Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon

ANNEX 6C

SAFEGUARDS-ENHANCED RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAPs	Project Affected People
PFAs	Protected Forest Areas
ROAM	Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
SG-ROAM	Safeguards-enhanced ROAM

1 INTRODUCTION

This document illustrates how the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology ('ROAM' hereafter) will be fortified with the integration of safeguards principles during its implementation as part of the project entitled "Securing Permanent Forests to Combat Climate Change and Enhance Sustainable National and Local Economies in Cameroon" (hereafter referred to as "the Project"). This document sits within the project's broader Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and details measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate the impacts of restoration activities to be implemented through ROAM.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The objective of the project is toNtransform land use and forest management practices in and around Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) into climate-resilient, low-emission and economically viable systems that sustainably generate forest ecosystem goods and services for national and local economies, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and strengthen the climate change resilience of forest-dependent communities and ecosystems.

Outcomes

The project's expected outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1: Targeted PFAs are managed and restored using climate-smart sustainable forest management practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, increase carbon sequestration, and maintain forest ecosystem services.

Outcome 2: Forest product NTFP value chains are operational, competitive and low-emission, generating stable incomes for local communities while conserving forest resources.

Outcome 3: Stakeholders (communities, local governments, state services, private sector) have the technical, organizational and governance capacities to plan and adopt climate-resilient land-use practices in and around PFAs.

Outcome 4: A robust monitoring, governance and knowledge-driven partnership system guides public and private decisions, secures climate/REDD+ financing, and enables scaling up of resilient, low-emission and economically viable forest management models.

In order to achieve the project objectives, the proposed outcomes will focus on four principal components, namely :

Component 1. Climate-smart sustainable forest management (SFM) and land restoration practices effectively implemented in targeted forest landscapes
Component 2: Value chain development and transformation are operational
Component 3: Stakeholders' capacities are strengthened on climate-resilient land-use practices
Component 4: Strong project monitoring and knowledge-driven partnerships

3 OVERVIEW OF ROAM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PROJECT SO FAR

ROAM (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology) was developed by IUCN and the World Resources Institute in 2014 to provide a flexible and affordable framework to rapidly identify and analyse forest landscape restoration (FLR) potential and locate specific areas of opportunity at a national or sub-national level.

(Ref: Annex 24 of this FP, See also: IUCN and WRI (2014). A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level. Working Paper (Road-test edition). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 125pp.)

Implementation of ROAM requires a systematic and rigorous assessment and quantification of restoration opportunities available in the target landscapes. The first step is to identify the main environmental challenges in the assessment area, and identify site-specific priorities and landscape

intervention options available in the landscape. ROAM uses geospatial, economic, and rapid restoration diagnostic analyses to map, quantify, and assess the readiness of areas with opportunities for restoration.

Specifically, ROAM allows for:

1. Selecting the most appropriate and feasible types of restoration interventions in the assessment area
2. Identifying priority areas for restoration;
3. Quantifying the costs and benefits of each type of intervention;
4. Estimating the amount of additional carbon sequestered by these interventions;
5. Diagnosing success factors and identifying strategies for addressing key policy, legal, and institutional bottlenecks.
6. Analyzing financing and funding sources to carry out restoration in the evaluation area.

During the planning phase of the Project, ROAM was implemented in order to identify landscapes and areas of project intervention. This was considered as ROAM phase I, with a ROAM phase II planned during the project implementation phase. Specifically, ROAM I achieved the following objectives:

1. Identify feasible and best restoration interventions in the different landscapes;
2. Identify priority areas for restoration (including their spatial locations);
3. Assess potential costs and benefits, including carbon sequestration potential, associated with the interventions;
4. Identify stakeholders who need to be engaged;
5. Identify barriers to the adoption of restoration practices at the project sites.

As part of Output 1.2, intensive and localized scale ROAM phase II is planned to further narrow down the restoration opportunity locations and to ensure that the sites and locations identified in the previous phase are still suitable for restoration.

4 RATIONALE

The methodology of the ROAM planning framework presents a strong congruence with key procedural and substantive elements of the ESMS, most notably with the ESMS impact assessment procedure, key ESMS principles, to some extent with mitigation strategies.

With regard to the impact assessment procedures, the congruence can be best illustrated through the five-step ROAM process to be implemented at the district levels as illustrated in the following figure (steps A through E) :

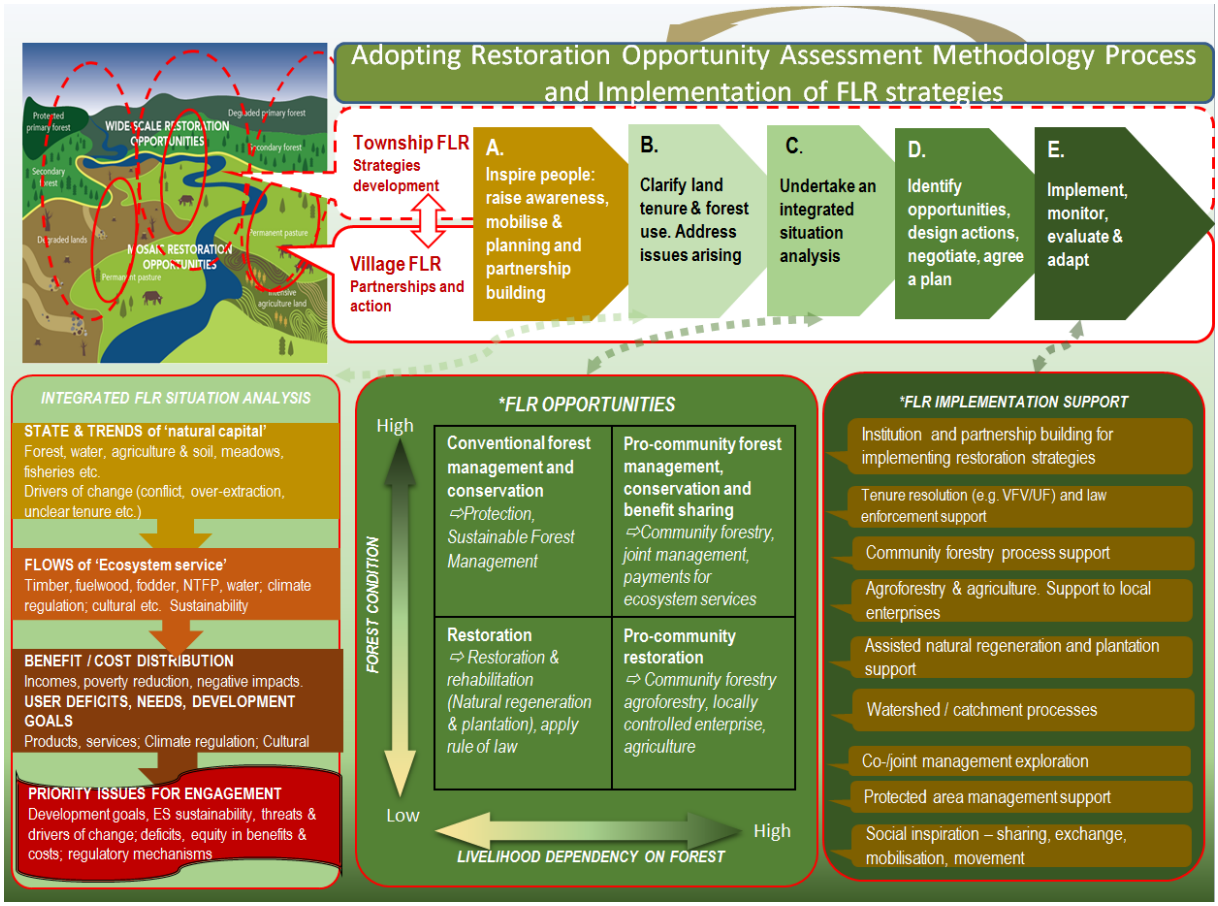

Figure 1: Theory of Change for landscape level interventions

A significant part of the analytical work carried out during these five steps is similar to what would be undertaken during a social impact assessment (SIA) as part of the ESMS review process. The steps that most strongly resemble the SIA process are the following:

- **Step B** - clarification of land tenure and forest use and addressing tenure and rights issues potentially raised by stakeholders;
- **Steps C** - integrated situation analysis: analysis of local interest and specific needs and opportunities of different social segments of the communities; identification of users' various (and possibly competing) needs for ecosystem services (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.);
- **Step D** - design actions, negotiate, agree on a plan: aims to ensure equitable sharing of costs and benefits and improve human well-being when agreeing and designing the suite of restoration interventions.

The correspondence between the procedural and analytical approach of the ROAM process applied by the project and the ESMS is most evident regarding the following ESMS principles: (i) stakeholder engagement, (ii) Free Prior and informed consent (FPIC), (iii) protecting the needs of vulnerable groups and (iv) gender equity and women empowerment, as described below:

- **Stakeholder engagement**: The ROAM process is designed as an inclusive and participatory process with the aim to bring relevant stakeholders together for jointly setting restoration goals and identifying and planning agreed restoration opportunities. For successful implementation of the ROAM process, workshops are planned at the district, and village level to kick off the process, inspire stakeholders to support the restoration efforts and integrate the FLR principles into the forest management plan, to identify local leaders and foster partnerships on community forest establishment and other forest management such as village firewood plantations, SME development and agroforestry and rural development;
- **Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)**: The philosophy of the ROAM process is based on the understanding that restoration opportunities and interventions are designed in a participatory way and agreed among all relevant stakeholders. While it is recognized that

land-use decisions quite often involve conflicting and competing demands, the process is conceptualized in such a way that if no agreement is reached the interventions would not go ahead.

- **Principle on protecting the rights and needs of vulnerable groups**: The ROAM process and FLR interventions are intended to help rural communities work in a more cooperative manner to benefit from improved flows of needed ecosystem services that result from landscape restoration; efforts will be focused on vulnerable sectors of society to ensure they benefit directly from project activities.
- **Principle on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**: The ROAM process includes an assessment of benefits and costs of ecosystem flows to the different social groups (including gender-disaggregated information on incomes, poverty levels, negative impacts, equity) as part of the situation analysis. The project document further sets out that decisions about the FLR intervention should explicitly prioritize those that reflect women's needs.

While the above section has shown that the ROAM process that will be implemented by the Project already reflects main ESMS elements, further enhancements are necessary in order to ensure full compliance with the ESMS. These enhancements include:

- Formulating provisions for the five-step ROAM process to be implemented at the district levels based on the ESMS principles and considerations from the ESMS Standards.
- Adding guidance to the E&S risk and impact assessment process including the following topics: security and conflict, vulnerable groups, invasive species, food security
- Adding guidance for the development of market value chains and for other project activities aiming to promote livelihoods alternatives
- Adding a simplified ESMS procedure for identifying and managing environmental and social risks of the selected restoration interventions.

Additionally, while ROAM assesses the ecological and economic feasibility of potential sites for restoration, there are several social, environmental and political considerations that are critical for successful restoration. The Project proposes to fortify the ROAM process by integrating these safeguard considerations into the ROAM activities to ensure that these matters are considered at a localized level, that the opportunity assessment accounts for fast-changing social and political dynamics, and to avoid stakeholder fatigue and repetition of effort. This document describes the safeguard-enhanced ROAM process.

5 ESMS Enhancements of the ROAM Process

As described in chapter 4 ROAM involves a systematic assessment and quantification of restoration opportunities available in the target landscapes and the following are some criteria and indicators used for selection of opportunity areas in the ROAM process:

Focus of assessment	Examples of criteria	Examples of indicators
Need for FLR	Soil degradation	Susceptibility to erosion
	Disturbance and deforestation	Primary and secondary vegetation; historical land cover
	Flood risk	Major flood areas during last 50 years
	Topography	Slope > 8.5° (15%) i.e. > a moderate slope
Type and potential of appropriate FLR interventions	FLR potential	Presence and location of any ongoing or completed restoration initiatives
	FLR type	Categories of restoration interventions already implemented
	Appropriateness of different FLR interventions	Assessment of success of previous restoration initiatives
Scope and availability of land for FLR	Competing interests for land	Sectoral strategies/plans (e.g. industrial or agri-business development)
	Land cover/land use constraints	Roads, railways, settlement areas, rocky outcrops, etc.
	Social availability	Presence of well-functioning community conservation areas, community-managed forests
Economic costs and benefits of FLR interventions	Costs of FLR interventions	Estimated costs of existing FLR interventions in the area
	Improved local livelihoods	Market for non-timber forest products; estimated productivity and profitability of timber production
	Improved productivity	Estimated productivity gains from agro-forestry; estimated fisheries productivity gains from restored mangroves
	Improved connectivity of protected areas	Distance between existing protected areas; potential for strategic reforestation to connect existing protected areas
	Carbon sequestration	Estimated carbon sequestration achieved by different restoration interventions, from global or national studies
Legal, institutional, policy and financial limitations/ opportunities	Government policies and laws	Government policy papers and strategies on land use, conservation, restoration, etc. Land tenure regimes (formal and customary) in operation
	Institutional arrangements	Financial rates of return from previous restoration initiatives
	Financial conditions	Funding sources used for previous restoration initiatives

Figure 2: ROAM opportunity assessment criteria. Source: 2014-030.pdf

To the above criteria, the safeguard-enhanced ROAM process adds the following criteria for guiding the selection of opportunity areas, as well as proposed conditions where relevant. The integrated situation analysis should be used to gather data on the below criteria to assess suitability for restoration.

Table 1: Additional considerations for selection of opportunity areas for safeguard-enhanced ROAM

Focus of assessment	Examples of criteria	Description	Conditions guiding selection
Social considerations	Land ownership	Ownership of land: whether owned by the state, private individuals or community	For each opportunity area, assess who owns the land. If the land is publicly owned, assess whether permissions provided

			by MINFOF for the use of public land are sufficient to proceed. Where land is owned by a municipality or community, hold consultations to determine whether the land may be available for restoration, and under what terms. Restoration can only proceed when clear consent is provided. Legal due diligence may be necessary to ensure that adequate permissions have been provided. Restoration on private land such as through agroforestry will be based on beneficiary selection criteria.
	Conflict over land tenure	Overlapping claims to land tenure	If possible, attempt to establish clarification, but solving complex issues may not be within scope of the project. Prioritize land parcels with clear tenure. Project activity 1.1.4 on creating multi stakeholder platforms for strengthening dialogue may support the resolution of conflicts. Ensure that project activities do not weaken existing land rights and social cohesion.
	Land use, access and potential risks from restrictions	Who uses the land and for what, how will their access be impacted by restoration, for how long and will restoration restrict their access and livelihood?	As part of situation analysis, assess which communities are currently using the land, irrespective of legality of use. Is the use seasonal, temporary or permanent? What are the activities for which land is being used e.g. grazing, agriculture, habitation, NTFP collection, leisure, pastoralism? Do communities consent to the restoration opportunity? Sites should be ranked based on impact of access restrictions, with low impact sites prioritized for restoration. The existence of livelihood risks from access restrictions should not necessarily be considered a factor for avoiding a site provided mitigation measures acceptable to the community are provided. However, if such risks are identified, impacts need to be assessed (high or moderate) and compared to the conservation objective. Develop a localized access restriction mitigation plan.

	Indigenous peoples	Presence of Indigenous peoples at identified sites, Use of sites by Indigenous groups, Impact of activities on Indigenous groups even if not present at the site or currently using it	The presence of IP should not be considered a reason for rejecting a site. On the contrary, the Project should seek to provide benefits to IP. However, specific requirements need to be observed for the SIA process and FPIC must be requested as described below.
	Presence of cultural sites	Do identified areas overlap with sites of cultural or religious importance e.g. the presence of sacred groves, burial sites, certain species/trees of spiritual value, sacred rivers or waterbodies?	If such sites are identified, engage with communities to understand implications of restoration. Exclude such sites if the community considers this as inviolate sacred sites. In some cases, e.g. where access is prohibited, alternate sites may be required. In some cases, communities may prefer to choose restoration species and activities themselves, as well as timing such as to coincide with festivals/periods of worship. Note that access to cultural sites should not be limited by restoration activities, measures must be taken to set aside pathways/trails.
	FPIC	The project will use Cameroon's national FPIC guidelines but ensure that IUCN's ESMS policy is respected i.e. the most stringent policy applies	Detailed considerations are listed below. Sites for which FPIC cannot be established must be excluded.
	Gender considerations	Assess whether access restrictions have disproportionately high negative impacts on women. To improve gender responsiveness of the selection process, follow selection criteria formulated in the GAP (women in leadership role community forest etc). For each of the indicators, consider specific impacts on women, particularly access restrictions	Where AR impacts are very high for women, alternate sites may be chosen. In some cases, impacts could be mitigated by providing access to council or community forests for resource collection or firewood gathering. In some cases, such as restoration of council forests or planting with NTFP species, there may be high benefits for women. Such sites should be prioritized where possible. Gender Action Plan at project level can be used as a guide and tailored to each site.
	Vulnerable groups	In each site, identify vulnerable groups e.g. women, girls, landless, historically marginalized, pastoralists and the	Sites with high density of vulnerable groups as beneficiaries should be preferentially selected. Conversely, sites with disproportionately high adverse

		impact of restoration activities on them.	impacts on vulnerable groups should be deprioritized. In the SEP, ensure that vulnerable groups are included as stakeholders and that they are consulted, that there is no interference or pressure in these consultations, and their needs are not curtailed; assess risks of restoration opportunity affecting their livelihood (covered above under the criterion "access restrictions" but also consider other impacts, e.g. food security)
Environmental considerations	Current use of area by other species	Assess use of the opportunity area by wildlife e.g. ground nesting birds in degraded savannas, arboreal species, seasonal use by migratory species	Where there is a dependence of the opportunity area by species, particularly at risk species or during nesting or denning seasons, deprioritize the site or consider alternates. For example: Ensure inclusion of local knowledge. Adjust timing of restoration to accommodate species where possible e.g. nesting, denning or migration. Where endemic or rare species are present, alternate sites may need to be chosen. Also consider use of restoration sites as access routes by wildlife such as to water bodies. In such cases, even though the site may be 'degraded', it still serves an ecological function and the benefits of 'no action' may outweigh the disturbance caused by restoration.
	Ecological baseline	Assess the baseline (how far back in time, as well as species) to which restoration is to be carried out. This can be done using satellite imagery as well as inclusion of local knowledge.	Where ecological baselines are not clear, one must err on the side of caution. Such sites may be ranked lower until more data is available. Sites with clear restoration need and degradation justification (more recent degradation) could be preferred. There may be social and political considerations for choosing tree plantations even in areas where the ecological baseline indicates otherwise due to potential economic benefits or for increased carbon sequestration. Ensure that appropriate justification is provided or management measures are in place.
External risks	Pre-existing societal conflicts	Pre-existing societal conflicts over land	The existence of conflicts in a site could be a serious threat to

		tenure or use, conflicts between state and traditional tenure systems, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers, etc	successful implementation as the project might aggravate the conflicts further. As such an in-depth analysis is needed and weighing against the conservation objective. If site is selected, the site-specific ESMP should include mitigation measures to ensure that rights of all parties, particularly vulnerable groups are upheld, attempt to use the restoration activities as a means to bring about social cohesion, ensure robust and tailored grievance mechanisms and ombudspersons for conflict resolution. Ensure project activities do not worsen conflicts
	Security and safety risks due to conflict, fragility and violence	Security and safety risks could occur when operating in areas of fragility, conflict or post-conflict (civil war, inter-ethnic conflict etc) areas affected by organized crime or violence	The existence of security risks is a serious threat to successful implementation and pose safety risks to project staff and local porject stakeholders. Sites need to be assessed on security and safety risks; sites that present high security risks will not be selected. If a site is selected that presents low or moderate risks, the site-specific ESMP will include mitigation measures. Further guidance is in Annex 22E on Conflict sensitivity.

5.1 Specific provisions for the five-step ROAM process

The ROAM planning process at the local level will involve five distinct steps. The ESMS enhancement of each of the distinct steps is delineated below.

Step 1 - Inspiring people: raising awareness, mobilizing communities and stakeholders to participate

In this step it will be critical to ensure that the selection and invitation of the participants for the district- and village-level workshops and the project's larger stakeholder engagement strategy will be based on an inclusive and in-depth stakeholder analysis undertaken in each site. As such it will be ensured that not only stakeholder groups from government, private sector and civil society (including community stakeholders, NGOs and CSOs) are identified that actively articulate their stake in forest restoration, but that also groups are recognized whose interests and livelihoods might be impacted (positively or negatively) by the forest restoration and management approaches promoted by the project. The latter also include stakeholders whose ability to articulate their needs and interests is less pronounced and who may have generally less access, power and influence on land use decisions processes.

For engaging community stakeholders a balanced ratio of men and women will be sought as well as balanced representation of stakeholder groups concerning other criteria (e.g. ethnic groups, different age, status/class etc.). As part of the stakeholder and situation analyses conducted in each area at

the onset of the Project, the team will hold a preliminary meeting with the respective Pilot Area Advisory Boards (ABs) to request their advice on developing the stakeholder engagement methodology in each area, including identification of legitimate representatives of each group.

The engagement strategy should respect IUCN policy reflected in the ESMS Principle on Stakeholder Engagement and the ESMS Principle of Protecting the Needs of Vulnerable Peoples as well as provisions of the Indigenous People Standard. Engaging these groups in the project will not only ensure that their needs and concerns are taken appropriately into consideration when designing FLR plans but their engagement will also contribute to their empowerment.

The project team will design the workshops and other consultation activities in a culturally appropriate, non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive manner, free of external manipulation, intimidation or coercion. Information relevant to stakeholders will be shared in a timely manner in appropriate language and channels of communication. In village meetings, pro-active involvement of stakeholders will be institutionalized by a priori orientation on what the meeting is about. The meeting facilitators ensure that time and location are suitable for all stakeholder groups, in particular for ethnic groups, women and elderly. Wherever required the team will set-up separate meetings for ethnic communities and/or women in order to ensure appropriate levels of participation in the discussion or to accommodate schedules and obligations.

Meetings and their participatory methods need to be documented with minutes, describing topics discussed, concerns raised and potential disagreement, together with names/occupation of participants (but participants not obligated to provide names) and photography or video, where appropriate. Stakeholder consultation will also include other forms of engagement such as interviews with stakeholder or stakeholder groups, results of which should also to be documented.

Step 2 – Clarifying use rights

Before any FLR interventions can be contemplated, it is important to clarify the relevant tenure situation and use rights disaggregated by relevant groups. This will involve working with local people to ensure that a good understanding of land, forest, and tree use rights and their actual implementation is developed. While recognizing statutory rights it is critical that also customary rights are well understood and respected when designing FLR interventions. Through this process claims or grievances related to land issues may be identified, recognized and where possible managed. This relates in particular to ethnic communities as they might have experienced negative impacts from land-use decisions including violations of their rights The involvement of different government departments is important in order to ensure that local policy, legal, and administrative frameworks related to land rights and forest management as well as expected changes are taken appropriately into account.

When analysing land tenure and forest use and dependency on resources at the site-level it will be important to work with local people towards a shared understanding of present and future land tenure, ownership and rights and correlate this with state land classification and options for establishing community rights. While recognizing statutory rights it is critical that also customary rights are well understood and respected when designing FLR interventions. It is further important to shed light on the actual implementation of land rights in the specific project sites and on potential challenges or conflicts that may have occurred in the past.

IMPORTANT: The project activities should not weaken existing land tenure or use rights under any circumstances. Examples include through demands for giving up of rights in exchange for benefits, access restrictions, etc. Please see the chapter on land tenure below.

Step 3 – Undertaking a comprehensive, integrated situation analysis

The purpose of the situation analysis is to assess each of the selected pilot sites on its bio-physical and socio-economic conditions and on local communities' dependence on ecosystem services; as such it will lay the foundation for the identification of the priority issues for FLR engagement.

The ESMS enhancement of ROAM requires that elements of an E&S risk assessment are included in this step. Therefore, the terminology is changed to situation/risk analysis. The situation analysis will be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding. These steps should describe and analyse the following:

- Key demographic and socio-cultural features of the project sites including current and emerging social differentiation (based on ethnicity, language, class/status etc.), social organization and importance of family and kinship ties in the communities;
- Identification of vulnerable groups
- Economic and social trends and challenges, disaggregated by social groups.

Since each community is different, it is critical to determine social groups in each project site and ensure an appropriate understanding of the development needs and dependencies on ecosystem services of the different groups, in particular of vulnerable members of the community. The consideration of vulnerable groups will include ethnic minorities, people who are landless or displaced, laid-off workers, elderly or disabled, children and groups that are impoverished, marginalised or discriminated against.

Migrant herders may or may not be considered ethnic minorities, depending on their location. The situation analysis should provide a comprehensive overview of the minority groups who inhabit or use the opportunity site, describe their language and levels of literacy and their use of land, land-use practices and means of livelihood. The geographic location of their settlements should be mapped as well as the location of main economic or cultural activities (including sites and resources of cultural and religious significance). The analysis should further clarify gender differences within the respective ethnic groups (e.g. land use, rights etc.) and suggest measures for ensuring cultural and location specific appropriateness of the FLR interventions. It will also be essential to determine whether any of these groups qualify as “indigenous peoples” according to IUCN definition.

Local ethnic minority groups and in particular pastoralist groups are sometimes misunderstood and may be confronted with prejudices, sometimes exacerbated by inappropriate policies implemented in the past. These issues would need to be taken into consideration not only in the situation analysis but also in the wider engagement strategies and during the development of the FLR plans in order to project activities avoid aggravating conflicts or prejudices.

Data gathering and consultation with religious leaders, women and community leaders will ensure that relevant cultural conditions are understood and that sites with cultural and/or spiritual importance are located. The latter will be important to ensure that forest management regulation does not prevent access to sites; it might also be relevant when developing potential future tourism and other income generating activities.

The situation analysis should provide for understanding gender specific livelihood strategies, roles or norms and needs and barriers faced by different genders, differences in the dependency on ecosystem services and forest products as well as current roles in forest management - within the SFF and as users of the surrounding forest landscape. Such understanding will allow identifying the potential need for gender differential action when designing FLR plans to address a bias or disadvantage as well as to seek opportunities for empowering women and improving gender equality. This might include identifying opportunities for playing a more active role in forest management, increasing women’s participation in decision-making and providing economic and social benefits through project activities (including access to resources, training, etc.).

When identifying potential FLR sites to be analysed the project team will ensure that not only forest areas where agricultural encroachments has happened in the past are mapped. Therefore, it will be important to map also natural, although degraded forest areas in need of restoration. This will allow that community forest groups can be established in order to ensure the whole community can benefit from the project’s FLR interventions.

The situation analysis will need to ensure that an appropriate understanding of the development needs and dependencies on ecosystem services of vulnerable groups is achieved. The consideration of vulnerable groups will include ethnic minorities, people who are landless or

displaced, elderly or disabled, children, or groups that are impoverished, marginalised or discriminated against.

This step will further provide for a gender differentiated analysis to improve the understanding of constraints, needs, and barriers faced by different genders and women specifically, their dependency on ecosystem services and forest products in particular and their current role in forest management (e.g. are women included in forest user groups and their management committees). This will not only allow identifying specific risks faced by women but also ensure a gender differential treatment when designing FLR interventions to address a bias or disadvantage due to gender roles or norms.

The situation analysis should provide for understanding the ethnic composition of the respective villages. If the presence of indigenous groups has been confirmed, appropriate representation of these groups will be ensured during the workshops. The situation analysis should also clarify gender differences of the respective ethnic groups.

Access Restrictions

The Project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) identified a number of potential risks and impacts, as detailed in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Some of these risks and impacts are to be managed through modifications to the project design, as well as through a robust Grievance Mechanism, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and Gender Action Plan. However, the ESIA identified the potential for both voluntary and involuntary access restrictions, due to the nature of the restoration activities to be implemented both within Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) and adjacent to Permanent Forest Areas. Typically, a Process Framework would be required, for Protected Areas and involuntary access restrictions, or a Community Engagement and Planning Framework for voluntary access restrictions. However, considering that the project is to implement the ROAM tool on a site-by-site basis, which includes procedural planning elements similar to a Process Framework, and considering there is a high degree of variation in potential access restrictions and impacts between sites, instead the ROAM methodology has been enhanced to incorporate the key components of a Process Framework.

Food Security

It is noted that certain restoration activities may involve the use of commercially significant species. When such species are chosen for restoration in community forests or cropland, a balance between food security and economic gains must be established. For example, a popular species for restoration in this landscape, based on consultations, is cocoa. The project should ensure that even if communities choose to extensively plant cocoa trees, they have sufficient land, resources and labour available to ensure that food security of the community is not impacted. In some cases, where there is pressure from local governments or from communities to prioritize commercially significant species, this may involve assessments to calculate historical yields of commonly grown produce, food security requirements for the sub-district, prices of common food items and affordability in case of poor harvest or loss of crops, etc. Such assessments can then be used to justify the appropriate plan of action as well as for community engagement and knowledge sharing.

Indigenous Peoples and access to project benefits

Furthermore, in two project sites (Bamboutous and Ngoyla/Lobeke), there are Indigenous Peoples (Mbororo and Baka), who will also be both potentially affected, and are intended beneficiaries of the Project. While the ESIA did not identify potential negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, beyond the possibility of involuntary and voluntary access restrictions referred to above, there is a question as to whether the project activities will actually benefit Indigenous Peoples in each site. This is largely due to constraints in participation in formal committees and decision-making bodies, and due to some structural, social and livelihood issues such as lack of access to land, different livelihood activities, and the often non-adapted approach of Projects to working with Indigenous Peoples. As such, this tool has been developed to ensure that the ROAM process, including the market and livelihood activity design process, engages appropriately with Indigenous Peoples in each site to ensure that both restoration and market-livelihood activities promoted by the project are based upon Indigenous Peoples' needs and realities. The ESIA report includes examples of the types of needs expressed by Indigenous People at the sites visited, and the types of restoration activities that will be most relevant. An IPPF template is as an Annex to the ESMP, which will be used to guide engagement with indigenous peoples, consultation processes, FPIC, documentation, impacts, etc.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent
Due to the presence of Indigenous Peoples, the project will be seeking the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The FPIC process will be aligned with Cameroon's national FPIC guidelines. Rather than establish a separate protocol and parallel process, the project has opted to integrate this FPIC process into the ROAM methodology, both to reduce transaction costs, as well as to ensure that the scope and relevance of FPIC is clear and based on project-supported activities. This plan includes a summary of how FPIC will be requested in this project. It is important to note that the most stringent FPIC requirements should be applied, with the IUCN FPIC requirements being the minimum.

Cultural heritage

The ESIA identified the potential for impacts on cultural heritage, mainly due to the existence of communities' cultural sites in and around the PFAs in the project area. While there does not appear to be potential for negative impacts, and in fact the project should support the maintenance of these sites, it was agreed that there would be site level identification of these areas during the project implementation.

Invasive species

The project proposes to use certain non-native species for restoration, ANR or agroforestry purposes. These species may be chosen due to economic considerations, or because they are fast-growing and can quickly sequester carbon. The use of species which may develop invasive tendencies may negatively impact the soil, other local plant species, be inedible to cattle, take over savannahs and cut off sunlight for grasses, etc. At each site, using the ROAM methodology as depicted in Table 1, each species must be assessed not just for potential of developing invasive characteristics but also for site suitability. Where a species is known to develop invasive characteristics, an alternative must be used as far as possible. Full justification for the continued use of the species, including a scenario-based impact assessment and a cost benefit analysis as well as a contingency plan for management must be provided to the ESMS officer of the project for approval before use of any such species.

Conflict and security assessment

In line with the conflict and fragility analysis, each potential site must be assessed for existing conflicts, as well as the possibility of volatile security situations. The process for such an assessment is described in Annex 22E. In order to optimize resources, a rapid assessment for each site should be conducted based on inputs from local teams from IUCN and MINFOF. If the risk is assessed to be moderate or high, more in-depth analyses will be required. In general, sites at high risk of conflict should be excluded or de-prioritized.

Market and value chain development and livelihoods enhancement/development
Lastly, as the project aims to improve the livelihood resilience of vulnerable communities around PFAs, and has a major component on 'development of market, value chain and livelihood activities' this safeguard-enhanced ROAM tool will ensure that the most vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable households, are included in the livelihood diagnostics and decision-making regarding potential interventions. It is well known and documented that many externally driven livelihood interventions fail, for example placing too much of an emphasis on locally available skills and products without considering market demand, or simply parachuting concepts and ideas to communities that are likely to fail from the outset/ do not account for local realities.

Step 4 – Co-develop FLR plans and develop mitigation strategies

The design of FLR interventions and introduction of social institutions to achieve sustainable management of the resources in areas where communities reside will be promoted in ways that lead to improved social benefits. There will be explicit rights-based and pro-poor approaches. Rights based: Community Forest and involvement in other activities will occur in the context of allocation of rights for local people. Facilitation will seek to specifically include marginalised individuals, especially women, and prioritise benefit allocation to them, and try to minimise and mitigate costs falling upon

them. The project design proposes strengthening participation and social inclusion in forest governance, leading to an overall positive impact on communities.

In the decision-making process about the interventions it will be ensured that principles of FPIC are followed by obtaining consent of all relevant rights-holders whether these make up a smaller or larger segment of the local society.

Given international recognition that community-based rights for collective management of a forest provide greater protection for women's participation than individual rights, priority will be given to community-based FLR interventions. When defining the institutional setting for community forest management the project team should provide for specifying or promoting the role of women. This might require activities for building women's capacity or empowering them to actively participate in these institutions. In all the restoration investments for collective use, it should be ensured that the village will, prior to the investment, prepare its own internal rules for management and sharing of the benefits ensuring safeguarding of women's rights.

The social baseline data gathered as part of the situation analysis will be instrumental for the development of the FLR plans and to ensure that rights and livelihood context of the different social groups are respected, negative impacts are avoided and social benefits sought wherever possible and in line with the conservation objective. The development of the FLR plans is designed as a participatory process; following the provision described in the section on inspiring peoples (step 1) will ensure inclusiveness of this process.

It is evident that participation in the planning workshops will often be limited to the legitimate representatives elected by the communities at each project site. It is therefore essential that disclosure meetings will be organized at the community level to present the results of the workshops to a wider audience to inform them on the FLR plans and ensure their buy-in as well as feed-back on potential risks. Good practice rules for organizing and documenting community meetings are already described under step 1.

Step 5 – Implement FLR plan, review, revise and adapt

During implementation of the FLR plans it will be important that the Project team and government staff establish and maintain close relationships with the respective local communities and stakeholders in order to ensure ongoing social acceptance of FLR within the local community. Local stakeholders will be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the agreed FLR plans. Monitoring should also provide for checking on new environmental and social risks that might emerge during project implementation.

A project-level grievance mechanism will be established following the guidance provided by the generic IUCN ESMS grievance mechanism[1]. This generic mechanism will need to be adapted to reflect local customs and institutions; it will be described in the local language and communicated and disseminated in a culturally appropriate way to all relevant stakeholders, women and men, in the project's area of influence at the beginning of project implementation. To minimise grievances it will be essential that the project team and implementing partners are highly attuned to community concerns and provide for regular consultation during implementation.

6 LAND RIGHTS IN CAMEROON

An understanding of the land tenure situation in Cameroon is critical in order to ensure that the project respects both legal and customary rights while being able to meet the restoration targets .

It must be noted that all project activities must respect both legal and customary tenure and use rights, and that the project does not in any way weaken existing tenure or use rights, including traditional or customary rights. This clause is also included in the exclusion principles of the project.

[1] Available on IUCN website at www.iucn.org/esms

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 property/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.

The carnet agroforestier is a notebook developed by the Ministry of forestry and wildlife to register NTFPs plantations which are established by farmers. This registration gives a legal recognition of private ownership of the NTFPs trees, thereby guaranteeing their legal exploitation in the future.
It does not have any implications for land rights but it may be used as proof of valorising land in the case of conflict.

The number of hectares targeted for (i) restoration is 165,941.2 ha and (ii) for sustainable management and conservation is 24,388.8 ha. Permanent Forest Areas (PFAs) in Cameroon are estimated to cover 12.6 million ha
For the purposes of this project, the regimes covered by state law include intervention in permanent forests which will include actions taken in protected areas, zones of hunting interest, forest management units, and communal forests and community forests. The table below lists tenure considerations for each type of land to be restored through the project and the associated actions.

	Land-scape	Cropland	Degraded PA	Community Forest
Land tenure and use rights	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	Owned by state unless title has been given, but person exploiting has customary rights	Private state domain – no customary or use rights i.e. cannot obtain land title but ppl living within or around can use resources/NTFP. But depends on category of PA – NPs and strict reserves – no resource use or NTFP collection. For multi-purpose use e.g. forest mgmt unit or forest concession, ppl living within have the right to go in and exploit resources for subsistence.	Under national domain but has been attributed to community for mgmt. of resources. They have right to exploit resources both for commercial and subsistence but cannot obtain land title. Can restore as well. Land is managed by community, state has attributed to community for fixed duration e.g. 30 years
Are rights formalized or is there any dispute on the land rights (e.g. formal vs customary land)?	Waza	When cropland encroaches into PA/other kinds of private state land, communities vs govt disputes have been recorded. Communities are often not happy with PA/State. Insufficient land to farm on, inter-	PAs have natural borders in certain areas and are well demarcated. But still there is large scale encroachment. No walls/fences around the PAs so easy to encroach for agriculture, firewood, livestock grazing and poaching.	Dispute mostly in terms of mgmt. of resources. CF is managed by legal entity but often there is elite capture of these entities. Inter-community conflict, agricultural encroachment are common.

		community disputes relating to land exist. Consideration of buffer zone usage by communities. HWC. Encroachments into the WAZA PA. Croplands in buffer zone of PA. Encroachment for agriculture, firewood, livestock grazing and poaching.		
	Dja-Lobeke	Conflicts are less common than in Waza because of more extensive land available, so not much pressure. However, commercial agriculture (for rubber) around the buffers of the Dja forest reserve and agricultural expansion for cocoa production have been identified as the main encroachment of cropland within the Dja-Lobeke landscape.	Expansion of commercial agriculture, mining, infrastructure projects (like the Mékin dam), logging and poaching are the main causes of habitat loss of PA within the Dja-Lobeke landscape. These encroachment into the buffers of PAs and habitat loss impacts wildlife and threatens local communities' resources and water quality.	Dispute mostly in terms of mgmt. of resources. CF is managed by legal entity but often there is elite capture of these entities. Inter-community conflicts and agricultural encroachment are common. Artisanal mining in CFs is another issue.
	Western HL	Cropland expansion in Cameroon's Western Highlands is driven by population growth, urban demand, and infrastructural development, causing significant deforestation, landscape degradation, and intense land disputes, primarily between farmers and pastoralists (Bororo communities) over shrinking grazing lands, leading to conflicts over access, boundaries, and resources, despite efforts towards sustainable management.	Land disputes around protected areas in Cameroon's Western Highlands stem from population growth, agricultural expansion, and grazing, causing conflicts between farmers, herders (like Bororo), and conservation authorities over encroaching farmland, resource use (water, timber), crop damage from wildlife, and historical land dispossession. When cropland encroaches into PA/other kinds of private state land, communities vs govt disputes occur. Community often not happy with PA/State but not much they can do. Insufficient land to farm on. Also inter-community disputes. Consideration of buffer zone usage by communities.	Community forest rights often clash with state claims and large-scale development, leading to disputes due to weak implementation, lack of local awareness, overlapping allocations, and elite capture of benefits, marginalizing communities despite legal frameworks meant for participatory management.
How does the project identify actors who will do the restoration? all ROAM? E.g. is land rights/ownership a criterion for doing restoration	Waza/Dja-Lobeke/Western HL	Stakeholder mapping is conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in croplands will be conducted by farm owners and family.	Stakeholder mapping conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in PAs will be conducted by those managing the protected areas, with support from communities living around the PAs. Restoration will mostly be done in buffer zones where encroachments are more significant.	Stakeholder mapping is conducted to identify actors who will do the restoration of degraded lands. Restoration in community forests will be conducted by communities in charge of the management of the community forests.

What are the types of restoration activities that will take place?	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	Restoration may take the form of agroforestry where suitable and where communities are in favour. It could also include regenerative farming practices to restore soil, e.g. cover cropping. Farmers may be provided access to better quality seeds of native varieties as well as training	ROAM will determine the most suitable form of restoration depending on the site, the slope, existing species, extent of degradation. Restoration may involve planting saplings, set up of nurseries, ANR or weed removal	This would depend on the interests of the community, which will be assessed through extensive stakeholder engagement. Restoration activities may involve agroforestry, training on sustainable NTFP harvesting, etc. Monocultures are to be avoided.
What is the capacity of the lead entity (or actors) to guide the ROAM process and the restoration process?	Waza/ Dja-Lobeke/ Western HL	IUCN staff will guide ROAM	IUCN staff will guide ROAM	IUCN staff will guide ROAM
How will these restoration targets be met?	Waza	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands and establishment of NTFPs plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the Pas.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
	Dja-Lobeke	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands (especially cocoa farming) and establishment of NTFPs plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the PAs.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast-growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
	Western HL	Promotion of agroforestry in croplands and establishment of NTFPs and fruits plantations.	Fast growing indigenous trees will be planted in degraded portions of Pas. Natural regeneration will also be promoted by protecting and preventing community access into the PAs.	Promotion of agroforestry, planting of fast-growing indigenous species and establishment of NTFPs plantations.
How many beneficiaries do you expect to cover with this activity in each landscape?	Waza	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.
	Dja-Lobeke	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.
	Western HL	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.	Will be determined by the ROAM.

Table 2: Site-wise land tenure considerations

7 VULNERABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Annex 22D includes a detailed vulnerability assessment for all three project landscapes. The ESIA identifies vulnerable groups and potential impacts of the project on them. The key principles are laid out below:
A more granular site-specific vulnerability assessment must be conducted as part of the social impact assessment. Depending on the site and local context, different groups may be vulnerable or marginalized. Such groups may include indigenous groups, women, elderly, young people, migrants, pastoralists, landless communities or families, displaced families, communities who have been historically dispossessed, victims of conflict, refugees, etc.

Identification of vulnerable groups: This step must be done before any on-ground activities can take place, and as part of the social impact assessment. Extensive stakeholder consultations at a sub-district level or group of villages is recommended to collect granular data.

Impacts on vulnerable groups: Once the vulnerable groups have been identified, they must be engaged to understand the reasons for their vulnerability. This will enable the identification of their needs, and potential impacts of project activities on such groups. It is important to disaggregate the groups and to not class all vulnerable groups as the same – each group may have different causes of vulnerability, and therefore have different needs and may be impacted in different ways by the project.

Plan for engaging vulnerable groups: Using the data gathered in the previous steps, the site-specific ESMP should include specific actions for:

i) Mitigating negative impacts of the project on vulnerable groups e.g. access restrictions
ii) Ensuring their inclusion in stakeholder engagement, if necessary providing specific meetings for each group separate from the mainstream
iii) Designing or re-designing project activities to ensure that all groups can access the benefits e.g. if vulnerable groups do not have access to community forests, what alternative benefits could they be provided?
iv) Ensuring that grievance mechanisms are inclusive and pay particular attention to access by vulnerable groups

8 APPROACH

As detailed above, the safeguard-adapted ROAM methodology will manage risks related to involuntary and voluntary access restrictions, while incorporating Indigenous Peoples, women and vulnerable groups into the decision-making on both a) restoration opportunities and planning, and b) market value chain and livelihood assessment and development.

In the Project preparatory phase, a preliminary ROAM (ROAM 1) was conducted. The Project plans to conduct a detailed and comprehensive ROAM (ROAM 2) during the Project inception phase. ROAM 2 will finalise the design of restoration activities in the project sites at the local level. It will allow for site-level identification of access restrictions, affected people, and impacts, and seek FPIC.

During the project preparation phase, the project identified sustainable livelihood activities (ROAM 1 phase). However, as further consultations are still needed, especially with women, vulnerable groups and Indigenous People, to define what these livelihood interventions will be, and the market assessments are to be completed, these activities will occur as part of ROAM 2.

ROAM 2 will be conducted at either the District or the Sub-District level (this will vary depending on the features of the site). Districts and Sub-Districts will be chosen in each site in order to pilot ROAM2, and then this will be scaled out accordingly.

9 SAFEGUARDS-ENHANCED ROAM OUTPUTS

The ROAM outputs are detailed in the IUCN ROAM methodology. In this safeguards-enhanced ROAM, the key output will be a safeguards-enhanced 'Sub-District Action Plan'. This Action Plan will contain the following sections:

- Justify the site selection by describing criteria used and the prioritization list.
- Include results of the integrated situation analysis.
- Clearly identify the restoration activities selected, the spatial extent of these planned activities, the level of the Sub-District or District;
- Incorporate the Access Restriction Mitigation Plan for sites where the Standard is triggered. Guidance in the form of a Process Framework is available as an Annex to the ESMP.
- Incorporate an Indigenous Peoples Plan for sites where the Standard is triggered. Guidance in the form of an IPPF is available as an Annex to the ESMP.
- Where a non-native species has been used, include justification for its use, measures if any for handling the development of invasive characteristics.
- Include proof of FPIC where relevant e.g. presence of indigenous peoples, access restrictions caused.
- Distinguish between those restoration activities, and those market – livelihood activities, promoted for women and for men.
- Clearly indicate the planned beneficiaries and selection criteria (eligibility criteria), plus components of the plan to be financed/ supported by the project, versus those where funding will need to be leveraged from District development plans or other sources.

It is to be noted that the Sub-District Action Plan should be reviewed and cleared by the Project ESMS Officer before ROAM implementation can begin.

10 FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

The Project will seek the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of both Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for all project activities, and particularly the restoration activities and the market and livelihood development activities.
In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in 2007. UNDRIP 2007 recognizes FPIC as a right that should be respected by all powerful actors aiming to execute projects that would affect the settlements, livelihoods, and wellbeing of indigenous peoples.

In order, for FPIC to be fully legitimate, it must demonstrate that it is:

- **Free** = consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.
- **Prior** = consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities to allow time to understand, access, and analyze information on the proposed activity.
- **Informed** = information provided prior to seeking consent is accessible, objective, and complete.
- **Consensual** = a "Yes", "No", or "Yes with conditions" made by Indigenous People and Local Communities following their own timelines and decision-making processes with the option to reconsider if the proposed activities change or if new information relevant to the proposed activities emerges.

FPIC aims to equalize the power differentials or asymmetries between Indigenous People and Local Communities and the powerful actors they engage with over access and control of natural resources. Powerful actors include governments, business, international organizations, non-governmental

organizations (NGOs), traditional leaders, wealthy landowners, and religious institutions. International Standards such as the IUCN Standard on Indigenous Peoples (IUCN 2016), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007), and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework2 (2017), require that Free Prior and Informed Consent be obtained in projects that will impact Indigenous People and Local Communities in the project landscape. This includes project interventions that takes place on the lands, waters, or territories of Indigenous People and Local Communities, or that may have negative economic, social, cultural or environmental impacts on their rights, resources or livelihoods.

Cameroon does not have any legislation on FPIC. However, the country has national guidelines for Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) developed in 2014 that can be used during consultations in the different phases of the REDD+ process in the country. The guidelines include 10 guiding steps to undertake FPIC under the REDD+ process of Cameroon as well as 4 key guiding principles including : absence of force, pressure, unwanted obligation, manipulation and intimidation; provision of information regarding REDD+ activities sufficiently in advance; disclosure of the full information about the REDD+ activity; and community agrees or approves proposed REDD+ activity. The national FPIC guidelines document was elaborated through a national consultative process across the five agro-ecological zones of Cameroon, involving diverse stakeholders including but not limited civil society organizations, international organizations, relevant government ministries, local communities and the five indigenous peoples groups in Cameroon.

Integrating the FPIC process into ROAM

Table 1 illustrates the key steps to seeking Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) based on the Cameroonian '*Operational Guidelines for Obtaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+ Initiatives*'. The safeguard-enhanced ROAM process will incorporate these steps into the participatory process, as illustrated in **Section 9** below).

[2] World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 7. Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (2017).

Table 1: Steps for seeking FPIC as per Cameroon's Operational FPIC Guidelines

Phase/ Step	Project implementation (ROAM2)
Phase 1 : Field preparations	
Step 1: Establishment of a technical team for FPIC implementation	> This will be achieved through the following: ✓ Clarifying the mission of the team and the role and responsibilities of each ROAM 2 team member, ✓ Identification of the criteria and skills for selecting team members, ✓ Determination of the size of the team, ✓ Clarification of the various modalities, practices and procedures to be employed during discussions and engagements with various communities and ✓ Identification of acceptable and legally binding options for recording decisions after consensus is reached with communities.
Step 2: Analysis of the Physical, Socio-Economic and Legal Context	This include the identification and analysis of the physical, socio-economic and legal context and is geared towards collecting information on the physical attributes and the social and economic conditions of the milieu or site where ROAM 2 will be implemented. These include socio-economic conditions, constraints and opportunities and existing informal institutions: customs, traditions, and religions.
Step 3: Development of an Information and Communication Strategy	The information and communication strategy will take into consideration both internal communication within the technical operational team and external communication with indigenous and local communities
Phase 2: Field Implementation	
Step 4: Taking Appointments	A facilitator will go to the project village or town to meet the communities and let them know that ROAM 2 team will like to have a discussion about ROAM2 with them and inquire of their availability to participate in the discussion. Important issues to be considered by the ROAM 2 team at this step includes; the availability of the community, the place, date and time of the meeting that are mutually acceptable to all village heads, the practical modalities for holding a meeting, materials and logistics needed.
Step 5: Information and Sensitization Meetings	This is vital in that it informs the community and discuss with them any issues concerning the project. At this stage, the project team will raise awareness among indigenous and local communities about the project activities, objectives and roles and responsibilities. This will also entail disclosing to the indigenous and local communities, the potential impacts (positive and negative) of the project as per the findings of the ESIA.
Step 6: Negotiating with Stakeholders	Once the community is clearly informed and has taken the time to analyze the information received, a date for the negotiation meeting will be fixed with the community. Negotiations are crucial to the process

	of developing a consensus and facilitators have a pivotal role to play in this process. Facilitators will have the capability of reframing the discussion on values, or needs (not negotiable) so as to focus them on the interests and negotiable positions. External facilitators or those assisting in the development of the ROAM 2 will be competent and neutral throughout the consent process. Negotiations will be geared at obtaining the consent of indigenous and local communities' for the implementation of restoration and other project activities in the project sites and this step will be integrated into, or align with step 6 to 9 of the ROAM 2 process as proposed in section 6 of this present document.
Step 7: Formalising Agreements Between Parties	This is only possible if the community gives their consent for the implementation of project activities. Formalization refers to the form by which the community give approval or "yes". This "yes" can be in a written form indicating their decision. According to their customs, the community will agree on the duration of the agreement and on how they will follow it up. The agreements between the project proponent and the indigenous and/or local communities will contain specific terms and conditions under which consent is given. This step will coincide with the elaboration of the forest landscape restoration plan (step 8 and 9 of ROAM 2 provided section 6 of this document) which will include inter alia activities, roles and responsibilities and timeline.
Step 8: Developing a Roadmap	Here, the steps to be followed will be defined by consensus. After an agreement has been established, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed and a road map developed by mutual agreement. This will align with the FLR action plan within the ROAM 2 process.
Phase 3: Monitoring and evaluation of the FPIC Process	
Step 9: Monitoring	Monitoring will be carried out in the course of the implementation of the restoration and other project activities. This stage of the FPIC process will be aimed at ensuring that each party actually proceeds or carry out their functions based on the agreement that was reached or established. The responsibilities of each party will be clearly spelled out and a monitoring body set up. This will align with the implementation of the FLR action plan (step 10) and verification and evaluation (step 11) of the ROAM 2 process.
Step 10: Verification and evaluation	At some point, after a few years of ROAM2 implementation, a neutral independent third-party organization with specialization in forest-community interactions will be contacted for independent verification of the FPIC process. The ROAM 2 team and the communities are therefore expected to agree on the standards applicable to the verification of the FPIC process. This clearly aligns with step 11 of the ROAM 2 process as presented in section 6 of this present document.

It is important to point out that the project preparation phase (concept note development and development of the full proposal) has covered phase 1- 5 presented in Table 1. As part of the elaboration of the funding proposal, two rounds of consultations were carried out during which constituted teams of experts consulted local and indigenous communities in the project sites. The consultation processes entailed the following: socio-economic and legal analysis; booking of appointments with targeted communities; and organization of information and sensitization meetings with local and indigenous communities. in Table 1.

FPIC considerations

FPIC Training and Capacity Building

There is a need to empower the local and indigenous communities in the envisaged project area so that they can obtain the necessary skills needed for them to effectively participate in the implementation and monitoring of ROAM 2. This includes their capacity to understand the functioning of the mechanism for conflict resolution so that they are able to follow the necessary proceedings as well as represent themselves effectively when need arises.

FPIC Rightsholders and Community Representatives

The key issue that emerged from consultations with communities as part of the project elaboration process was related to if indigenous communities will benefit from the project, due to constraints to engaging in and benefiting from restoration activities and proposed market/ livelihood activities. There was concern that project activities (restoration and livelihood) will not benefit from substantial input from IPs themselves, partly due to the additional efforts required by the project to work with IP communities, rendering activities ineffective. To address this issue, there will be clear consultation process with Indigenous Peoples for the development of the market/ livelihood interventions, to ensure that these are fit for purpose.

The key risk relating to the project is that women will be excluded in the decision-making process regarding the project since they still depend on men for their livelihood. Women are generally discriminated upon in the community. The project may restrict the use of land and forest assets by women. To address this issue, there should be women empowerment through capacity building on project objectives and activities and ensure that they participate actively in the project.

FPIC Principles

Principle 1: Absence of force, pressure, unwanted obligation, manipulation and intimidation

As per Cameroon's FPIC guidelines, project developers should allow communities to choose a convenient date and time for meetings. Communities will often require consultation meetings to take place in their chief's palace or in the home of a representative (focal point) of the community. The head of communities in consultation with elders choose a date, time and venue for meetings. Project developers should avoid organizing meetings during peak farming periods, market days, festive periods etc. Facilitator should find out if the community will refuse or accept to have external members who have no direct involvement in the proposed project to be part of negotiation meetings. Local communities should bring their criticism/suggestions without fear and their women should be able to express themselves in the course of a meeting.

Principle 2 : Provision of information regarding project activities sufficiently in advance

For indigenous and local communities, their chiefs or the focal person should be contacted. Appointment dates should be taken 1-2 weeks before hand for the Mbororos and Baka while for many other communities, it can be taken 1-4 weeks in advance. For urgent issues, appointments can be taken with some of these communities 3 days in advance. A facilitator needs to contact the chief or head of local and indigenous communities either by mail (letter), physically, by phone of through local NGOs. The subject and the objective(s) of the said

information must be spelled out to the chief. For the Bakas, the right holders must have been informed and are present before the information is passed across to the wider community and they will as well need to know all the stakeholders involved in the project.

Principle 3 : Disclosure of the full information about ROAM 2

Project developer should provide indigenous and local communities with detail information, if possible, in the form of documents on the project. The implementing entity should explain and help communities to understand the potential risks and benefits of the project at individual, household and community levels. For instance, the Mbororos will like to know the links between the project and their livestock and pasture land while the Bakas would like to know how the project will affect or change their forest and agriculture-based life style.

Principle 4: Community agrees or approves proposed project.

The project developer must first of all contact the chief or focal point of the community so as to take an appointment. As per consent for passing across information, the chief or head of the community contacts his elders, together they concert and arrive at a decision as to whether to give or withhold consent. . The same process is followed by the communities to give or withhold consent for the proposed project.

FPIC Documentation

Documentation will be done via an action plan that clearly explains the activities to be implemented in time and space, with the roles and responsibilities of everyone clearly spelled out. A roadmap and the mechanism for the resolution of conflict will be part of the MoU that will be signed with local communities and clearly documented.

11 SAFEGUARD ENHANCED ROAM PROCESS

Table 2: ROAM2, to be conducted at the Sub-District or District level

The ROAM2 safeguards-enhanced ROAM will include the following activities which are based on the ROAM framework. Details are provided in the table below.

1. Establishing and training a team for the assignment
2. Planning
3. Stakeholder/ Community Engagement or consultation (with indigenous and local communities and women's groups)
4. Integrated Situational analysis
5. Mapping, planning & impact assessment
6. Market/ value chain and livelihood assessments
7. Livelihood feasibility studies, trials, and entitlements
8. Co-development of FLR plans
9. Sub-District Action Plan/ FLR plan
10. Implementation of Action Plan/FLR plan
11. Verification and evaluation

ID	Activity	Description
1	Establishing and training a team	Pg.33 ROAM; FPIC Step 1. This will entail Clarifying the mission of the team and the role and responsibilities of each ROAM 2 member. Identification of the criteria and skills for selecting team members, Determination of the size of the team, Clarification of the various modalities, practices and procedures to be employed during discussions and engagements with various communities and Identification of acceptable and legally binding options for recording decisions after consensus is reached with communities.
2	Planning	FPIC Step 3 – development of info strategy/comms; developing the ROAM methodology to be applied at Sub-District or District level; preparing relevant materials, maps, etc; stakeholder identification Planning for stakeholder engagement, pg. 47 ROAM
3	Stakeholder/ Community Engagement	Initial consultations ; Step 4 & 5 of FPIC (appointments and meetings). In addition, in this step, it will be critical to ensure an inclusive stakeholder engagement strategy for the local level and that appropriate participants are selected and invited for the local level workshops and other consultation events. The stakeholder analysis will be instrumental not only for deciding who to invite for the ROAM 2 planning events but also for pronouncing the wider stakeholder engagement strategy in each site. In this step it will also be essential to map the location of settlements of indigenous communities as well as activities in relation to the project area (including sites and resources of cultural and religious significance).

4	Situational analysis	The situation analysis should be conducted with multi-stakeholder participation to co-develop a shared understanding and will cover biophysical topics such as state and trend of natural resources (forests, water, agriculture, soil, meadows, fishery etc.) as well as drivers and pressures of environmental change, current flow and trend of ecosystem services (timber, fuelwood, fodder, NTFPs, water, climate regulation, natural hazard, and disease regulation etc.).
5	Mapping, planning & impact assessment	During implementation of the ROAM 2 plans and the livelihood strategies, it will be important that the project team and its partners establish plan and maintain close relationship with the respective local communities and stakeholders in order to ensure ongoing social acceptance of ROAM 2 within the local community. There will be separate consultations with men, women, indigenous peoples.
6	Market/ value chain and livelihood assessments	In parallel to 5, conducting assessments relevant to the district (some of these assessments could occur at site level). Livelihood assessment to work with men, women, LCs and Ips (also disaggregated for gender) will be carried out to identify options for improving livelihood resilience; focus on link to restoration activities/forest products to incentivise maintenance/ restoration of forest.
7	Livelihood feasibility studies, trials, and entitlements	Feasibility studies for selected options requiring this; start trials of other options as early as possible. Establishment of eligibility criteria for access to livelihood options; including who is affected by restoration activities in / adjacent to PFA;
8	Co-development of FLR plans	Participatory process; with different community stakeholders feeding in; Step 6 – FPIC – negotiating with stakeholders
9	Sub-District Action Plan/ FLR plan	As described above in the Section 7; Step 7& 8 FPIC – formalising agreement and developing roadmap ; plans to include detail on IP activities, LC activities, men and women's activities; and to be sufficiently detailed to be monitored and evaluated
10	Implementation of Action Plan/FLR plan	Step 9 FPIC - monitoring. Local stakeholders will be actively engaged in monitoring the implementation of the agreed ROAM2 plans. Monitoring should also provide for checking on new environmental and social risks that might emerge during project implementation.
11	Verification and evaluation	Step 10 FPIC – verifying the degree to which FLR plans have been implemented; quality of FPIC etc