

REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix-Travail-Patrie

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

.....
CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITE BIOLOGIQUE

.....
PROTOCOLE DE NAGOYA SUR APA

.....
DIRECTION NATIONALE DU PROJET APA



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROUN
Peace-Work-Fatherland

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, PROTECTION
OF NATURE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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NAGOYA PROTOCOLE ON ABS

.....
NATIONAL DIRECTORATE ABS PROJECT



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

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ASSIGNMENT N°4

Baseline identification and assessment of registered farmers' organizations in the value chains of genetic resources and Traditional Knowledge associated to *Irvingia wimbolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, and *Acacia nilotica*, their preferred niches, and the status of these species linked to biotrade and bioprospecting

Reference in the year 1 annual work plan: activities 41, 52, 53, 59.

I. CONTEXT

As part of the efforts to implement the ABS framework in Cameroon, the project entitled " Support to Nagoya Protocol implementation, research, and development, on Biodiversity value chain for smallholders in the South-West and Far North Regions of Cameroon ", has been approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project aims to support the operationalization of the ABS national framework, by enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge that accrue tangible national and local economic benefits from their commercial utilization in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner. This objective will be achieved through two Components, namely: Implementation of the ABS legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework (Component 1); and Capacity building and awareness raising of key stakeholders for enforcement of the National ABS Framework (Component 2). The project will then build on the two Components above to

demonstrate the potential benefits of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge for four plant species (Component 3): *Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, and *Acacia nilotica*. The project is located in two sites: Mayo Kani Division in the Far north Region and meme, Manyu and Kupe Muanenguba Divisions in the South west Region of Cameroon. In the Mayo Kani Division, two species are targeted (*Acacia nilotica*; *Balanites aegyptiaca*), two other species are targeted in the project sites of the South-West Region (*Irvingia wombolu*, *Monodora myristica*). The choice of these species were based on their potential value for use in the fragrance, flavor and pharmaceutical sectors.

Alongside the ABS mechanism, in most Convention on Biological Diversity signatory countries, biodiversity laws, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and regulations also refer to biotrade as a means of creating a legal basis and opening up sustainable business opportunities in the biodiversity sector. Although this exploitation of biological resources in biotrade generates significant tax and foreign exchange revenues for the state, the benefits for municipalities and communities do not always follow. Obstacles include weak implementation of the legislative, regulatory, policy and institutional framework for access and benefit sharing to operationalize the Nagoya Protocol; and limited technical capacity, awareness and dissemination of knowledge/information to maximize access and benefit sharing from genetic resources.

In response to this concern, and to improve the biodiversity value chain, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has developed the BioTrade Value Chain approach to support the growth of biodiversity-based sectors. The aim is to improve the production of value-added products and services derived from biodiversity, both on domestic and international markets. The Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) is also an organization that supports activities and companies in this approach, whose contours are delineated by a set of principles and criteria, some of which are highly relevant to different aspects of ABS, including principles 1 (Preservation of biodiversity), 3 (Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity), 5 (Respect for national and international regulations), 6 (Respect for the rights of actors participating in the BioTrade initiative) and 7 (. Clarity regarding land tenure, access to and use of natural resources and knowledge).

Under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.2.3., the current project aims to achieve at least a 20-25% increase in the income for farmers' organizations involved in the valorization of their genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with the target species, and to facilitate the adoption of good management practices in the areas where these resources are harvested. More specifically, the project plans to identify the niches preferred by farmers' organizations and joint farmer initiative groups in the genetic resources and traditional knowledge value chains for the species selected by the project, to undertake research and assessments on the status of these selected species in relation to biotrade and bioprospecting, to analyze current biotrade certification systems, their benefits and

effectiveness in supporting biodiversity conservation, and to conduct a capacity assessment of these organizations and propose approaches to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of their participation.

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

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this assignment are as follows:

- identify niches preferred by registered farmers' organizations and farmers' common initiative groups in the GR and aTK value chains for project selected species.
- undertake research and assessment, including field research on the status of *Monodora myristica*, *Irvingia wombolu* and *Balanites aegyptiaca* linked to biotrade and bioprospecting and identify the risk factors to be taken into account by certification schemes;
- Analyze current biotrade certification schemes, their benefits and their effectiveness in supporting biodiversity conservation;
- conduct a socioeconomic profiling and capacity assessment of these farmers organizations and provide organizational and technical support to improve effectiveness and efficiency in their participation in these value chains.

III. EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results are :

- niches preferred by registered farmers' organizations and farmers' common initiative groups in the GR and aTK value chains for project selected species are identified;
- the status of *Monodora myristica*, *Irvingia wombolu* and *Balanites aegyptiaca* linked to biotrade and bioprospecting, as well as the risk factors to be taken into account by certification systems are determined;
- Current biotrade certification systems are analyzed, with a focus on their benefits and effectiveness in supporting biodiversity conservation;
- the capacity assessment and socio-economic profiling of registered farmers' organizations and farmers' common initiative groups in the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge value chains for project-selected species is carried out and guides organizational and technical support to improve effectiveness and efficiency in their participation in these value chains.

IV. METHODOLOGY

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

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

- literature review, elaboration, and validation of methodology and work plan;
- Identification of registered farmer's organizations in the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge value chains for project-selected species and their preferred niches;
- Interviews with resource persons;
- interview with relevant stakeholders to document the status of project-selected species linked to biotrade and bioprospecting; and to assess their capacity and socio-economic profile;
- Support through organization of meetings to establish a platform of farmer organizations in each of the project landscapes and the strengthening of their capacity in basic managerial skills;
- Production of interim reports;
- Participation in a validation workshop to share the findings and sensitize the stakeholders.

V. DELIVERABLES AND TIMING

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

Deliverables	Deadline
Deliverable 1: A literature review and a methodological note including timetable for carrying out the assignment, These documents will be submitted for amendment and validation by the PMU.	No later than 2 weeks after the signing of the contract.
Deliverable 2: A report containing the list of farmer organizations identified in the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge value chains for the species selected by the project, and their preferred niches.	No later than 2 months after the validation of the methodology.
Deliverable 3: A report containing information on (1) the status of the species selected by the project, in relation to biotrade and bioprospecting; (2) the list of farmers' organizations involved, and the assessment of their capacities, their socio-economic profile, and the risk factors to be taken into account by the certification systems.	
Deliverable 4: report analyzing existing certification systems, their benefits and their effectiveness in supporting biodiversity conservation.	
Deliverable 5: A report on meetings to set up and build the capacity of a platform of farmers' organizations in each of the project's landscapes in basic management skills.	
Deliverable 6: A validation workshop report and a final report, at least	
	No later than 1

one peer review article manuscript.

month after the submission of the draft 1 report.

VI. PROFILE OF CONSULTANT

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

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

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

IX. APPLICATION

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

Administrative documents

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

Technical documents

- a document presenting the consulting firm;
- Dated and signed CVs of key personnel to be mobilized for the assignment, with copies of diplomas;
- references of previous experience, with supporting documents;
- a technical proposal including the methodology for carrying out the assignment;
- any other relevant documentation.

Financial file

- a financial offer;

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

VII. DURATION OF CONSULTANCY

The duration of the consultancy is 30 days spread over a period of 2 months.

Date **23 FEB 2024**

Approved by:



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*Dr. Dingom Aurélio
Taylor Patience*