and not owners of their CF, recognition of a CF does confer certain rights to the community. Artisanal logging within a CF is a legal activity when it is carried out in compliance with the Simple Management Plan. It is an activity on a product whose one of its chemical components is carbon. This idea will be discussed with Cameroon authorities during the elaboration of PDD.

Each of the four Community Forests (CF) is managed by a legal entity (GIC or association). Which is also the main interlocutor between community and authorities. The GICs or association were established legally during the creation of the CF and their main mission is to ensure compliance of activities carried out by community with the Simple Management Plan, which is a reference document for the sustainable management of natural resources in the CF. As recommended by regulations, the legal entity must be representative of various social groups from villages involved in the management of the CF but in practice there are some irregularities and the project therefore needs to encourage and support effective participation of different groups in the process of decision making.

In CAR, Order No. 179 / MEFCPET / CAB / SG / DGSR allows for creation of Rural Areas (RA) and allocation of management rights to the local populations. Within a RA, the dominant land tenure system is traditional. People occupy and exploit land on the basis of family codes. Cultivable parcels are inherited from parents or unoccupied spaces. The mode of appropriation and occupation of the territory differs according to whether one is native or non-native.

For native peoples, there are three types of land tenure, depending on whether one is in fallow land or in plantations.

⁵ Period should be extended to 25 years after approval of the first management plan.

⁶ Period should be extended to 25 years after development and approval of the first management plan

- ✓ Clearing and logging are the means by which native people can appropriate and occupy space. This is the "right of axe".
- ✓ Fallow lands are the private property of families, often acquired through inheritance and legacy.
- ✓ Plantations and farms belong to a household and are the private property of individuals.

For non-natives, access to land is made by donations or sale by the village chief after consultation with the population. In case of sale, a certificate of sale is signed by the village chief. Only men have access to land ownership in the village.

In CAR, there are legal associations grouped together within a network. These community structures will play an important role in the sharing mechanism of benefits generated by the PES initiative and also in the monitoring of activities which will contribute to reduce emissions and poverty. The project will put emphasis on reinforcing good governance in different community structures.

There are no specific laws or licencing requirements for carbon and payment for different ecosystem service in Cameroon as well as CAR, but development of project for carbon and PES is not prohibited since both countries have ratified international conventions for climate change and biodiversity conservation. Moreover, Cameroon and CAR are engaged in REDD+ process at different stages and pilot project for carbon are welcome to support the development and implementation of national strategy. Both countries approved a land use plan for the TNS in 2010 to support conservation and the sustainable management of the landscape. The land use plan includes community forest and rural areas respectively in Cameroon and CAR. There are body in charge of overall management of REDD process in both countries. FTNS has already submitted a PIN to Cameroon Body (REDD national committee) for validation at national level (see in appendices letter to Redd national committee).

Part E: Project Interventions & Activities

Project intervention includes agroforestry and forest conservation activities (REDD).

Prevention of deforestation from the expansion of smallholder agriculture by:

- ✓ Intensification of cocoa cultivation in existing plantations;
- ✓ Establishment of agroforestry, and enrichment of agroforestry farms, in existing agricultural areas with local forest products of high commercial value;

- ✓ Installation of demonstration plots to encourage approaches to increase productivity in existing agricultural areas;
- ✓ Establishment of reference nurseries of improved tree plants species;
- ✓ Development of short-term fallows and management of food crops.

Prevention of forest degradation and loss of biodiversity by:

- ✓ Enhancing capacity of intermediary organizations to support community forest management initiatives and prevent illegal logging;
- ✓ Strengthening communities' capacities for reduced impact logging (EFIR);
- ✓ Development or revision of sustainable CF management plans;
- ✓ Establishment of monitoring and reporting committees;
- ✓ Development and implementation of community monitoring plans for wildlife crime and illegal logging;

Carbon monitoring and assessment and biodiversity

- ✓ Development of the reference scenario;
- ✓ Development and implementation of a monitoring and measurement mechanism for forest carbon sequestered by the project;
- ✓ Establishment of four permanent five-hectare plots in four community forests;
- ✓ Establishment of four permanent ten-hectare plots in the conservation area (in the permanent domain);
- ✓ Carbon and biodiversity inventory in eight permanent plots in year T0.

Management and administration of funds generated by PES

- ✓ Training of local organizations (GIC and associations) in the management of funds from environmental services and other income;
- ✓ Development and signing of an agreement for the management of funds from environmental services contracts between FTNS and local organizations;

Part F: Identification of Any Non-Eligible Activities

Additional activities the project will carry out :

- ✓ Training and support of community organizations in the identification, formulation and implementation of eco-friendly microprojects which includes water and health facilities, NTFP processing and marketing.

Part G: Long-Term Sustainability Drivers

Within the framework of the project, several actions of perennializations are envisaged. Agroforestry is one of the drivers of sustainability with the establishment of reference nurseries. These nurseries will be used to obtain improved tree plant material to intensify agroforestry plots. The promotion of fruit trees with high commercial value will help to diversify farmers' sources of income. Intensification of cocoa crops will increase household incomes and a part of it will be collected by community organizations for the implementation of local development plans including rehabilitation of houses, rural electrification and other village infrastructure.

The project will also strengthen local know-how through training on sustainable agricultural techniques and intensification of cocoa cultivation in eight villages. The community micro-projects will be an essential tool for improving the living conditions of the populations and incentives for the sustainability of this project impact. Moreover, microprojects for NTFPs collection and commercialization will be encouraged in order to give more value to forest products.

In addition of PES, a future part of FTNS grants to targeted villages will be based on their environmental performance provided by the monitoring system put in place at the end of this project.

Part H: Applicant Organisation & Proposed Governance Structure

Applicant organization

The Sangha Tri-National Trust Fund Limited (FTNS) was established in March 2007 in England with the mission to contribute to the sustainable financing of conservation, eco-development activities and trans-boundary cooperation in the Sangha Tri-National space (TNS). FTNS supports the

implementation of the Convergence Plan 2015-2025 of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) in its strategic axis 6, which is to develop innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for conservation.

Since 2008, FTNS has signed cooperation agreements with the governments of the three states members of TNS. In 2010, FTNS received approval from the Cameroonian government authorizing the organisation to settle in Cameroon as a Foreign Association, becoming then the first African trust fund dedicated to a cross-border conservation.

FTNS consists of two main governance bodies: The Board of Directors (BOD) and the Executive Office (EO). BOD, strategic decision-making structure of the FTNS, consists of eleven members including representatives of the government of Cameroon, the government of Congo, the government of Central African Republic, KfW Entwicklungsbank (German Financial Cooperation), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Regenwald Stiftung and three representatives of civil society from TNS countries.

The Executive Office is based in Cameroon. It is responsible for the implementation of BOD decisions, of the institutional development of FTNS and the mobilization of funds and awarding grants. It is composed of an Executive Director, a Programme officer and an administrative and logistical staff of three people. This team is backed up by an accounting firm and an international assistance represented in executive body by a Technical Advisor. The FTNS provides grants to parks, local organization and the governance bodies of TNS through two mechanisms: the income from invested capital (Endowment funds) and project-type funds (Sinking funds).

Over the last five years, FTNS has become a major provider of funds for the management of all three parks and cross-border cooperation in the TNS. It has contributed to the recognition of the outstanding universal values of the TNS by UNESCO and supports advocacy for the conservation of this biodiversity.

Within this project, the FTNS will be responsible for the overall coordination. The FTNS Program Officer will be assisted by a network of partners and consultants whose functions are described below.

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Is a structure with a long experience in research and transfer of agroforestry techniques. It operates in the TNS through the Sangha Group, which brings together researchers with activities or interests in the TNS. Within the project, ICRAF is responsible for the

implementation and promotion of sustainable agriculture and agroforestry practices that enhance traditional agricultural productivity. It will be assisted in the implementation by a network of Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

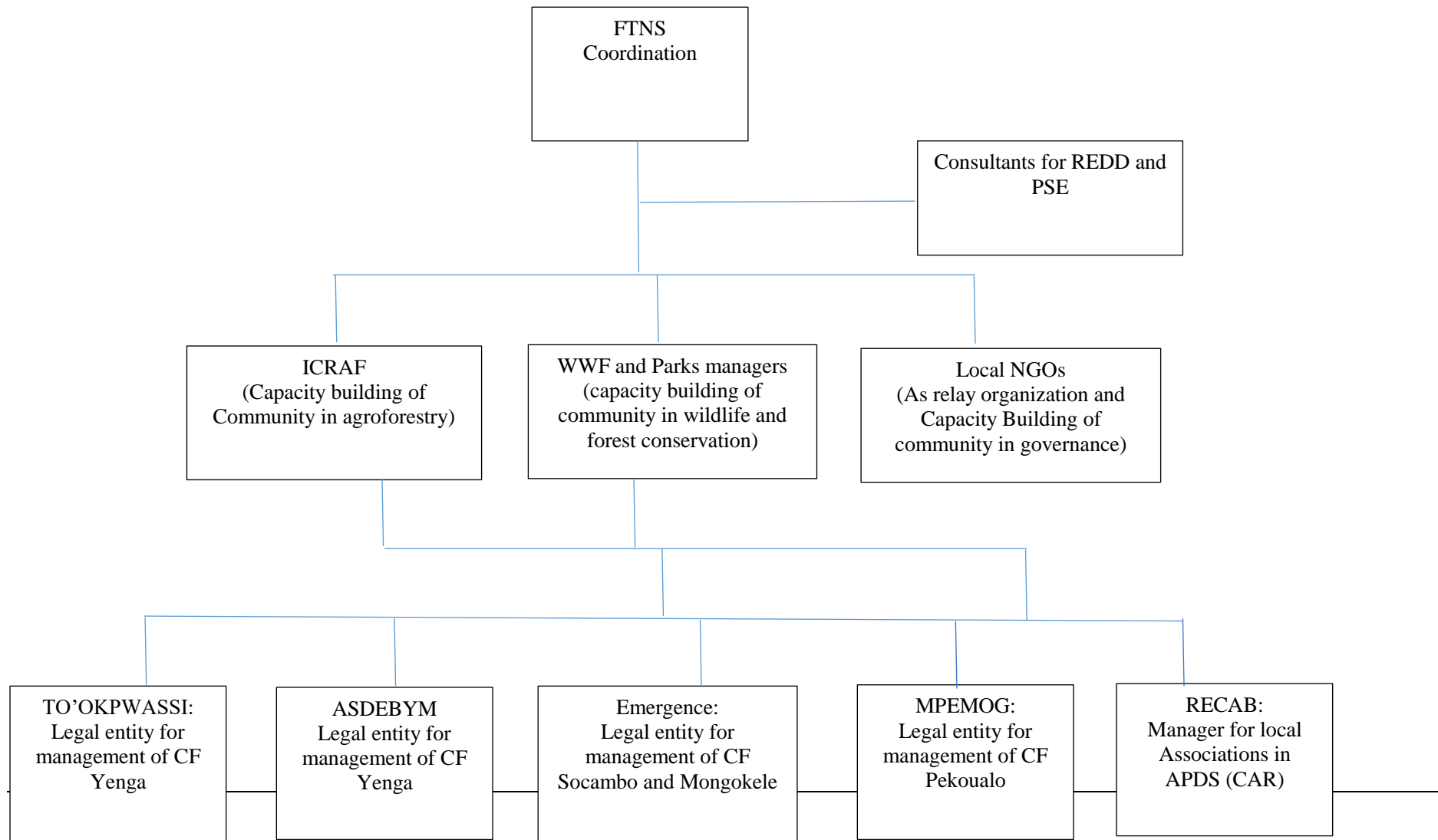
World Wildlife Fund For Nature-WWF: The main technical partner of the parks in CAR and Cameroon will facilitate with the support of the parks administration the implementation of project activities in the field with the communities. Their main contribution will be environmental education and the setting up of a mechanism to monitor the illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife resources in targeted community areas.

External **consultants** will be mobilized for the development of reference scenarios and a system for measuring and monitoring carbon and biomass according to the requirements of the Plan Vivo standard. They will also support social activities as required by Plan Vivo Standard.

Local NGO: They will carry out sensitization campaigns on environmental issue, reinforce the capacity of local community in governance issue, conflict management, promotion of participative approach in preparation and implementation of microprojects.

Community organizations: They will be responsible for the identification, implementation and management of community micro-projects. They will thus ensure the proper use of funds generated by the PES markets and other income.

Phase I: Project development



Part I: Community-Led Design Plan

Involvement of communities in the development and implementation of the project is encouraged and well respected in this initiative. The communities were involved in the pre-feasibility study that resulted in the selection of the four CFs in Cameroon and the two communities along the rural band in CAR.

Representatives of these eight communities were invited to the presentation session of the project idea note during a workshop held in Bertoua (Cameroon) from 16 to 17 March 2017. They were informed of the future stages of implementation of project activities and the prospects of starting a REDD initiative in their localities.

The participatory identification of threats to the forest cover during the pre-feasibility study enabled the communities to better understand the project's objectives and also to realize the decisive role they have to play in the project. The communities have therefore understood that the success of the project will not depend only on FTNS and its partners but on the uses they will make of their forests and the adhesion of community members to activities planned. Local community communication campaigns are carried out by CSOs to explain and facilitate understanding of the project.

Besides of awareness-raising activities, participatory approaches will be promoted throughout the project development design implementation particularly during the problem tree analysis, land use mapping, design and validation of project interventions, development of a monitoring system. To ensure effective participation and appropriation, capacity building of communities' members will be organised at different stages of PDD. A formal agreement will also be signed between FTNS and representatives of different communities clarifying the role and responsibilities of the parties within the implementation of the project.

Part J: Additionality Analysis

The FTNS is a Trust Fund for the conservation of protected areas and the sustainable management of forest resources in the TNS. It has mobilized funding for the conservation of protected areas. However, the development needs of populations in the periphery of protected areas are high and funding is insufficient to cover and encourage the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources. Hence this project that received funding from several partners will help to address partly the issue of sustainable development of populations. Its experience will help to develop similar and

large-scale projects in the periphery of parks.

In Cameroon, the *Manual of Procedures for attribution and norm for the management of community forest* (MdP) issued by the Ministry Decision N°0098/D/MINFOF/SG/DF/SDFC of February 2009 prescribes to beneficiary of community forest to carry out action in view of maintaining ecological potential of their forest through conservation activities and forest regeneration. The project will therefore support community in meeting these requirements. In addition, all the target areas are part of the TNS, a world heritage site since 2012 which involves inhabitants to upgrade their efforts towards conservation of the landscape.

The following table shows the barriers for an effective implementation of project by communities and mitigation measures.

Risk category	Risk Description	Mitigation measures
<i>Social</i>	Weak dynamics of groups. In the majority of cases, local associations are not able to work together.	Sensitize, train and accompany the group dynamics.
	Conflicts and marginalization of minorities groups	Capacity building in conflict management Train and encourage participation in decision making during the PDD process and communities microprojects design.
<i>Economic/ financial</i>	Lack of an organized market for agroforestry products: TNS landscape is located in zone not easy to access and far from urban centres. The buyers coming from those urban centres are very few and rare, and the products are not processed to allow for their better conservation	Stimulate local processing of certain products and support contacts with buyers
<i>Legal</i>	Bureaucracy	Facilitate access to associations to documents that are required to best carry out their activities and those related to the project
<i>Environmental</i>	Presence of large mammals (elephants, gorillas) near villages that destroy crops: Human and wildlife conflicts	Permanently repress large mammals; cut trees that attract elephants; Keep plantations away from elephant migration corridor
<i>Technical</i>	Lack of capacity to practice sustainable and efficient agricultural techniques	Train and support populations on improved agricultural techniques and agroforestry

Part K: Notification of Relevant Bodies & Regulations

The authorities in charge of forest management and environment (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development for Cameroon,

Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Hunting and Fisheries for the Central African Republic) of the two countries concerned by this project were contacted during the pre-feasibility study of this project. They expressed interest in providing relevant information that was capitalized in the drafting of this project note. They also took part in a workshop organized in March 2017 to present the project idea. On the recommendation of the authorities, a project idea note was submitted to the national REDD committee in Cameroon (see list of presence and report of the workshop and letter of submission of PIN).

FTNS has also benefited from Cameroon authority a licence to use satellite image in the development of the project. (see letter from Ministry of environment to FTNS).

Part L: Identification of Start-Up Funding

Within the framework of project K, funded by the French Global Environment Facility, the Global Environment Facility and the MAVA Foundation, FTNS has mobilized US \$200,000 for project development design. Additional funding of US \$200,000 is being mobilized from KfW for capacity building of community in agroforestry activities. These secured funds will contribute to the realization of the various activities necessary for the registration of the project by Plan Vivo. The fund includes a provision of a provision of US \$15 000 for audit/validation of the project and US \$4 000 for the promotion/marketing.

APPENDICES (available upon request)

1. Communique final and list of presence for the workshop on project
2. Letter of FTNS to Redd national committee
3. Letter of Ministry of environment authorising FTNS to get satellite image in developing the project.