

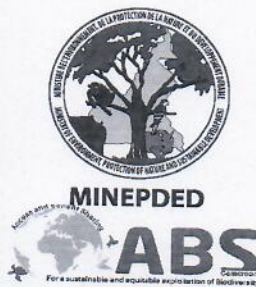
REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN
Paix – Travail – Patrie

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 CAMEROON
Peace – Work – Fatherland

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
PROTECTION OF NATURE AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY

NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ABS

NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF ABS PROJECT



Projet " Appui à la mise en œuvre du Protocole de Nagoya et à la recherche-développement sur la chaîne de valeur de la biodiversité pour les petits exploitants dans les Régions du Sud-Ouest et de l'Extrême-Nord, du Cameroun."

TERMS OF REFERENCE CONSULTATION N°2

**Development of a centralized database on genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and
Organization of specialized training on ABS implementation and use of the database.**

Reference in the annual workplan 2024: activities 25, 78, 79

I. CONTEXT

Cameroon is a country with abundant biodiversity in terms of species, ecosystems and genetic resources. The genetic resources (GR) contained in this biodiversity as well as the associated traditional knowledge (aTK) are important for the development of the country. However, insufficient information on their actual potential still limits demand from investors and the development of real value chains based on these resources.

At the sub-regional level in central Africa, the need to carry out national inventories of GR and aTK has been identified among the priority actions of the strategy of COMIFAC member countries on ABS.

At the national level, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon is resolutely committed to developing its potential in GR and aTK from a perspective of sustainable development aligned with SND20-30, respecting the requirements of the convention on biological diversity and more specifically the Nagoya Protocol on Access, Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS). The Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) is the ABS Competent National Authority and therefore, entitled to coordinate and promote the inventory, conservation, and valorization of GR and aTK of the country. The promulgation of Law N° 2021/014 of July 9, 2021 governing access to GR, their derivatives, aTK and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from their use is one of the concrete expressions of this political will. Articles 14 and 20 of this law require the Competent National Authority (1) to carry out an inventory of GRs at the national level and (2) to establish a non-exhaustive list of species containing GRs of particular interest in the framework of the ABS. the

ministerial Order N°. 00017/MINEPDED of October 18, 2023, assigns to the National Information Exchange Center on ABS (ABS-CH), a platform dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to the ABS process, the mission to establish and manage a database on GR and ATK, to strengthen transparency in the ABS process. Thus, the ABS Guidelines adopted in 2023 recommend that a database on GR and ATK be developed under the leadership of the CNA and integrated into the ABS-CH. This official database on aTK is in dedicated to the recording of both primary data and data from published scientific articles dealing with subjects related to traditional knowledge associated with biological and/or genetic resources on the basis of a periodic inventory.

As part of the efforts to sustain 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 three components, namely: the implementation of the legislative, regulatory, political and institutional framework on ABS (component 1); capacity building and awareness raising among key stakeholders for the application of the national ABS framework (component 2), piloting ABS contracts demonstrating the potential benefits of GR and aTK for four plant species (component 3): *Acacia nilotica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Irvingia wombolu*, and *Monodora myristica*. The project is implemented in two sites: the Mayo Kani Division in the Far North Region and the Meme, Manyu and Kupe Muanenguba Divisions in the South-West Region of Cameroon. The choice of these species was based on their potential value for use in the perfumery, flavoring and pharmaceutical sectors.

As part of this project, an inventory of GR to enrich the pilot catalog developed in 2022; and an inventory of aTK of the species *Acacia nilotica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Irvingia wombolu* and *Monodora myristica*, in the project's target communities, are in preparation.

The project plans, among other activities, the development of two centralized databases, one of which is on the GR and the other on the aTK, and the organization of specialized training on the implementation of ABS and the use of this database. With these databases, the project will strengthen national research and monitoring capacities for GR and ATK, and foster international cooperation for the development of value chains based on these resources. Furthermore, they will be essential to show the potential benefits of GR and aTK for sustainable development.

It is this context which justifies the formulation of these terms of reference. The Project is looking for a consultant to carry out this assignment.

II. OBJECTIVES

Through this assignment, the project aims to set up two centralized databases, one on GR and the other on ATK, and organize specialized training on the implementation of ABS and the use of the

database. Depending on functional requirements, the two databases may eventually be merged into one.

More precisely, the consultant's mission will consist of:

- design a database of GR and aTKs drawing on internationally recognized experiences and good practices in this area;
- design a database of TK based on the four target species of the project, namely *Acacia nilotica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Irvingia wombolu* and *Monodora myristica* drawing on internationally recognized experiences and good practices in this area;
- organize specialized training on the implementation of ABS and the use of the database for the benefit of the Project Management Unit, ABS-CH staff and the ABS Taskforce.

III. METHODOLOGY

The consultant will work under the supervision of the project management team, and in close collaboration with the MINEPDED ABS Task Force. The approach to implementing the mission will include :

- a scoping meeting with the consultant, the Project Management Unit and the MINEPDED ABS Taskforce;
- literature review ,
- consultation of resource persons,
- the development and submission of the inception report presenting the detailed methodology proposed by the consultant, for validation;
- the use of data from the GR and aTK inventory report;
- the collection of additional data if necessary;
- design of the database structure;
- presentation of the draft version of the database to stakeholders;
- a validation meeting of the database and its functionalities;
- the preparation and facilitation of a specialized training session on the implementation of ABS and the use of the database for key personnel of the ABS-CH, the Project Management Unit and the ABS Taskforce of MINEPDED.

IV. DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

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

- a GR database;
- a TK database;
- A training report on ABS implementation and the use of the database

V. TECHNICAL AND ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS

Technical specifications

- the databases will be dynamic and web- based, and must allow searching by keywords using an internal search engine which takes into account the following operations: complex and nested Boolean search, search by field, search by expression, left truncation and stop word;
- the consultant must put in place a simple policy for updating, backing up and restoring the developed Database.
- the consultant will install the database and demonstrate its functionality for final approval;
- the consultant will prepare and organize specialized training on the use of the database for the benefit of key staff of the ABS-CH, the Project Management Unit and the ABS Taskforce of MINEPDED;

Ethical requirements

- the consultant will sign a non-disclosure agreement and maintain strict confidentiality on any information accessed from the database, this condition will apply even after the end of the contract;
- All documents, whether drafts or final versions, must be submitted, in paper and electronic versions, to the Project Management Unit and cannot be distributed to any third party.

Deliverables	Deadline
Deliverable 1: On the basis of the documentation provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU), the consultant will propose an inception report including in particular a methodological note and a schedule for carrying out the assignment. This document will be submitted for amendment and validation by the PMU.	No later than 01 week after the scoping meeting
Deliverable 2 : Presentation and validation reports of the database structure	No later than 3 weeks after validation of the start-up report
Deliverable 3 : the databases developed (source code) and put online (hosting), and a report from the validation workshop	No later than 3 weeks after validation of the database structure
Deliverable 5: Report of the specialized training workshop on ABS implementation and database use	No later than 02 weeks after delivery of the databases
Deliverable 6: A final report of the mission	No later than 01 week after the training workshop report

VI. CONSULTANT PROFILE

The consultant must :

- hold at least a Master's degree (Bac + 5) in Software Engineering, Computer Science, or any other related discipline;
- have at least 10 years of experience in database development;

- justify the organization of at least four training sessions in the field of computing or information systems;
- have knowledge of the ABS mechanism;

VII. APPLICATION FILE

The application file consists of:

- a cover letter indicating your interest in this mission;
- a signed and dated Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- a technical proposal which must include proof of qualification, professional references and the methodology for carrying out the mission;
- an administrative file including the Photocopy of the ID card, the Unique Identifier Number; and the Banking Information;
- a financial proposal.

VIII. CONSULTATION DURATION

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

Date **17 6 MAI 2024**

Approved by:



*Dr. Dingom Aurélie
Baylor Patience*