

Plan Vivo Project Design Document (PDD)

# Community PES

## Community Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the Congo Basin

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Submitted by: Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED)



Baka women mapping threats to Nomedjoh community forest in the East Region of Cameroon  
Rob Harley, Bioclimate 2009

# Bioclimate

Bioclimate Research & Development

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## Acronyms

ACRONYM	Name
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CED	Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement
CF	Community Forest
CAG	Community Activity Group
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération International en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CG	Community Group
DFID	UK Department for International Development
IRAD	Institute for Agricultural Research for Development
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PES	Payments for Ecosystem Services
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SBG	Social Benefit Group
SMP	Simple Management Plan

# Title of project

Community Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in the Congo Basin

## Executive summary

This Project Design Document provides a description of the Community Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) Pilot Project in the Congo Basin (Community PES project). The Community PES Project was initiated in 2009 as one of seven start-up initiatives selected by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to receive funding ahead of the first round of initiatives financed by the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). The CBFF was established by the governments of the UK and Norway and is administered by the African Development Bank. The overarching goal of the Community PES Project is to positively assist communities of Cameroon, and potentially the broader Congo Basin region, to protect forest resources by finding ways to integrate payments for ecosystem services (PES) and community forest management.

Le Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) is coordinating the project in Cameroon. During project establishment, Bioclimate Research & Development (Bioclimate) managed the DFID grant and guided project development. In the early phases of the project, Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) provided guidance. The Institute for Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD) and the Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD) provided extension services to communities to improve their agriculture production capacity. As of July 2012, CED will be managing all aspects of the project.

The primary goal of the project is to maintain and enhance existing forest cover and carbon stocks in each community using finance generated from the sale of ecosystem service benefits to improve livelihoods in each community. The Community PES Project has been piloted in two Community Forests; the Nkolenyeng Community Forest (1,042 ha) and Nomedjoh Community Forest (1,950 ha). The Avoiding Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ADD) project intervention has been developed in accordance with the Plan Vivo System and Standard (Plan Vivo 2008). Project activities undertaken in the project area include: forest protection (e.g. instituting forest patrols), sustainable forest use management, sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, and NTFP enterprises.

Ecosystem services are generated and paid for in accordance with the requirements of the Plan Vivo System and Standard. For the purposes of contracts with communities, ecosystem service benefits are those services arising from forest protection and related management activities. They are referred to here as 'benefits' as they are additional to existing ecosystem services, i.e. produced due to communities' actions. The provision of the ecosystem service benefits is indicated by the presence or absence of trees and by monitoring changes in tree and forest cover. The delivery of the ecosystem service benefits will be indicated by the presence or absence of trees following annual monitoring or changes in forest cover.

This project has a crediting period of ten years, divided into two 5-year phases. Funding has been secured for the first phase (2011 to 2015). For the project to continue for the second phase (2016 to 2020), further funding needs to be arranged. After each successful annual monitoring period, payments for ecosystem service benefits will be made. In accordance with the Plan Vivo Standard, these ecosystem service benefits have been calculated in terms of tCO<sub>2</sub>e, although communities are contracted for ecosystem services rather than tCO<sub>2</sub>e. In the first phase, the tCO<sub>2</sub>e generated by the project are estimated to be: 59,504 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for Nkolenyeng Community Forest and 24,908 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for Nomedjoh Community Forest. However, the payments

being made now for 'ecosystem service benefits' are not for tCO<sub>2</sub>e, but are pilot payments for ecosystem service benefits (see Section 2.4). In the second phase, the ecosystem service benefits, in terms of tCO<sub>2</sub>e, are estimated to be: 19,822 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for Nkolenyeng Community Forest and 194,438 tCO<sub>2</sub>e for Nomedjoh Community Forest.

# 1 Aims and objectives

The overarching goal of the Community PES Project is to positively assist communities of Cameroon, and potentially the broader Congo Basin region, to protect forest resources by finding ways to integrate payments for ecosystem services (PES) and community forest management. The land-use intervention that will generate ecosystem service benefits is Avoided Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ADD).

The specific objectives are to:

1. Maintain forest cover, and thereby maintain carbon stocks, biodiversity and the capacity of forests to provide products, protect watersheds, and prevent soil erosion
2. Improve and strengthen community forest management by equipping communities with the knowledge and capacity to manage and protect their environmental assets
3. Provide alternative income generating activities that help alleviate poverty and improve livelihoods and the ability of communities to cope with institutional, economic and natural resource changes
4. Help develop technical capacity at all levels and support the reform or formulation of appropriate national community forestry legislation and institutions across the region
5. Derive practical lessons for future community-based REDD-like initiatives and feed these into relevant regional and international REDD policy processes

## 2 Site information, activities and carbon benefit

### 2.1 Project location, land type and boundaries

This Community PES project is a pilot project of the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). It will result in a full pilot PES project at the Nkolenyeng Community Forest and the Nomedjoh Community Forest.

#### Nkolenyeng

The Nkolenyeng Community Forest is part of the Djoum Sub-Division of Dja and Lobo in the Southern Region of Cameroon (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The area of the Nkolenyeng Community forest is approximately 1,042 hectares.



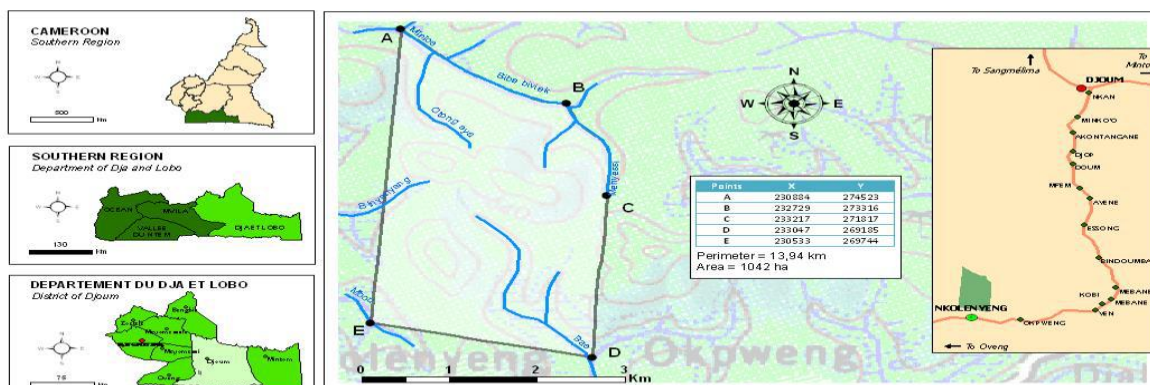


Figure 1: Nkolenyeng community forest boundary

### Nomedjoh

The Nomedjoh Community Forest is part of the Lomié Sub-Division of Upper Nyong Division in the East Region of Cameroon (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The total area of the forest is about 1,950 hectares.

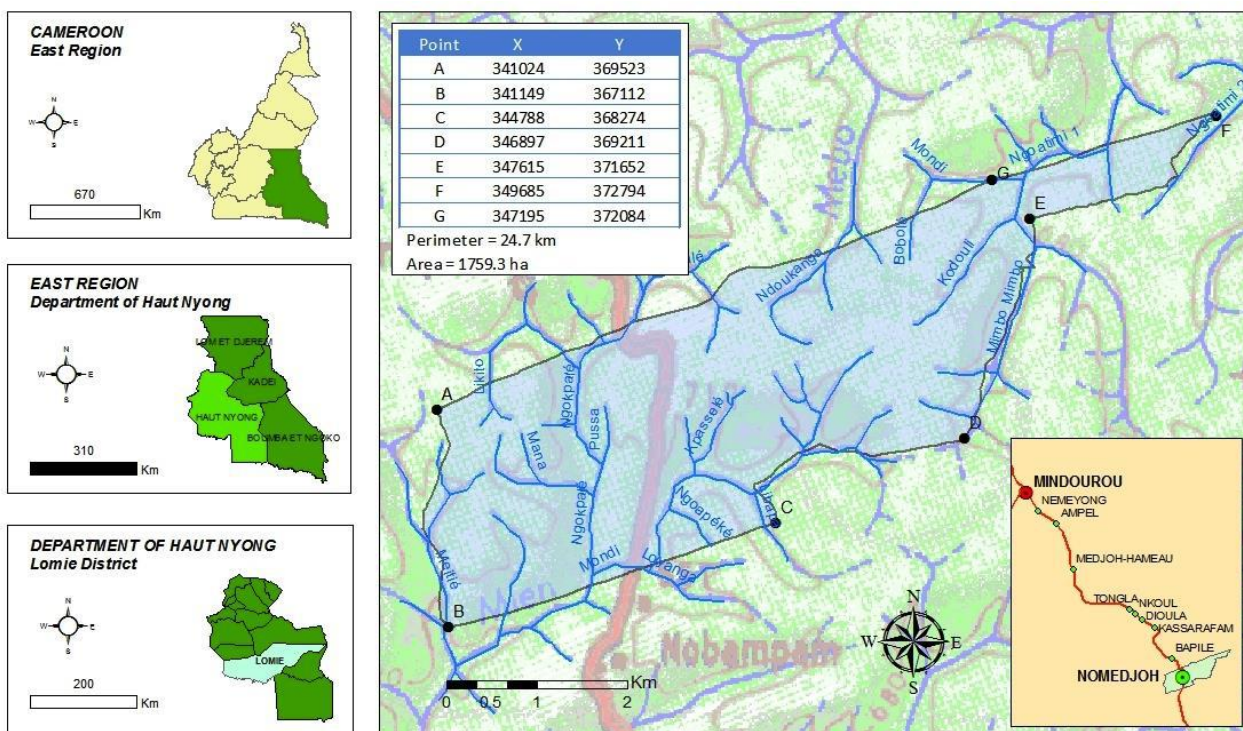


Figure 2: Nomedjoh community forest boundary

## 2.2 Description of the project area

The Community Forests of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh are under threat of deforestation and degradation. Protect activities have been designed to maintain forest cover for the benefit of communities as well as any rare or endangered species that may remain in the forest.

### Nkolenyeng

The general forest type is mixed evergreen and deciduous humid forest. Some areas of forest are permanently flooded, while others are well drained. Forest cover is mostly dense, except in areas where there have been clearances for fields and where village tracks are located (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

The Nkolenyeng Community Forest has been stratified as follows:

- Futfé – relatively undisturbed forest
- Mféfé Afane – degraded forest that has been logged for commercial purposes
- Ekotok – regenerating forest with fallows and crop areas
- Zam – permanently flooded forest
- Banana plantations and newly opened cocoa fields – fields planted with bananas and areas that have been recently cleared and inter-planted with cocoa trees
- Agricultural fields – areas currently under cultivation with food crops
- Cocoa plantations – Established cocoa plantations under the cover of large trees

The principal driver of deforestation and forest degradation is clearance of land to establish mixed agricultural fields for subsistence and commercial use.

The establishment of new (variously shaded) cocoa fields as well as banana fields for subsistence and commercial purposes are activities that result in thinning or more substantive removal of forest cover.

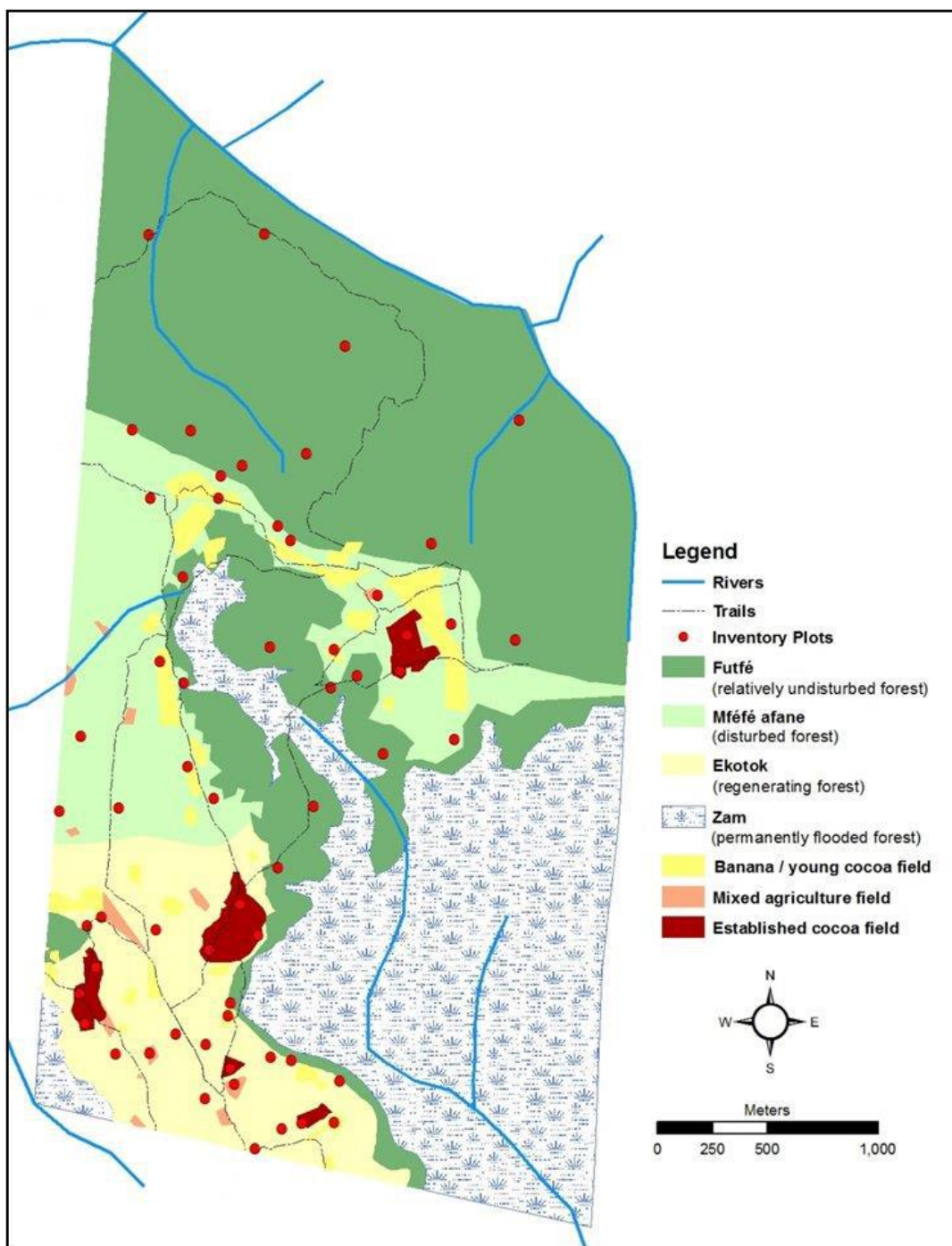


Figure 3: Nkolenyeng community forest land cover

### Nomedjoh

The general forest type is mixed evergreen and deciduous humid forest. Within the Nomedjoh community forest, the banks of streams are fairly steep and there are no large areas of marshy flooded forest (**Error! Reference source not found.**).



The Nomedjoh Community Forest has been stratified as follows:

- Mandja – relatively undisturbed forest area
- Wondouo – regenerating forest where fallows are located
- Mbondjo – deforested, where agricultural fields are located

The principal driver of deforestation and forest degradation is clearances of land by in-migrants (who are not Baka, but other Bantu-speaking ethnic groups), to establish mixed agricultural fields. Clearances are also made by community members to establish mixed agricultural fields mainly for subsistence.

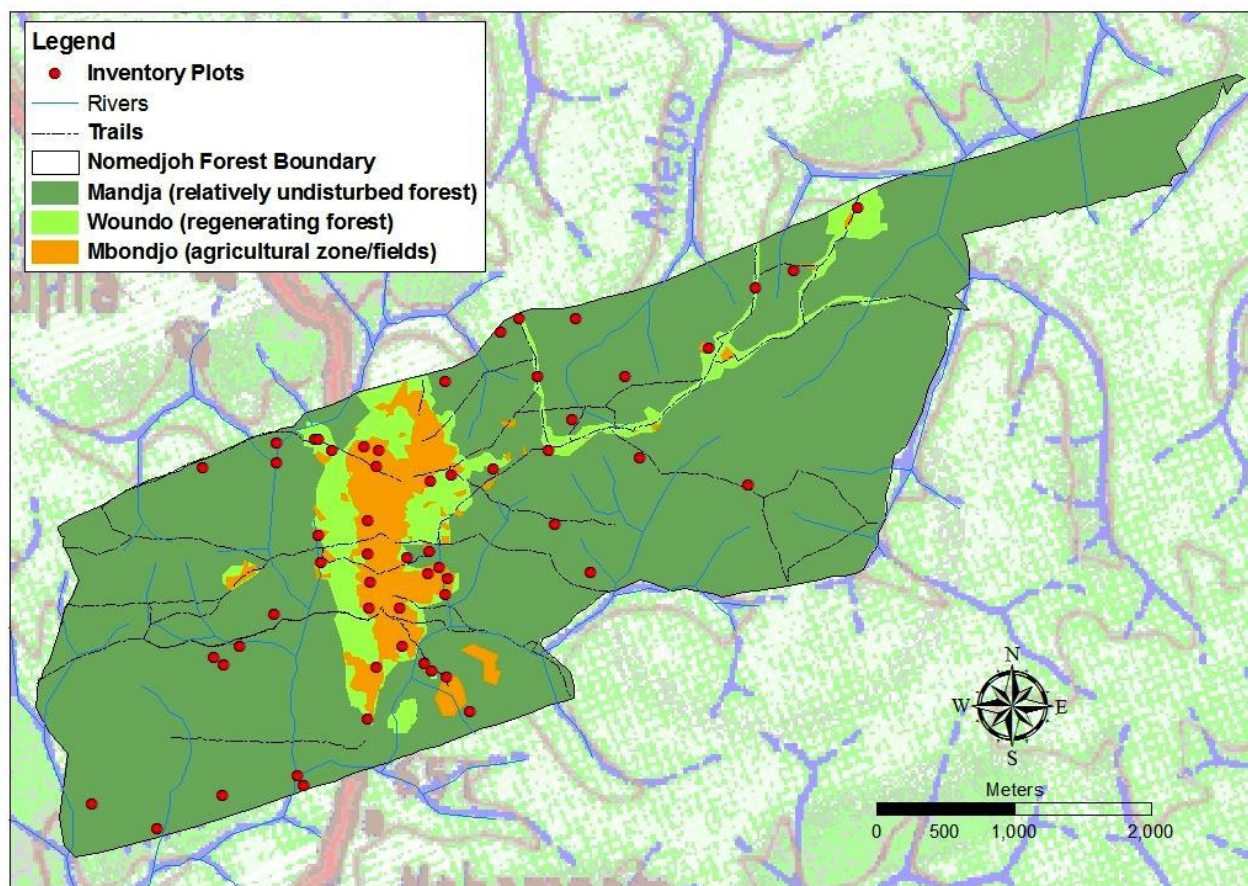


Figure 4: Nomedjoh community forest land cover

### Project activities

Project activities undertaken in the project area include: forest protection, sustainable forest use management, sustainable agriculture and agroforestry, and NTFP enterprises.

### Forest protection

- (1) Forest reserve zoning, boundary marking
- (2) Patrolling, monitoring, recording, mapping deforestation and degradation
- (3) Community training about protection of forest reserve, awareness raising about process to address incursions

### Sustainable forest use and management

- (1) Enrichment planting and tree planting in old fallows, new fallows, cocoa farms, fields
- (2) Reopening abandoned fallows, lengthening fallow periods
- (3) Reduced fallow clearance and burning, retention of forest cover when opening new fields
- (4) Monitoring and mapping of agricultural expansion, approval process for agricultural expansion, controls on logging, controls on raffia / palm wine production and wild honey collection

### Sustainable agriculture and agroforestry

- (1) Improved agriculture - Crop mixtures, multi-level cropping, new crops, green manure, improved tillage and plantain propagation, agricultural intensification / permaculture training
- (2) Improved cocoa production - Pruning of dead/diseased branches, burying of diseased cocoa pods, planting new rootstock, grafting new higher yielding/more disease resistant varieties, more efficient/effective crop spraying, improved drying and storing techniques
- (3) Improved agroforestry - Fruit trees, shade trees, nitrogen fixers (could be shade trees/bushes), community nurseries for citrus and forest trees

### NTFP enterprises

- (1) Beekeeping - Beekeeping training, hive construction, marketing training
- (2) Improved collection and marketing of existing forest products - Moabi, Mbalaka, wild mango

## 2.3 Description of the Plan Vivo technical specifications

This ADD Plan Vivo technical specification is applicable to community forests in Cameroon and other countries in the Congo Basin. The participatory forest survey may be applied to small-scale community-based projects where a community or groups of communities have; collective land use rights over the project area, have knowledge of the forest resources, and are actively using the forest for agriculture and timber extraction.

Table 1: Technical specification

Title	Type of activity	Objectives	Brief description
ADD	Forest conservation and forest management	Forest conservation	Maintain and enhance carbon stocks in standing forest

## 2.4 Duration of project activities and crediting period

This project has a crediting period of ten years, divided into two 5-year phases. Funding has been secured for the first phase (2011 to 2015). For the project to continue for the second phase (2016 to 2020), further funding needs to be arranged. After each successful annual monitoring, payments for ecosystem services will be made.

Importantly, the payments being made now are pilot payments provided for by DFID. The specific purpose of the payments is to pilot PES mechanism in community forests in Cameroon. Communities are contracted for ecosystem services, rather than for tCO<sub>2</sub>e specifically. Should the project wish to sell Plan Vivo

certificates, it would be necessary to generate new contracts with the communities. This would require one of two approaches: 1) an assessment of how much communities have already been paid, combined with the use of the average price of Plan Vivo certificates, to understand how much tCO<sub>2</sub>e communities have already sold; 2) entering into a specific carbon-centric contract which would not consider the ecosystem service benefits that communities have already been paid (as the community contracts are not specifically for carbon) but would use the carbon benefits stated in the technical specification.

For the initial 5-year period, communities have signed contracts to protect the Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh Community Forests (Appendix D). The crediting period is 5 years for the first phase. Once funding for the second 5-year period has been arranged, the communities may renew their contract to protect the Community Forests. The crediting period will be an additional 5 years for the second phase. At the end of 10 years, the baseline will be reset.

## 2.5 Carbon benefits of project activities

The changes in carbon stocks expected under the baseline and project scenarios as well as the project carbon benefits for Nkolenyeng Community Forest and Nomedjoh Community Forest are described in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of baseline and project carbon uptake or emissions reductions per hectare over crediting period

Site	Title of technical spec	1. Baseline carbon uptake/ emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> e / ha)	2. Carbon uptake/ emissions reductions with project (t CO <sub>2</sub> e / ha)	3. Expected losses from leakage (t CO <sub>2</sub> e / ha)	4. Deduction of risk buffer (t CO <sub>2</sub> e / ha)	Net carbon benefit (t CO <sub>2</sub> e / ha) = 2 – (1+3 +4)
Nkolenyeng	ADD	154	49	12	0	93
Nomedjoh	ADD	140	15	0	0	125

## 2.6 Process and requirements for registering plan vivos

In this case, plan vivos are land management plans for each Community Forest. Before creating a plan vivo, the community must register their Community Forest by submitting a Simple Management Plan (SMP) to the government of Cameroon. Registering SMPs with the government establishes long-term user rights to forest resources (including carbon) for each community under the 1994 Forest Law. For more information, please see sections 4.2 Ownership of carbon benefits and 8 Compliance with the law.

The SMPs of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh have been updated to incorporate the communities' interest in maintaining forest cover and receiving benefit from standing forest. Each SMP divides the forest into sectors and outlines management activities that will be used to reduce the impact on forest resources. Additionally, CED has facilitated each SMP with community participants to ensure that they meet technical requirements, livelihood needs, and will not endanger food security or displace other land-uses. The SMPs will be made available to the Plan Vivo Foundation and the validator upon request.

PES contracts between CED and the legal forest management entity of each Community Forest work in concert with the SMPs. PES contracts define the roles and responsibilities for forest protection activities, forest monitoring, and payment schedule. Benefit sharing agreements between the legal forest

management entity and Community Activity Groups (CAGs) define community activity groups and social benefit groups. Please see Appendix D for the PES contracts and benefit-sharing agreements.

Before additional communities in the area may enter the project, additional funding must be obtained. For a new community to enter the project, they will first demonstrate land use rights by registering their Community Forest with a Community Forest Management Agreement and a Simple Management Plan with the Forests Administration of Cameroon.

## 3 Project governance and financial structure

### 3.1 Project organisational structure

As of July 2012, CED is managing all aspects of the project and supporting the communities of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh.

This project is the result of a partnership between Centre pour L' Environnement et le Développement (CED), Bioclimate Research & Development (Bioclimate), and Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK). CED is the project coordinator. Bioclimate has been integrally involved in project development and has managed the DFID grant that has made the development of the project possible. Bioclimate's role has tapered off as the development process has drawn to a close (Table 3). RFUK's direct involvement in management and implementation aspects of the project ended following the initial phase of project development.

Table 3: Project organisations

	Organisation/ group(s) involved	Type of group/ organisation and legal status	Brief description of activities
Project development support during project establishment	Bioclimate Research & Development	Not for profit company registered in the United Kingdom	Overarching project management and technical assistance
Project administration and community engagement	Center for the Environment and Development (CED)	Non-Governmental Organization based in Yaoundé, Cameroon	Project management, administration, technical aspects, community engagement and support
Nkolenyeng Community Forest management group	AFHAN	Community Forest legal entity	Management of activity implementation
Nomedjoh Community Forest management group	BumaBoKpode Association	Community Forest legal entity	Management of activity implementation

#### Bioclimate Research & Development Limited

Bioclimate Research and Development Limited (Bioclimate) is a not for profit company incorporated by the Registrar of Companies for Scotland, Edinburgh, 22 February 2002, under the Companies Act of 1985. The registration number is SC228400.

Bioclimate has been substantially involved in project development during project set up but has not been involved in the project since July 2012. Bioclimate's aim is to transfer skills and knowledge to organisations



and make it affordable for them to develop ecosystem programmes and projects with rural communities. At the heart of these initiatives is a drive to reduce poverty and environmental degradation, and create greater social and ecological resilience. Most programmes and projects link payment mechanisms to the generation of ecosystem services in order to create a direct and positive relationship between actions, results and benefits.

Bioclimate has three main areas of activity:

1. **Project development and support**

Bioclimate practically assists organizations throughout all stages of programme and project development, including the assessment and scoping of opportunities, preparation and planning, government engagement and support building, community engagement and capacity strengthening, technical development, the definition and implementation of project activities, and the establishment of mechanisms for making payments to communities for ecosystem services.

2. **Training and project tools**

Bioclimate assesses organizational and community development needs and work with partners to strengthen capacity. Bioclimate creates tools to make project development and management straightforward. Bioclimate also helps partners identify and make effective use of all available technical methodologies, project certification systems, standards and tools to support project development and management.

3. **Research and analysis**

Bioclimate collaborates with partners and governments to understand, work with, and influence land use policy

Most of Bioclimates' work is focused on helping develop projects so communities can manage ecosystems and natural resources more sustainably. Most projects involve payments for ecosystem services (PES). Bioclimate is assisting, or has recently assisted, partners to develop community-led PES projects in Cameroon, Guinea, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Philippines and Sierra Leone. It has also undertaken project work focused on research, the provision of training and tools, or monitoring and evaluation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Republic of Congo. Bioclimate has also developed a generic community REDD methodology that can be used in any country.

## **Centre for the Environment and Development**

CED is an environmental and development NGO. It was founded in 1994 and has established itself as a leading advocate of community forests in Cameroon and the broader region. It has extensive practical experience in the legal and technical groundwork and social mobilisation needed to secure community land tenure and government approval for community forests. It is currently working on the reform of community forest management in Cameroon and ways in which payments for ecosystem services can help shore up community forests and livelihoods and underpin the role of communities in REDD policy frameworks. CED is also spearheading the NGO contribution to the FLEGT process. CED has received multiple international accolades, including a Goldman Environmental Prize in 1999 for its founder and Executive Director, Samuel Nguiffo.

A dedicated Community PES project team has been established within CED in order to coordinate the

project (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The regional coordinator, Samuel Nnah, coordinates all aspects of the project and reports to the Plan Vivo Foundation. Project oversight is provided by the director of CED, Samuel Nguiffo. The regional coordinator is supported by site coordinators Mustapha Njaou and Brigitte Anziom, administrator Anne-Marie Assembe, technical facilitator Rodrique Ntiba, and community workers. Please see Appendix A for staff contacts.

In Nkolenyeng there are three community field workers - one Fang man (Jean-Francois Oyono) and woman (Florence Oyeandang), and one Baka man (Jean-Paul Ondoua) from the neighbouring Baka village. In Nomedjoh there are four community field workers - three men and one woman. They are respectively Ndjema Bazor, Pascal Nkelo, Clarisse Angoussa and Assia Jeanne.

CED has signed PES contracts with the Community Forest Management groups of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh, AFHAN and the Buma Bo Kopode. Baka heads of families, known as “kobos”, have been integrated into the Community Forest Management group as advisors to build on this customary institution. Kobos are normally the eldest man and woman in each family. At each community, the Community Forest Management groups will provide oversight and report progress to CED. Within each community, participants will carry out activities as part of community activity groups (CAGs) or share in benefits as part of social benefit groups (SBGs).

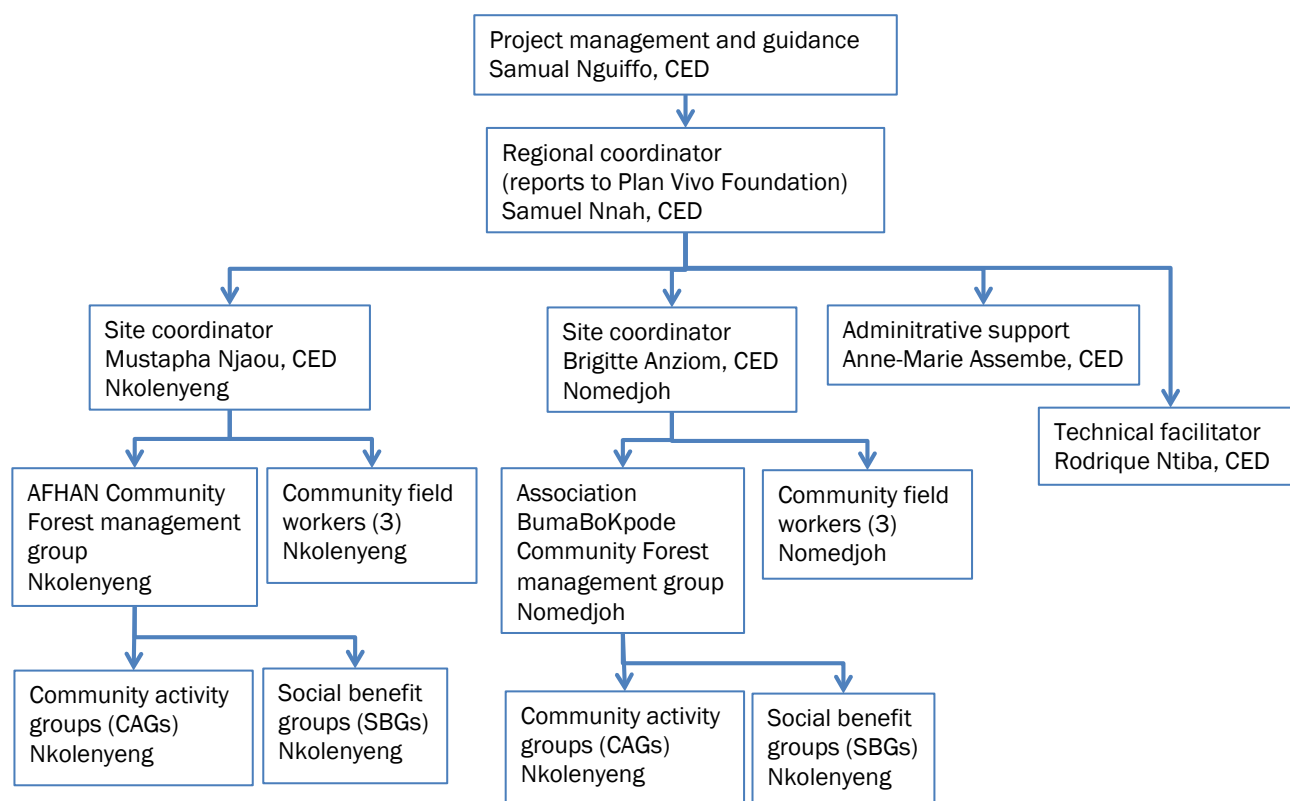


Figure 5: Project organisational structure

## 3.2 Relationship to national organisations

The Community PES project complements Cameroon's legal framework that recognises community forests. It builds on this recognition by integrating PES into the management of community forests and both Community Forest SMPs have been approved and registered at the national level with MINFOF.

Throughout the project development process project plans have been communicated to local and national authorities to ensure that an inclusive and transparent process was followed. At the start of the project, a National Seminar was held in Yaoundé (24 June, 2009) to generate interest and build an understanding of the project concept, aims, development process, and challenges faced by community forests. Seminar participants included representatives of ministries, forest communities, multilateral organisations, international and local NGOs and, researchers and academics, and the media. Please see Appendix F for the list of attendees to the national seminar.

At the seminar, the statutory bodies whose support for the project is most critical, namely the Ministry of Wildlife and Forestry (MINFOF) and the Ministry of the Environment (MINEP), were encouraged to engage with the project and benefit from learning opportunities it can provide. Delegates from both MINFOF and MINEP have visited the sites, shown support for the project, and been involved in local-level trainings.

As part of field visits to the community sites Sam Nnah, the project coordinator, paid regular visits to local authorities. At the contract signing ceremony, where PES contracts were signed between CED and AFHAN and Buma Bo Kpodé, local government officials attended and showed open support for the goals and objectives of the PES project. The local officials included representatives from MINFOF, the sub-prefect, and the mayor of the regional town (Djoum and Lomie).

## 3.3 Project financial structure (sharing of benefits)

### Financial structure

PES funds are held in a dedicated account administered by Bioclimate. These funds will be released on an annual basis following monitoring. The funds are released to a dedicated PES account administered by CED. CED then makes payments directly to the community bank accounts.

Payments for the civic projects have been made in kind as CED or Bioclimate paid for materials and costs and submitted receipts to the community. The annual monitoring report submitted to Plan Vivo by CED is composed of the annual forest monitoring results, and their relation to the forest monitoring indicators in each community's contract.

The division of the PES funds are shown below in **Error! Reference source not found..**

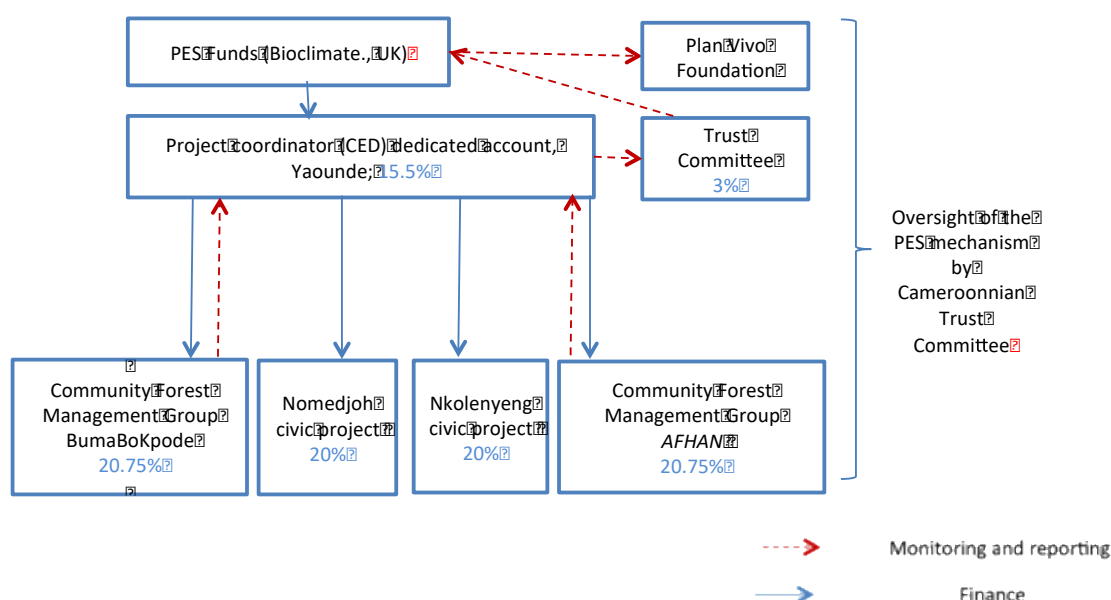


Figure 6: Division of PES funds

As part of the project development funding DFID budgeted £100,000 for Payments for Ecosystem Services to pilot the PES mechanism. Of this total 15.5% will go to monitoring and coordination of these activities (for monitoring and coordination by CED), and 3% will go to the Trust Committee (Appendix I). The remaining amount will be divided between the two communities. Based on the benefit-sharing agreement, each community will spend approximately 20% on their community-level development project ('civic project') and the remaining 20.75% will be paid in 5 annual payments if performance indicators have been obtained.

To date, the two communities have already benefited from their civic projects, both of which were within one thousand pounds of their initial budget. As **Error! Reference source not found.** illustrates, of the amount received by the Community Forest legal entity, a minimum of 15% of these funds should be directed to the social benefit groups over the five years.

### Benefit sharing

The Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh communities have very similar benefit-sharing mechanisms. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows the benefit-sharing mechanism for Nkolenyeng, and the equivalent design can be found in the Nomedjoh PES contract. The roles and responsibilities of the Community Forest management groups and community groups are described in the benefit-sharing contracts for each site (Appendix D). In the benefit sharing agreement, the Community Forest management group oversees the distribution of benefits to community activity groups (CAGs), who implement activities, and social benefit groups (SBGs), composed of vulnerable community members (e.g, elderly) who receive special consideration and support.



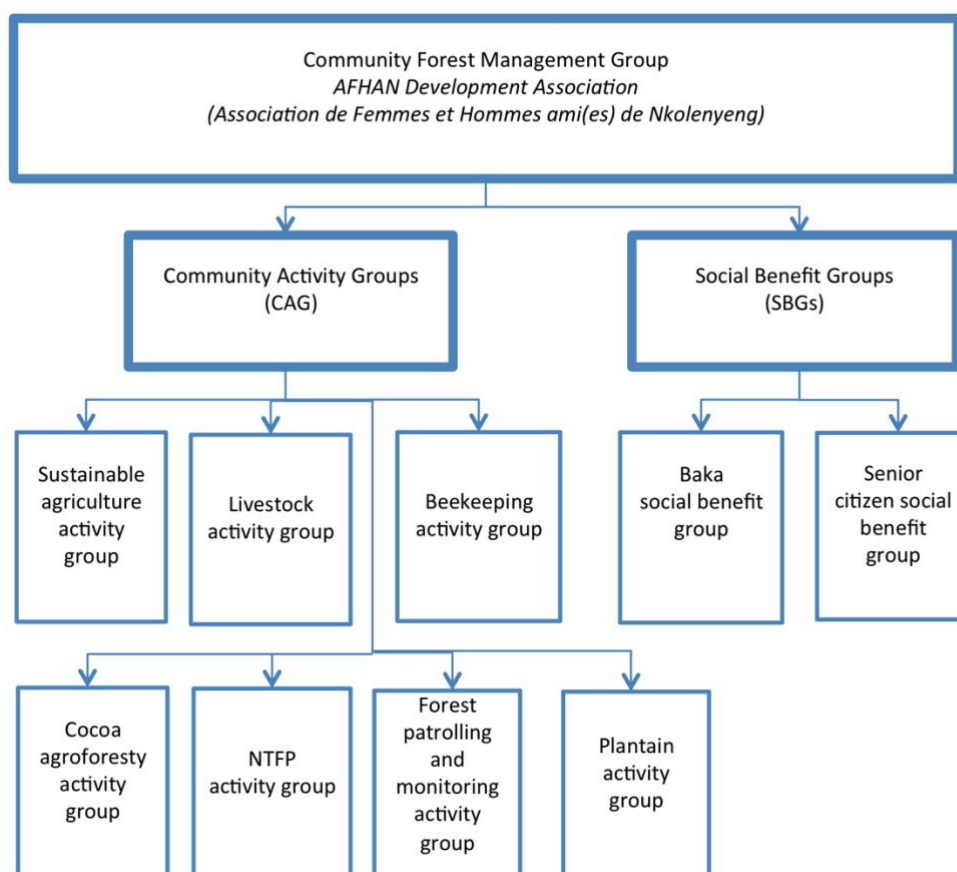


Figure 7: Nkolenyeng community benefit sharing

### Sustaining fairness within benefit sharing

In order to ensure that fairness in benefit-sharing is continued after the initial project development, ground-rules were established with the community and integrated into the benefit-sharing contracts. These rules were established for all the community groups, including: the management group (the legal entity representing the Community Forest); the activity groups (livelihood activities); and the social benefit groups (groups identified as vulnerable by community members). Everyone in the community has the opportunity to join any group they wish.

Benefit-sharing ground rules:

- All community groups all have the opportunity to submit proposals to the legal entity on an annual basis, and these proposals will be considered by the legal entity, and presented to the community
- No individual can capture a PES payment or the benefits arising from a Community Group
- The legal entity must show CED on an annual basis how the most marginalized and vulnerable community members have benefited from community groups' activities
- All community members should be encouraged to be in a group, with an emphasis on ensuring that the most vulnerable community members have priority access to the group and associated training
- All community groups must share skills within the group and to the wider community

## 4 Community and livelihood information

### 4.1 Target communities

Target groups involved in this project are the community members of the villages of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh, both of which have community forests.

#### Nkolenyeng

##### Description of cultural and socioeconomic context

Nkolenyeng is a well-established, predominantly agricultural community. A recent census estimates the population of Nkolenyeng to be 555 inhabitants, 56% of whom are women. Young people under the age of 20 make up 60% of the population. There are two distinct ethnic groups present in the community: the Fang (92% of the population) and the Baka (8% of the population). Seasonal workers come to the village to work on cocoa fields, mainly between the months of March to December. The core population rises to as many as 700 people during the cocoa season, particularly the harvesting and sales period towards the end of the calendar year.

The village of Nkolenyeng has a government primary school but the school enrolment rate for children aged 5 – 15 years is low (23%). The village also has a recently constructed but very basic health centre, a borehole for the supply of safe drinking water, three Christian churches for worship and five small shops that sell some basic commodities.

##### Main sources of income

Cocoa is the most important source of income for the Fang community members of Nkolenyeng. Other income generating activities include the sale of bushmeat, livestock (pigs and sheep) raffia wine, plantain, peanuts, manioc, maize and macabo.

The Baka in Nkolenyeng sell little or no agricultural products. The fields they have access to barely permit them to produce sufficient food for subsistence. They often work for the Fang in exchange for clothes, food or money, and through the sale of NTFPs, in the following order of importance: bushmeat, raffia wine, rattan (basket production), honey and raffia tree grubs.

##### Relevant local governance structures

The Nkolenyeng community possesses stable leadership and organisational capacity at various levels. It has demonstrated an ability to act co-operatively. Common initiative groups (GICs) are important community structures. In these groups, labour is pooled, and harvested products are sold in quantity to take advantage of the benefits of larger-scale selling. The primary objective of these groups is to improve production and sales of agricultural products and NTFPs.

#### Nomedjoh

##### Description of cultural and socioeconomic context

Nomedjoh is predominantly a Baka community, with a strong tradition of hunter-gathering combined with a

growing emphasis on agriculture. The community is in state of transition from a nomadic, forest-dwelling lifestyle to a settled one in which community members remain in the village throughout most of the year. A recent census estimates the population of Nomedjoh to be 896 inhabitants, including those in forest camps in the surrounding forest. Women make up 51% of the inhabitants, and young people under the age of 25 make up 59% of the population. The social structure is based on strong clans composed of large families, usually headed by the eldest person in the family. Heads of families, men or women, are referred to as “kobos”. Traditionally the community has placed more emphasis on age than formal designations of authority as the basis of respect.

#### Main sources of income

The Baka community at Nomedjoh depend heavily on Bantu communities for income opportunities, mostly from agricultural labour. Other sources of income are from hunting, making and selling baskets from rattan, selling NTFPs Ndo’o - also called bush mango, amvout, mbalaka, raffia wine, wild honey, and raffia tree grubs).

#### Relevant local governance structures

Organisational capacity of the Nomedjoh community in a formal sense is not strong, and experience in dealing with finance and enterprise is limited. The culture is dualistic, with traditional cultural values and practices coexisting – sometimes uneasily – with new and emergent lifestyle aspects, attitudes and views. A dichotomy in attitudes between young and old places strains on social cohesion.

## 4.2 Ownership of carbon benefits

Community Forests are part of the Cameroonian national non-permanent forest estate. By legal agreement between the State of Cameroon (represented by the Senior Divisional officer) and the village communities, Community Forests are managed by the communities with technical assistance from the Forestry Administration. The community management agreement is renewable after an initial 25-year period, and is accompanied by a Simple Management Plan. The Simple Management Plan is revised every five years, and sets out the activities to be undertaken (MINFOF, 1998).

Communities in Cameroon hold exclusive rights to the products of community forests - wood, non-wood, wildlife, fishery resources and special products. Carbon is not explicitly mentioned in the legislation on community forests, but the fact that carbon is simply a function of biomass is a sufficient basis for attributing carbon associated with project activities to communities responsible for carrying out project activities.

Community Forest Agreements for Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh were signed in 2010 and 2005 respectively. Awareness and recognition of the Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh Community Forests by the public and statutory bodies is strong and undisputed. There are no disputes over the lands concerned and no contestation of the rights of the communities to manage these lands.

For each community, the plan vivo land management plan and PES contract correspond with the forest management guidelines in the Community Forest simple management plans (SMPs).

The documents showing land use rights for the Community Forests are:

- Nkolenyeng community management agreement
- Nkolenyeng SMP

- Nomedjoh community management agreement
- Nomedjoh SMP

### 4.3 Socioeconomic context and anticipated impacts

The communities of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh depend on their Community Forests for their livelihoods. They use their land for hunting, gathering, growing crops (maize; plantain; cassava; coco yam; ground-nuts), and raising livestock (Table 4).

Table 4: Socioeconomic characteristics of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh

	Nomedjoh	Nkolenyeng
Population	896	571, increasing to 700 in March-December due to migrant workers
Ethnic groups	850 Baka 46 Bantu (Bamileke; Bitouri; Bafia, Maka, Nsimi)	498 Fang 40 Baka Migrant workers
Literacy	Low enrolment rate for children. Primary school and dormitory which houses approximately 20 girls	Low enrolment rate for children aged 5-15 is low (23%). Primary school.
Distance to closest town	25km to Lomié	43km to Djoum
Date of signing of Community Forest agreement	2010	2005
Community Forest area	1,950ha	1,042ha
Status of Community Forest	Previous illegal logging by encroaching private contractors. No small-scale timber extraction by community.  Relatively intact. Presence of high-value species such as Moabi ( <i>Baillonella toxisperma</i> )	Previous logging by Malaysian company and small-scale timber extraction by community.  Relatively degraded.
Main livelihood activities	Gathering Hunting Arable crops (maize; plantain; cassava; coco yam; ground-nuts) Agriculture labour and 'jobs' for neighbouring Bantu communities Artisanal products (mats; baskets)	Cocoa farming Arable crops (maize; plantain; cassava; coco yam; ground-nuts). Palm wine harvesting Hunting Fishing Small commerce Livestock (sheep; pigs; chickens)
Wellbeing indicators selected by community	(1) A field that produces enough for the whole family (no hunger in household) (2) Lamp (3) House with tin roof (4) Send children to school (5) Enough pots and kitchen utensils (6) Agricultural material (7) Good clothes	(1) A cocoa field producing more than a tonne a year for the household (~10 sacks) (2) Several fallows (3) A house made with cement or mixture of cement and earth (4) The means to afford local health care (5) Possession of a generator and electrical appliances



	Nomedjoh	Nkolenyeng
	(8) A good husband/ wife who is not an alcoholic	(6) Possession of a motorbike
	(9) To have the means available when there is a family problem	(7) Livestock (at least 4 sheep, two pigs and some chickens)
		(8) Educating your children
		(9) Ability to pay contribution for village water-point

### Impacts of project activities

Project activities are designed to protect forest, encourage sustainable forest use management, to introduce sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices, and NTFP practices. Over time, wellbeing indicators will be monitored to measure the impacts of project activities (Table 4).

## 4.4 Community-led design and livelihood benefits

Throughout the establishment of the Community PES project, the Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh communities have been involved in decision-making about land use and livelihood activities. After volunteering to undertake forest protection activities, the communities have formed groups to carry out supporting livelihood activities.

Community members have undertaken mapping and biomass inventories. These processes have motivated communities and encouraged a sense of ownership of the project and responsibility for its success. As a result, community members have essentially led the process of developing near-term and longer-term ideas and plans for forest protection, livelihood activities and technical aspects.

The process used to identify alternative livelihood activities was Participatory Land-Cover Change Mapping (PLCM). In PLCM, participants made a sketch map of the current land cover types in their community forest and then mapped areas that were likely to be degraded or deforested if current land use practices continued. Discussions about why and where land use change was expected led to the identification alternative livelihood activities to reduce deforestation and degradation. All community members are encouraged to participate in livelihood activity groups.

The project site coordinators facilitate community involvement and have been holding an average of four meetings with communities or community representatives each week. Between October 2009 and March 2010, CED coordinated a total of approximately 37 field visits to Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh.

Community meetings and workshops have: allowed the identification of community development priorities, led to decisions on the distribution of PES and enabled technical aspects of forest protection to be discussed. CED and the project partners have played a support and guidance role in these processes, and have avoided directing decisions and planning towards predetermined goals.

### Continuing activities

CED will coordinate the project for the remainder of the project period between June 2012 and September 2015. During this period, CED staff will provide support for the livelihood activities, governance of the PES finance, and forest monitoring.

Three staff members will deliver this support; a community coordinator, an agroforestry technician, and a

forestry technician. The community coordinator (Bridgette Anizom) will support the community groups (CGs) with their annual planning, division of payments between groups, and internal monitoring of the use of funds. Secondly, the agroforestry technician (Njayou Mama Moustapha) will provide technical assistance. And thirdly, the forestry technician (Rodrigue Ntiba), will work with the community to carry out monitoring.

## 4.5 Capacity building and training

There are a number of specific training activities that the project has conducted which have significantly increased community members' ability to monitor and manage their forest, and to plan and develop livelihood activities. These include:

- (1) Training community members to conduct forest surveys has provided new skills such as use and application of monitoring data collection sheets and GPS units; mapping of forest sectors; conducting biomass inventories.
- (2) Training Community Activity Groups to vision and plan their proposed activities, and manage associated PES finances over the course of 6-12 months.
- (3) Training in the use of participatory methods to assess livelihood and wellbeing change, to assimilate results, and to facilitate meetings and focus groups.
- (4) Training in the technical aspects of livelihood activities

In addition to these formal trainings, capacity has been increased in both communities through continual meetings and engagement over subjects such as forestry contracts; land-use planning; local development issues and governance of resources. These meetings and work have increased the communities understanding of contracts, and their capacity to assess the costs and benefits of different land uses and activities.

The involvement of the patrolling and monitoring community group in continued forest monitoring will increase their capacity to carry out the monitoring independently, and is part of a transfer of responsibility to this group. However, to avoid falsification of results, it will always be necessary to have a verifier who can check the data collected by this group. Both legal entities (AFHAN and Buma bo Kpodé) will also assume responsibility for the internal community monitoring (monitoring CGs activities, as outlined in the community group-legal entity contract), for supporting CGs in their planning of activities, and for decision-making regarding management of the Community Forest. While the two legal entities have some capacity to perform these roles (particularly AFHAN), it will take several years for the process (reporting on activities; planning the next year's activities; receiving and dividing funds; and then carrying out activities) to be institutionalized. The Community Coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that community members understand their roles and responsibilities in this respect.

## 4.6 Monitoring livelihood and socioeconomic impacts

A centrepiece of the project is the assessment and monitoring of project impacts on livelihoods. A number of steps were undertaken to understand the socioeconomic context of the village and establish a context-specific livelihood baseline from which changes in livelihood conditions in each village can be measured. The primary steps taken are outlined below.

### Village census

The village census was completed for both sites in 2010. During the census, information collected from every household and individual in the community included: age; level of education; principal reported

occupation; gender; clan (Baka)/family (Fang). Data on visitors and family members living outside of the village were also collected. Prior to the census a locally appropriate household definition was generated (Riddell et al. 2010) which represents a unit of production and sharing of resources, rather than purely living arrangements.

### Participatory Wellbeing Assessment (PWA)

The PWA was completed in December 2010. In each site, a focus group was used to select wellbeing indicators. The focus group contained both men and women, elderly and youth, and aimed to facilitate discussion about local meanings of wellbeing. These discussions led to the generation of wellbeing indicators in both communities (Socioeconomic indicators are measured using a participatory wellbeing assessment (PWA) and census every five years, a household and asset income survey every four years, and annual group discussions to understand change (Table 5).

Table 5), and the categorisation of all households in the village based on these indicators. Categorisation was based purely on the number of indicators (as suggested by participants), rather than relative importance of each indicator.

### Household and asset income survey

Households for the survey (45 in each site) were chosen using stratified random sampling. Households were stratified for wellbeing category (based on the PWA, 15 households were chosen from each wellbeing category), and in Nkolenyeng, for ethnicity (all Baka households sampled, and 30 Fang households). The survey used 12-month recall of major income sources (with income including all forms of production) and gathered data on household assets listed as important during the PWA.

### Annual group discussions

Group discussions will be held on an annual basis to discuss local perceptions of the socioeconomic impacts of the project. These group discussions will be used to understand the changes occurring in the community, peoples' interpretations of the reasons behind these changes, and solutions to any negative project impacts.

The discussions will be carried out in a disaggregated manner, including seven principal groups in Nkolenyeng (young Fang men; young Fang women; elderly Fang men; elderly Fang women; Baka men; Baka women; migrant workers). In Nomedjoh, the same template will be used, working with five principal groups (young Baka men; young Baka women; elderly Baka men; elderly Baka women; Bantu inhabitants). Participatory techniques including impact-mapping and H-forms will also be used to structure discussions about certain project activities.

Socioeconomic indicators are measured using a participatory wellbeing assessment (PWA) and census every five years, a household and asset income survey every four years, and annual group discussions to understand change (Table 5).

Table 5: Socioeconomic monitoring plan

	PWA	Income and asset survey	Census	Group discussions
Indicator	Locally defined wellbeing	Income and assets	Community demographics	
Sample	Mixed focus groups to define indicators; all households (complete sample)	90 households, (45/site) chosen through stratified (by wellbeing and ethnicity) random sampling	Complete sample	Seven groups in Nkolenyeng; five in Nomedjoh. In addition, members of specific Community Activity Groups and legal entity
Data output	Classification of all households into wellbeing categories + indicators of wellbeing for each household	Income and assets/household	Village population and composition	Qualitative, emic understanding of change
Year 0 – 2010	√		√	
Year 1 – 2011		√		
Year 2 – 2012				√
Year 3 – 2013				√
Year 4 – 2014				√
Year 5 – 2015	√	√	√	√

## 5 Ecosystem impacts and monitoring

The objective of avoiding deforestation is to maintain forest cover, and thereby maintain carbon stocks, biodiversity and the capacity of forests to provide products, protect watersheds, and prevent soil erosion (Table 6). Forest cover will be monitored as a proxy for biodiversity, water, and soil ecosystem services.

Table 6: Summary of expected impacts of project activities on key environmental services

Title of technical specification	Biodiversity impacts	Water availability/watershed impacts	Soil productivity/conservation impacts
ADD	Maintenance of biodiversity habitat	Protection of watersheds	Prevention of soil erosion

## 6 Additionality of project and project activities

The communities of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh require financial, technical, and institutional support to manage their Community Forests sustainably. Sustainable management of the forests is expected to bring about greater social and ecological resilience as well as a reduction in poverty through the generation of –



and payment for - ecosystem services. By contrast, a continuation of current practices would lead to further forest degradation and deforestation.

Table 7 below summarises the Additionality tests of regulatory surplus, common practice, and barriers to implementation.

Table 7: Additionality test

Additionality test	Initial scenario	Action
Regulatory surplus	No legal requirement to protect forest cover. Although there are some official limitations on the logging of certain species, in practice these are neither restrictive enough to prevent fairly significant removal of forest cover nor to restrict agricultural expansion.	Forest protection project intervention and incentives through PES
Common practice	Non-sustainable timber harvesting in community forests Non-sustainable agricultural expansion in community forests	
Implementation barriers		
Financial	No money to develop project No system of community payments for ecosystem services.	Funding secured to develop initial project, ongoing project management and transaction costs, and payments for ecosystem services.
Technical	Project coordinator without staffing complement and skills needed to implement and manage project Communities without awareness and skills to initiate project development processes and activities	Recruitment of staff and skill strengthening for the project coordinator Training undertaken with the project coordinator staff, site coordinators and community field workers include mapping; biomass inventories; participatory threat assessment and derivation of baselines; carbon quantification Project coordinator staff capacity also built through administrative, financial and data management skills transfer Development and implementation of project activities and associated extension services (forest protection and regeneration, sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture, NTFP activities)
Institutional	Organisational, cultural, social barriers	Facilitation and training to guide organise and strengthen existing community groups and structures to run project activities. Awareness to alter practices to alleviate some of the pressure from agricultural expansion on the forests

## 7 Monitoring, technical support and payment plan

### 7.1 Monitoring of performance indicators

Annual monitoring of forest cover will be used to determine the impact of the ADD project intervention on the location and extent of deforestation and forest degradation. Deforestation will be measured by the area of new fields opened. Forest degradation will be measured by the number of trees felled.

Members of the patrolling and monitoring group will conduct regular patrols to identify the location of newly opened fields and trees felled in the community forest.

On a monthly basis the community field workers gather waypoints using handheld GPS units around the perimeter of each new field and on top of stumps of felled trees. Additional observations (e.g. the name of field owner, type of tool used for deforestation, type of crops used etc.) will be recorded, and a photo taken of the site.

On a quarterly basis the Site Coordinator will summarize the GPS, observation, and photo data and submit a quarterly monitoring report to CED.

Annually, the quarterly monitoring results are aggregated and formally submitted by CED to the Trust Committee. The Trust Committee then make a decision based on the monitoring results, and write a letter to Bioclimate to release the payments to CED. CED will then transfer to payments to the communities. Bioclimate will annually pass the CED report on to the Plan Vivo Foundation for their records.

Once the project starts to sell Plan Vivo certificates, the reporting will be between the Trust Committee and the Plan Vivo Foundation.

Further detail on monitoring information and application can be found in the Avoided Deforestation and Forest Degradation technical specification document section 10.

### 7.2 Payment plan

Forest monitoring and payment system corresponds with the forest management guidelines in the Community Forest SMPs. Please see the Appendix D for the monitoring indicators, performance targets and thresholds, and corresponding payments that apply under the PES contracts. The payment plans use a traffic light system to link payments with monitoring results: green for full payment, amber for partial payment, red for zero payment. The schedule of PES payments to be made over five (5) years is shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Reporting and payment schedule

Year	Date CED monitoring report approved	Date of payment (conditional on monitoring)
1 (2011)	September 2011	February 2012
2 (2012)	September 2012	September 2012
3 (2013)	September 2013	September 2013
4 (2014)	September 2014	September 2014
5 (2015)	September 2015	September 2015

### 7.3 Technical support and review

Three CED PES team members will provide technical support for the project. A community coordinator (Bridgette Anziom) will provide specific support to the NTFP group. An agroforestry technician (Njayou Mama Moustapha) will provide technical assistance for the agroforestry activities, including the community nurseries, cocoa farming, and conservation agriculture activities. A third staff member, a forestry technician (Rodrigue Ntiba), will work with the community patrol and monitoring group to carryout bi-annual (in the first instance, annual monitoring in the last three years) forest monitoring.

The combination of these three staff members will allow a continuation of the principal PES activities. However, as the project drew on other specialist knowledge (bee-keeping; grafting techniques used by CIRAD) these staff members may have to draw on other institutions. The agroforestry technician is capable of supporting the nursery and agroforestry activities, and will be available for one month a year for each community to visit fields and nurseries and to provide advice.

## 8 Compliance with the law

The community PES project will comply with all relevant national and international regulations.

The Community PES project complements Cameroon's legal framework that recognises Community Forests under the 1994 Forest Law. It builds on this recognition by integrating PES into the management of community forests.

## 9 Certification or evaluation to other standards

This project follows the Plan Vivo Standard and System. It is not certified or evaluated under any other standards.

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## Appendices

### Appendix A: List of responsible staff and contact information

Figure 8: CED Community PES Project coordination team

Role	Name	Expertise	Contact
Project management support and guidance	Samuel Nguiffo	Management and institutional support building, director of CED	snguiffo@yahoo.fr
Regional coordinator	Samuel Nnah	Project coordination and community development	samnna@yahoo.com
Administrative support	Anne-Marie Assembe	Administration support Non-timber forest product processing and marketing	mary_annfr@yahoo.fr
Technical facilitator	Rodrigue Ntiba	Forest management	jeanrodriguentouakahntiba@yahoo.fr
Nkolenyeng site coordinator	Mustapha Njyou	Agroforestry	njayoumama@yahoo.fr
Nomedjoh site coordinator	Brigitte Anziom	Community development and coordination	brigitteanziom@yahoo.fr
Mapping specialist	Fredy Mbianda	GIS mapping	ftmn2001@yahoo.fr
Beekeeping specialist	Dieudonné Betayene	Beekeeping	

## Appendix B: Information regarding public and other sources of co-funding

The Community PES project is one of the seven fast-track projects selected by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to receive start-up funding ahead of the launch of the Congo Basin Forest Fund by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Norway. The start-up funding from DFID has covered all project development and staff costs, including the costs of developing technical methodologies and Plan Vivo qualification documents.

A portion of the DFID funding is reserved for initial community PES. This PES finance will be distributed to communities in accordance with results of monitoring against targets and thresholds specified in technical methodologies. CED, the project coordinator, will be actively seeking additional sources of funding for the project to extend the period over which PES can be disbursed for project activities.

## Appendix C: Technical specifications

The technical specification for this project is Avoiding Deforestation and forest Degradation (ADD) has been provided as an attached document.

## Appendix D: Community PES contracts

CED has signed PES contracts with the community forest management groups of Nkolenyeng and Nomedjoh. Each PES contract includes an ADD monitoring plan and a PES disbursement plan.

The PES contracts are:

- Payment for Ecosystem Services Contract between the Project Coordinator, CED, and AFHAN, the legal entity charged with the management of the Nkolenyeng Community Forest.
- Payment for Ecosystem Services Contract between the Project Coordinator CED and Buma bo Kpodé, the legal entity charged with the management of the Nomedjoh Community Forest.

Separately, the community forest management groups have entered into benefit-sharing agreements with community activity groups and social benefit sharing groups.

The benefit sharing agreements are:

- Benefit-sharing Contract between AFHAN, the legal entity charged with the management of the Nkolenyeng Community Forest, and the Nkolenyeng Community Activity Groups (CAGs).
- Benefit-sharing Contract between Buma bo Kpodé, the legal entity charged with the management of the Nomedjoh Community Forest, and the Nomedjoh Community Activity Groups (CAGs).

The PES contracts and benefit sharing agreements have been provided as attached documents.

## Appendix E: Evidence of community participation e.g. Meeting minutes

Communities have been heavily involved in designing activities. Trip reports document community



involvement in participatory activities. As an example, the July 2011 Bioclimate field mission report has been provided as an attached document. CED retains records of meeting participants after each community meeting.

## Appendix F: Support of national organisations

### National seminar 2009 – Organisations from which delegates attended

		Number of participants
1 - MINISTRIES	13	
	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife	4
	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection	2
	Ministry of Lands and State Properties	1
	Ministry of Finances	1
	Ministry of Public Administration	1
	Local MINFOF Staff	4
2 - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	6	
	COMIFAC	2
	WORLD BANK	1
	AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	1
	UNDP	1
	FAO	1
3 - INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	6	
	DFID	1
	CIDA (Canada)	1
	EU	1
	French Cooperation	1
	GTZ	1
	USAID	1
4 - INTERNATIONAL NGOS AND PROJECTS	6	
	WWF	1
	IUCN	1
	CIFOR	1
	SNV	1
	FGP	1
	ICRAF	1
5 - NATIONAL NGOS		10
6 - JOURNALISTS		4
7 – COMMUNITIES		4
TOTAL OF PARTICIPANTS		49

## National seminar 2009 – List of participants

Name	Role	Contact
Willie McGHEE	Director BIOCLIMATE	Willie.mcghee@brdt.org
BATUO Moses	Engineer Telecom's	batuofamily@yahoo.fr
CHIMEWAH Naomi	Sustainable Development Trainer GLOBETOURNet.SA	nadelayo@yahoo.com
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## Appendix G: Annual reports

Each year, the project will submit monitoring results to the Plan Vivo Foundation. Information for the annual report is stored and analysed using Excel spreadsheets.

The annual reporting template for the Community PES project is based on the Plan Vivo reporting template and includes project-specific information. The annual reporting template is provided as an attached document.

## Appendix H: Verification reports

In 2012, a validation visit was carried out for the Community PES project.

## Appendix I: Description of the Community PES Trust Committee

The Trust Committee has:

1. A minimum of five members in order to make decisions in the annual meeting. It is recommended these comprise of:
  - 1.1. Secretary General of CED, Dr Nguiffo
  - 1.2. MINFOF (Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune) representative, Mr Niasan, Sub-Director Community forestry MINFOF
  - 1.3. MINEPDEP (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable) representative, Dr Wassouni
  - 1.4. MINEPAT (Ministère de l'Économie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire) representative, Dr Tchoukoue, Director of Planning
  - 1.5. Representative of CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research), a respected international research or policy organisation with a presence in Cameroon, Abdon Owono, Global REDD Comparative Study, CIFOR or Anne Marie Tiani, Livelihoods programme CIFOR and coordinator COBAM project
  - 1.6. A respected independent consultant with relevant experience in community forestry, Phil Rene Oyono
  - 1.7. The President of each Community Forest legal entity Mbia Salome and Doumou Tanis Gabriel, and one representative of the Nkolonyeng Baka community (to be decided).
  - 1.8. MINAS (Ministère des Affaires Sociales) representative, Minleud Sidonie, Sub-Director
  - 1.9. A respected independent consultant with relevant experience in gender issues, Mary Nyuyinwi
2. A description of its membership, responsibilities (see below), and frequency of meeting, formally adopted by the founding members.
3. A separate, dedicated bank account for managing the PES monies transferred from the United Kingdom to Cameroon in the name of the Community PES Project. The bank account need not necessarily be held in the name of the Trust Fund, but it must be a ring-fenced and protected bank account that is used exclusively for managing PES monies for the Community PES project. This bank account exists already and is held by CED.

**The Trust Committee will be responsible for:**

1. Ensuring that CED collects and collates:
  - 1.1. Results of annual forest monitoring at the project sites
  - 1.2. Results of any livelihoods, wellbeing and socioeconomic monitoring undertaken in any reporting period
  - 1.3. Results and outputs of semi-annual reports provided by the Community Forest Management entities providing details of:
    - Activities of all Community Activity Groups (CAGs) and Social Benefit Groups (SBGs)
    - How all PES funds have been used within the communities
    - Proposed use of PES monies by all Community Activity Groups (CAGs) and Social Benefit Groups (SBGs) for the upcoming reporting period
    - Any relevant developments within the communities that are likely to impact or have implications for the project
2. Ensuring CED provides an annual report of all project activities to Bioclimate using the annual reporting template provided (see annual reporting document provided separately).
3. Ensuring that the Community Forest Management entities and community members are properly informed about the results of the CED annual monitoring report.
4. Checking and accounting for all inflows and outflows of PES monies against agreements on disbursements, whether for community PES payments or for monitoring and coordination by CED.
5. Checking that CED has used PES monies for ongoing monitoring and coordination in accordance with the budget agreed between Bioclimate and CED.
6. Discussing any project difficulties arising and making recommendations to CED on how these can be overcome.
7. Approving the payments for ecosystem services to the community forest legal entities proposed by CED in its annual report and notifying Bioclimate of its approval in writing.
8. Facilitating wider dissemination of developments, lessons and insights from the Community PES Project that are of relevance to policy processes relating to community forests and REDD+ in Cameroon.