

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



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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

Development of a methodological guide for taking into account the value of genetic resources and ABS in the development and implementation of management plans for protected areas

Reference in PTA 2025: activity 38

1. Context

Cameroon is a country with high biodiversity potential. Protected areas are an important element of national efforts to ensure biodiversity conservation in forest landscapes.

Bioprospecting in protected areas has often led to the identification of high-value commercial products, leading to the recognition of genetic resources in protected areas as reservoirs of genetic material with significant commercial benefits. These resources range from non-timber forest products to medicinal plants, including high-value enzymes, genes, and biomolecules with potential for future biotechnological applications.

Despite this potential, little effort has been made to link sustainable protected area management activities to access and benefit-sharing issues. Investigating the potential of genetic resources in protected areas has so far been only poorly explored, the same as synergies between national ABS frameworks and protected area management plans.

Yet, considering ABS and the value of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in protected areas has the potential to help protected area managers maximize the potential gains from bioprospecting, and minimize lost opportunities



and potential negative impacts from research and commercialization not conducted in accordance with current standards and good practice.

The Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development has received funding from the Global Environment Facility to implement a 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."

This project aims to support the operationalization of the national ABS framework, enabling access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in a way that generates tangible national and local economic benefits through their commercial use in a fair, equitable, and sustainable manner.

Under output 2.1.2., the said project aims to promote the integration of the development of value chains of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in the management of protected areas.

It is this context which justifies the present terms of reference.

2. General objective

The objective of this assignment is to develop a methodological guide describing the approach and guidelines for the integration of ABS issues, the value of genetic resources (GR), associated traditional knowledge (aTK) and digital sequence information (DSI), in the process of planning and management of protected areas in Cameroon.

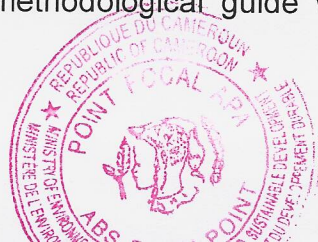
3. Specific objectives

Specifically, this assignment is expected to:

- 1) Provide a state of the art and analyze the level of integration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues in current tools for planning and managing protected areas in Cameroon);
- 2) summarize the potential risks and impacts incurred by protected areas and local populations due to failure to take into account ABS issues, the value of GR, atk and DSI;
- 3) draft a methodological guide containing the approaches, tools, and main stages of integration of the ABS dimension, GR, aTK and DSI into the process of elaboration of management plans of protected areas in Cameroon.

4. Main tasks

The process of developing the methodological guide will be carried out in three stages as follows:



First stage: Inventory and analysis of the level of integration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues in current tools for the development and implementation of management plans for protected areas in Cameroon)

Initially, this inventory should provide an overview of:

- the level of consideration of these issues in documents and strategies relating to the development and management of protected areas
- governance and institutional links existing between the different structures involved in the management of protected areas and GR, aTK and DSI at regional and national levels.

In a second step, existing planning and management documents of protected areas will be analyzed in a more precise manner to (i) assess the degree or gaps relating to the consideration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues, and (ii) understand the underlying reasons. This analysis should make it possible to determine the strategic axes and avenues for anchoring these issues.

At the end of this stage, the consultant must provide a report on the current situation regarding the consideration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues in the development and implementation of management plans for protected areas.

Step Two: Overview of risks and impacts and prioritization of measures to be taken into account

Based on the results of step 1, the consultant will firstly make an overview of current and future risks and impacts; and secondly, examine the urgent needs that will be prioritized. This step will result in the categorization and prioritization of options in a simple format that can be assimilated by users of the guide.

Third step: Proposal of the approach and tools to fill the gaps in the form of a methodological guide and awareness raising among key stakeholders

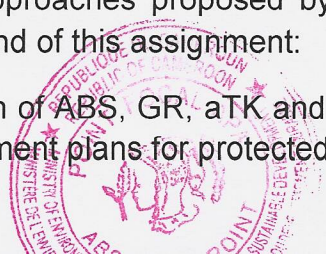
This step involves producing a methodological guide explaining how the ABS dimension, GR, aTK and DSI should be taken into account in the planning and management documents of protected areas. This guide should mention appropriate and participatory approaches and the tools necessary for the concerted consideration of actions.

The main stakeholders, potential users of this methodological guide, will need to be sensitized to facilitate its appropriation and adoption, during a multi-stakeholder workshop.

5. Expected results

Following the methods and approaches proposed by the consultant, the following elements are expected at the end of this assignment:

- analysis on the consideration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues in current tools for the development of management plans for protected areas in Cameroon;



- identification of risks and impacts and prioritization of measures to be taken into account;
- a methodological guide containing recommendations, approaches, tools and the main stages of integrating ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues into the planning and management of protected areas;
- Key stakeholders are informed and made aware of the need to integrate ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues into the planning and management of protected areas;
- a manuscript of a research article capitalizing on the results of this study.

6. Deliverables and schedule

| Deliverables | Deadline |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Deliverable 1 : Based on the documentation provided by the Project Management Unit (PMU), the consultant will propose a methodological note and a schedule for the delivery of the service, and the data collection tools. These documents will be submitted for amendment and validation by the PMU. | No later than 1 week after signing the contract. |
| Deliverable 2 : a report containing (1) an inventory and analysis of the consideration of ABS, GR, aTK and DSI issues in current tools for the development and implementation of management plans for protected areas in Cameroon, and (2) a summary of the potential risks and impacts incurred by protected areas and local populations due to failure to take said issues into account. | At the latest 2 weeks after validation of the methodology. |
| Deliverable 3 : A draft of the methodological guide containing the approaches, tools and main stages of integration of the ABS dimension, GR, aTK and DSI in the process of development and implementation of management plans for protected areas in Cameroon | 03 weeks after submission of deliverable 2 |
| Deliverable 4 : A report of the workshop for the presentation and validation of the methodological guide | 02 weeks after submission of the manual |
| Deliverable 5 : A manuscript of an article capitalizing on the results of the study and a proposal for scientific journals for the submission of the article | 2 weeks after the validation report |

7. Duration of consultation

The duration of the consultation is 20 days spread over 3 months.

8. Consultant skills and profile

The consultant must:

- have a level of at least Engineer or Master degree in environment, forestry, natural resource management or any related discipline;
- have at least 5 years of professional experience in the sustainable management of natural resources and the management of protected areas in particular
- proven experience in ABS issues;

- proven experience in scientific writing and publication of articles

9. Submission of offers and criteria

Candidates are invited to submit a file which will include:

- ❖ A technical offer containing:
 - a cover letter indicating your interest in this mission;
 - a methodological note describing in detail the methodological approach that will be adopted to carry out the assignment and including (i) the relevant experiences of the consultant in similar tasks, including relevant published scientific articles (ii) a detailed presentation of the data collection approaches and tools (iii) a timetable defining the deadlines and steps necessary for the conduct of the entire assignment and the submission of the various deliverables, the detailed curriculum vitae (CV).
- ❖ Financial offer

10. Selection criteria

The following criteria will be applied for the analysis of files and the selection of the consultant:

| Criteria | Pts |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 1) Qualification and diploma | 20 |
| 2) Methodological approach in line with the expected results of the mission and implementation schedule | 40 |
| 3) CV and proof of previous experience in similar services | 10 |
| 4) Scientific production | 10 |
| 5) Financial offer | 20 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

Date

10 AVR 2025

Approved by:



*Dr. Dingom Aurélien
Taylor Patience*