REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

MINISTERE DE L'ECONOMIE, DE LA PLANIFICATION ET DE L'AMENAGEMENT DU TERRITOIRE

Equipe Focale de l'Initiative pour la Forêt de l'Afrique Centrale
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REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, PLANNING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Central African Forest Initiative Focal Team

PROPOSAL "RESILIENT AGRICULTURE FOR CLIMATE, INVESTMENT, NATURE, AND EQUITY (RACINE)" FROM MINEPAT TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)

Annex 6: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Executive Summary

The RACINE initiative (Resilient Agriculture for Climate, Investment, Nature, and Equity) is a six-year project financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), with the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT) as Accredited Entity, and MINEPAT and the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC) as Implementing Entities. Its objective is to substantially reduce deforestation and greenhouse-gas emissions linked to cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon and to improve the climate resilience of farms, by scaling up the FODECC "Guichets" system — a fully digital platform that provides producers with performance-based payments, technical support and traceability tools. The project is structured around two components: (1) strengthening the enabling environment for deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production; and (2) scaling up payments for environmental services through the FODECC Producers' Window; and is based on a cutting-edge monitoring, verification, management and knowledge production system.

This Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) identifies the potential environmental and social risks of the project and sets out the measures, responsibilities, monitoring arrangements and resources required to avoid, minimise or mitigate them. It has been prepared in accordance with Cameroonian environmental and social legislation, the GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy and the GCF interim environmental and social safeguards (the IFC Performance Standards), as well as the requirements of CAFI. It is complemented by the FODECC Environmental and Social Management System, the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), the Gender Assessment and Action Plan, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism.

The project is classified as Category B (moderate risk): its potential adverse impacts are limited in number, site-specific, largely reversible and readily addressed through the mitigation measures described in this ESMP. The project finances no large-scale civil works and no activity entailing physical resettlement; plots located in the permanent forest estate or in protected areas are automatically excluded from support by the FODECC georeferencing system.

The Producers' Window operates nationwide and has registered and geolocated approximately 350,000 cocoa and coffee producers. Support is concentrated in the cocoa basins of the Centre, South, East, Littoral (Moungo) and South-West regions and in the robusta (Moungo, West) and arabica (West and North-West highlands) coffee zones. These areas combine high agricultural and forest values — parts of the basins adjoin the permanent forest estate and protected areas — with significant social challenges, including rural poverty, customary land tenure, gender inequality, child labour in agriculture, the presence of indigenous peoples, and, in some regions, situations of fragility and conflict.

The assessment identifies a set of moderate, manageable risks: potential access restrictions and economic displacement arising from local land-use planning (PLADDT); local pollution and waste from increased use of fertilisers and phytosanitary products; occupational health and safety risks during spraying; child labour on plantations; possible registration of beneficiaries whose plots encroach on the permanent forest estate; health, safety and labour risks during the construction of post-harvest infrastructure; risks of discrimination against women and of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH); risks of discrimination against indigenous peoples in access to the Window; and conflict-related risks in fragile areas.

Mitigation is embedded in the design and operating rules of the FODECC system: automated exclusion of plots overlapping the permanent forest estate; technical specifications for approved suppliers and the promotion of MINADER-approved and bio-inputs; training and awareness-raising on the safe use of inputs and waste management; a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS); participatory, consultation-based PLADDT processes; application of the IPPF, including FPIC where required; a survivor-centred, SEAH-responsive Grievance Redress Mechanism with three levels of recourse (project, Accredited Entity, GCF Independent Redress Mechanism); a project Exclusion List (Annex B); a Chance Find Procedure for cultural heritage (Annex A); and conflict-sensitive implementation arrangements (Chapter 5).

MINEPAT provides strategic oversight of the ESMP; FODECC's Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit is responsible for operational implementation, supported by certified agricultural advisers and technical partners. A technical commission for environmental and social monitoring, attached to the project Steering Committee (COPIL), meets twice a year. FODECC produces half-yearly E&S monitoring reports for MINEPAT, consolidated in quarterly and annual reports to the GCF and CAFI, and project results are verified annually by an independent third party. The ESMP is a living document: it will be reviewed every six months and updated annually on the basis of monitoring results and audit recommendations.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAA	Autonomous Amortisation Fund
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CLMRS	Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System
CTD	Decentralised Territorial Authority
CTFC	Communal Forestry Technical Centre
DFP	Permanent Forest Estate
E&S	Environmental and Social
EA	Accredited Entity
EE	Implementing Entity
EIG	Economic Interest Grouping
EMF	Microfinance Institution
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FODECC	Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund
FVC	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gases
GIS	Geographic Information System
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICI	International Cocoa Initiative
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
MGP	Complaints Management Mechanism
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINCOMMERCE	Ministry of Trade
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MINRESI	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
PA	Indigenous Populations
PAG	Gender Action Plan
PCD	Communal Development Plan
PLADDT	Local Plan for Land Use and Sustainable Development
PTA	Agroecological Transition Plan
RACINE	Resilient agriculture for climate, investment, nature and equity
SES	Environmental and Social Safeguards
UFA	Forest Management Unit
ZIC	Hunting Area of Interest

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Context of the RACINE initiative

Cameroon is an agricultural country that produces and exports raw materials such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, timber, palm oil, cotton, bananas and pineapples to international and sub-regional markets. The cocoa sector in Cameroon is an important agricultural sector with profound implications for both the economy and the environment, particularly with regard to forests. As the world's fourth largest cocoa producer, Cameroon's cocoa industry plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of thousands of smallholders and contributes substantially to the country's export earnings. This economic importance comes with an environmental cost, particularly in relation to the forest areas where cocoa is produced. As global demand and cocoa prices rise, Cameroonian farmers are often incentivised to expand their cocoa plantations into adjacent forest areas. This expansion involves clearing primary and secondary forests to make way for cocoa crops. Traditional practices in Cameroon often involve a method of clearing land by cutting and burning existing vegetation to create more open fields. While this method increases fertility in the short term thanks to the ashes, it contributes significantly to habitat destruction, soil degradation and the emission of large quantities of carbon dioxide, thereby exacerbating climate change[1] .

Without a radical transformation of land management practices and commodity production models that values natural forest ecosystems at their true worth and integrates sustainability into market mechanisms, deforestation is likely to accelerate, exacerbating biodiversity loss, climate change and socio-economic instability on a global scale. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated international efforts, innovative financial mechanisms, robust governance frameworks and a reorientation of economic incentives towards the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests.

This Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has been prepared to guide the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of the environmental and social risks associated with the implementation of the RACINE/FODECC initiative. It translates the project’s environmental and social commitments into practical mitigation, monitoring, institutional and reporting measures applicable throughout project implementation.

At this stage, the exact locations of all project-supported activities are not yet fully known. This is because the project will operate through the FODECC Guichet system and will support eligible producers, cooperatives, professional organisations and rural municipalities progressively, based on demand, eligibility criteria, georeferencing of plots, local planning processes and the approval of specific applications. However, the broad geographic scope of implementation is known. The project will target Cameroon’s main cocoa and coffee production basins, including the Centre, South, East, Littoral/Moungo, South-West, West and North-West regions, with activities concentrated in areas where cocoa and coffee producers are registered or will be registered in the FODECC system.

Because specific beneficiary plots, municipalities and investment sites will be confirmed during implementation, this ESMP has been designed as a living management instrument. It identifies the environmental and social risks that may arise across the expected types of activities and beneficiary areas, defines the mitigation measures to be applied before and during implementation, and establishes the procedures for site-specific screening, exclusion, monitoring and reporting once locations are confirmed. The FODECC georeferencing system, the project exclusion list, the PLADDT process, the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework, the Gender Action Plan and the Grievance

[1] EFI, 2022. Traceability, transparency and sustainability in the cocoa sector in Cameroon, 70 p.

Redress Mechanism will be used together to ensure that activities are implemented only in eligible areas and in a manner consistent with national requirements and GCF environmental and social safeguards.

1.2 Objective and rationale of the RACINE initiative

The objective of the initiative is to substantially reduce deforestation and GHG emissions linked to cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon, and to improve the resilience of farms to climate variability so that the cocoa and coffee value chains can sustainably meet ever-changing international standards. The intervention logic is to improve land use governance, deforestation standards and traceability systems, while ensuring that cocoa producers adopt sustainable agricultural practices through strong financial incentives and targeted technical support**.** This objective will be achieved by scaling up the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC) 'Guichets' system, an innovative and fully digital platform that provides farmers with performance-based payments, technical support and traceability tools.

1.3 Role of FODECC

FODECC, *the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund***,** is a public financial institution created by the Government of Cameroon in 2006 to support the development of the cocoa and coffee sectors. FODECC is financed by a share of the royalties levied on cocoa and coffee exports.[2] This finances the institution's operations, direct support programmes for the development of the sectors by the relevant ministries, and the Producers' Desk by FODECC itself.

Following the adoption of the new agricultural subsidy paradigm by the Government in 2019, FODECC was designated to develop the new system of direct subsidies for priority agricultural sectors based on vouchers (inputs, services) and business plans[3] . At the heart of this initiative is FODECC's "Producers' Window", which provides targeted financial and technical support to farmers in order to green the cocoa and coffee value chain while strengthening resilience. The FODECC Window operates through several strategic mechanisms:

- **Prevention of deforestation**: by making the geolocation of cocoa and coffee plantations mandatory, the initiative ensures that production takes place only on legally recognised agricultural land. This monitoring mechanism prevents the expansion of plantations into forest areas, thereby directly contributing to the reduction of emissions linked to deforestation.
- **Sustainable intensification**: Financial support for climate-smart inputs, improved agricultural techniques and agroforestry enables farmers to increase yields of cash and food crops on existing land, reducing pressure to clear new forest areas.
- **Agroforestry systems**: Integrating shade trees into cocoa and coffee plantations not only sequesters carbon above and below ground, but also provides essential microclimatic benefits that enhance the climate resilience of farms.
- **Monitoring and traceability**: the deployment of a fully digital, georeferenced traceability system enables real-time monitoring of land use. This technology promotes compliance with

[2] The levy on cocoa exports (225 CFA francs/kg of exported beans and 50 CFA francs/kg delivered to the factory) and coffee exports (75 CFA francs/kg of exported commercial coffee) is currently the main source of funding for FODECC and various related institutions mandated by the government (ONCC, CICC, SODECAO, CAPEF, SOWEDA) to support the development of the cocoa and coffee sectors in the country.

[3] PM decree of August 2019, MINADER agricultural subsidy manual, FODECC G1/G2/G3 subsidy manuals

deforestation commitments and facilitates emissions accounting in accordance with international requirements such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The FODECC approach is based on:

- Domestic funding. FODECC is currently funded entirely from domestic resources through a levy on cocoa and coffee exports. This provides it with approximately €12 million per year in 2025, but this amount varies depending on cocoa and coffee prices (cocoa prices are currently high).
- Information exchange with producers is conducted entirely via smartphone applications.
- No cash! FODECC uses an electronic voucher system for the purchase of inputs and services, which avoids cash transfers and thus reduces the risk of corruption.
- Georeferencing of plantations. Farmers are required to map their fields in order to participate, which is a starting point for monitoring production without deforestation.
- Access to banking services (banking). Opening a bank account with a participating bank or microfinance institution is a prerequisite for participation. The FODECC subsidy system provides a solid basis for leveraging micro/national financing.
- Farmers make a financial commitment through co-financing. FODECC covers on average only 30% of the cost of subsidised agricultural inputs over three years, and therefore requires agricultural producers to deposit an average of 70% of the funds needed to purchase inputs into their bank account in order to obtain electronic vouchers. This clever rule significantly reduces the incentive for farmers to misappropriate resources. Indeed, the interests of farmers, who now have a "direct interest", are aligned with FODECC's sustainable intensification objectives. There is an exit strategy! Support for farmers is degressive: 5-year subsidy cycle: 40%–20%–10%–0%–0%. Combined with the requirement for farmers to co-finance, this creates a total financial leverage effect of 7:1 for smallholders.
- Deployment is rapid: the pilot phase of the "Guichet Producteurs" (Producers' Counter) in the form of electronic vouchers in the department of Moungo was launched in 2022 and then extended to the whole country in 2023. Since then, this system has made it possible to identify and open bank accounts for 350,000 producers, as well as to geolocate all their coffee and cocoa plots.

The proposed intervention, in support of FODECC, aims to shift Cameroon's cocoa and coffee sectors towards deforestation-free, low-emission and climate-resilient production models by combining enabling policy reforms, direct financial incentives linked to environmental performance and investments in climate-smart practices. This objective will be achieved by scaling up the FODECC system and its Producers' Window, an innovative and fully digital platform that provides farmers with performance-based payments, technical support and traceability tools.

2.0 Legal Framework

Cameroon's formal legal system was inherited from its former colonial powers and consists of English common law and French civil law. The Cameroonian Constitution distinguishes between parliamentary power to legislate (le pouvoir législatif) and the governmental power to issue rules and regulations (le pouvoir réglementaire) for implementation. The key legislation relevant to the project as well as Environmental and Social Management Plan include the following:

2.1 Ordinance no. 74-2 of 6 July 1974

Land in Cameroon is divided into private state domain and national domain. Per the 1974 land law, all land in Cameroon belongs to the government, however, individual families have customary rights to exploit land, with some gazetting having been done.

Private state domain: Land under this category includes for example protected areas, forest logging concessions, etc. In the private state domain land is reserved for the state, and communities have no right to access that land for private activities.

National domain: All other land is classified as national domain. In the national domain communities can reside and have the right to exploit land, which are usually customary rights. Communities are allowed to carry out construction, agricultural activities, foraging, etc. They also have the right to request land title, which is possible only if they have been exploiting that land since before 1974, i.e. before the passing of the land law. All citizens who can prove that they inhabited and used the land before 1974 can formalize land title. They also have customary rights to continue exploiting the land. In situations where communities have inhabited the land only after 1974 or when they are unable to prove occupation and therefore do not have land title, the land remains under the national domain but communities have the right to exploit it. Once the claim on a piece of national domain land has been verified and approved, the land becomes private property and the government has no further claims to this land. When the land is classified as private property, it can be divided into smaller pieces for family succession or sold and sub titles can be given. This is applicable within the entire territory.

2.2 National Development Strategy

The objectives of Cameroon's National Development Strategy (SND 30) are (i) to establish conditions favorable for economic growth and accumulation of national wealth and ensure that the structural changes indispensable for the industrialisation of the country are achieved, (ii) improve the living conditions of the population and their access to basic social services by ensuring significant reduction of unemployment, and (iii) strengthen climate change adaptation and mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure environmental management that assures sustainable and inclusive economic growth, societal development, and improved governance to enhance policy performance toward achieving developmental goals (Republic of Cameroon, 2020).

2.3 Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)

The long-term goal of Cameroon's NDC is to achieve a reduction of 35% of its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions compared to a baseline scenario for the target year (2030). To accomplish this goal, the country plans to implement some of the following fundamental climate change adaption and mitigation strategies (Republic of Cameroon, 2021): (i) Improving productivity and competitiveness; (ii) Sustainable forest management through the exploitation and development of productive forests within the framework of management plans; (iii) Contribution to economic growth and poverty alleviation through the retrocession of part of the tax revenue to communities, job creation, the creation of communal forests in the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) and community forests in the Non-

Permanent Forest Estate (NPFE); (iv) Biodiversity conservation through the reinforcement of the national network of protected areas; (iv) Ensuring coherence in the land tenure system through zoning plans; and (v) Increasing the use of renewable energy in electricity production, especially in areas that are difficult to connect to the electricity grid.

2.4 Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change

Cameroon's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change addresses the impacts of climate change in the country by proposing acts such as reducing population vulnerability by increasing the resilience and quality of life, as well as increasing adaptive capacity to new opportunities for country development (UNFCCC, 2015). The Plan also demonstrates steps to achieve these goals including improving education on climate change, informing, distributing, and mobilising population on climate change adaptation, increasing population climate resilience to climate change in primary and agroecological sectors, and integrating climate change adaptation in strategies and national policy strategies. Pertaining to the forestry sector directly, the plan proposes better education and research of the positive and negative effects of climate change, installation of a monitoring system for forest fires, implementation of forest health, and support and reinforcement of REDD+ implementation strategies and policies (MINEPDED, 2015).

2.5 Cameroon's Country Programme for GCF investment

In November 2017, the Government of Cameroon received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources for its preparatory support program aimed at strengthening the capacity of its Designated National Authority. Cameroon's Country Program for GCF investment was developed to better leverage this funding mechanism, and to help build a low carbon and climate resilient economy (Republic of Cameroon, 2019). It represents the framework of strategic relationship of Cameroon vis-à-vis not only the GCF, but also with the accredited entities intervening in Cameroon. In this country program, a total of 12 priority programs were selected in Cameroon including (Republic of Cameroon, 2019): (i) Securing conservation and sustainable management of forests; (ii) Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; (iii) Development of integrated and resilient agriculture in response to the effects of climate change; (iv) Reducing the vulnerability of livestock and the fisheries sector to the effects of climate change; (v) Promotion of low-carbon public transport offers and systems in the sector; (vi) Development of energy production from renewable sources; (vii) Promotion of energy efficiency in the industry and infrastructure sector; (viii) Cities resilient to climate change; (xi) Protection of the coastline from the effects of climate change; (x) Establishment of an observation; (xi) Information management and warning system on climate risks in Cameroon; (xii) Forest ecosystems resilient to climate change; and (xiii) Populations, infrastructure, and resilience to climate change.

2.6 Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) Strategy

Since the institution of the Cameroon's 1994 forest law, the forest sector has witnessed substantial efforts towards sustainable forest management. However, deforestation and land degradation continue to be a principal threat to the forest ecosystems. The Cameroonian government therefore identified environmental protection and ecosystem preservation as key challenges in its national program for economic emergence by 2035. Restoration and sustainable management of forest resources are therefore important to ensure that ecosystems remain functional (MINEPDED-MINFOF, 2019).

Within the framework of the AFRI100 initiative and the Bonn Challenge framework, in 2017, the Republic of Cameroon set a target to restore 12,062,768 hectares of degraded land by 2030. This target is an important contribution to the national development and conservation objectives.

In 2020, the government elaborated a strategic framework for the restoration of forest and degraded lands in Cameroon. The objective of the strategic framework was to map out policy options for a National FLR Strategy (NFLRS). This strategic framework laid out a vision and an operational action plan to achieve the goal of restoring 12 million hectares of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030 (MINEPED-MINFOF, 2020).

2.7 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

Cameroon as a CBD member state, and given the importance of biodiversity to its economy, to adhering to the provisions of the CBD convention officially validated its first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2000. After 10 years of implementation, faced with major evolving trends and emerging issues, including among others, emerging threats from climate change, biophysical changes, and socio-economic pressure with devastating effects on species and their habitats, the strategy became inadequate in stimulating the urgent and dynamic response required on biodiversity issues. In this view, the government decided to revise and update the 2000 NBSAP which served as an important planning instrument for biodiversity.

2.8 Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) is a European Union program aimed at reducing illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance, and promoting trade in legally produced timber. It works through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs), which are legally binding trade agreements between the European Union (EU) and a timber-producing country outside the EU. The purpose of the VPA is to make sure that timber and timber products exported to EU are legally sourced. It also aims at stopping illegal logging in timber-exporting countries by improving regulations and governance of the forest sector[4].

On May 6th, 2010, the Government of Cameroon and the European Union concluded negotiations of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement. The aim of this agreement with the Cameroon was to strengthen forest governance, promote Cameroonian timber products, and improve the country's competitiveness in the international marketplace. The VPA also considered strengthening the capacity of Cameroonian forest stakeholders and encouraging investment in sustainable management of forests (EU, 2010). It provided the necessary framework of legislation, systems and controls and verification procedures to ensure that all timber imports from Cameroon into the EU market are legally acquired, harvested, transported, and exported. This is shown through the FLEGT license issued for each shipment.

2.9 1994 Forestry Law

Cameroon undertook a several reforms to protects its environment since the 1992 UN conference on Environment and Development in Rio, which were influenced among other factors by the outcome of the Rio conference on the importance of the rainforest (Ndombe, 2019). In addition, the dwindling revenues from the oil and agriculture sectors resulted in the government seeking alternative income sources, in a period when timber demonstrated a steady increase in terms of contribution to the GDP

[4] https://www.wwf.org.la/projects/flegt/

(increase from 3.5% in 1989 to 12% of GDP in 2000). Taking all these into consideration the Cameroon National Assembly adopted the Forestry Law in 1994 with the aim of achieving the following:

- Rationalising the use of forest land;
- Enabling communities including indigenous people to benefit more significantly from their right to use forest resources;
- Allocating harvesting rights with greater transparency and efficiency;
- Supporting sustainable forest management; and
- Reforming the forestry and wildlife taxation system.

The law divided forests into permanent and non-permanent forests as shown in the diagram below. A key innovation in the development of the 1994 law, considering the concept of deforestation, was the division of the forest into two categories (article 20): The first category involves the permanent Forest Estate- which comprises lands that are used solely for forestry and/or as a wildlife habitat" and cover at least 30% of the country's national territory and need to consider the country's ecological diversity. It also includes strict ecological reserves, flora reserves, protection forests, recreational forests, research and teaching forests, production forests, reforestation areas and botanic areas. The second category involves the Non-Permanent Forest Estate which comprise forest lands that may be used for other purposes than forestry" as well community forestry (Ndombe, 2019). The forestry law embodied accepted development and environmental concepts including inter alia the involvement of NGOs, indigenous people, the private sector, village communities and other stakeholders, recognizing the rights of indigenous people and calls for the introduction of pre-emptive rights over community forest (FAO, 2002).

3.0 Environmental and social baseline of the beneficiary areas

3.1 Beneficiary locations and target populations

The FODECC Producers' Window operates nationwide: following the 2022 pilot in the Moungo department, the system was extended to the whole country in 2023 and has since registered, banked and geolocated approximately 350,000 cocoa and coffee producers. Project support is nonetheless concentrated in the production basins of the two value chains:

- **Cocoa**: the Centre region (notably the Mbam and Lékié basins), the South, the East, the Littoral (Moungo) and the South-West, which together account for the large majority of national production;
- **Robusta coffee**: the Moungo (Littoral) and the lowlands of the West and Centre regions;
- **Arabica coffee**: the volcanic highlands of the West and North-West regions.

Direct beneficiaries are smallholder producers — typically cultivating between one and three hectares — together with their cooperatives and professional organisations, and the rural municipalities in which they operate. Participation in the Window requires georeferencing of plots, the opening of a bank or microfinance account, and a commitment to zero deforestation.

3.2 Physical environment

The beneficiary basins span three broad agro-ecological zones (figure 1). The bimodal humid forest zone (Centre, South and East regions) receives roughly 1,500–2,000 mm of rainfall per year over two rainy seasons, on deep but fragile ferralitic soils; it holds the largest share of the cocoa orchard. The monomodal coastal humid zone (Littoral and South-West) is characterised by very high rainfall — up to 3,000 mm or more near Mount Cameroon — a single long rainy season and fertile volcanic and alluvial soils; it hosts both cocoa and robusta coffee. The western highlands (West and North-West) combine altitudes of 1,000–2,000 m, moderate temperatures and rich volcanic soils, and carry the arabica orchard alongside dense food-crop farming. Across all three zones, observed climate trends — rising temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall, longer dry spells and heat stress — are already affecting flowering, yields and pest pressure in cocoa and coffee systems, and constitute a central rationale for the project's climate-resilience objective.

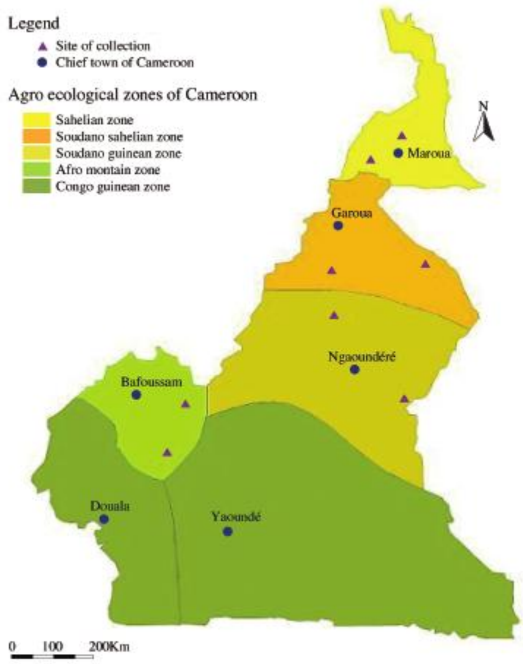

Figure 1: Cameroon five Agro- Ecological Zone

3.3 Biological environment

The southern half of the country forms part of the Congo Basin forest massif, the world's second-largest tropical forest. The cocoa basins lie largely in the forest and forest-savannah transition zones, in a mosaic of agroforests, secondary forests and remnants of dense humid forest (figure 2). Several components of the permanent forest estate (DFP) — national parks, wildlife and forest reserves, forest management units (UFA), hunting zones (ZIC) and communal forests — adjoin or are interspersed with the production basins, including the Dja Faunal Reserve (East/South), Campo Ma'an National Park (South), Korup and Mount Cameroon National Parks (South-West) and Mbam and Djerem National Park (Centre/Adamaoua). Expansion of cocoa farming through slash-and-burn clearing is a significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation in these zones. Traditional cocoa agroforests, by contrast, retain substantial tree cover and carbon stocks and provide habitat connectivity; the project's agroforestry and sustainable-intensification approach builds on this potential. The FODECC georeferencing system, which automatically blocks subsidies for any plot located within the DFP, is the project's first line of defence for biodiversity.

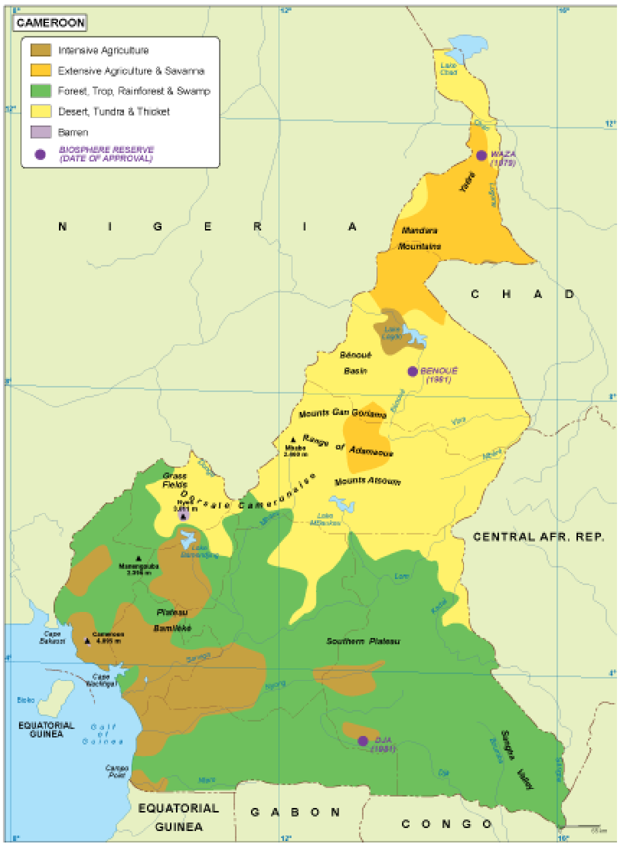

Figure 2: Cameroon Vegetation Map (sourced from researchgate, 2026)

3.4 Socio-economic environment

Cocoa and coffee are the backbone of rural livelihoods in the beneficiary basins, supporting several hundred thousand farm households. Poverty in Cameroon remains concentrated in rural areas, and producers face limited access to finance, inputs and extension services — constraints the Guichet system is designed to relieve. Land is held predominantly under customary tenure: few producers hold formal land titles, and women, although they provide a large share of farm labour, rarely control land or the income from export crops. Child labour is a documented concern in the cocoa sector, mostly in the form of unpaid family work (see Risk 4). Indigenous peoples — the Baka, Bagyeli/Bakola and Bedzang forest communities of the South, East and Centre regions, and the Mbororo pastoralist communities of the highlands — are present in or near a number of beneficiary municipalities; their situation and the applicable safeguards are addressed in the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework

(Annex 6b) and Risk 10. Finally, parts of the national territory are affected by situations of fragility and armed conflict, with implications for project implementation that are assessed in Chapter 4 (Conflict Sensitivity Assessment).

Figure 3: Cameroon economical map

4.0 Conflict sensitivity assessment

4.1 Rationale and approach

Cameroon is included in the World Bank's list of fragile and conflict-affected situations, and heightened due diligence therefore applies to the design and implementation of the project. This chapter identifies the drivers of conflict relevant to the project, assesses the proximity of conflict-affected areas to beneficiary locations, sets out how the project will mitigate conflict-related risks and avoid exacerbating existing tensions ("do no harm"), and summarises the main challenges and opportunities. The assessment will be reviewed annually as part of the ESMP update, and conflict-related indicators will be integrated into project monitoring.

4.2 Conflict context and drivers

Three distinct conflict situations affect parts of the national territory (figure 4):

- **Far North**: the Boko Haram/ISWAP insurgency has caused significant displacement and insecurity in the Lake Chad basin since 2014. This zone is not a cocoa or coffee production area and hosts no project activities;
- **North-West and South-West (Anglophone crisis)**: since 2016–2017, armed confrontation between separatist groups and security forces has severely disrupted rural livelihoods, displaced large numbers of people internally and towards the Littoral, West and Centre regions, and constrained access to parts of these two regions — which include a major cocoa basin (South-West) and the main arabica coffee zone (North-West);
- **Eastern border regions**: spillover from the conflict in the Central African Republic has brought a substantial refugee population into the East, Adamaoua and North regions, adding pressure on land and services in hosting municipalities of the eastern cocoa basin.

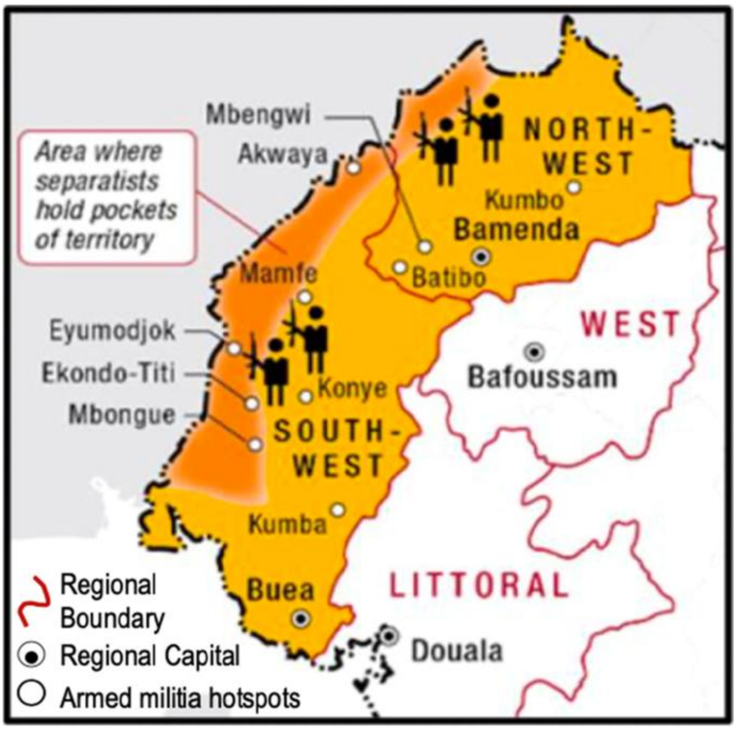

Figure 4: Conflict Areas in Cameroon (sourced from Springer.com)

Cross-cutting drivers of local conflict interact with these situations: insecurity of customary land tenure and competition over land, including farmer–herder tensions; grievances over governance, exclusion and the distribution of public support; youth unemployment; displacement-related pressure on land and resources; and climate stress on rural livelihoods. Several of these drivers intersect directly with project activities: land-use planning (PLADDT) formalises land allocations, and the allocation of subsidies creates perceptions of winners and losers.

4.3 Proximity of conflict-affected areas to beneficiary locations

Table 1: Proximity of conflict to beneficiary areas

Production basin / region	Conflict exposure	Implications for the project
South-West (cocoa, robusta)	High — directly affected by the Anglophone crisis	Access and verification constraints; producer displacement; risk of extortion along supply routes; phased, security-dependent deployment
North-West (arabica)	High — directly affected by the Anglophone crisis	As above; large share of producers displaced or unable to farm
West and Littoral/Moungo (cocoa, robusta, arabica)	Moderate — stable but adjacent to NW/SW; host large IDP populations; localised farmer–herder tensions (West)	Pressure on land from displaced populations; need to ensure IDPs who farm locally can access the Window; social tensions in host communities
East (cocoa)	Moderate — hosts CAR refugee populations along the border	Land pressure in hosting municipalities; inclusion of refugees/hosts to be handled through transparent eligibility criteria
Centre and South (cocoa)	Low — stable	Standard implementation; host some IDPs from the NW/SW
Far North	High — Boko Haram insurgency	No project activities (not a cocoa/coffee zone)

4.4 How the project will mitigate conflict risks and avoid doing harm

- **Transparent, rules-based targeting**: eligibility for the Producers' Window rests on objective, digital, georeferenced criteria applied identically to all applicants, which limits discretionary allocation, favouritism and elite capture — recognised triggers of local grievance;
- **Cash-free support**: the e-voucher system avoids cash transfers, reducing risks of diversion, extortion and predation in insecure areas;
- **Conflict-sensitive land-use planning**: PLADDTs will be prepared through the participatory, consultative procedure codified by MINEPAT, explicitly mapping existing users (including IDPs, refugees, pastoralists and indigenous communities) so that planning serves as a platform for dialogue and dispute resolution rather than a source of exclusion (see Risk 1);
- **Grievance redress**: the project GRM (section 9.4) provides accessible, anonymous channels and will monitor conflict-related complaints as an early-warning indicator;
- **Security management**: FODECC and its partners will apply security protocols for field staff and agricultural advisers, rely on remote/digital monitoring where field access is constrained, and adjust the geographic phasing of activities in the North-West and South-West to the evolving security situation;
- **Local anchoring**: implementation will be coordinated with municipal authorities, traditional leaders and community organisations, and field teams will be trained in conflict-sensitive engagement and communication.

4.5 Challenges and opportunities

Challenges. Physical access and independent verification in parts of the North-West and South-West; reliability of field data where movement is constrained; the risk that producers in insecure areas perceive themselves as excluded from national support; the safety of field staff and service providers; and heightened pressure on land in municipalities hosting displaced populations.

Opportunities. The project can contribute to stability as well as be affected by conflict: restoring and improving farm incomes reduces the economic drivers of recruitment into armed groups; digital payments and banking extend financial inclusion to displaced and remote producers; cooperatives and producer organisations rebuild social capital; participatory PLADDT processes offer a legitimate forum for resolving land disputes; and a functioning, trusted grievance mechanism strengthens the social contract between producers and public institutions.

5.0 The components and activities of the RACINE project

The RACINE project contributes to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the various components of the Producers' Window, with a particular focus on agroecological transition and collective investments at the level of producer organisations and rural municipalities. The RACINE project is structured around two complementary components:

1. **Component 1**: Strengthening the environment conducive to deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon.
    - This component will be led by MINEPAT, the CAFI focal team/coordination, with support from the implementing agency UNDP.
2. **Component 2**: Scaling up payment for environmental services for sustainable, climate-resilient and deforestation-free value chains. This component is led by FODECC and includes:
    - A sub-component C2.1 for direct funding of the Producers Window and its eight specialised technical components, and
    - A sub-component C2.2 for capacity building of the various field partners and/or beneficiaries of the Producers Window to support them in achieving the expected results.

The strength of the initiative is its cutting-edge Monitoring, verification, management and knowledge production system. This highly technical element will enable the continuous production of the information required for results-based payment processes and prepare for the annual independent audits mandated by the Government of Cameroon, the GCF and CAFI to document the release of successive payment tranches.

5.1 Component 1. Strengthening the environment conducive to deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon

Component 1: Focuses on aligning policies and systems with international market requirements, including the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), while strengthening inter-ministerial coordination and land use governance. This component aims to ensure that environmental commitments are integrated into (agricultural) development frameworks and that decentralised actors (local authorities and producers) have the tools and authority necessary to comply with deforestation-free production standards.

Outcome 1.1: Align policy and institutional coordination for deforestation-free value chains. *Outcome 1.1 focuses on improving interministerial coordination under the leadership of MINEPAT to ensure coherence between agriculture, environment, forestry, land use, trade and finance.*
The following activities fall under this outcome: - **Activity 1.1.1**. Support the implementation of key agriculture-related milestones under the CAFI Letter of Intent, including measures to control agricultural expansion, strengthen forest monitoring, and integrate zero deforestation requirements into national agricultural policies. - **Activity 1.1.2**. Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms under the leadership of MINEPAT, ensuring policy coherence across agriculture, trade, environment, forestry, land use and finance sectors.
Outcome 1.2. Deploy operational tools and land use governance for compliance and monitoring. Outcome 1.2 focuses on the development and institutionalisation of the operational tools and governance mechanisms necessary for traceability and compliance with land use. This includes the establishment of a national traceability system

for cocoa and coffee, ensuring full geolocation and verification of the legality of supply chains.[5] In addition, this result also supports the finalisation and implementation of land use plans (PLADDT) at the level of rural municipalities that do not yet have them, which serve as the basis for all activities in the field and require careful and participatory planning of the territories. This activity directly complements the FODECC Community Desk, on which it will rely for the implementation of CTD co-financing.
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 1.2.1**. Develop, improve and institutionalise a national traceability system for cocoa and coffee production, fully compliant with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the national roadmap for deforestation-free cocoa. - **Activity 1.2.2**. Prepare and implement local land use plans (PLADDT) at the level of rural municipalities not yet equipped to do so in order to operationalise agreements for the preservation of permanent forest areas in general, and specific agreements concluded at the local level for forests and agricultural land in non-permanent forest areas.

5.2 Component 2. Develop payment for environmental services for sustainable, climate-resilient and deforestation-free value chains

Component 2 focuses on the direct deployment of financial and technical incentives aimed at changing large-scale production practices. The main innovation lies in the use of FODECC's "Guichet" system, an integrated, digital, performance-based subsidy mechanism that enables farmers and local actors to transition to sustainable, deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production. Through three complementary channels – the Producers Window, the Agroecological Window and the Communities Window – this component provides tailored support to individual producers, promotes agroecological adaptation practices and enables local governments and cooperatives to invest in value addition and forest conservation.

Sub-component 2.1: Matching funds for the "Producers Window" and its eight co-financing components for sustainable intensification and deforestation-free production.
Sub-component 2.1 aims to expand the scope and impact of the "Producers' Window" and its eight co-financing components, designed to support sustainable intensification and ensure compliance with deforestation-free production standards. This digital platform delivers targeted, performance-based subsidies to small-scale cocoa and coffee producers in the form of electronic vouchers that are exchanged for certified inputs such as organic fertilisers, agroforestry plants, small equipment and pest control products, for example. The procedures for accessing subsidies through electronic vouchers are very simple and straightforward, eliminating intermediaries and significantly reducing transaction costs and the risk of leakage. The Producers' Window also co-finances business plans, local development plans and agroecological transition plans for producers, municipalities, cooperatives or economic interest groups, including advisory support services, based on a transparent process of evaluating applications that are reviewed at the regional level by an ad hoc committee chaired by the Regional Council with key local actors from the public and private sectors, and then processed at the central level by FODECC.

This model operates with average co-financing by beneficiaries of around 70% (variable depending on the sub-windows and components, and based on a principle of degressive subsidies over three years), ensuring ownership and alignment of incentives, while incorporating traceability and geolocation requirements that link financial support to verifiable environmental results.

[5] This work requires active consultation leading to close collaboration between the various public institutions (ONCC, FODECC, SODECAO, SOWEDA) and private institutions (CICC, GEX, major export companies, main processing operators, and other local and regional professional organisations).

Result 2.1.1. Intensify and increase sustainable production in cocoa and coffee orchards
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.1.1.1.** Annual contribution to the Production sub-window, component G1/a-ebon: subsidy for certified plants and quality inputs, and very small production equipment - **Activity 2.1.1.2.** Annual contribution to the Production Sub-Window, G1/b-PA component: co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives
Result 2.1.2. Improve the overall quality of cocoa and coffee products placed on the market
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.1.2.1.** Annual contribution from the Communities Sub-Window, component G2/a-CTD: co-financing of real estate investments in the investment plans of post-harvest processing centres in rural cocoa and/or coffee-producing municipalities - **Activity 2.1.2.2.** Annual contribution to the Local Authorities Sub-Window, G2/b/Coop component: co-financing of movable equipment for the business plans of cooperatives or partner economic interest groups in municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres.
Result 2.1.3. Strengthen the sustainable management of municipal territories and forest cover
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.1.3.1.** Annual contribution from the Local Authority sub-fund, G2/c-PLADDT component: co-financing of the preparation of Local Plans for the Development and Sustainable Management of Municipal Land, setting out the allocation of land between different agricultural, forestry, urban and infrastructure uses, etc. - **Activity 2.1.3.2**. Annual contribution to the Local Authority sub-fund, section G2/d-Green Investments: co-financing of green investments provided for in the PLADDT and PCD (or other local planning documents) such as reforestation, revegetation, forest cover protection and conservation measures, assisted natural regeneration actions, forest landscape restoration actions and restoration of degraded watersheds, etc.
Result 2.1.4. Supporting the agroecological transition of cocoa and coffee farms
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.1.4.1.** Annual contribution from the Sustainability sub-window, G3/a-Agroecological Transition component: co-financing over three years of agroecological transition plans for cocoa and/or coffee producers at the level of their farms (orchards, food crops, fallow land) to make them more climate-resilient, by subsidising plant material for renewal/re-densification of orchards and enrichment with fertiliser and cover trees, the production of biofertilisers and biopesticides, the adoption of soil fertility conservation practices, etc., based on the principle of intensification and sustainable adaptation of existing agricultural land and refraining from expanding land area at the expense of natural or naturally regenerated forests (mitigation). - **Activity 2.1.4.2.** Annual contribution to the Sustainability sub-window, G3/b-Agricultural advice/agroecological transition component. Co-financing of agricultural advice to accompany each producer individually throughout the three-year transition process, from mapping the farm and preparing its agroecological transition plan (PTA) to implementing activities, monitoring them and then evaluating them periodically. The agricultural technical advisor reports regularly on achievements to the FODECC via the digital platform using georeferenced reports.

Sub-component 2.2: Strengthening the structure and capacities of FODECC's partner actors.

Result 2.2.1. Support the strengthening and structuring of professional organisations (cooperatives, umbrella organisations, inter-professional organisations)
The following activities fall under this outcome: - **Activity 2.2.1.1.** Support and advice on organisational development - **Activity 2.2.1.2.** Capacity building on agroecological transition, RDUE standards, financing systems, etc.
Result 2.2.2. Support the development of the national private agricultural advisory network on agroecological transition
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.2.2.1.** Manage and develop the national network of agroecological transition advisors via the FODECC digital platform - **Activity 2.2.2.2.** Produce and disseminate technical training tools via the digital platform - **Activity 2.2.2.3.** Support the accreditation process for agricultural advisers in the regions

Result 2.2.3. Strengthen the capacities of CTDs and their local partners
- Activity 2.2.3.1. Support CTDs in the preparation of their PLADDTs - Activity 2.2.3.2. Support CTDs in the planning and implementation of their investments co-financed by the FODECC - Activity 2.2.3.3. Support partner organisations in municipalities in their planning and implementation processes for investments co-financed by FODECC

5.3 Monitoring, verification, management and knowledge production

The monitoring, evaluation, verification and learning plan focuses on strengthening the monitoring, verification and learning systems that underpin the Sustainability Linked Loan (SLL) mechanism and its alignment with CAFI, GCF and EU requirements. It builds on the existing digital architecture of the FODECC Guichet system to establish a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework capable of tracking deforestation compliance, environmental performance and the adoption of climate-smart practices by farmers.

***Outcome 3.1. Strengthened data and MRV systems for results-based management*.** Outcome 3.1 focuses on improving the existing FODECC digital platform, which manages farmer registration, plot geolocation, input distribution via e-vouchers and fund traceability. By strengthening this system with advanced data integration and analysis capabilities, the project will enable real-time monitoring of financial flows and environmental outcomes, including compliance with deforestation-free production requirements. Outcome 3.1 also introduces a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework aligned with CAFI, GCF and EU standards.
The planned activities are as follows: - **Activity 3.1.1**. Strengthening the information and voucher management system of the Window - **Activity 3.1.2.** Robust MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) framework for SLL operations, aligned with CAFI, GCF and EU requirements - **Activity 3.1.3.** Annual independent verification of project results using methods adapted to the ISO 14000 standard
Outcome 3.2 is dedicated to collecting, consolidating and sharing knowledge generated by the implementation of Cameroon's first sustainability-linked loan (SLL) for deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production.
The following activity will be implemented: - **Activity 3.2.1.** Facilitation of South-South knowledge exchanges with a view to replicating the SLL model by leveraging CAFI's partnerships with six countries in the region.

6.0 Institutional Arrangements

6.1 The Accredited Entity - MINEPAT

The institutional anchor point for the project is the Accredited Entity (AE), the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)**. MINEPAT provides strategic oversight, interministerial coordination, compliance with national commitments (CAFI letter of intent) and ensures the proper application of the conditions for access to sustainability-linked loan resources. As the AA, MINEPAT signs the loan/grant agreement with the GCF and undertakes to comply with the donor's fiduciary, environmental and social requirements, to produce financial and performance reports, and to coordinate annual external audits. MINEPAT's central role in coordination and implementation is in line with its national mandate to steer investment and land use policies.

As the AE for the GCF and the national coordinating entity for the CAFI Fund in Cameroon, MINEPAT is responsible for organising the project's steering committee (COPIL). MINEPAT will work closely with the CAA (for loan disbursement/servicing aspects) and will coordinate closely with FODECC to ensure full integration of project governance within FODECC's governance bodies. To this end, the project's COPIL will meet twice a year on the same date as the FODECC Management Committee meeting.

In financial and procedural terms, and in particular for sovereign loans/public financing, all disbursements relating to borrowed resources are centralised in the national debt and payment management systems: The Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement (CAA) is the public body responsible for receiving, holding and servicing loans and managing project accounts in accordance with Cameroonian law. In practice, withdrawal requests or disbursement requests initiated by the EE (e.g. FODECC for Component 2) are forwarded to MINEPAT (EA) for instruction, then to the CAA for the opening or funding of the project account, and finally executed according to the agreed modality (designated account, direct payment from the lender, reimbursement upon justification, or instruments such as letters of credit). This centralisation via the CAA ensures traceability, consolidation of debt information and compliance with debt servicing obligations.

6.2 Executing Entity FODECC

The Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECCC), in accordance with its Organic Decree of January 2025, ensures the financing and payment of related services:

- In support of and revitalization of the cocoa and coffee sectors, and other priority sectors;
- Supporting applied research and quality improvement;
- Supporting training and information programs for industry operators;
- Promoting local processing and consumption.

In this capacity, FODECC manages the Producers' Window with its 3 sub-windows and 8 specific components enabling the management of subsidies through the issuance of electronic vouchers, and through the co-financing of business plans and agroecological transition plans. FODECCC operates as a public administrative institution with a financial focus. FODECCC cannot borrow or lend money. It manages exclusively the financial resources returned to it from royalties levied on the export or entry of cocoa and coffee to the processing plant, or from international donors and lenders, both public and private, who support its activities, particularly in the context of supporting the agroecological transition and adaptation to climate change. The FODECCC is placed under the joint technical supervision of the Minister in charge of the marketing of cocoa and coffee (MINCOMMERCE), the Minister in charge of agriculture and rural development (MINADER), the Ministry in charge of scientific research (MINRESI), in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of industry (MINMIDT) and the Ministry in charge of economy and planning (MINEPAT), and under the financial supervision of the Minister in charge of finance (MINFI). The authorizing officers for FODECC expenditures are MINADER, MINCOMMERCE, MINRESI and the Administrator/DG of FODECC. FODECC is run by a board of directors.

6.3 Implementing Entities

The **Implementing Entities (IE)** are divided by component:

- MINEPAT will act as the EE for Component 1 (institutional strengthening, traceability, PLADDT) while
- The **Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC)** is the operational EE for Component 2 (the three windows — Production, Agroecology, Communities).

Legally, the link between the AE and each EE is formalised in the loan agreement with the GCF, known as the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), which designates the FODECC as the project owner, assigning it responsibilities, fiduciary procedures, disbursement terms, audit and compliance clauses. This loan agreement (or FAA) provides, in particular, for: a description of the activities and expected results, the disbursement schedule (linked to milestones or expenditure supporting documents), procurement requirements, financial and technical reporting obligations, and mechanisms for suspending or recovering funds in the event of non-compliance. Financial flows from the CFF are contractually channelled through the main EA-CFF agreement; the EA then delegates, by agreement, financing lines or disbursement vouchers to the EEs, which will be responsible for operational management and transfer to the final beneficiaries.

7.0 Potential environmental and social risks of the project and their management measures

7.1 Details of environmental and social risks and relevant management measures

Risk 1: **Access restrictions/economic displacement:** One of the main objectives of the project is to improve land use governance and encourage cocoa producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices**.** One contextual factor that the project seeks to address is the gradual expansion of plantations due to shifting cultivation (described above). This practice involves the gradual clearing of forested areas, which may be located on municipal land, among other places. The project is working on several levels to improve the sustainability of land use, including through support for planning. Two activities in particular support the finalisation and implementation of local land use plans (PLADDT) at the rural municipal level, namely:

- **Activity 1.2.2.** Preparing and implementing local land use plans (PLADDT)
- **Activity 2.1.3.1.** Co-financing the preparation of Local Plans for Sustainable Development and Land Use in Municipalities, setting out land allocations for different uses

The preparation of local land use plans (PLADDT) requires mapping of current land use. This process could identify land users who cultivate cocoa and/or coffee (among other crops) by encroaching on community land for various reasons, including:

- Lack of precise definition of areas of use
- Opportunism due to the absence of sanctions/enforcement of mapped boundaries
- Encroachment supported by local corruption (financial and/or relational)

Regardless of the legality (or illegality) of the encroachment, the project's funding of PLADDTs could, if no specific measures are taken, lead to the eviction of certain farmers, resulting in their 'economic displacement'.

Risk management measure:
 	
Territorial planning at different scales is governed by the 2011 Framework Law on Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development (No. 2011/008), including local plans (PLADDT)[6] . The procedure is codified in the Methodological Guide for the Development of PLADDTs, drawn up by MINEPAT in 2021.[7] This procedure comprises several phases and stages of consultation with the stakeholders concerned, in particular land users:
 	
1. Organisation and preparation of the process / official launch
    ○ Establishment of steering structures (steering committee, technical team, etc.).
    ○ Launch workshop, communication/awareness-raising among the populations and stakeholders concerned.
    ○ Mobilisation of basic data, institutional and financial framework.
2. Municipal diagnosis
    ○ Collection and analysis of data at the municipal level (population, infrastructure, current land use, natural constraints, land tenure, etc.).
3. Terroir/villager assessment
    ○ In-depth assessment at the level of regions, villages or groups of villages: participatory surveys, collection of local information, mapping, land use conflicts, etc.
4. Reporting, project development (provisional preliminary project)
    ○ Development of land use options, infrastructure projects, development projects, future zoning.
    ○ Feedback to local stakeholders to gather their comments.
5. Consideration of comments/adjustments
    ○ Integration of feedback, cartographic or regulatory adjustments to the preliminary project.
6. Finalisation, official approval and public dissemination
    ○ Finalisation of the formal document (maps, regulatory texts, technical documents).
    ○ Submission for approval according to the procedures determined (by the competent authorities).
    ○ Publication/dissemination to the public and local stakeholders.

[6] https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cmr192524.pdf
[7] https://euredd.efi.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/220322_GUIDE-DELABORATION-DES-PLADDT-FINAL-22-Mars-2022.pdf

7. Implementation & monitoring and evaluation
    - Execution of selected projects, monitoring of compliance with PLADDT requirements, periodic reviews (often every five years) for adjustment.

The guide also specifies the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders (State, municipality, decentralised services, research companies, population, traditional leaders, etc.). Given the local authority's mandate for zoning within the local area, when encroachments are identified during the local/village assessment, the supervised consultation process would enable solutions to be found collectively with users in order to avoid conflicts and economic displacement.

MINEPAT will ensure that this methodological guide is applied during the preparation of PLADDTs and will be able to insist that the PLADDT development process be a means of resolving conflicts of use diplomatically between municipalities and users.

Risk 2: Local pollution risks: One of the aims of the RACINE project is to help scale up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the Producers' Desk. This desk aims to support producers in intensifying their production, in particular through:

- (Electronic) subsidies for the purchase of plants and inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) activity 2.1.1.1 and
- Co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives activity 2.1.1.2

These two activities could therefore lead to an increase in the use of solid and liquid foliar fertilisers and insecticide and fungicide treatments applied by sprayer or nebuliser, increasing the risks of local pollution (soil and water) and waste mismanagement (packaging, wrapping, etc.).

Risk management measure:

In general, due to the significant cost of inputs, it is estimated that product waste (overuse) will be naturally limited. However, several measures to mitigate this risk are planned:

- Suppliers' technical specifications (characteristics of suppliers and inputs defined in agreements signed with approved suppliers) will encourage:
    - The promotion of products approved by MINADER, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
    - The recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers

- In terms of product supply, electronic vouchers will enable the procurement of:
    - Biopesticides/insecticides
    - Small equipment for better use of inputs

In addition to these measures taken in relation to the supply of the producer window, FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Raise awareness among farmers about the responsible use of fertilisers and pesticides, in particular by conducting practical demonstrations on the correct types and applications.
- Train producers in hazardous waste management
- Communicate environmental quality standards and specifications for export ly to limit the use of pesticides, including residue limits below the detection threshold.
- Quality control of eligible inputs, equipment, machinery, services, materials and other items (random sampling control).[8]

In a second phase, the project aims to support producers in making the transition to agroecology at the level of their farms. Activity 2.1.4.2 will enable producers participating in the Sustainability Window (G3/a-Agroecological Transition) to benefit from individual support throughout the three-year transition process, including:

- Mapping the farm
- Preparation of their agroecological transition plan (PTA)

[8] The FODECC establishes framework partnership agreements with technical authorising officers and other specialised bodies competent in the sectors, enabling the mobilisation of their main internal and subordinate specialised bodies. They will thus be able to contribute to quality control, in particular by periodically checking a representative sample of each type of subsidised product. Operational manual for the producers' window (Jan 2025)

- Implementation of activities
- Monitoring and periodic evaluation.

The agricultural technical advisor will report regularly on achievements to the FODECC via the digital platform using georeferenced reports.

Risk 3: Working without appropriate equipment during spraying operations on plantations: This risk is complementary to risk 2 and is linked to the same activities supporting the intensification of cocoa and coffee production, in particular:

- (Electronic) subsidies for the purchase of seedlings and inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) activity 2.1.1.1 and
- Co-financing of productive equipment, business plans for small producers and small production cooperatives activity 2.1.1.2

In the same way that these two activities could lead to local pollution due to increased use of solid and liquid foliar fertilisers and insecticide and fungicide treatments using sprayers or nebulisers, the use of these products without appropriate equipment could lead to illness or even injury among producers.

Risk management measure:

To mitigate this risk, the project will rely on several of the same measures as for the previous risk:

- Supplier technical specifications will encourage:
  - The promotion of MINADER-approved products, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
- Electronic vouchers will provide:
  - Biopesticides/insecticides
  - Small equipment for better use of inputs

FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Will offer training and awareness sessions for farmers on occupational risks and preventive measures related to the spraying of chemicals, in particular by conducting practical demonstrations on the correct types and applications.
- Train producers in hazardous waste management

Risk 4: Child labour on plantations: The Cameroonian legal framework regulates working hours and tasks that are acceptable for children.[9] According to the Cameroonian Labour Code, children are allowed to work from the age of 15, and those under the age of 14 working on cocoa farms may do so in a family setting characterised by socialisation and learning.[10] The government, through the National Institute of Statistics (INS), conducted a modular survey on child labour in 2007 with the aim of carrying out a more comprehensive, nationwide survey. The results of this survey reveal that, in 2007, 41 per cent of children aged 5 to 17, or 2,441,181, were working in Cameroon. Among economically active children aged 5 to 17, 85.2 per cent were engaged in agriculture, fishing, forestry and gathering, while 79.3 per cent of economically active children were engaged in unpaid work as family workers.[11] All project activities aimed at intensifying production, particularly activities **2.1.1.1** and **2.1.1.2,** could obviously encourage producers to call on their children to provide labour. Although more recent statistics are lacking, the INS study confirms that the majority of children under the age of 14 working in the cocoa sector do so as family workers, which is permitted under national legislation.

[9] Decree No. 17 of 27 May 1969 on child labour (Official Journal of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, 1 June 1969, No. 10, p. 939)

[10] LAW No. 92/007 OF 14 August 1992 ON THE LABOUR CODE. Article 86

[11] COMMISSION OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CEACR) 2010 Observation, Convention No. 182https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/2014%20Compendium%20of%20hazardous%20child%20labour%20lists%20-%20Cameroon.pdf

Risk management measure:

The project will implement a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) developed by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). This is a structured approach designed to identify, prevent and remedy child labour in cocoa supply chains. The CLMRS operates through a network of community facilitators who regularly visit households to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child labour.

These facilitators actively identify children engaged in hazardous work or at risk of child labour, register their cases and put in place support measures tailored to the child, their family or the wider community. Support may include access to education, school kits, remedial classes, assistance in obtaining a birth certificate and improvements to school infrastructure.

The system is structured around four main functions:

- Raising awareness among farmers, children and communities about child labour and its harmful effects.
- Identifying cases of child labour through active monitoring and standardised data collection tools.
- Providing support for remediation and prevention, including through diversification of agricultural household income and women's empowerment programmes.
- Conducting follow-up visits to monitor the child's situation and ensure their sustainable removal from child labour.

Data on the effectiveness of ICI implementation in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire show that 44 per cent of children previously engaged in child labour were no longer involved after two consecutive follow-up visits. This highlights the importance of continuous monitoring and community engagement.

To mitigate this risk, the project will emphasise the conditions to be included in the agreements signed with participating producers, a commitment that child labour should not take place at times when it could interfere with their schooling.

FODECC, through its partners (including the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC)):

- Organise awareness-raising sessions for producers on the prohibition of child labour in cocoa and coffee plantations that would interfere with their schooling
- Verify a representative sample of plots through on-site inspections

Risk 5: Potential registration of beneficiaries whose plots are located in permanent forest areas/protected areas: As global demand and cocoa prices rise, Cameroonian farmers are often encouraged to expand their cocoa plantations into adjacent forest areas. This expansion involves clearing primary and secondary forests to make way for cocoa crops. Traditional practices in Cameroon often involve a method of clearing land by cutting and burning existing vegetation to create more open fields. Given this contextual trend, the producer window could end up supporting the intensification of plantations located in permanent forest/protected areas, particularly through activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.

Risk management measure:

The producer registration system allows this risk to be managed. FODECC has set up a cartographic data control system that verifies whether georeferenced plots are well outside the permanent forest domain (DFP). As detailed in the **Producer Window Operational Manual**, the producer's georeferencing via the FODECC smartphone application (AGRI4FARMER) is then superimposed on the permanent forest domain map. If a plot, according to its GPS survey, is located within the permanent forest domain of the State of Cameroon (protected area, forest management unit, communal forest, ZIC, forest reserve), it will automatically be marked in red and the subsidy process for that plot will be permanently blocked for all windows and sections of the Producer Window.[12]

MINADER staff in the regions, as well as local associations, will also be available to assist producers with their registration and declarations to avoid exclusions based on procedural errors.

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[12] The boundaries of the Permanent Forest Domain (DFP), which is private property of the State (national parks, forest reserves, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, forest concessions (UFAs), hunting areas (ZICs), botanical gardens, etc.) and of municipalities (municipal forests), are inviolable. No agricultural activity is permitted within the DFP.

In addition, FODECC, with the support of the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC), plans to deploy teams to verify the data in the geographic information system by conducting random checks in the field.

Risk 6: Failure to comply with work rules and safety standards during the construction of buildings: The project will provide financial support to municipalities to facilitate real estate investments and the construction/renovation of post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.1), as well as co-financing for the equipment of cooperatives or partner economic interest groups (EIGs) of municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.2). It is possible that during the implementation of these activities, some service providers may engage in practices that do not comply with labour law (contractualization), including in terms of health and safety conditions on construction sites.

Risk management measure:

The construction of buildings, particularly post-harvest processing centres in municipalities, will follow the Cameroonian public procurement procedure[13] , as well as the relevant legislation concerning environmental impact studies[14] , building permits[15] , technical and safety requirements, and the execution of works and control. These procedures include the provisions of the Labour Code[16] and health and safety (HSE) at work.

The Communal Forest Technical Centre (CTFC), through funding from the FODECC, will be responsible for providing support, advice and monitoring to municipalities, from assistance with planning, programming, budgeting and preparing funding applications, etc., to monitoring implementation.

The FODECC Environmental and Social Safeguarding Specialist will be responsible for:

- verifying that technical and safety requirements and provisions of the Labour Code and Health and Safety at Work (HSE) are complied with during the contracting process (collection of documentation).
- Ensuring that the obligation to report incidents/accidents at work is communicated to FODECC
- Ensuring communication on the complaint management mechanism to the municipalities benefiting from the FODECC and that they communicate its existence to the workers employed.

Risk 7: Potential impact of coffee and cocoa production on biodiversity: Similar to the pollution that could be caused by the intensification of coffee and cocoa cultivation, cocoa monocultures are replacing older varieties and wild species with a few commercial varieties. This genetic uniformity reduces the crop's ability to adapt, and the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides could accelerate soil depletion. As with the previous risks, the activities concerned are those that contribute to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities via the Producers' Window. In particular:

- **Activity 2.1.1.1** subsidies (electronic) for the purchase of seedlings, inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) and
- **Activity 2.1.1.2** Co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives

Risk management measure:

The project aims to reduce the impact of cocoa and coffee production on deforestation and, more generally, the impoverishment of ecosystems. On the one hand, the intensification of existing plantations will combat biodiversity degradation by limiting the area required by each producer thanks to productivity gains achieved through the producer window. As mentioned above:

- The technical specifications of suppliers (characteristics of suppliers and inputs defined in agreements signed with approved suppliers) will encourage:

[13] Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 on the Public Procurement Code (and related texts). Studies, works and supplies financed by the state budget, a municipality or public funds are subject to the Public Procurement Code: preparation (PI, DAO), advertising, competitive bidding, awarding, control and payment.
[14] Decree No. 2013/0171/PM of 14 February 2013 (EIA procedure)
[15] Law No. 2004/003 of 21 April 2004 on urban planning (a permit is required before any construction)
[16] Labour Code (Law No. 92/007 of 14 August 1992)

- The promotion of MINADER-approved products, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
- The recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers

- Electronic vouchers will be used to procure:
  - Biopesticides/insecticides
  - Small equipment for better use of inputs

The project will also support producers (who opt for the sustainability window) in making an agroecological transition at the farm level through individual support throughout the transition process (described above)

In addition to these measures taken in relation to the producer window, FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Raise awareness among producers about the use of organic fertilisers
- Raise awareness and support beneficiaries of the Producer Window towards the Agroecological Window
- Verify a representative sample of plots through on-site inspections and GIS

Risk 8: Impact of climate variations on crop productivity:

This risk is not strictly related to the project activities themselves, but rather a contextual factor (climate change) that could impact the sustainability of the project itself. The activities most directly affected are those that contribute to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the Producer Window. In particular:

- **Activity 2.1.1.1** (electronic) subsidies for the purchase of seedlings, inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) and
- **Activity 2.1.1.2** co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives

Risk management measure:

The FODECC sustainability window aims to improve the resilience of plantations to the impacts of climate change. Supporting farmers in accessing the sustainability window is therefore the main strategy for mitigating this risk, in particular:

- Supporting beneficiaries of developments in environmental preservation and climate change resilience through the agroecological transition plan (PTA)
- Training producers in sustainable production techniques and climate-smart agricultural practices
- By supplying plant material for the development of agroforestry

Risk 9: Unequal access for women to the producer window: Women play a leading role in agricultural production and the domestic economy. They are numerous in the agricultural sector: 71.6 per cent in the informal agricultural sector[17] and 56.3 per cent of the agricultural workforce. In cash crop sectors (cocoa, coffee, cotton, etc.), which were once reserved for men, women are increasingly numerous but generally face enormous difficulties, particularly in terms of access to land ownership, agricultural inputs, financial resources (credit, subsidies, grants, etc.), skilled labour and poor mastery of modern agricultural techniques"[18] which reduce their production capacity and the competitiveness of their farms. Only 10% of them own land, compared to 90% of men[19][20] . Although the existing legal framework facilitates access to land for women and men[21] , traditional considerations and the low economic power of rural women make it difficult for them to access and control land. When it comes to participation in decision-making, women are largely under-represented in all spheres of decision-

[17] MINPROFF Statistical Yearbook, p.59

[18] "Cameroon, country gender profile, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family Affairs/UN Women, 2020"

[19] International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC), 2019, *Cameroon Coffee Profile*, p. 16.

[20] Women have access to plots of land that they cultivate. However, this access to land does not give them control over it. They do not enjoy the land inheritance rights of their parents and husbands. When land is at stake, women have little opportunity to assert their rights (OCHA, 2019, Data on Gender Equality in Cameroon, p. 2).

[21] The Cameroonian legal framework promotes access to land for its citizens through three (03) main texts, including (i) Ordinance 74/1 of 6 June 1974 establishing the land tenure system (ii) Decree No. 76/165 of 27 April 1976 establishing the conditions for obtaining land titles and (iii) Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 December 2005 amending and supplementing certain provisions of the previous decree, allowing women and men to acquire land ownership.

making (for example, only 8% of mayors are women)[22] . They remain severely disadvantaged in the management of farm resources and have very little involvement in dialogue on sector development policies (and therefore very few opportunities to make their voices heard). Men have privileged access to public community meetings and often make decisions affecting the community on their own. Given this reality, it is highly likely that fewer women will apply for grants. However, this is due to contextual inequalities in terms of access to land, rather than discriminatory measures related to the way the project is designed.

Risk management measure: The project has developed a gender action plan. Its implementation will aim to combat contextual inequalities in the coffee and cocoa sector. Its finalisation and implementation will be the responsibility of FODECC's gender and inclusion unit.

Risk 10: Risk 10: Indigenous peoples: labour conditions and access to the producer window:
The indigenous peoples recognised in Cameroon fall into two main categories:[23]

- the Baka, the Bagyéli and the Bakola, also known as the "forest peoples" or, pejoratively, "pygmies".
- The report also refers to the Mbororo peoples, who are transhumant herders.

It is estimated that 0.4% of Cameroon's total population is made up of Bagyeli or Bakola, whose numbers are estimated at around 4,000, and Baka, estimated at around 40,000. The Baka live mainly in the eastern and southern regions of Cameroon. The Bakola and Bagyeli live in an area of approximately 12,000 km² in southern Cameroon, particularly in the districts of Akom II, Bipindi, Kribi and Lolodorf.[24] Originally, the forest peoples of Cameroon were pure hunter-gatherers, who cultivated virtually nothing. Several sedentarisation campaigns carried out during and after the colonial period resulted in most of the Baka, Bagyeli and Bakola having a permanent plot of land where they lived for most of the year by the 1960s. During the process of sedentarisation, the Baka, Bagyeli and Bakola adopted the subsistence farming practices of other ethnic groups living in the region. Most of the time, they live in semi-permanent camps near farming villages and maintain economic and ritual relationships with these villagers, but during the long dry season (November to March), they move to their hunting camps in the forest.[25]

There are also cases where members of these peoples work as labourers on Bantu-owned plantations under conditions that have often been described as "abusive".[26] However, there are no detailed studies documenting the presence and working conditions of indigenous peoples in the cocoa and coffee sectors. Given this context, it is unlikely that many of the farmers who register at the counters will be from Indigenous Peoples, and there is no reason to believe that, if this were the case, FODECC would engage in discriminatory practices when deciding on the allocation of grants. However, it is impossible to completely rule out this possibility. It is also possible that farmers benefiting from the project may have workers from the IP groups identified above and that these workers may be employed in poor conditions (low pay, etc.). A 2026 study by CED and Fern conducted across ten localities in the Centre, South and East regions provides updated evidence that Baka women are

[22] SND 30, op. cit. p. 99.
[23] REPORT OF THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/COMMUNITIES (2005) Adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights at its 28th Ordinary Session
[24] https://iwgia.org/en/cameroon.html
[25] Schmidt-Soltau, K., Dr (2003) Development plan for indigenous peoples ("pygmies")
for the sectoral programme on forests and the environment
[26] The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Cameroon Supplementary report submitted following Cameroon's third periodic report 54th Ordinary Session, October 2013 Presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, jointly submitted by: Centre for Environment and Development (CED) Okani Network for Concerted Action on Pygmies (RACOPY) [Research Network for Concerted Action in Favour of Pygmies] Association for the Social and Cultural Development of the Mbororo (MBOSCUDA) International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)

specifically confined to low-paid labour on Bantu-owned plantations, with limited income control and high exposure to exploitative conditions. On this basis, and consistent with the assessment in the IPPF (Annex 8), the labour dimension of this risk is assessed as Moderate in terms of severity, notwithstanding the low probability of IP producers being directly registered in the FODECC system given their current marginal participation in the formal sector.

Risk management measure:
An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been prepared as a companion document to this ESMP (see Annex 8). The IPPF establishes the framework for managing all project interactions with indigenous peoples throughout implementation, and should be read alongside the measures below.

Measures applicable from project start:

- FODECC will commission a baseline study (Year 1) to document the participation of indigenous peoples as owners or labourers on cocoa and coffee plantations, the barriers they face in accessing FODECC subsidies, their working conditions, and their presence and customary land use in beneficiary municipalities. The study will include structured consultations with IP communities and will be submitted to MINEPAT and the GCF by Month 12.
- All producer agreements under the FODECC Guichet system will include a clause prohibiting exploitative labour practices affecting IP workers. Agricultural advisors will be trained to identify and report cases of IP labour exploitation through the digital monitoring platform.
- FODECC, in partnership with IP representative organisations (CED, OKANI, RACOPY), will conduct outreach sessions in IP communities to explain eligibility criteria and provide facilitated support for plot georeferencing and bank account opening.
- FODECC's registration system does not require formal land title as a condition of eligibility, which is critical for IP producers who typically hold customary but not formal title.
- In municipalities with known IP presence, MINEPAT will ensure that PLADDT processes explicitly map customary land use, including forest areas used for hunting, gathering and seasonal activities. No land allocations will be formalised without prior consultation with affected IP communities.

When the IPPF provisions are activated:

Site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) will be prepared under the IPPF whenever any of the following circumstances arise during implementation:

- A PLADDT process in a municipality with significant IP presence proposes to formalise land allocations that would restrict or extinguish IP customary access to forest areas;
- A post-harvest processing centre or other civil works activity is proposed in or immediately adjacent to a recognised sacred forest or site of known IP cultural significance;
- Any project activity would have a significant adverse impact on IP cultural heritage or would restrict IP access to natural resources on land subject to traditional ownership or customary use.

In these circumstances, FODECC or MINEPAT will suspend the relevant activity and initiate the FPIC procedure set out in the IPPF (Annex A of the IPPF) before proceeding.

7.2 Summary of environmental and social risks and management measures for the project

The main potential environmental and social risks of the project described in the previous section are summarised in the following table.

Table 2: Summary of project environmental and social risks

Main risks	Relevant activities	Risk level	Environmental and social risk management measures (see details in the previous section)	Responsible for implementation/monitoring
Risk 1: Access/economic movement restrictions	● Activity 1.2.2. Prepare and implement local land use plans (PLADDT) ● Activity 2.1.3.1. Co-finance the preparation of Local Plans for Sustainable Land Use and Development in the municipality, setting out land use allocations between different uses	P:3 I:2 Importance: **Moderate**	Implementation of the participatory procedure for developing PLADDTs as codified in **the Methodological Guide for Developing PLADDTs** prepared by MINEPAT in 2021.[27]	MINEPAT
Risk 2: Use of solid fertilisers, foliar fertilisers and insecticide/fungicide sprays with risks of local pollution.	● Activity 2.1.1.1. Annual contribution to the Production sub-window G1/a-ebon: subsidy for certified plants and quality inputs, and very small production equipment ● Activity 2.1.1.2. Annual contribution to the Production Sub-Window G1/b-PA: co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives	P:4 I:2 Importance: **Moderate**	General measures to limit waste and misuse of inputs ● The high cost of inputs naturally limits waste. ● Specific mitigation measures are planned to reinforce this control. -- Measures related to suppliers and inputs ● Agreements with approved suppliers will include technical specifications: ○ Promotion of products approved by MINADER, in order to reduce the use of hazardous substances and harmful emissions. ○ Recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers. -- Measures related to product supply (via electronic vouchers) ● Provision of: ○ Biopesticides/insecticides.	Producers Approved suppliers

[27] https://euredd.efi.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/220322_GUIDE-DELABORATION-DES-PLADDT-FINAL-22-Mars-2022.pdf

			○ Small equipment promoting more efficient use of inputs. --- Actions by FODECC and its partners ● Raising awareness among farmers about the responsible use of fertilisers and pesticides, with practical demonstrations. ● Training producers in hazardous waste management. ● Communication of environmental standards and specifications related to exports to limit the use of pesticides. --- Measures for agroecological transition (activity 2.1.4.2) ● Individual support for producers participating in the Sustainability Desks over a period of three years: ○ Mapping of the farm. ○ Preparation of the Agroecological Transition Plan (ATP). ○ Implementation of planned activities. ○ Periodic monitoring and evaluations. ● Technical monitoring provided by an agricultural advisor, with georeferenced reports sent to FODECC via the digital platform.	Approved suppliers FODECC - training unit Approved agricultural advisers
Risk 3: Working without appropriate equipment during spraying operations in plantations	● Activity 2.1.1.1. ● Activity 2.1.1.2.	P:4 I:3 Moderate	Technical specifications for suppliers: ● Promotion of products approved by MINADER, in order to reduce the use and production of hazardous substances and emissions. --- Electronic vouchers: ● Purchase of biopesticides/insecticides. ● Acquisition of small equipment to improve the use of inputs. --- Actions by FODECC and its partners: ● Training and awareness-raising for farmers on occupational risks and preventive measures related to the spraying of chemicals, with practical demonstrations. ● Training on hazardous waste management for producers.	Approved suppliers FODECC
Risk 4: Child labour on plantations	All project activities aimed at intensifying production, in particular activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2	P:3 I:3 Significance: Moderate	Implementation of the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) developed by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) to identify, prevent and remedy child labour in the cocoa sector. ● How the CLMRS works:	FODECC - Gender and Social Inclusion Unit

			○ Network of community facilitators conducting regular home visits to raise awareness of the risks of child labour. ○ Active identification of children engaged in hazardous or risky work. ○ Implementation of appropriate support measures (access to education, school kits, remedial classes, birth certificates, school infrastructure). ● Four main functions of the system: ○ Raising awareness among farmers, children and communities about the harmful effects of child labour. ○ Active monitoring and collection of standardised data to identify cases. ○ Remediation and prevention, including income diversification and women's empowerment programmes. ○ Follow-up visits to ensure the sustainable removal of children from work. --- Producer commitment: ● Inclusion in contractual agreements of a ban on child labour during school terms. --- Actions by FODECC and its partners (including CTFC): ● Awareness-raising sessions for producers on the prohibition of child labour on plantations. ● On-site inspections of a representative sample of plots for verification purposes.	Certified agricultural advisers Producers and FODECC FODECC and CTFC
Risk 5: Potential registration of beneficiaries whose plots are located in permanent forest areas/protected areas	Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.	P:3 I:3 Significance: Moderate	Producer registration system: ● Manages risk through control of cartographic data. ● Verifies that georeferenced plots are located outside the Permanent Forest Domain (DFP). --- Georeferencing procedure: ● Carried out by producers using the FODECC's AGRI4FARMER application. ● GPS data is superimposed on the PFD map.	FODECC FODECC Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

			● If a plot is located within the PFD (protected areas, UFAs, communal forests, ZICs, forest reserves), it is marked in red and permanently excluded from any subsidies. --- Support for registration: ● MINADER staff and local associations assist producers to avoid procedural errors. --- Field checks: ● FODECC, with the support of the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC), sets up random inspection teams to verify the reliability of GIS data.	Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC),
Risk 6: Failure to comply with work rules and safety standards during the construction of buildings	The project will provide financial support to municipalities to facilitate real estate investments and the construction/renovation of post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.1), as well as co-financing for the purchase of equipment for cooperatives or partner economic interest groups (EIGs) of municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.2).	P:3 I: 3 **Importance: Moderate**	Construction procedures: ● Application of Cameroon's public procurement procedures. ● Compliance with national legislation on environmental impact assessments, building permits, technical and safety requirements, and execution/control of works. ● Compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code and occupational health, safety and environment (HSE) standards. --- Role of the CTFC (funded by FODECC): ● Support, advice and monitoring of municipalities for planning, programming, budgeting, preparing financing dossiers and monitoring the implementation of infrastructure. --- Responsibilities of the FODECC Environmental and Social Safeguarding Specialist: ● Verifying compliance with technical, safety and HSE requirements during the contracting process (collection of documentation). ● Ensure communication and follow-up of incidents or accidents at work reported to FODECC. ● Inform beneficiary municipalities about the complaint management mechanism and ensure that workers are informed.	Municipal public procurement units CTFC FODECC (safeguarding unit)
Risk 7: Potential impact of coffee and cocoa production on biodiversity	Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.	P:3 I:3	Overall project objective: ● Reduce the impact of cocoa and coffee production on deforestation and ecosystem degradation.	FODECC

		Significance: Moderate	● Intensify existing plantations to limit the expansion of cultivated areas through productivity gains from the Producer Window. --- Technical specifications for suppliers: ● Promotion of products approved by MINADER to reduce hazardous substances and emissions. ● Recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers. --- Electronic vouchers: ● Supply of biopesticides/insecticides. ● Purchase of small equipment to improve input use. --- Support for producers: ● Support for producers involved in the Sustainability Window for an agroecological transition at the farm level. --- Actions by FODECC and its partners: ● Raising awareness of the use of organic fertilisers. ● Support for beneficiaries of the Producer Scheme to transition to the Agroecological Scheme. ● On-site and GIS checks on a representative sample of plots for verification.	Suppliers Certified agricultural advisers
Risk 8: Impact of climate variations on crop productivity		P:2 I:3 Significance: Moderate	Sustainability objective: ● Strengthen the resilience of plantations to the impacts of climate change. ● Supporting farmers in accessing the sustainability window is the main risk mitigation measure. --- Specific measures: ● Implementation of the Agroecological Transition Plan (PTA) to promote environmental preservation and climate resilience. ● Training producers in sustainable production techniques and climate-smart agricultural practices. ● Supply of plant material for the development of agroforestry.	FODECC - training unit, monitoring and evaluation unit, and Certified agricultural advisers
Risk 9: Unequal access for women to the producers' counter		P:2 I:2	Development and implementation of a Gender Action Plan (GAP) by the project.	FODECC – Gender and Inclusion Unit

		Significance: Low	● Objective: to combat existing gender inequalities in the coffee and cocoa sectors. ● Responsibility: FODECC's Gender and Inclusion Unit will be responsible for finalising and implementing the plan.	
Risk 10: Potential discrimination and/or violation of the rights of indigenous peoples with regard to access to the window		P:2 I:3 Significance: Moderate	An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been prepared as Annex 8 of the project safeguards package. It establishes the framework for managing all project interactions with indigenous peoples and specifies when site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) and FPIC processes will be required. ● Commission an IP baseline study (Year 1) documenting IP participation in the cocoa/coffee sector, working conditions, access barriers and customary land use in beneficiary municipalities. ● All producer agreements to include a clause prohibiting exploitative labour practices affecting IP labourers. Monitored through agricultural advisor reports and the GRM. ● Targeted outreach and facilitated FODECC registration support for IP producers through partnerships with CED, OKANI and RACOPY. ● PLADDT processes in areas with IP presence to include explicit mapping of customary land use. No land allocations formalised without prior consultation. IPPs and FPIC triggered when: PLADDT activities restrict IP forest access; civil works affect IP cultural heritage sites; or any activity significantly impacts IP natural resource access. Full procedure in IPPF Annex A.	FODECC - Safeguards Unit

7.3 Environmental and Social Management Plan

Roles and responsibilities for ESMP implementation and monitoring. FODECC, as Executing Entity for Component 2, is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of mitigation measures, data collection, field monitoring, grievance management, incident reporting and preparation of environmental and social monitoring reports. MINEPAT, as Accredited Entity and lead implementing entity for Component 1, is responsible for oversight of ESMP implementation, review of environmental and social monitoring reports, supervision missions, coordination with relevant ministries and reporting to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and CAFI. Unless otherwise specified, indicators identified in this table will be monitored by FODECC and consolidated in semi-annual environmental and social monitoring reports submitted to MINEPAT for review.

Table 3: Environmental and Social Management Plan

Risk/Impact	Calendar	Management measure	Monitoring indicator	Frequency tracked	Responsible for implementation and monitoring	Costs (coverage)
1 – Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts						
Access restrictions/economic travel	Implementation via the Local Authorities Portal	Prepare the implementation of local land-use plans (PLADDT) according to the MINEPAT methodological guide (2021) èCo-financing of the preparation of the PLADDT	Number of municipal PLADDTs completed	Annual	FODECC / CTFC (implementation and field monitoring); MINEPAT (oversight and review)	Cost of each municipal PLADDT
Use of solid fertilizers, foliar fertilizers and pesticide sprays with risks of local pollution	Implementation via the Production portal	Annual funding for the production window èGeneral measures to limit waste and misuse of synthetic inputs (the high cost of inputs naturally limits waste) èAgreements with approved suppliers include technical specifications: products approved by the MINADER, packaging recovery èAlternative proposals using biopesticides èSuggestions for equipment that promotes more efficient use of inputs	Number of subsidized producers Cumulative value and volume of subsidized fertilizers, pesticides and small equipment Number of producers aware of the responsible use of inputs	Annual	FODECC / MINADER MINEPAT reviews implementation progress through semi-annual ESMP monitoring reports, annual supervision missions, and annual	FODECC Awareness/Communication Budget

		èRaising awareness among farmers about the responsible use of fertilizers and pesticides + training in hazardous waste management + communication on pesticide residue standards that must not be exceeded for export and consumption			reporting to GCF and CAFI.	
2 – Employment and working conditions						
Potential non-compliance with work rules and safety conditions during building construction	Implementation	Tender documents will require compliance with national labor legislation, no convictions for labor law violations within the last three years, and adherence to universal accessibility standards and measures to ensure access for people with reduced mobility.	Tender documents	Annual	Municipalities/ CTFC (implementation) FODECC – UNOPS (field monitoring); MINEPAT (oversight and review)	Project cost
	Implementation	Contractual conditions: Compliance with ILO labor standards (no child labor or forced labor; equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and freedom of association); decent wages consistent with similar wages for the same occupation in the region; the main contractor will impose identical working conditions on the workforce of its subcontractors and other suppliers; reporting of accidents, including violations of the contractor's code of conduct by its staff; a mechanism allowing FODECC to pay subcontractors directly in the event of unjustified payment delays by the main contractor	▪ Contract with the construction company ▪ Audit report	Annual	Municipalities/ CTFC (implementation) FODECC – UNOPS (field monitoring); MINEPAT (oversight and review)	Project cost
Working without appropriate equipment during	Implementation	Awareness and training sessions for producers on the risks associated with production activities and preventive measures during chemical spraying. Promotion of products approved by the MINADER	▪ Visual/Practical Demonstrations ▪ Number of trained farmers	Annual	FODECC – training unit	Included in the budgets of the PAD CACAO and

spraying in plantations		Acquisition of small equipment to improve the use of inputs Purchase of biopesticides Hazardous waste management training for producers	▪ Specifications for input suppliers that include awareness sessions ▪ Reports from the PAD CACAO and PARF CAFE projects which are carrying out these awareness-raising activities		Certified agricultural advisors Approved suppliers MINEPAT (oversight and review)	PARF CAFE programs
Child labor in cocoa and coffee plantations	Implementation	Implementation of the CLMRS (Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System) developed by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) to identify, prevent and address child labour in the cocoa sector. Awareness and training sessions for producers on the prevention of child labor in cocoa and coffee plantations Data monitoring at the national level by the MINTSS in collaboration with the MINAS and the MINPROFF Inclusion in contractual agreements of the prohibition of child labor during school periods and times.	• Report on awareness sessions at the municipal level ▪ national data	Annual	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit – Certified Agricultural Advisors MINEPAT (oversight and review)	FODECC Gender and Social Inclusion Unit Budget/PASD Cocoa and PARF Coffee Budget
3 – Rational use of resources and prevention and management of pollution						
Use of solid and liquid foliar fertilizers and insecticide and fungicide treatments by sprayer or fogger, with risks of local pollution.	Implementation	Technical specifications of suppliers and promotion of products bearing an eco-label approved by the MINADER, allowing for the minimization of the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions.	▪ Supplier and input characteristics are defined in the specific specifications signed with the input suppliers.	Annual	FODECC Approved suppliers (implementation) FODECC –(field monitoring); MINEPAT (oversight and review)	N / A
	Implementation	Raising awareness among producers about the responsible use of organic agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, awareness-raising, presentation of practice, demonstration on the types and their application.	▪ Presentation of the practice ▪ Visual demonstration ▪ Number of trained farmers	Annual	FODECC – training unit – certified	Budget PAD CACAO and PARF CAFE

					agricultural advisors MINEPAT (oversight and review)	
	Implementation	Raising awareness of best practices for managing hazardous waste and the need to manage waste, particularly empty chemical containers which must be taken back by input suppliers according to the agreement with FODECC	▪ Specifications signed with supplier partners include the obligation to collect empty packaging in their work plan. ▪ Presentation of the practice ▪ Visual demonstration ▪ Number of trained farmers ▪ Number of containers collected by input suppliers	Annual	FODECC – training unit – certified agricultural advisors MINEPAT (oversight and review)	
Rational use of water and electricity	Implementation	Raising awareness among FODECC employees regarding the rational use of water and electricity, reducing individual consumption, switching off appliances and lights at the end of the day, reporting water leaks and ensuring rapid and systematic repair of damaged equipment; èThe objective is to reduce water and electricity consumption by 15% in year 1, then by 20% in year 2.	Regular employee awareness sessions in all departments and buildings Implementation of a procedure for monitoring and enforcing rules on reducing water and energy consumption	Quarterly	FODECC - training unit / gender unit / E&S unit (implementation) MINEPAT (oversight and review)	FODECC operating budget
4 – Public Heath and Safety						
Inequality in access to the Producer Window for women	Implementation,	Study on the current participation of women, including barriers to participation and specific support needs	Study results	2026	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit (implementation);	Budget PAIDATA

					MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	
	Implementation,	Gender action plan to analyze the limitations of women's access and implement specific measures, taking into account social vulnerability	▪ Action plan indicator monitoring report ▪ Number of women beneficiaries	2026	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit	
Inequality in access to the Producer Helpdesk for young people	Implementation,	Study on current youth participation, including barriers to participation and specific support needs	Study results	2026	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit	
	Implementation,	Action plan on gender and youth to analyze the limitations of young people's access and implement specific measures	▪ Action plan indicator monitoring report ▪ Number of young beneficiaries	2026	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit	
5 – Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and forced resettlement						
N / A						
6 - Preservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of biological natural resources						
Potential registration of	Preparation	Establish a list of ineligibilities for FODECC subsidies for producers located in the following areas:	▪ Exclusion list	Biannual		

beneficiaries whose plots are located in the permanent forest estate/protected areas and natural forests		▪ DFP/Protected areas, reserves and ZIC: if the presence is subsequent to the classification of the area as a protected area (see provisions of the Management Plan) ▪ DFP/forest concession-UFA and Communal Forest: if the presence is subsequent to the classification of the forest (see provisions of the Management Plan) ▪ DFnP: if present in areas of intact or naturally regenerated natural forests (naturally regenerated > 20 years of fallow) ▪ Community forests: if present in an area not designated for agricultural use (see management plan)	▪ Mapping of protected areas (and management plans) and forests of the permanent forest estate (and management plans) and the non-permanent forest estate (management plans, local zoning plans, PLADDT) and dates of establishment ▪ Mapping of community forests (and management plans)		FODECC / SIG / Monitoring and Evaluation Unit CTFC/SIG Agricultural advisors	GIS unit budget and monitoring and evaluation
	Implementation	Verification of plots in the producer data registration and control system Verification that the plots are outside the permanent forest estate (DFP) Mapping of ineligible plots and marking in red in the computer system, prohibiting them from any form of subsidy and support	▪ GIS data ▪ Report identifying parcels in areas identified as ineligible ▪ Corrective actions for growers located in identified ineligible areas	Annual		
Potential impact of coffee and cocoa production on biodiversity	Implementation	Raising awareness among producers about the use of organic fertilizers Awareness-raising and support for beneficiaries of Window 1 for production intensification towards Window 3 for agroecological transition	▪ Report identifying the planting of fertilizer trees that are beneficial to coffee or cocoa ▪ Training for beneficiaries on the implementation of the recommendations and requirements of the operational manual for the agroecological transition window Training for beneficiaries of Window 1 on the procedures for transitioning to Window 3	Annual	FODECC – Approved agricultural advisors (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	

	Implementation	Verification of a representative sample of plots through in-situ and GIS checks	On-site visits	Annual	FODECC – Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and GIS (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	Operating budget for GIS and M&E units
7 - Indigenous peoples/disadvantaged traditional local communities						
Potential discrimination and/or disregard for the rights of indigenous populations in accessing the Helpdesk	Implementation,	A study on the current participation of Indigenous populations, including as plantation workers . The study will identify the difficulties (lack of birth certificates, national identity cards, etc.) encountered by the FODECC mechanism in supporting these Indigenous populations.	▪ Study results ▪ Mapping of Indigenous Peoples available at MINAS	2026	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	Budget PAIDATA
	Implementation,	An action plan on gender and Indigenous populations will be developed to analyze the limitations of Indigenous peoples' access and implement specific measures, taking into account their social vulnerability. This action plan must be aligned with the national Indigenous development plan.	▪ Action plan indicator monitoring report Number of indigenous beneficiary populations	Annual	FODECC – Gender and Social Inclusion Unit (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	Budget PAIDATA
8 – Cultural Heritage						
N / A						
9 – Financial intermediaries						
Implementation of the SGES	Implementation	Implementation of the SGES	Annual report on the implementation of the SGES	Annual	FODECC – E&S unit (implementation);	Operating budget

					MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	
	Implementation	The procurement mechanism includes an evaluation of FODECC service providers based on the social and environmental criteria defined in the FODECC's SGES (Sustainable Development and Management System).	Evaluation report based on the SGES	Annual	FODECC – E&S unit (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	
10 – Stakeholder mobilization and information						
Impact of climate variations on crop productivity	Implementation	Training producers on sustainable production techniques and climate-smart agricultural practices	▪ Operationalization Manual from the Agroecological Transition Helpdesk, ▪ Presentation of the practice ▪ Visual demonstration Number of trained farmers	Annual	FODECC – training unit, monitoring and evaluation unit and certified agricultural advisors (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	
	Implementation	Supply of plant material for agroforestry development	▪ Operationalization Manual of the Agroecological Transition Help Desk ▪ Number of agroforestry seedlings delivered ▪ Number of farmers trained in agroecological production techniques Number of cocoa and coffee plots managed using agroforestry	Annual	FODECC Certified agricultural advisors (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	

	Implementation	Supporting beneficiaries of development projects in environmental preservation and climate change resilience	▪ Operationalization Manual Visual demonstration from the Agroecological Transition Helpdesk ▪ Number of trained farmers ▪ Number of resilience practices mastered and adopted In-situ controls	Annual	FODECC – training unit, monitoring and evaluation unit and certified agricultural advisors (implementation); MINEPAT (oversight and reporting)	

8.0 Implementation and monitoring of the ESMP

8.1 Institutional organisation for implementation

The implementation of the ESMP is based on the institutional structures already involved in the execution of the technical components of the project. These structures will ensure the systematic integration of environmental and social measures into the planning, programming, financing and monitoring of project activities.

MINEPAT, as the Accredited Entity (AE), provides strategic oversight of the ESMP. It ensures compliance with national policies and the environmental and social requirements of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI). MINEPAT also coordinates with the relevant sectoral ministries (MINADER, MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINCOMMERCE, MINFI, MINRESI) and provides overall monitoring of environmental and social performance indicators.

FODECC, as the Implementing Entity (IE) responsible for Component 2, is responsible for the operational implementation of environmental and social measures relating to the windows (Producers, Communities and Sustainability). FODECC, through its Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit (SES), ensures:

- verification of the environmental and social compliance of activities;
- supervision of awareness-raising, training and communication activities;
- regular monitoring of the implementation of mitigation measures by producers, agrodealers, municipalities and cooperatives.

Decentralised local authorities (CTDs), particularly beneficiary rural municipalities, are responsible for integrating environmental and social management measures into the implementation of their Local Plans for Land Use and Sustainable Development (PLADDTs) and into the supervision of community infrastructure construction or rehabilitation projects. Certified agricultural advisers and technical partners (CTFC, agrodealers, EMF, etc.) will support the implementation of the PGES measures through:

- direct advice and support to producers;
- monitoring good agricultural and safety practices;
- information gathering and reporting in the field.

A technical commission for environmental and social monitoring of the project will be set up, attached to the project's Steering Committee (COPIL), to ensure coordination and periodic review of E&S performance. It will meet twice a year.

8.2 Capacity building

Capacity building is an essential condition for the effective implementation of the PGES. The project will finance training, information and awareness-raising activities targeting the various project stakeholders:

Table 4: Capacity building

Stakeholders	Training/support topics	Frequency/Modality
FODECC and MINEPAT staff	Environmental and social management, monitoring of E&S management measures, communication and complaint handling	Initial training + annual refresher courses
Certified agricultural advisers	Good agricultural practices, health and safety, input management, gender approach and inclusion	Half-yearly regional sessions
Producers and cooperatives	Responsible use of inputs, health and safety, combating child labour, agroecological practices	Ongoing awareness-raising via the Guichet and advisory visits

Municipalities and CTDs	Integration of the PGES into procurement, site monitoring, complaint management	Annual workshops

Educational materials and training modules will be produced in partnership with the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC) and made available via the FODECC digital platform.

8.3 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Environmental and social monitoring aims to verify the effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement measures and to ensure compliance with legal obligations and the safeguard policies of the FVC and CAFI.

Monitoring will be carried out at three levels:

1. Field monitoring by agricultural advisers and forestry units in the beneficiary municipalities, through periodic environmental and social compliance reports (including georeferenced photos via the FODECC platform);
2. Consolidated monitoring by the FODECC's SES unit, which will analyse the data collected, verify the indicators and carry out support/control missions;
3. Strategic monitoring by MINEPAT, through consolidated quarterly and annual reports submitted to the GCF and CAFI.

Half-yearly E&S monitoring report will be produced by FODECC and submitted to MINEPAT . It will include:

- the progress of mitigation measures;
- cases of non-compliance and corrective measures;
- complaints received and their resolution;
- additional training or technical assistance needs.

An annual independent verification will be carried out in accordance with the project's MRV system (Activity 3.1.3).

8.4 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

FODECC will establish a transparent, accessible and inclusive mechanism enabling stakeholders (producers, workers, local residents, etc.) to submit their complaints, concerns or suggestions.

Any affected individual, community, service provider or stakeholder may file a complaint. Complaints may be anonymous or filed by an authorised representative. Complaints not related to FODECC-funded activities or outside the scope of the project are ineligible.

The GRM will have four levels:

1. Local level: complaints submitted to the agricultural advisor or the municipality;
2. Regional FODECC level: registration in the Guichet database and initial verification;
3. Central level (FODECC SES Unit): in-depth analysis, follow-up on corrective measures;
4. MINEPAT/COPIL level: handling of complex or unresolved cases.

Each complaint will be recorded in an electronic register with an acknowledgement of receipt. Responses will be provided within a maximum of 30 working days. Channels will include: paper forms, mobile application, telephone line, or submission at the town hall. A procedure for handling complaints will be detailed.
These four levels constitute the internal escalation of the project-level mechanism, which is the first of three levels of recourse available to any affected person. The second level is the institutional Grievance Redress Mechanism of MINEPAT, the Accredited Entity, grounded in its signed SEAH

instruments, with investigations by the General Inspectorate (IGEFS) and sanctions through the CELCOR/SEAH Unit. The third level is the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) of the Green Climate Fund. Any affected person may bring a grievance to the Accredited Entity level or directly to the GCF IRM, without exhausting the lower levels; acknowledgement of receipt is provided within 24 hours and, for SEAH complaints, response is triggered within 72 hours. The Complaints Management Mechanism described in this section constitutes the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), the term used across the Funding Proposal and its annexes.

The complaints management mechanism will be accessible and inclusive survivor-centred and gender-responsive, with specific procedures for SEAH including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of such cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and modalities to provide timely services and redress to survivors, including as appropriate, medical care, psychosocial support, legal support, community driven protection measures, and reintegration.

The E&S Specialist will maintain a register of complaints including:

- the number and nature of complaints received,
- processing times,
- results and satisfaction levels.

The FODECC's GRM is an essential tool for transparency, accountability and dialogue with stakeholders. It ensures structured, accessible and fair management of concerns, thereby promoting the social and environmental sustainability of the projects supported.

The detailed operation of this mechanism is set out in the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism and in the consolidated MINEPAT SEAH grievance mechanism, which are annexed to this ESMP. At executing-entity level, it derives from the FODECC grievance framework set out in the FODECC Environmental and Social Management System (Annex 5), which requires each financed activity to operate its own grievance redress mechanism.

8.5 Implementation schedule

The ESMP will be implemented throughout the duration of the RACINE project (6 years). Monitoring, training and awareness-raising measures will be continued, with half-yearly reviews and an annual update of the ESMP based on the results of the monitoring and the recommendations of the audits.

Annex A: Chance Find Procedure

Purpose and scope. This procedure applies to any project-financed activity involving earthworks or ground disturbance — in particular the construction or rehabilitation of post-harvest processing centres and other municipal investments co-financed through the Communities Window — in the event of the accidental discovery of physical cultural resources (archaeological remains, artefacts, tombs and burial sites, sacred objects or sites, historical structures). It gives effect to Law No. 2013/003 of 18 April 2013 governing cultural heritage in Cameroon and to IFC Performance Standard 8. This procedure must be included as a contractual clause in all works contracts and municipal financing agreements, and contractors' site staff must be briefed on it before works begin.

Procedure. In the event of a discovery:

- **Stop work** immediately in the area of the find and within a radius of at least 20–50 metres, as appropriate;
- **Secure the site** to prevent damage, disturbance or theft. No object may be removed, displaced or destroyed;
- **Notify** the site supervisor immediately; the site supervisor informs the municipality and the FODECC Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit within 24 hours, and the municipality notifies the competent regional delegation of the Ministry of Arts and Culture (MINAC) within 48 hours;
- **Preliminary evaluation** is carried out by MINAC (or an expert designated by it), which determines the significance of the find and the required action — recording, protection in situ, or salvage/excavation;
- **Record** the find (description, location, photographs, actions taken) in the site register and in the project's half-yearly E&S monitoring report;
- **Resume work** in the affected area only upon written authorisation from MINAC, relayed through the municipality and the FODECC Safeguards Unit;
- **Sacred sites of indigenous peoples**: where a find or an affected site is of cultural or spiritual significance to indigenous communities, the activity is suspended and the consultation/FPIC provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (Annex 8) apply in addition to this procedure.

Responsibilities. The contractor is responsible for stopping and securing works and for immediate notification; the municipality, as contracting authority, for liaison with MINAC; the FODECC Safeguards Unit for recording, follow-up and reporting; and MINEPAT for reporting significant finds to the GCF.

Annex B: Exclusion List

The following activities are not eligible for financing or subsidy under any window or component of the project. This exclusion list is applied through the FODECC Environmental and Social Management System, the operational manuals of the windows, and the agreements signed with producers, cooperatives, municipalities, approved suppliers and contractors. The project will not finance:

- any activity on a plot located wholly or partly within the permanent forest estate (DFP) — national parks, wildlife and forest reserves, forest management units (UFA), hunting zones (ZIC), communal forests — or any other protected area (automatically enforced through the FODECC georeferencing system);
- any activity involving the conversion or degradation of natural forest, critical habitat or wetlands, including land clearing by burning for the establishment or extension of plantations;
- any activity requiring land acquisition, physical resettlement or the involuntary displacement of people;
- any activity on lands subject to traditional ownership or customary use by indigenous peoples without the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process set out in the IPPF;
- any activity involving forced labour or harmful child labour, including the worst forms of child labour as defined by ILO Convention 182 and the national list of hazardous work;
- the purchase, distribution or subsidy of pesticides and other phytosanitary products classified by WHO as Class Ia or Ib (extremely/highly hazardous), products not registered or approved by MINADER, or substances banned under the Stockholm or Rotterdam Conventions;
- the purchase or use of asbestos-containing materials, radioactive materials, or equipment containing PCBs;
- commercial logging operations or the purchase of logging equipment;
- the production of, or trade in, weapons and munitions, tobacco, or narcotics;
- drift-net fishing, or any activity contravening Cameroonian law or the international conventions ratified by Cameroon;
- any activity by an entity or individual subject to unresolved, substantiated findings of sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment (SEAH), pending remediation.

Annex C: Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) and Categorization Model

This template must be completed during the activity preparation phase.

1. Identification and description of environmental and social risks

Environmental and social risks	Risk description (broken down by event, cause, impact)	Relevant IFAD environmental and social standards and relevant national legislation	Risk category (low, moderate or high)	Existing risk management measures	Existing gaps
Risk 1: ...					
Risk 2: ...					
Risk 3: ...					

2. Risk categorization and activation of E&S standards

Based on the identified risks, what standards are activated and which apply to the project activities?		Risk category	Comments
Standard 1: Conservation of biodiversity	☐		
Standard 2: Efficient use of resources and pollution prevention	☐		
Standard 3: Cultural Heritage	☐		
Standard 4: Indigenous Peoples	☐		
Standard 5: Work and working conditions	☐		
Standard 6: Community Health and Safety	☐		
Standard 7: Resettlement and economic reintegration	☐		
Standard 8. Financial intermediaries and direct investments	☐		
Standard 9: Climate Change	☐		

Assigning an overall risk category to activities. The risk category helps determine the necessary management measures.

Category	Description	The applicable category
Pupil		
Moderate		
Weak		

Annex D: Model Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP)

Risk description	Hierarchy of mitigation measures	Mitigation measures	Monitoring indicators	Deadline	Responsible personnel	Resources needed
Describe the risk based on the risk assessment (medium/high risk)	*-Avoid the risks* *-Minimize the risk* *- Compensate for the negative effects of the risk*	*What will you do to avoid the risk?* *Define the specific actions*	*What parameters will you control to determine the success of the implementation?*	*When will this goal be achieved?*	*Who is responsible for implementing these measures?* *(This should include all levels of management, including supervisors and frontline managers).*	*What human and financial resources will you need?*

Annex E: Serious Incident Report Form

General Information	
Name of the activity, region	
Complainant's name	
Name of the entity filing the complaint	
Name(s) of the person(s)/organization(s) alleged perpetrator(s) the incident. The names of the people may be anonymous.	
Name(s) or anonymous identity(ies) of the alleged victims, their age, sex and place of residence, and in cases where a group or community is victimized, as much information as possible	
Details of the incident	
Date and time of the incident (approximate if exact details are not known)	
Location of the incident (approximate if exact details are not known)	
Incident type (multiple can be selected, if applicable)	☐ Health and safety of people ☐ Indigenous Peoples' Rights ☐ Workers ☐ Community Health ☐ Gender-based violence and security ☐ Social cohesion ☐ Environment ☐ Human rights ☐ Application of the legislation ☐ Forced evictions ☐ Reputation risk ☐ Contracts ☐ Other (specify):
Detailed chronological description of the the incident and its circumstances (attach supporting documents (maps, photos, etc.)	
Analysis of the causes	
Detailed description of the factors including the main causal factors, including external or potential failures and the identification of absent/inadequate/failing/unused management and control measures (e.g., non-compliance with environmental and social standards or measures)	
Specification of functions and responsibilities related to the incident, including the involvement of authorities	
Methods used to conduct root cause analysis (e.g., interviews, document review, site visits, police reports, etc.)	
Immediate response and corrective action	
Description of the immediate response and related responsibilities, such as taking the person(s) to the hospital, informing the police, involving national authorities, conducting a search, etc.	

Annex F. FODECC Complaint Resolution Mechanism

FODECC has established a Complaints Resolution Mechanism (CRM) to foster strong relationships with external stakeholders and manage the impact of its funding activities on potentially affected communities. This mechanism allows external stakeholders, including potentially affected beneficiaries, to raise questions or concerns, or to provide positive feedback. FODECC is committed to addressing these complaints promptly, respectfully, and transparently, free of charge.

Main characteristics of the FODECC's GRM:

- Accessibility: The mechanism is free and open to all.
- Confidentiality: Confidentiality is respected and measures are taken to protect the parties against retaliation.
- Legal rights: Participation in this process does not affect the applicant's legal rights to bring legal action.

All activities funded by FODECC must develop and implement their own complaints resolution mechanism, regardless of the category. Beneficiaries are required to communicate and engage with local stakeholders about this mechanism. They may use an existing GMP that complies with applicable environmental and social standards.

1. Objective

The FODECC's GMP aims to assess and address concerns when, despite proactive stakeholder engagement, some stakeholders are worried about the potential impact of the activity or believe their rights have been affected. Complaint management is an integral part of a robust stakeholder engagement strategy, which is essential for overall success.

This document describes the procedure for receiving, recording, evaluating, monitoring, responding to, documenting and taking action regarding external requests and complaints from the public and stakeholders concerning FODECC operations.

The objectives of the GRM are:

- To handle complaints and feedback quickly, efficiently, and transparently, in order to achieve fair, effective, and sustainable results.
- Provide a culturally appropriate complaints handling procedure that is accessible to all relevant stakeholders.
- Preventing the negative consequences of inadequate complaint handling.

2. Awareness

This GRM applies to all activities financially supported by FODECC.

Eligibility

Grievances related to activities must be dealt with through specific FODECC grievance mechanisms, particularly if there are no other appropriate referral options, such as national or judicial levels.

Eligibility criteria:

- Any beneficiary, community, local authority, service provider or other stakeholder (including individuals) who believes they are or may be harmed by an activity funded by FODECC has the right to file a complaint.
- Representatives can file a complaint on behalf of a third party by providing concrete evidence of their authority.
- Complaints can be submitted anonymously and will be reviewed.

Ineligible claims:

- Complaints not related to activities funded by FODECC or not involving FODECC partners.
- Complaints concerning matters outside the scope or domain.

- Complaints relating to the laws, policies and regulations of the country, unless they are related to the principles of the FODECC environmental and social management system.
- Repeated complaints by the same complainant, unless new evidence is presented or FODECC has not responded adequately.

3. Complaints and Grievance Handling Procedure

Presentation

The FODECC's social and environmental specialist is responsible for receiving and handling all complaints. Complaints can be submitted:

- In writing: by email or via the contact form on the FODECC website.
- Orally: in person or by telephone.

For illiterate individuals, a complaint can be lodged by a trusted representative.

Contact details :

- Contact page: FODECC website
- Claims Manager: Environmental and Social Issues Specialist
- Email: Complaints Mail
- Telephone: (under development)

It is possible to file an anonymous complaint using the complaint form. All complaints will be recorded in the complaints register with an individual reference number, and the parties concerned will be informed of receipt and next steps.

Recording and processing

Complaints are recorded and filed in a register by the social and environmental specialist. Serious incidents require immediate intervention from management, while non-serious complaints are subject to an initial investigation by the environmental and social (E&S) specialist. The process includes the following steps:

- Analyze the problem.
- Identify the root cause(s).
- Explore potential solutions.
- Conduct the necessary investigations and assessments.
- Resolve the problem or proceed with mediation if necessary.

For less complex complaints that can be resolved directly, the FODECC's social and environmental specialist drafts a proposed resolution and communicates it to all parties involved, including a written response to the complainant. The FODECC's environmental and social specialist submits a proposed resolution no later than 30 working days after receiving the complaint. This period may be extended if investigations, particularly in the case of serious incidents, require more time for resolution. Upon receipt of the proposed resolution, the complainant is invited to approve or reject the suggested actions within 10 working days so that the complaint can be closed or pursue further investigation or mediation.

If the proposed solution is satisfactory and resolves the existing grievances, the final agreement is documented and signed by the participants. The actions agreed upon during the mediation are implemented in a timely manner. Ideally, a schedule will have been established and documented for the implementation of the respective actions during the mediation or in the immediate response to the problem prior to the mediation.

Where possible, the resolution of the complaint is made public to keep other interested parties informed of the procedure and its outcome. However, this decision is made based on the privacy preferences of all parties involved. The FODECC's environmental and social specialist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the agreed actions to resolve the complaint. By analyzing trends and patterns in complaints submitted to the GRM, FODECC identifies systemic problems and adapts future practices accordingly.

Evaluation and survey

Mediation may be necessary to resolve grievances and ensure the satisfaction of all parties in complex cases. After analyzing the problem and identifying possible solutions, the environmental and social issues specialist conducts the mediation. Invitations to meetings will be sent in writing and verbally in a timely manner, clearly indicating the day, place (which may also be virtual), and time, as well as the expected participants. Interested parties may be accompanied by a trusted person, such as a family member, a worker representative, a village chief, etc.

During mediation, all parties will be encouraged to express their views and elaborate on the complaint. The E&S specialist will present the issue and analyze possible solutions. The complainant may speak and suggest solutions at any time. If necessary, other relevant parties (such as a health and safety officer or a mental health professional) will be invited. At the end of the mediation, the E&S specialist will present the final solution and seek the complainant's approval. All meetings will be recorded, including minutes and a list of participants.

Some conflicts may require more than one mediation session. Depending on the severity of the issue, several rounds of mediation may be necessary, including individual meetings before group mediation. The number of sessions required is determined by the E&S specialist's analysis.

The duration of mediation varies depending on the parties involved and the complexity of the issue. FODECC strives to resolve the problem as quickly as possible and to the satisfaction of all parties. If the complaint is not resolved after two mediation sessions, it is submitted to the general management for review.

Resolution and publication of complaints

If a proposed solution resolves existing grievances, the final agreement is documented and signed by the participants. The measures agreed upon during mediation are implemented in a timely manner, according to a schedule established and documented during the mediation or as part of the immediate response to the issue. Where possible, the resolution of the complaint is made public to keep other interested parties informed of the process and its outcome, while respecting the confidentiality preferences of the parties involved. The E&S specialist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the agreed actions.

Call

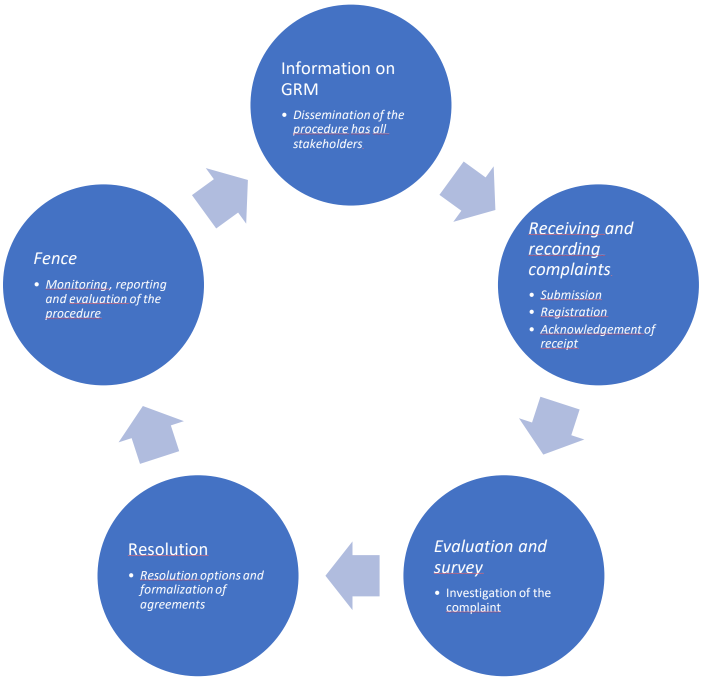
After the complaint has been resolved, disagreements may arise regarding the analysis and proposed corrective measures, delays in implementation, or other complaints about feeling victimized or harassed by the way the complaint was handled. These are all valid grounds for appeal. Misuse of the complaints mechanism for the purposes of victimization or harassment will be subject to disciplinary action.

The E&S specialist, along with other relevant authorities, immediately registers and reviews the complainant's appeal. If management is not involved, the E&S specialist informs management of the appeal and seeks advice on how to proceed. If it is determined that the issue can be resolved within the FODECC, it will be subject to further mediation or a new corrective action plan will be drafted. If senior management believes that the issue cannot be resolved through the FODECC complaints process, it will be referred to higher authorities, such as national courts. Complainants may choose alternative avenues outside the FODECC at any stage of the process.

Claims closed

After the agreed measures have been implemented and if no appeal is filed within a reasonable timeframe, the complaint may be closed. All closed complaints must be recorded using the complaint closure form. A copy of this form is sent to all parties involved to inform them of the official closure of the proceedings.

The following diagram presents the steps of the GRM:



4. The control

Monitoring and reporting are essential for measuring the effectiveness of the GRM and the efficient use of resources. FODECC recognizes that reporting improves the identification of trends and recurring problems, so they can be proactively addressed before they become contentious issues.

Monitoring and reporting also create a baseline level of information that can be used to inform communities.

Monitoring mechanism

The E&S specialist maintains an up-to-date register of complaints received and prepares a statistical analysis of their nature and which have been resolved and closed, including satisfaction levels. In addition, the number of anonymous complaints must be carefully monitored. All complaints must be categorized according to their relevance to the specific program and the issue at hand (e.g., human rights, compensation, safety, etc.).

Furthermore, data relating to the gender, age, and location of registered complaints will be collected in accordance with data protection laws and only if the complainant agrees to submit this data to the GRM. The control criteria that the E&S specialist must communicate to senior management include the following:

- Number of complaints;
- Number of anonymous complaints;
- Number of complaints rejected/inadmissible;
- Type of complaint (suggestion, comment or claim);
- Subject of the complaints;
- Number of complaints resolved satisfactorily;
- Time required to resolve the complaint;

- Number of serious incidents;
- Number of complainants referred to a government agency;
- Means of communication and language used to file a complaint.

The E&S specialist periodically identifies and presents any trends (derived from the criteria above) regarding the engagement of the complainant and stakeholders. The E&S specialist conducts the following activities to ensure the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation activities:

- Monitor the registration of complaints quarterly in terms of:
  - Response times to recorded complaints, as well as the recurrence of complaints over time;
  - Number of complaints that must be forwarded to higher authorities (e.g., a court);
- Regularly update the stakeholder register when new stakeholders are identified;
- Maintain a record of all stakeholder engagement activities that address complaints. This will be supplemented by details of the information presented, questions, answers, commitments made, and actions taken, as well as the results of any meeting evaluations. The database will also be used to track the frequency of meetings.
- Maintain a library (electronic or paper) of all communication materials. This will include all communications received from stakeholders of the identified programs as well as media monitoring (press, radio reports relating to the programs);
- Develop and evaluate performance in terms of key performance indicators in accordance with the monitoring framework.
- Review GRM performance annually (based on quarterly reports) and revise policies, procedures and actions accordingly, with the aim of reducing the number of complaints, improving the resolution process and improving overall performance.

Evaluation of the complaint's mechanism

The effectiveness of the GRM (Management and Performance Review) is evaluated periodically. To this end, the E&S (Economic and Social) specialist regularly sends beneficiaries a questionnaire about the GRM . This questionnaire aims to gather feedback, evaluate, and improve the FODECC's GRM . The questions will focus on the GRM 's operation and lessons learned from complaints received. Beneficiaries will be required to include their responses in the reports submitted to FODECC.

Improve the complaints handling mechanism

Based on the annual performance review of the GRM , the GRM is evaluated, and changes to improve it will be suggested by the E&S specialist and approved by the FODECC management committee. Decisions regarding changes to the mechanism are followed by a clear implementation plan. This plan explains in detail what needs to be done, when, where, how, and by whom. Stakeholders must be informed of the relevant changes to the GRM and how they may potentially be affected.

Training

GRM will ensure that all staff involved in the complaints handling process are trained to enable them to participate effectively in resolving complaints in a cooperative and timely manner.