

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

ITTO

PRE-PROJECT PROPOSAL

TITLE	ZONING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINKEBE PROTECTED AREA TOWARDS THE PROTECTION OF TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION CORRIDORS BETWEEN GABON, CAMEROON AND THE CONGO
SERIAL NUMBER	PPD 147/10 Rev.1 (F)
COMMITTEE	REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT
SUBMITTED BY	GOVERNMENT OF GABON
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE	FRENCH

SUMMARY

Since the Summit of Heads of State of Yaounde in 1999, countries have been committed to, among other things, *accelerate the process of creation of transboundary protected areas between Central African countries and invite neighbour countries to join in this process while strengthening the sustainable management of existing protected areas.*

This commitment materialised with the creation of two TNS transboundary conservation areas (between Congo, Cameroon and CAR) and the TRIDOM conservation area (between Gabon, Congo and Cameroon). ITTO interest for this area has been growing, which has shown through the approval by ITTO of an early project in Cameroon in 2001 for the protection of Mengine Gorilla Sanctuary. As Gabon became motivated by this expression of ITTO interest, the Government of Gabon submitted a similar project proposal to ITTO for the adjacent area of Minkébé. This proposal was discussed during the 23rd session of ITTC and a number of recommendations were made to improve the project proposal. Unfortunately, the country has suffered from a lack of support to finalize the proposal. Seven years later, it is necessary to re-engage stakeholders in the process of updating the data and especially review the project proposal on the basis of expert recommendations issued by the ITTO. The need is even greater now that Cameroon has made sufficient progress in its own project while plans and initiatives carried out in Cameroon could be compromised by the absence of similar initiatives in Gabon.

EXECUTING AGENCY INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

COLLABORATING AGENCY DIRECTORATE OF WILDLIFE AND HUNTING OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND FORESTS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GABON

DURATION: 6 MONTHS

APPROXIMATE STARTING DATE TO BE DECIDED

BUDGET AND PROPOSED: SOURCES OF FUNDING	Sources	Contribution in US\$
	ITTO	99,279
	Gov.of Gabon	10,000
	Executing Agency	30,000
	TOTAL	139 279

1. PART I: BACKGROUND OF THE PRE-PROJECT

1.1. Origin and rationale

Since March 17, 1999, when the Summit of Heads of Central African States was held in Yaounde, with the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests as main topic, the transboundary conservation of biodiversity has enjoyed unprecedented political support in this region. Indeed, the summit culminated in a landmark statement called "The Yaoundé Declaration", by which the Heads of State of Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Chad, having considered issues related to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa, pronounced their commitment to the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa.

In particular, they undertake, inter alia, to accelerate the process of establishing transboundary protected areas between Central African countries and invite neighbour countries to join in this process, while strengthening the sustainable management of existing protected areas;

This commitment was evidenced by the creation of two TNS transboundary conservation areas (between Congo, Cameroon and CAR) and the TRIDOM conservation area (between Gabon, Congo and Cameroon). The TRIDOM is the result of a landmark agreement for a cross-border collaboration that was initiated in 1999. ITTO interest for this area has been growing, which has shown through the approval by ITTO of a first project in Cameroon in 2001 for the protection of Mengine Gorilla Sanctuary.

This display of interest by ITTO motivated Gabon to submit its own ITTO project proposal, similar to Cameroon's, for the Gabonese adjacent part of Minkébé. Therefore the Government of Gabon has made a submission to ITTO for the identification and formulation of a proposed project aimed to contribute to the protection of gorillas and their habitat in the Minkébé-Mengamé border region. The ITTO Secretariat has responded positively by appointing an expert for this purpose under the *Assistance for Project Identification and Formulation* programme. This assistance has led to the development of a comprehensive project proposal subsequently reviewed by ITTO during its 23th session.

After reviewing the project, a number of recommendations were made to improve the project proposal. Unfortunately, the country has suffered a lack of support which prevented it to finalize the project proposal. Seven years later, it has become necessary to re-engage stakeholders in the process and update baseline data and more especially review the project proposal on the basis of recommendations formulated by ITTO experts. It is all the more pressing that Cameroon has made notable progress in its own project and the initiatives carried out in Cameroon could be compromised by the lack of equivalent efforts in Gabon.

Both Minkébé and Mengamé areas are located in one region of Africa having one of the highest concentration of large mammals, and they areas lie at the periphery of transboundary biodiversity conservation corridors. The fact that these two conservation areas, together with corridors and peripheral conservation areas, are included in the broader tri-national cooperation framework for the protection of these transboundary conservation corridors, makes it an opportunity for this project and this area, when the latter also happens to be the target area of the GEF-TRIDOM project. The project originally envisaged to conduct a zoning study on the areas surrounding the Minkébé Reserve to the north and the east, to integrate this whole landscape in a sub-regional vision of ecosystem corridors, which would be consistent with Cameroon's intention to have an extension of the Mengamé Gorillas Sanctuary developed into Gabon; however this plan must be revised to take into account new developments and initiatives occurring in this area.

As it is, anxious to ensure proper coordination of conservation actions undertaken on both sides of their common international borders and seeking to honour the commitments made at the Summit of Heads of States of Central Africa, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon have signed an Agreement on Transboundary Cooperation on the implementation of the Trinational Conservation Area "Dja - Odzala - Minkébe (TRIDOM)" in 2005.

This transboundary forest complex covering an area of 14.5 million ha is relatively pristine and is one of the richest portions of the Congo Basin; it is located in the core area of forest ecosystem management efforts taking place in the Congo Basin, creating both socio-economic and ecological challenges. Indeed, it is located in one African region among those having richest concentrations in large mammals, and the protected areas that make up the complex lie at the periphery of cross-border corridors of biodiversity conservation. The area is also the site of large mining and forestry industries.

In Cameroon, the CAMIRON corporation – a conglomerate of South African and Australian investors is installing facilities for the exploitation of iron ore whose total reserve amounts to about 800 million tonnes and turnover for the investment is estimated to be in excess of \$ 3 billion over the next 25 years. The GEOVIC corporation is about to start mining cobalt (reserves estimated at over 4000 tons per year) and Nickel (reserves estimated at over 3000 tons per year) in the coming years. These investments will be made on an area of over 1000 square kilometers and involve the construction of a railway from several hundreds of km from Mballam (east). In Gabon, the investment of Chinese corporation BELINGA, whose turnover is forecast to be in excess of \$ 3 billion over the next 5 years will target the mining of gold, manganese and other minerals. These investments also involve building of dams. In Congo, Chinese industries have settled in the area Souanké (south) and are involved in the exploitation of forest concessions covering an area estimated at nearly one million ha.

All of these industries attract many people and population, currently estimated at more than 100,000 people, is to multiply threefold over the next five years, with related impacts such as poaching, infrastructure development, the ivory trade, etc.. In view of this new momentum and novel developments, a reassessment of the project context has become necessary, considering the conservation issues of the day against this socio-economic development.

1.2. Relevance

1.2.1. Compliance with the objectives and priorities of the ITTO

Compliance with the objectives of the ITTA, 2006

The project is consistent with objectives c, f and i below from section 1 of the ITTA, 2006:

c) Contribute to sustainable development and poverty alleviation;

In addition to pursuing conservation objectives, the project will also support the empowerment and self-development efforts by local communities. It will support in particular actions for the sustainable use of natural resources.

f) Promoting and supporting research and development with a view to improving forest management and efficiency of wood utilization and the competitiveness of wood products relative to other materials, as well as increasing the capacity to conserve and enhance other forest values in timber producing tropical forests;

The various actions proposed should be based on specific socio-economic and ecological studies that will guide the Government and other stakeholders on the values and potentials, and options for an improved sustainable management.

i) Promoting increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable

sources in producer member countries, with a view to promoting their industrialization and thereby increasing their employment opportunities and export earnings;

The Minkébé forest contains high biodiversity values, thanks to its large area cover and diversity of habitats. The protection of these habitats and the conservation of this biodiversity will help maintain the ecological balance of the region. Supporting these goals will encourage the Gabonese government to implement policies and strategies for sustainable management of natural resources.

Compliance with the ITTO Action Plan

As an active member of the ITTO, Gabon is committed to implementing the sustainable management of its forest resources and seeks to achieve the ITTO objective by the year 2011. This project proposal is consistent, inter alia, with expected result 6 entitled "*Tropical forest resource sustainably managed*" and contributes to Action Plan actions e and f as follows :

- e) In close collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies, establish areas dedicated to biodiversity conservation in accordance with the ITTO guidelines, including transboundary conservation areas;
- f) Improve the productive capacity of natural forests through intensified silvicultural practices, including guided natural regeneration, enrichment planting and reforestation.

It also contributes to cross-cutting, international cooperation actions, including Action n. entitled "Actively cooperate and coordinate with other international organizations and with international forums and regional initiatives that undertake activities relevant to ITTO's objectives, with a view to sharing expertise, reducing duplication, enhancing complementarity and harmonizing activities".

1.2.2. Relevance to the submitting country policies

The Convergence Plan of the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) of which the countries involved in this pre-project are all members, provides for the establishment of conservation areas under various focuses, some of these countries have drawn from eco-regions or fragile ecosystems concepts. The planning of conservation areas in these countries is not in line with any systemic and coherent approach embracing all ecosystems. However, a baseline and mapping study to establish a representative network of biodiversity conservation areas in the sub region is under development. The overall conservation objective of COMIFAC countries in accordance with their legislation aims to have a sub-regional framework for overall planning of conservation areas.

The various expected results can be summarized as follows :

1. the achievement of a comprehensive planning framework for conservation areas that integrates terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems;
2. the establishment of a network of conservation areas representative of ecosystems and biodiversity present in the sub-region.

The project is consistent with Law No. 1 / 82 of July 22, 1982 which has long been considered the "bible" of national policy on forest management and the environment. Indeed, it gives from the first section, the broad national policy tenets which are "to promote a rational management of forest areas, wildlife, wilderness, river, lake, lagoon and marine resources, to significantly increase the contribution of the water and forest sector to the economic, social, cultural and scientific development of the country. The project is also consistent with the Law No. 16/01 of 31 December 2001 providing the Forestry Code of Gabon.

2. PART 2: RATIONALE FOR THE PRE-PROJECT

2.1. Objectives

2.1.1. Development Objective

The project will contribute to the effort to coordinate management operations in the conservation areas of the large forest included in the TRIDOM area.

2.1.2. Specific Objective

To finalise the full project proposal by taking into consideration new developments and newly-developed conservation and sustainable forest resources management initiatives in the sub-region.

2.2. Preliminary problem identification

There is still no effective measures to protect the Minkébé conservation area against the long-term pressure from logging interests. Commercial hunting and poaching of elephants for ivory are intense in

the northern Minkébé forest formation, in the upper reaches of Ivindo and its tributaries, and along the border with Cameroon. To the south and the west of the Minkébé Conservation area, poaching activities occur near concessions with which agreements to govern the protection of wildlife are still to be signed. The pressures of logging activities and access facilitated by the forest trails have resulted in the intensification of commercial hunting. These illegal practices are facilitated by a relative lack of conservation services and the lack of local participation in conservation efforts. If these threats were to continue, they will reduce the long-term opportunities for genetic exchange between elephants in Minkébé and those of Nki and Dja in Cameroon.

The fauna in the northern portion of the Minkébé forest complex is also threatened by commercial cross-border hunting for the bushmeat trade. More than fifty fishing and hunting camps can be counted along the Ayina river (Cameroon-Gabon border). In addition, Cameroon's forests to the south of the Djoum-Mintom road are currently being logged and forest roads giving access to the logging areas increase accessibility to the forest complex. The cross-border hunting and bushmeat trade are bound to increase and will pose a greater challenge following the improved access to these forest areas. Stricter controls on the roads giving access to Cameroon are required. In addition, a form of joint-management process is needed with users of the Ayina and Kom rivers to define their rights and obligations.

The entire Cameroon-Gabon and Gabon-Congo border areas are heavily poached for elephants. Indeed, along the Cameroon-Gabon border, elephant density is low (source: database linked to the reconnaissance trips made under the the project WWF-DFC Minkébé Project). The main elephant hunters are Baka pygmies. A joint-management process has been initiated with Gabon-based Bakas (in the Minvoul area) by the WWF/DFC Minkébé Project in the early 2 000s and this project should expand this process. The forest of Djoua-Zadié is also heavily poached for elephants and an awareness-raising and monitoring process is required to protect these elephants from local extinction.

In the context of transboundary conservation, biological corridors should be identified in Gabon, Cameroon and Congo. For Gabon, we must examine what status should be given to the north-west portion of the Minkébé forest complex and Djoua forest complex which connects the Odzala National Park with the National Park Minkébé. This project will review the possibilities of gazetting critical areas into conservation area. The critical factor is the logging value of this area.

Currently, the TRIDOM Agreement provides for a clear vision to ensure biodiversity conservation in the forest complex covering the transboundary area between Gabon, Cameroon and Congo. However the exact biological and technical concept is not yet followed through by a coordination of resources and operations for its practical implementation. Now all three states involved are facing many transboundary threats caused by increased logging and poaching activities. These threats are compounded by access difficulties, the lack of development and management standards and lack of mechanisms for cross-border cooperation between relevant departments of the States concerned.

Aware of this situation, Cameroon has developed a project to protect the Mengamé Sanctuary which was approved by ITTO and is currently under implementation. The efforts deployed by the Cameroonian side must be replicated in other countries to strengthen the transboundary conservation of TRIDOM. That is why a similar project has been initiated in Gabon and likewise submitted to ITTO. The recommendations from the project appraisal process has so far remained untapped by the Government, resulting in the non-completion of the project proposal developed. The problems contributing to this situation are:

- The lack of capacity at government level
- Insufficient support from development partners
- Lack of socio-economic and ecological baseline information to finalize the proposal
- Unavailability of recent and updated data on site conditions
- Needs and interests of stakeholders unclear

- High turnover executive level staff in Government departments (change and external assignment of skilled individuals having a sound command of processes involved)
- Low-level capacity to ensure proper monitoring of initiatives
- Insufficient knowledge of existing challenges and opportunities

These problems have been summarized in the following table together with their respective causes and effects

Key Problems	Causes	Effects
Lack / unavailability of recent and updated data on the issue of natural resource management	Inadequate capacity at government level Lack of support from development partners Lack of socio-economic and ecological information	Project document is not finalized with the recommendations of the session of the ITTO
Project document is not finalized with the recommendations of the session of the ITTO	Weak capacity for monitoring initiatives Lack of knowledge about existing challenges and opportunities Strong staff turnover among executives at government level (change and reassignment of individuals who have acquired a command of certain processes)	Resource degradation continues

3. INTERVENTIONS OF THE PRE-PROJECT

3.1. Outputs

- An update review of natural resource management issues in the TRIDOM area in Gabon is available.
- The full project proposal finalised with updated elements of the baseline situation and validated by the main stakeholders is available.

3.2. Activities, inputs and unit costs

Table of activities by Outputs

Outputs	Activities
1. An update review of natural resource management issues in the TRIDOM area in Gabon is available	1.1. To organize a pre-project start-up workshop
	1.2. To carry out stakeholders consultations and document review in the entire TRIDOM area
	1.3. To implement the synthesis of updated information and prepare a paper
2. The full project proposal finalised with updated elements of the baseline situation and validated by the main stakeholders is available.	2.1. To establish a peer-review committee for the project proposal whose membership will include members of TRIDOM CTPE and national-level decision makers from the State ministries
	2.2. To convene peer-review work sessions to review the project document
	2.3. To finalize the updated project document
	2.4. To organize a validation workshop for the updated project proposal

Table of inputs per activity

Activities	Inputs	Unit costs
1.1. To organize a pre-project start-up workshop	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Transport / Vehicle	300 \$ per day
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
	Transport / Flight	1 000 per flight
	Daily Subsistence Allowance	125 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
	participants transport	60 \$ per participant
1.2. To carry out stakeholders consultations and document review in the entire TRIDOM area	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Transport / Vehicle	300 \$ per day
	Daily Subsistence Allowance	125 \$ per day
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
1.3. To implement the synthesis of updated information and prepare a synthesis paper compiling the needs and issues in Minkébé and the TRIDOM area	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
2.1. To establish a peer-review committee for the project proposal whose membership will include members of TRIDOM CTPE and national-level decision makers from the State ministries	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
2.2. To convene peer-review work sessions to review the project document	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
	Daily Subsistence Allowance	125 \$ per day
	Transport costs for participants	60 \$ per participant
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
2.3. To finalize the updated project document	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Communication	100 \$ per day
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
2.4. To organize a validation workshop for the updated project proposal	Human resources	250 \$ per day
	Transport / Vehicle	300 \$ per day
	Transport costs for participants	60 \$ per participant
	Consumables	100 \$ per day
	Transport / Flight	1 000 par vol
	Communication	100 \$ per day
	Daily Subsistence Allowance	125 \$ per day

3.3 Approaches and methodologies

A field survey will be conducted with key stakeholders (local communities, state institutions, private sector, NGOs, development partners, etc..) Identifying the current problems of the area and priorities for project interventions. We will build on the achievements of the GEF / TRIDOM which has a « stakeholders' mutual consultation » component to identify key players in the process. During investigations, mechanisms will also be identified for collaboration and synergy with this project, so as to add value to existing initiatives. The surveys will be conducted by consultants who also exploit other sources of information available in the literature. To ensure ownership of the project, one representative of local stakeholders will sit at the established peer-review committee and project documents will be validated in the presence of all key stakeholders identified in the process.

In this process, we will put an emphasis on border management issues. The project will build on the lessons from Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary process (Cameroon), whose first phase is now completed. Exchanging and sharing information and lessons learned will facilitate harmonization of approaches and methodologies. In addition, it will also build on the TRIDOM Agreement achievements and add value to them with the involvement and/or the enhancement of management structures established under this agreement and existing mutual consultation frameworks. The overall aim will be to induce synergies in terms of action that would promote efficient interventions in terms of transboundary collaboration. Joint planning exercises are envisaged, through the Technical Committee for Planning and Implementation (*Comité Technique de Planification et d'Exécution -- CTPE*), which is the planning, implementation and coordination structure for field-level activities and whose membership includes conservation entities/officers and supporting partners.

The consultation process will also involve Congolese stakeholders with the aim to address their concerns and also promote the emergence of a similar initiative in the region.

3.4 Work Plan

Activities	Respons. Partner	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6
1.1. To organize a pre-project start-up workshop	Project Coordin.						
1.2. To carry out stakeholders consultations and document review <u>in the entire TRIDOM area</u>	Project Coordin. & Cons.						
1.3. <u>To implement the synthesis of updated information and prepare a paper compiling the needs and summarising core issues in Minkébé and the TRIDOM area</u>	Project Coordin. & Cons.						
2.1. To establish a peer-review committee for the project proposal <u>with a membership comprising members of CTPE TRIDOM and the national State ministries officers</u>	Project Coordin. & Cons.						
2.2. To convene peer-review work sessions to review the project document	Project Coordin.						
2.3. To finalize the updated project document	Project Coordin.						
2.4. To organize a validation workshop for the updated project proposal	Project Coordin.						

3.5 Budget

Budget components

Component			Qty	Unit costs	Total costs	ITTO	Other sources
10	Project personnel						
	11	National Experts					
		11.1. Project coordinator	48	250	12000	6000	6000
		11.2. Project focal point at the Ministry	20	250	5000	4000	1000
	12	Other personnel					

Component			Qty	Unit costs	Total costs	ITTO	Other sources
		12.1. Administrative and financial assistant	28	250	7000	3000	4000
	13	National consultants					
		13.1. Forestry / Conservation areas consultant	70	250	17500	10000	7500
		13.2. Project development consultant	80	250	20000	12500	7500
		Component total			61500	35500	26000
30	Duty travels						
	31	Daily subsistence allowance					
		31.1. National experts and consultants	160	125	20000	15000	5000
		31.2. International consultants				0	
		31.3. Permanent project staff	37	125	4625	4625	
	32	International travels					
		32.1. National experts and consultants					
		32.2. International consultants					
		32.3. Permanent project staff	12	1000	12000	8000	4000
	33	In-country duty travels					
		33.1. National experts and consultants	20	300	6000	4000	2000
		33.2. International consultants					
		33.3. Permanent project staff	30	300	9000	6000	3000
		Transport costs for participants	60	60	3600	3600	
		Component total			55225	41225	14000
50	Consumables						
	51	Raw materials					
	52	Spare parts					
	53	Utilities			5900	5900	
	54	Office supplies			6300	6300	
		Component total			12200	12200	0
60	Miscellaneous						
	61	Sundries					
	62	Audit cost					
	63	Contingencies					
	64	Steering Committee Meetings	0	0	0		
		Component total			0		

Component			Qty	Unit costs	Total costs	ITTO	Other sources
70	EA/national management costs						
	71	Management cost					
	72	Monitoring by focal point	0	0	0		
		Component total			0		
80	Monitoring and Administration						
	81	ITTO Monitoring and Review			3000	3000	
	82	Mid-term evaluation by ITTO					
		Ex-post Evaluation ITTO			131925	91925	40000
	83	Sub-total			7354	7354	
	84	ITTO Programme Support Costs(8% on items 10 to 82 above)					
		Donors Monitoring costs					
		OVERALL TOTAL			139279	99279	40000

BUDGET TABLE BY ACTIVITIES

Note: This table does not include Miscellaneous Expenses (Component 60), Management Costs (Component 70) and Monit. & Admin. Expenses (Component 80)

Description		Bdgt	Qty	Unit	Unit	Total	ITTO	Other
An update review of natural resource management issues in the TRIDOM area in Gabon	Output 1							
1.1 To organize a pre-project start-up workshop								
1 x one-day meeting; 30 participants								
Human resources		11, 12	15	man-day	250	3750	750	3000
Daily Subsistence allowance		31	60	Participants	125	7500	4000	3500
Daily Subsistence allowance personnel		31	7	man-day	125	875	875	
Transport of participants		33	20	Participants	60	1200	1200	
Consumables		54		Package		1200	1200	
Communication		53		Package		1000	1000	
Travel / Flight		32	6		1000	6000	6000	
1.2. To carry out stakeholders consultations and document review							0	
Human resources		11,12	15	man-day	250	3750	1750	2000
Consultant's fees		13	60	man-day	250	15000	12000	3000
Daily Subsistence allowance		31	20	Partici-pants	125	2500	2500	
Daily Subsistence allowance personnel		31	15	man-day	125	1875	1875	
Transport / véhicule		33	20	days	300	6000	3000	3000
Consumables		54		Package		800	800	
Communication		53		Package		800	800	
1.3. To implement the synthesis of updated information and prepare a paper							0	
Human resources		11,12	15	man-day	250	3750	1750	2000
Consultant's fees		13	40	man-day	250	10000	7000	3000
Consumables		54		Package		1000	1000	
Communication		53		Package		800	800	
The full project proposal finalized with updated elements of the baseline situation and validated by the main stakeholders is available.	Output 2							

2.1. To establish a peer-review committee for the project proposal							0	
Human resources		11,12	5	man-day	250	1250	1250	
Consultant's fees		13	10	man-day	250	2500	2500	
Consumables		54		Package		800	800	
Transport / véhicule		33	10	days	300	3000	3000	
Communication		53		Package		800	800	
2.2. To convene peer-review work sessions to review the project document							0	
Human resources		11,12	20	man-day	250	5000	4000	1000
Consultant's fees		13	20	man-day	250	5000	0	5000
Daily Subsistence allowance		31	20	Participants	125	2500	2000	500
Transport / participants		33	20	days	300	6000	6000	
Consumables		54		Package		1000	1000	
Communication		53		Package		1000	1000	
2.3. To finalize the updated project document							0	
Human resources		11,12	16	Man-day	250	4000	2000	2000
Consultant's fees		13	20	man-day	250	5000	1000	4000
Consumables		54		Package		500	500	
Communication		53		Package		500	500	
2.4. To organize a validation workshop for the updated project proposal							0	
1 x one-day meeting; 30 participants							0	
Human resources		11,12	10	man-day	250	2500	1500	1000
Daily Subsistence allowance		31	60	Participants	125	7500	3500	4000
Daily Subsistence allowance personnel		31	15	man-day	125	1875	1875	
Transport of participants		33	20	Participants	60	1200	1200	
Consumables		54		Package		1000	1000	
Communication		53		Package		1000	1000	
Travel / Flight		32	6		1000	6000	3000	3000
TOTALS						127725	87725	40000

4. PART 4 : IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Executing Agency and organizational structure

The organizational structure of the project reflects its inclusion in the Yaoundé process and TRIDOM initiative and it addresses the need to ensure its institutional sustainability. The pre-project will be implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and Hunting (Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse). It will build upon the experiences in the area by WWF, the GEF / TRIDOM Project (where IUCN is a partner), to achieve economies of scale. IUCN has been selected as executing agency in view of its experience in sustainable natural resources management in Central Africa and the rest of the world. As it is, IUCN is a world alliance for a sustainable future, whose actions are focused on the conservation of biodiversity – the vital force of sustainable development and human well-being. In its strategy, IUCN combines the strengths of Science (having over 11,000 collaborating experts who set global standards in their respective fields of knowledge), Action (with hundreds of conservation projects around the world) and Influence (with the collective force of over 1,000 governmental and non-governmental organizations). IUCN has brought together members, partners and experts and has been promoting the landscape approach for several years. It has the capacity to adapt its work to several levels (field level, intermediary level and policy level) with different stakeholder types and groups. In this sense, it maintains special relations with all governments, the civil society, the private sector and it has the capacity to mobilise and provide support to all these stakeholders and facilitate their implementation of transboundary initiatives by providing various expertises (biodiversity conservation, transboundary management, facilitation of mutual consultation platforms, political influence, etc.).

IUCN Office in Cameroon coordinates landscape management approaches in Central Africa, including in the TRIDOM area and TNS will host the Executive Unit. The Office will require the service of one part-time employee from the Programme to coordinate the project. This person will work in close collaboration with the CTPE members, ITTO Focal Points in the ministry administration. He/She will be in charge of coordinating all activities, including those of consultants hired for the implementation of specific project activities. In general, he/she ensures that the implementation of the project is in keeping with the project description, is consistent with the detailed work plan spanning the project duration and complies with ITTO standards and procedures. He/she should do the utmost to ensure that the project be executed in compliance with the agreed schedule, within the agreed budget, in such a way that the objectives of the project can be achieved. He/she also establish the appropriate procedures, with the administrative and financial assistant, and monitor the material, technical and financial progress of the project towards its objectives and identify the goods and services funded by ITTO.

4.2. Pre-project Management Structure

The project will consist of a Steering Committee and an Executive Unit. The Steering Committee is placed reports to the Ministry of Water and Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEFEDD) and its membership includes the key stakeholders in the region, including development partners, representatives of local governments, NGOs, the private sector and other government departments and agencies. It will convene twice during the period of pre-project implementation and it will provide strategic and policy guidance for the actions of this pre-project. The Executive Unit will be led by IUCN and will be based CARPE office in Libreville. It will operate in close collaboration with the ITTO Focal Point in MEFEDD. It will be responsible for delivering results and outputs of the project in keeping with the schedule of work approved by ITTO and the Steering Committee.

4.3. Monitoring and Reporting

Within four weeks after starting the pre-project, the project coordinator will submit to the DGEF and ITTO an inception report which will be reviewed during the first meeting of the Steering Committee of the pre-project. The first detailed work plan covering the remaining 5 months of the pre-project will be attached to this report. Every month, the Executing Agency shall submit to the ITTO Secretariat and the Department progress reports as described in the ITTO Manual on Project Monitoring, Review and Evaluation. A mid-term evaluation of the pre-project will be conducted during the third (3rd) month of implementation with the purpose to making recommendations for the second phase of the project. The final report will be submitted to the ITTO Secretariat no later than one month after the end of the (pre-)project. The Government of Gabon will also carry out supervision missions of the (pre-)project in accordance with its procedures.

Annex 1 : Expert Panel recommendations and responses

Recommendations	Text inserted in the document to address the recommendations
<p>Recommendation. 1</p>	<p>As it is, anxious to ensure proper coordination of conservation actions undertaken on both sides of their common international borders and seeking to honour the commitments made at the Summit of Heads of States of Central Africa, Cameroon, Congo and Gabon have signed an Agreement on Transboundary Cooperation on the implementation of the Trinational Conservation Area “ Dja - Odzala - Minkebe (TRIDOM)” in 2005.</p> <p>This transboundary forest complex covering an area of 14.5 million ha is relatively pristine and is one of the richest portions of the Congo Basin; it is located in the core area of forest ecosystem management efforts taking place in the Congo Basin, creating both socio-economic and ecological challenges. Indeed, it is located in one African region among those having richest concentrations in large mammals, and the protected areas that make up the complex lie at the periphery of cross-border corridors of biodiversity conservation. The area is also the site of large mining and forestry industries.</p> <p>In Cameroon, the CAMIRON corporation – a conglomerate of South African and Australian investors is installing facilities for the exploitation of iron ore whose total reserve amounts to about 800 million tonnes and turnover for the investment is estimated to be in excess of \$ 3 billion over the next 25 years. The GEOVIC corporation is about to start mining cobalt (reserves estimated at over 4000 tons per year) and Nickel (reserves estimated at over 3000 tons per year) in the coming years. These investments will be made on an area of over 1000 square kilometers and involve the construction of a railway from several hundreds of km from Mballam (east). In Gabon, the investment of Chinese corporation BELINGA, whose turnover is forecast to be in excess of \$ 3 billion over the next 5 years will target the mining of gold, manganese and other minerals. These investments also involve building of dams. In Congo, Chinese industries have settled in the area Souanké (south) and are involved in the exploitation of forest concessions covering an area estimated at nearly one million ha.</p> <p>All of these industries attract many people and population, currently estimated at more than 100,000 people, is to multiply threefold over the next five years, with related impacts such as poaching, infrastructure development, the ivory trade, etc.. In view of this new momentum and novel developments, a reassessment of the project context has become necessary, considering the conservation issues of the day against this socio-economic development.</p> <p>(voir page 3)</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p>	<p>In this process, we will put an emphasis on border management issues. The project will build on the lessons from Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary process (Cameroon), whose first phase is now completed. Exchanging and sharing information and lessons learned will facilitate harmonization of approaches and methodologies. In addition, it will also build on the TRIDOM Agreement achievements and add value to them with the involvement and/or the enhancement of management structures established under this agreement and existing mutual consultation frameworks. The overall aim will be to induce synergies in terms of action that would promote efficient interventions in terms of transboundary collaboration. Joint planning exercises are envisaged, through the Technical Committee for Planning and Implementation (Comité Technique de Planification et d’Exécution – CTPE), which is the planning, implementation and coordination structure for field-level activities and whose membership includes conservation entities/officers and supporting partners.</p> <p>(see page 8)</p>
<p>Recommendation 3</p>	<p><u>Activities 1.2, 1.3 et 2.1 reformulated</u> (see pages 6 et 7)</p> <p>1.2. To carry out stakeholders consultations and document review in the entire TRIDOM area</p> <p>1.3. To implement the synthesis of updated information and prepare a paper compiling the needs and summarising core issues in Minkébé and the TRIDOM area</p> <p>2.1. To establish a peer review committee for the project proposal with a membership comprising members of CTPE TRIDOM and the national State ministries officers</p>

<p>Recommendation. 4</p>	<p>IUCN has been selected as executing agency in view of its experience in sustainable natural resources management in Central Africa and the rest of the world. As it is, IUCN is a world alliance for a sustainable future, whose actions are focused on the conservation of biodiversity – the vital force of sustainable development and human well-being. In its strategy, IUCN combines the strengths of <u>Science</u> (having over 11,000 collaborating experts who set global standards in their respective fields of knowledge), <u>Action</u> (with hundreds of conservation projects around the world) and <u>Influence</u> (with the collective force of over 1,000 governmental and non-governmental organizations). IUCN has brought together members, partners and experts and has been promoting the landscape approach for several years. It has the capacity to adapt its work to several levels (field level, intermediary level and policy level) with different stakeholder types and groups. In this sense, it maintains special relations with all governments, the civil society, the private sector and it has the capacity to mobilise and provide support to all these stakeholders and facilitate their implementation of transboundary initiatives by providing various expertises (biodiversity conservation, transboundary management, facilitation of mutual consultation platforms, political influence, etc.).</p> <p>IUCN Office in Cameroon coordinates landscape management approaches in Central Africa, including in the TRIDOM area and TNS will host the Executive Unit. The Office will require the service of one part-time employee from the Programme to coordinate the project. This person will work in close collaboration with the CTPE members, ITTO Focal Points in the ministry administration. He/She will be in charge of coordinating all activities, including those of consultants hired for the implementation of specific project activities. In general, he/she ensures that the implementation of the project is in keeping with the project description, is consistent with the detailed work plan spanning the project duration and complies with ITTO standards and procedures. He/she should do the utmost to ensure that the project be executed in compliance with the agreed schedule, within the agreed budget, in such a way that the objectives of the project can be achieved. He/she also establish the appropriate procedures, with the administrative and financial assistant, and monitor the material, technical and financial progress of the project towards its objectives and identify the goods and services funded by ITTO.</p> <p>(see pages 11 and 12)</p>
<p>Recom. 5</p>	<p>See Annex 2 hereinafter (see pages 18 and 19)</p>
<p>Recom. 6</p>	<p>See Annex 3 hereinafter (voir page 20)</p>
<p>Recom. 7</p>	<p>See Annex 4 hereinafter (voir pages 21 and 22)</p>
<p>Recom. 8</p>	<p>See pages 09 to 13</p>

Annex 2: Profile of the Executing Agency

1) History

- **Name:** International Union for Conservation of Nature
- **Headquarters :**
 - **Global:** Gland (Switzerland)
 - **Regional:** Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso),
 - **Cameroon:** Yaounde
- **Founded:** 1948
- **Area of Expertise:** Conservation
- **Organization:** Regional Director, Programme Coordinator, Coordinators of the Thematic Programmes, Country Program Coordinator, Human Resources Managers, Project Managers, Administrative Officers and Support Officers
- **List of major projects, or studies conducted over the past three years:**
 - Towards Pro-poor REDD Cameroon
 - Vulnerable people diminishing Central Africa Wildlife
 - Allanblackia standard setting and Sustainable Supply Chain Management in Ghana:Phase II
 - Global Water Partnership- Central Africa
 - Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) implementation in the Central African sub-region
 - Support Program for Civil Society Strengthening for Biodiversity Conservation in the Congo Basin.
 - Building multi-stakeholder coalitions VPAs FLEGT-stakeholder coalitions in Central and West Africa and China
 - Conference on Forest Tenure Governance and Enterprise
 - IUCN-Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy
 - Support Project for improving laws governing cross-border timber industries in Great Lakes countries (Burundi-Rwanda-DRC)
 - Representation and participation of the civil society and communities in decision-making bodies of African regional institutions and platforms on national forest land issues
 - Support Program for Strengthening Civil Society for Biodiversity Conservation in the Congo Basin.
- **List of projects and pre-projects submitted to ITTO :**
 - **Promoting Reduced Impact Logging Techniques in Gabon and the Congo Basin**
 - **Promoting China-Africa Cooperation for Improved Forest Governance**

2) Infrastructures

The IUCN Regional Office and the IUCN office in Cameroon are fitted with movable equipment, computer equipment, capital goods and various logistical resources necessary for the implementation of any activities and any kind of projects.

3) Programme Budget

Year 2008: € 773,088

Year 2009: € 873,088

Year 2010: € 1,233,361

4) Cameroon Office Personnel

Skills	Number
College Graduates -- Masters/PhD	12
College Graduates -- BAs	8
Number of qualified technicians	6
Number of clerical staff	12

Annex 3: Roles and Responsibilities of *Project Coordinator* provided by the Executing Agency

Under the general supervision of the IUCN in Cameroon and in close collaboration with the Project Focal Point in the Ministry, the Coordinator will be in charge of the overall coordination of the project and will supervise the information collection exercise and preparation of the project document and will ensure the delivery of information required for the submission of the project document by the Ministry to ITTO.

Roles and responsibilities

As coordinator of the project, his/her duties will include the following :

1. Coordination of national consultants, review of reports and advice to ensure they comply with policies, criteria and other requirements of the ITTO and the Ministry
2. Reviewing the work plan, overseeing its implementation and preparing mid-term progress report and the final project report
3. Preparing the project proposal for submission to ITTO;
4. Preparing / Revising the mandates of consultants and monitoring their work;
5. Preparing workshop proceedings in collaboration with the focal point;
6. Completing the technical reports prepared by the project;

Basic Requirements

- To be a college graduate holding a Masters or PhD degree in one environment-related field of knowledge
- Must have at least 10 years of experience in the field of sustainable natural resource management, particularly in the field of conservation and sustainable management of conservation areas
- Have an excellent understanding of environmental, political, economic and social management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin
- Have a sound knowledge of forest management and zoning principles and tools
- A sound knowledge of the landscape approach and the TRIDOM area would be considered an asset
- A sound experience in coordinating and managing projects.

Annex 4: Terms of reference of the consultants

Zoning and sustainable development of the Minkebe protected area towards the protection of transboundary conservation corridors between Gabon, Cameroon and the Congo

Expert Consultant in Project Development Terms of Reference

Background

Since the Summit of Heads of State of Yaounde in 1999, countries committed themselves to, *inter alia*, ***accelerate the process of creation of transboundary conservation areas between Central African countries and invite neighbour countries to join in this process while strengthening the sustainable management of existing conservation areas.***

This was evidenced by the creation of two TNS transboundary conservation areas (between Congo, Cameroon and CAR) and the TRIDOM area (between Gabon, Congo and Cameroon). The interest of the ITTO has been growing for this area and this was marked by the approval of an early project for Cameroon by ITTO in 2001 for the protection of Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary. Motivated by this show of interest, Gabon has also submitted ITTO a similar project proposal covering the adjacent Minkebe area. This proposal was discussed at its 23rd session and a number of recommendations were made to improve the project proposal. This proposal was developed for rallying the stakeholders and renew their involvement in the process and update the data and most of all review the project mostly on the basis of recommendations by ITTO experts. Under the supervision of the Project Coordinator the Expert Consultant in project development will be responsible of developing the full project proposal for submission to ITTO.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Participation in the preparation of the methodology for the baseline data collection and analysis regarding forest management and the management of the Minkébé conservation area (APM) and interactions with other TRIDOM landscape conservation areas;
2. In collaboration with the Forestry / Conservation Area Consultant, exploring the relevant issues and identifying priority actions to be implemented ;
3. Based on the baseline information available, complete the full project proposal for submission to ITTO in compliance with the required format;
4. Participating in consultancies and the organization of mutual consultation workshops on the project development process;
5. Providing guidance on opportunities for the development / strengthening of similar initiatives in other sites in this TRIDOM landscape;
6. Assessing the technical feasibility and sustainability of proposed activities and providing recommendations;

Basic Requirements

- A tertiary education graduate (Masters or PhD) in the field of project conduct, development and management ;
- Must have at least 8 years experience in the field of sustainable natural resources management, particularly in the field of conservation and sustainable management of protected areas ;
- Have an excellent knowledge of environmental, political, economic and social management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin ;
- Have a sound knowledge the principles and tools of spatial planning and forest zoning.

Zoning and sustainable development of the Minkebe protected area towards the protection of transboundary conservation corridors between Gabon, Cameroon and the Congo
Consultant in forestry and protected area
Terms of Reference

Background

Since the Summit of Heads of State of Yaounde in 1999, countries committed themselves to, *inter alia*, *accelerate the process of creation of transboundary conservation areas between Central African countries and invite neighbour countries to join in this process while strengthening the sustainable management of existing conservation areas.*

This was evidenced by the creation of two TNS transboundary conservation areas (between Congo, Cameroon and CAR) and the TRIDOM area (between Gabon, Congo and Cameroon). The interest of the ITTO has been growing for this area and this was marked by the approval of an early project for Cameroon by ITTO in 2001 for the protection of Mengamé Gorilla Sanctuary. Motivated by this show of interest, Gabon has also submitted ITTO a similar project proposal covering the adjacent Minkebe area. This proposal was discussed at its 23rd session and a number of recommendations were made to improve the project proposal. This proposal was developed for rallying the stakeholders and renew their involvement in the process and update the data and most of all review the project mostly on the basis of recommendations by ITTO experts. Under the supervision of the Project Coordinator the Expert Consultant in project development will be responsible of developing the full project proposal for submission to ITTO.

Roles and responsibilities

1. Participation in the collection / updating and analysis of baseline data regarding forest management and the management of the Minkébé conservation area (APM) and interactions with other TRIDOM landscape conservation areas ;
2. Assessment and analysis of APM resources and those of surrounding areas and their biodiversity, conservation and management, and practices, management methods and strategies being applied;
3. Based on background information, preparing a final report on the state of conservation of the APM and surrounding areas, including recommended actions;
4. Stakeholder analysis, including their strengths, weaknesses and needs ;
5. Assisting the project management consultant to develop the project proposal for submission to ITTO ;

6. Based on information produced by national consultants, identifying opportunities and constraints for the future project;
7. Contributing to the evaluation of technical feasibility and sustainability of proposed activities;
8. Providing recommendations for building the capacities and for securing the involvement of stakeholders in the future project;
9. Participating in the development of the project, consultancy missions and organizing mutual consultation workshops on the process

Basic Requirements

- A tertiary education graduate (Masters or PhD) in the field of forestry and / or protected areas
- Must have at least 8 years experience in the field of sustainable natural resources management, particularly in the field of conservation and sustainable management of protected areas ;
- Have excellent knowledge of environmental, political, economic and social management of forest ecosystems in the Congo Basin
- Have a sound knowledge the principles and tools of spatial planning and forest zoning.
- Having a sound knowledge of the landscape approach and the TRIDOM area would be considered an asset.