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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

Ce.Sa.Re.N	: <i>Cercle pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources Naturelles</i> (Club for the Conservation of Natural Resources)
DGFRN	: <i>Direction Générale des Forêts et des Ressources Naturelles</i> (General Directorate for Forests and Natural Resources)
EA	: Executing Agency
GIS	: Geographic Information System
GLOMIS	: Global Mangrove Database and Information System
ha	: Hectare
IGA	: Income Generating Activity
ITTA	: International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	: International Tropical Timber Organization
MAEP	: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
MEPN	: Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection
NGO	: Non-Governmental Organization
PAE	: <i>Plan d'Actions Environnemental</i> (Environmental Action Plan)
PNGDRN	: National Programme for Sustainable Natural Resources Management
PP	: Parties Prenantes (Stakeholders)
SCRP	: <i>Stratégie de Croissance pour la Réduction de la Pauvreté</i> (Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction)
SF	: Sacred Forests
SPANB	: <i>Stratégies et Plan d'Action National pour la conservation de la Biodiversité</i> (Strategy and National Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation)
ToR	: Terms of Reference
IUCN	: World Conservation Alliance

## 1. Pre-project context

### 1.1. Origin

Sacred forests (SF) are an endogenous form of conservation of biodiversity in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Since the roundtable on "The Sacred and the Environment" organized by the Division of Social Sciences of UNESCO in Paris during the Tenth World Forestry Congress in 1991 (UNESCO 2003), more attention is paid to the study of FS worldwide.

Benin has approximately 2,940 sacred forests covering an area of 18,360 hectares, or about 0.18% of the total land area. Through their ecological, religious, socio-economic and cultural functions, these sacred forests play an essential role in the lives of people and conservation of natural resources of the landscapes. They act as effective traditional laboratories and dignitaries are living libraries who hold local knowledge. Furthermore, the sacred forests are a refuge and sanctuary for native biodiversity of local ecosystems. They have not received legal or official protection status from the State like gazetted forests have, however, they were able to maintain the integrity of their resources until a recent past. They represent a successful model of traditional management and biodiversity conservation. The principle of this method of conservation is based on fear and respect for traditional local beliefs, the strength of traditional authority, the power of dignitaries and religious leaders. Now with the emergence of other cultures, and declining traditional power and beliefs, taboos are no longer being enforced, to such an extent that most sacred forests are now subject to overexploitation and uncontrolled use for commercial purposes and are deteriorating at an alarming rate.

Degradation of these ecosystems is a major threat to biodiversity and the lives of surrounding communities who heavily depend on it. Despite their socioeconomic and ecological importance, these particular ecosystems have long been neglected. Indeed, current knowledge on these areas is very basic and sparse. Botanical studies, ecological, wildlife, socioeconomic and mapping of relevant sites and the SF they contain are very limited. This is a real constraint for any effective conservation and sustainable management actions on these sites. To remedy this situation, this pre-project is to make an inventory of the potential of these forest islands in order to have baseline data to develop an appropriate sustainable management programme.

The NGO *Cercle pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources Naturelles* (Ce.Sa.Re.N) (Club for the Conservation of Natural Resources) supports this form of joint-management association that integrates knowledge and practice of both traditional and modern sciences. Ce.Sa.Re.N will collaborate with municipal governments, traditional authorities, practitioners of traditional medicine and religious leaders to achieve ecosystem management and conservation of sacred forests in wetland areas.

This pre-project was developed based on survey data gathered on the area concerned. During this phase of pre-project identification, there dialogue sessions were held with certain groups of stakeholders. Following these exchanges, local people have expressed their desire to rehabilitate these forests.

### 1.2. Relevance of the pre-project

#### 1.2.1. Conformity with ITTO Objectives and Priorities

ITTO is a leading international organization concerned with sustainable management of forest resources and their conservation. This project is consistent with ITTO's objectives set out in Article 1 of the ITTA, 2006. These objectives are listed in paragraphs c, f, j and q.

**c. Contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation:** This project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of sacred forests to improve the living standards of local communities. In practice, it will contribute to the preparation of simplified plans development and participatory forest management for sacred sites and identify the feasibility of developing income generating activities to reduce pressure on forests sacred sites. It will also review the training and capacity building of stakeholders directly related to the sustainable management of forests.

**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 project will undertake activities to raise awareness of Sacred Forests located in the two Ramsar sites in southern Benin. In addition, it will facilitate the formation of a local network for publishing and disseminating information on Sacred Forests. It is expected to make a diagnosis and prepare a zoning plan for the Sacred Forests of the two sites and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the management of the forest lands concerned.

**J. Encouraging members to support and develop tropical timber reforestation, as well as rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest land, with due regard for the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources:** The project will consider the creation of buffer zones and establishment of plantations for fuelwood, medicinal plants and indigenous timber in accordance with the sacred vocation of those forests.

**q. Promoting better understanding of the contribution of non-timber forest products and environmental services to the sustainable management of tropical forests with the aim of enhancing the capacity of members to develop strategies to strengthen such contributions in the context of sustainable forest management, and cooperating with relevant institutions and processes to this end:** The project will survey the socio-economic aspects related to the sacred forests concerned. This information will be used in the planning process. It will also initiate development activities aimed at mobilizing community support for its objectives.

The pre-project is also consistent with ITTO Action Plan 2008-2011 as it relates to two of the five thematic program areas identified in the Plan. These are:

- Community forests management and enterprises
- Reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing environmental services in tropical forests

Additionally this project is in line with the ITTO / IUCN Principles and guidelines of for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Producing Forests; especially Principe 9 regarding biodiversity at the forest management unit, which reads that an effective process of forest management, in which economic, social and environmental issues are balanced with societal needs and priorities, is essential to define and achieve the goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **1.2.2. Relevance to the submitting country's policies**

This project is consistent with national and international policies of Benin.

#### **At National Level**

This proposal complies with Law N ° 93 -009 of 2 July 1993 laying down the forestry regime in the Republic of Benin, which states that a forest development plan prepared with the participation of local communities sets out objectives for the forest and the means to achieve them: It is based on the principles of conservation management and sustainable production. The framework Law on the Environment in the Republic of Benin (Law No. 98-030 of 1 February 1999) stipulates in Articles 55 and 56 that forests, whether public or private, are part of the national heritage that must be managed in addressing environmental concerns so as not to have forest conservation functions compromised by economic, social or recreational uses, and in Article 56, it stipulates that forests must be protected against all forms of degradation, pollution or destruction, caused particularly by overexploitation, uncontrolled grazing, excessive clearing, fires, burning, disease or the introduction of inappropriate species. This project is part of the priorities identified in the Strategic Development Policies of Benin (OSD 2006-2011), whereby the Government is committed to reversing the degradation of forest cover by strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework in this area, improving the management of fragile systems (wetlands, coastal and marginal ecosystems). In addition, this project is fully consistent with the Priority Action Programme of the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction (CPRS) which defined the National Program for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources which aims, inter alia at the following: i) to promote alternative energy to meet domestic energy needs in urban centers, ii) to support local authorities and grassroots communities in the sustainable management of forests and nature reserves with high wildlife potential through the process of participatory management plan development and implementation; iii) to ensure an fair distribution of income derived from forest resource use; v) to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for promoting sustainable management of natural resources by the municipalities and the private sector; vi) to ensure the creation and sustainable management of biological reserves on community lands located in wetland

areas including lakes Nokoué Ahémé, the Mono and Ouémé river valleys and vii) to develop and implement a nationwide reforestation program incorporating the specificities of the different categories of forests and agro-ecological zones.

This project is also part of sectoral strategies and policies of the Ministry of Environment Housing and Urban Development (MEHU) including, Strategy and National Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity (SPANB 2002), National Strategy for the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2003), the Environmental Action Plan (PAE 2002 ), the Forest Policy Paper (1994); to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in wetland areas to improved income levels and the living conditions of communities.

#### **International level:**

In addition, Benin is a signatory to a number of conventions and international agreements including the International Convention Trade on Endangered Species (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the International Agreement on Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA 2006). The implementation of this project will help compile information on 1017 and 1018 Ramsar sites; it will also help raise the necessary funds to initiate actions within the scope of compliance with these international commitments. This project will revive the Clearing House Mechanism on Biological Diversity and GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility).

#### **Justification**

##### **1.3.Objectives**

###### **1.3.1. Development Objective**

To contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in Benin by building the capacity of local communities to improve their living conditions.

###### **1.3.2. Specific Objective**

The specific objective of the preliminary draft is to evaluate the potential of 1017 and 1018 Ramsar sites sacred forests in order to formulate a project proposal for the rehabilitation and sustainable management of these forests.

##### **1.4.Problem identification**

**In Benin, forests play an important part in traditional religious practices and in the lives of local people. They fulfill three basic functions, namely:**

- **ecological function (protecting water sources, protecting the topsoils against erosion, providing habitat for sacred wildlife and plants),**
- **religious function (abode of deities, place of worship, rituals or other ceremonies),**
- **economic and cultural functions (dry wood gathering, collecting medicinal and edible plants and fruits and other non-timber products, burial grounds, places of initiation, ceremonial blessings and curses, etc.).**

**The variability of sacred forests is due to the multiplicity of deities but also the diversity of concepts relating to the various functions assigned to them and to the legends that mark their origin, the nature of the individual totem which generates particular cultural and food taboos and also the diversity of habitats. According to Kokou and Sokpon (2006), there are several types of SFs in Benin -- sacred animal or plant species, sacred groves and game reserves, ancestors' forests, burial grounds, sylvan abodes of gods or geniuses and secret societies' forests.**

**One problem inherent in the management of sacred forests in Benin is related to their small individual acreages: 69.4% of SFs identified cover an area less than 1 ha; 18.3 % have a area between 1 and 5 ha, and the largest sacred forests have an average area equal to or greater than 5 ha. This fragmentation of the size of SFs does not facilitate the development of large-scale actions.**

**Until recently, SFs were showcases of successful traditional forest management including in the recent, but are currently subject to significant degradation.**

Wetlands of Benin in general and the Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 **in the south of Benin** in particular are under severe degradation due to **the declining power of traditional governance structures, the waning of traditional beliefs and weaker enforcement of customary bans**, the increasing land-use pressure from the farming sector, overuse of resources, increasing poverty of local communities, inappropriate agricultural practices and fragmenting ecosystems.

This degradation of ecosystems is a major threat to the livelihoods of communities who depend on agriculture and fishing. After a brief investigation and consultation with stakeholders, it appears that the fundamental problem of wetlands of Benin is caused by the fact that forest resources are unsustainably managed. The main causes of this problem are of three types namely:

1. Basic information on forest islands in Benin are inadequate.

Lack of information on the potential of SFs is one of the causes of neglect and underestimation of their role in ecosystem functioning.

2. Low capacity of SF managers.

The non-existence of a regulation, consultation mechanisms and SFM tools for sacred sites has promoted uncontrolled use of resources.

The results of these problems are reflected in:

- Rapid degradation of forest ecosystems sacred sites;
- Reducing livelihoods of local communities.

The development of this project is justified by problems that prevent us from directly embarking on a project proposal: The lack of reliable and recent data on the sacred forests of these sites, the unavailability of material and financial resources are all major constraints for the development of a full project proposal. Indeed, the development of a proposed project requires the availability of reliable data from empirical studies. This pre-project **will enable the identification of strategies to make all current SF-related actions consistent and to create a synergy between them, especially for those activities relating to the project to incorporate SFs in the network of conservation areas and the forest management support project.**

## **2. INTERVENTIONS**

### **2.1. Outputs**

There are basically two outputs expected from this pre-project.

**Output 1:** Baseline information on the SFs of the target sites is available.

**Output 2:** A project proposal to support the rehabilitation and sustainable management of Sacred Forests within RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin is formulated and submitted to ITTO approval

### **2.2. Activities**

To achieve these outputs the following activities will be implemented :

**Output 1:** Baseline information on the SFs of the target sites is available.

**Activity 1.1 :** To establish and set into operation the pre-project Steering Unit ;

**Activity 1.2 :** To implement an inventory study of SFs on these sites ;

**Activity 1.3 :** To implement the socio-economic study of the SFs on those sites ;

**Activity 1.4 :** To implement a detailed mapping study of sites and SFs

**Activity 1.5 :** To implement an environmental a social impact study for the projects ;

**Activity 1.6 :** To implement a series of advocacy campaigns targeting the stakeholders ;

**Activity 1.7 :** To organize a workshop to report the results of studies to the stakeholders ;

**Output 2:** A project proposal to support the rehabilitation and sustainable management of Sacred Forests within RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin is formulated and submitted to ITTO approval.

**Activity 2.1. :** To develop a project proposal for the sustainable management of sacred forests on the Benin Ramsar sites ;

**Activity 2.2. :** To have the project proposal validated and submitted to ITTO for funding.

### **2.3. Approaches and methods**

The implementation of this project will be carried forward by a multidisciplinary team of foresters, economists and social geographer / cartographer and specialists in integrated wetlands management, **with the involvement of local communities and the managers of target sacred forests.** Specific studies will be the subject of mutual consultation exercises. The implementation of this pre project will be in two stages: To collect baseline data and to develop a sustainable management programme. **A limited membership committee comprising dignitaries (community leaders), SF managers and communal authorities will be established to be consulted and associated in the implementation of the pre-projet and development of the project.**

#### **2.3.1. To collect information and baseline data on Sacred Forests on the relevant sites**

##### **2.3.1.1. To assess the resources of Sacred Forests on the relevant sites**

This will consist in conducting surveys in order to know the different plant and animal species and other important resources occurring in the project areas, their condition and the perceived value of these resources for people in targeted communities. Field trips and discussions with stakeholders will take place in order to list the natural resources in their community together with their respective uses and to note human activities regardless of whether they have an impact on these ecosystems. Questionnaires will be submitted to identify the potential for conservation and management of these areas

The pre-project implementation team will also conduct a brief assessment of the current state of forest resources sacred sites. This assessment will include: (1) the definition of threats to the sites and related forests, (2) the biological resources found in the SFs (including rare and endangered species), and (4) the effective contribution of SFs to biodiversity conservation and the livelihoods of local communities.

##### **2.3.1.2. Mapping of SFs :**

Based on the information collected and contained in the documentation, the project team will review and establish a mapping of SFs and relevant sites. The study will include mapping and geographic positioning of sites and information on groups and communities / villages using these sites. The methodological approach for mapping the target areas will be based on the Geographic Information System (GIS) coupled with remote sensing. The approach will initially consist in searching for and collecting all documents relating to the planimetric study area. Existing maps, aerial photographs and satellite imagery (if possible) will be documented. Subsequently we will develop the theme maps --- topography, infrastructures, drainage / river networks, soil types, human settlements, administrative boundaries, etc..) from existing geographical maps. Digital or analogical (visual) classifications will be made from existing satellite imagery and/or aerial photographs which will enable us to draw the raw maps. These will then be validated following ground-truth surveys conducted with the use of GPS equipment. The incorporation of additional information (land use, human activities, soil conditions, vegetation conditions, etc..) will enable us to develop the management map of plant formations in target areas. The mapping work will be implemented using Arcvie

##### **2.3.1.3. Consultation of stakeholders and assessment of management capacities**

A series of stakeholders' consultations will be organized to encourage local ownership and national actions aimed at enhancing community management of these sites. Among the target actors, there will be representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, municipal authorities, NGOs, civil society organizations, community leaders, religious leaders and cultural and local residents (women and youth in particular). A detailed analysis of these stakeholders will be made to define the role of each of them.



Collecting this data will lead to the analysis of conditions under which resources can be restored and better used. The main barriers to achieving the actions proposed by the project will be addressed as well as potential barriers to cooperation among the various groups involved.

Field Surveys will be conducted within the participatory assessment groups. These surveys are to collect information on:

- the demographics of the area targeted by the pre-project;
- the users of products from the area and all other development partners involved in the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of forest biodiversity in the sacred sites within the target area;
- the main economic activities conducted within the local environment and the needs and incomes of local communities;
- the conditions of access land ownership and land use by the local communities and their involvement in the commercial use of natural plant formations using a gender-sensitive approach;
- operating, production, rehabilitation and value-added / processing techniques applied on the resource base while detailing any existing traditional planning and land-use management techniques;
- any Income Generating Activities (IGA) that may be conducted concurrently with the conservation and sustainable management of natural plant formations while proposing concrete actions to build their capacity;
- attitudes of the communities regarding forest conservation, environmental protection, while testing their responsiveness to the introduction of innovations in sustainable forest management of sacred sites.

Stakeholder involvement activity will yield the following results:

- Array of stakeholders;
- Stakeholders involvement and capacity building plan;
- Recommendations for coordinated regional and local management;
- Confirmation of project co-financing through the production by the partners of signed co-financing pledges.
- Identification of income-generating activities to be undertaken and the resources of economic or cultural significance that can be harvested sustainably for their incorporation into the conservation and project management activities.

The capacity of local committees, village cooperatives and stakeholders (businesses, NGOs, research centers, etc..) operating in the areas of intervention will be analyzed to identify areas where support will be required to strengthen participation in sustainable community management.

### **2.3.2. To develop a project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin**

Developing a project for the rehabilitation and sustainable management of the SFs present on these sites will be contingent upon the gains that each local community stands to derive from these ecosystems and the national significance that may be in the conservation of these environments. Therefore, an outreach and information campaign will be organized to target the local communities concerned where any action for conservation and management of these ecosystems will be perceived as urgent. The communities will identify the merits of conserving these ecosystems in their communities (interests, causes and consequences of their degradation and the solutions they recommend). Overall, a consensus will be achieved to secure the sustainable management of these areas.

Based on the above steps, the project costs will be assessed and its monitoring and evaluation plan will be defined. This analysis will cover the following aspects:

- The system of wetland management in Benin and its applicability to the management of sacred forests sites and buffer zones.
- The constraints to the implementation of effective forest management for the sacred forest in the target sites of Benin;

- The cost of achieving expected results and outputs, co-financing sources;
- The environmental benefits sought at the local, national and global levels;
- The comprehensive risk assessment to be implemented and the mitigating measures that will be provided. Climate change will likely fall into the risk analysis (and its analysis will be based on current data);
- The profitability factor to identify more effective project alternatives;
- The social, institutional, economic and financial sustainability of planned project activities;
- A project monitoring and evaluation plan, with baseline levels, impact indicators and targets needed to monitor project progress and effectiveness.

#### 2.4. Work Plan

Outputs/Activities	Responsible Party/ Collaborator	MONTHS								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b>Output 1:</b> Baseline information on the SFs of the target sites is available										
<b>Activity 1.1 :</b> To establish and set into operation the pre-project Steering Unit	CeSaReN	■								
<b>Activity 1.2 :</b> To implement an inventory study of SFs on these sites	EP /CeSaReN and PP	■	■	■	■					
<b>Activity 1.3 :</b> To implement the socio-economic study of the FSs on those site	EP / CeSaReN and PP		■	■	■					
<b>Activity 1.4 :</b> To implement a detailed mapping study of the areas of intervention			■	■	■					
<b>Activity 1.5 :</b> To implement an environmental an social impact study for the projects	EP / CeSaReN and PP			■	■					
<b>Activity 1.6</b> To implement a series of advocacy campaigns targeting the stakeholders	EP/ CeSaReN /	■						■		
<b>Activity 1.7</b> To organize a workshop to report the results of studies to the stakholders.	EP/ CeSaReN and EN					■				
<b>Output 2:</b> A project proposal to support the rehabilitation and sustainable management of Sacred Forests within RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin is formulated and submitted to ITTO approval.										
<b>Activity 2.1.</b> To develop a project proposal fo rthe sustainable management of SFs	EN/ CeSaReN/EN							■	■	
<b>Activity 2.2.</b> To have the project proposal validated and submitted to ITTO for funding	CeSaReN /DGFRN									■
<b>Activity 2.3.</b> To prepare the final pre-project report	CeSaReN									■

**CeSaReN** : *Cercle pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources Naturelles* - NGO

**DGFRN** : General Directorate of Forests and Natural Resources

**EN** : National Expert

**PP** : Stakeholders

## 2.5. Budget matrix of the pre-project

The budget of the pre-project is shown in the Budget Matrix Table below. It provides the costs of Activities while indicating the quantities, unit costs, total and distribution of funding sources.

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost US\$	Total Cost US\$	ITTO	EA
<b>Output 1</b>	Baseline information on the SFs of the target sites is available							
<b>A 1.1 :</b>	To establish and set into operation the pre-project Steering Unit							
	1 Pre-project coordinator	11	8	M. m	1000	8000		8000
	1 Project Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	12	8	M. m	750	6000	6000	
	1 Local development officer	12	8	M. m	750	6000	6000	
	1 Admin and financial secretary	12	8	M. m	500	4000		4000
	1 Driver and messenger	12	8	M. m	250	2000		2000
	Fuel and lubricant	51	8	m	150	1200	1200	
	Spare parts and vehicle maintenance	52	8	m	200	1600	<b>1600</b>	
	Office supplies	54	8	m	250	2000	2000	
	Utilities	53	8	m	150	1200		1200
	Office rent	62	8	m	300	2400		2400
<b>A 1.2</b>	To implement an inventory study of SFs on these sites							
	One national consultant in forest inventories	20	4	m	3000	12000	12000	
<b>A 1.3</b>	To implement the socio-economic study of the FSs on those site							
	One national consultant in socio-economics	20	2,5	m	3000	7500	7500	
<b>A 1.4</b>	To implement a detailed mapping study of sites and SFs							
	Hiring of one national mapping consultant	20	2,5	m	3000	7500	7500	
<b>A 1.5</b>	To implement an environmental an social impact study for the projects.							
	On consultant in environmental and social impact studies	20	2,5	m	3000	7500	7500	
<b>A 1.6</b>	To implement a series of advocacy campaigns targeting the stakeholders							
	10-day mission for 4 participants	30	40	M.d .	80	3200	3200	
<b>A 1.7</b>	<b>To validate the studies implemented</b>							
	To organize a workshop to report the results of studies to the stakholders (50 participants, 1 jour)	63	50	M.d .	50	2500	2500	
<b>Output 2:</b>	A project proposal to support the rehabilitation and sustainable management of Sacred Forests within RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin is formulated and submitted to ITTO approval.							
<b>A .2.1</b>	To submit a project proposal on the SFs of Ramsar sites to ITTO for approval and funding							
	1 project development expert	11	2	M. m	3000	6000	6000	
	Workshop to have the project proposal validated by the stakeholders	63	100	M.d .	50	5000	5000	

	Audit	64.					2500	2500	
	<b>ITTO monitoring and review costs</b>	<b>81</b>					<b>3000</b>	<b>3000</b>	
	ITTO Programme Support Costs (8 % on items 10 to 82 above)	80					<b>5880</b>	<b>5880</b>	

EA : Agence d'exécution

### Consolidated pre-project budget (US\$)

Budget item	Description	Total	Month							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	Personnel									
	11.1 Project coordinator	8000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	12.1 Project Monitoring and Evaluation Office	6000	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
	12.2 Local development officer	6000	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
	12.3 Admin and financial secretary	4000	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
	12.4. Driver and messenger	2000	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250
	<b>19. Component total</b>	<b>26000</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>	<b>3250</b>
20	<i>Sub-contracting</i>									
	<b>21</b> : To implement an inventory study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites in Benin.	12000	3000	3000	3000	3000				
	<b>22</b> : To implement the socio-economic study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites	7500		3000	3000	1500				
	<b>22</b> : To implement a mapping study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites	7500		3000	3000	1500				
	<b>23</b> : To implement an environmental and social impact study for the projects	7500		3000	3000	1500				
	24. Stakeholder advocacy campaign	3200	1600	1600						
	25. To prepare the project document	<b>6000</b>						3000	3000	
	<b>29 Component total</b>	<b>43700</b>	<b>4600</b>	<b>13600</b>	<b>12000</b>	<b>7500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>3000</b>	<b>0</b>
50	<i>Consumables</i>									
	51. Fuel and lubricant	1200	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
	52. Vehicle spare	1600	1600							

	parts									
	53. Utilities	1200	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
	54. Office supplies	2000	2000							
	59. Component total	6000	3900	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
60.	<i>Miscellaneous</i>									
	61. Workshop to report the results of studies to stakeholders	2500					2500			
	62. Office rent	2400	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
	63. Project validation workshop (50 participants)	5000								5000
	64. Audit	2500								2500
	69. Component total	12400	300	300	300	300	2800	300	300	7800
80	<i>Project monitoring and administration</i>									
	<b>81. Monit. &amp; Review costs</b>	3000								
	Sub-total (10 to 82)	<b>91100</b>								
	ITTO Programme Support Costs (8 % on items 10 to 82 above)	<b>5880</b>								
	Component total :	<b>8880</b>								
<b>100</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>96980</b>								

#### ITTO Contribution budget

Budget item	Description	Total
10	Personnel	
	12. Monitoring and evaluation assistant	6000
	Local development officer	6000
	19. Sub-total	12000
20	<i>Sub-contracting</i>	
	<b>21</b> : To implement an inventory study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites in Benin.	12000
	<b>22</b> : To implement the socio-economic study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites	7500
	<b>22</b> : To implement a mapping study on the sacred forests of Ramsar sites	7500
	<b>23</b> : To implement an environmental and social impact study for the projects	7500
	24. Stakeholder advocacy campaign	3200
	25 : To prepare the project document	6000
	29 Sub-total	43700
50	<i>Consumables</i>	
	51. Fuel and lubricant	1200
	54. Office supplies	2000
	59. Sub-total	3200
60.	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
	61. Workshop to report the results of studies to stakeholders	2500

	63. Project validation workshop (50 participants)	5000
	64. Audit	2500
	69. Sub-total	10000
80	<i>Project monitoring and administration</i>	
	<b>81. Monitoring and Review costs</b>	3000
	Sub-total (10 to 82)	<b>73500</b>
	ITTO Programme Support Costs (8 % on items 10 to 82 above)	<b>5880</b>
	Sub-total	<b>8880</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>79380</b>

### Budget of Executing Agency contribution

Budget item	Description	Total
10	Personnel	
	11.1 Project coordinator	8000
	12. Other staff	
	12.2 Admin and financial secretary	4000
	12.3. Driver and messenger	2000
	19. Sub-total	14000
50	<i>Consumables</i>	
	51. Raw materials	
	53. Utilities	1200
	59. Sub-total	1200
60.	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	
	62. Office rent	2400
	69. Sub-total	2400
<b>100</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>17600</b>

## 3. PRE-PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

### 3.1. Executing Agency and organizational structure

The NGO *Cercle pour la Sauvegarde des Ressources Naturelles* (Ce.Sa.Re.N) (Club for the Conservation of Natural Resource) is the Executing Agency of the project and will provide a multidisciplinary team. The project will be executed by a Steering Unit consisting of the Executive Director of Ce.Sa.Re.N having the role of Pre-Project Coordinator, an Assistant Secretary and an accountant. This Unit will be assisted temporarily (during a 1-month period) by a national expert in the development of the project document. The Unit will monitor the implementation of the various studies to be conducted by sub-contractors (see chart in Annex 1).

### 3.2. Monitoring and reporting

#### Monitoring and evaluation

To ensure proper monitoring of the pre-project, a Technical Support Committee will be set up whose task will be to assess the reports submitted by the various consultants and the National Expert. The Technical Support Committee will convene whenever the draft reports are submitted and these meetings will be covered by reports. The TSC membership will be as follows:

- One (1) representative of the DGFRN to act as Government focal point for ITTO (Chairman of the TSC)
- One (1) representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
- The Executive Director of NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N
- Two (02) representatives of municipal authorities; and
- Two (02) representatives appointed by the communities.

**Reporting**

The Coordinator will prepare the work plan and progress reports for ITTO with copies to DGFRN.

Two technical reports will be prepared for ITTO, including:

- Progress reports (an inception report and mid-term report) will be submitted according to the ITTO procedures
- A pre-project completion report as directed by ITTO with appropriate conclusions and recommendations. This report will also be followed by the financial audit report of the pre-project.

## ANNEX 1 : EXECUTING AGENCY PROFILE (Ce.Sa.Re.N NGO)

The NGO Club for the Protection of Natural Resources (Ce.Sa.Re.N NGO) is an organization which has been active in forestry and natural resources management for a decade. It was registered under No. 2003-0100/DEP-ATL-LITT/SG-SAG-Assoc. on 17 June 2003 and its incorporation was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Benin No. 14 of July 15, 2003.

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City and postal code: Cotonou, 02 BP 268 Gbégamey  
Country: Benin  
E-mail: cesarenong@yahoo.fr  
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Its main undertaking is to promote the ownership of the natural resources dynamics concept with stakeholders in the use of resources so as to achieve sustainability, to educate them, raise their awareness, organize and build the capacity of communities to achieve the conservation, management of natural resources and environmental remediation. It is a member of the Satoyama Initiative (**International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative**, IPSI). Visit [www.satoyama-initiative.org](http://www.satoyama-initiative.org) for more information. The ONG is currently conducting four projects under this initiative.

- Conservation and sustainable management of mangroves in Benin through capacity building and community development;
- Support to the sustainable management of sacred forests in wetlands;
- Support to community-based reforestation projects;
- Design and implementation of educational tools for the conservation and sustainable management of major insect pollinators in agro-forestry production areas of Benin.

The NGO is headed by a Board of Directors supported by a Technical Support Committee and a Control Committee. The activities of the organization are implemented by a permanent staff of six people see chart below:

- Two forest engineers
- One development engineer
- One socio-economist
- One secretary and bookkeeper
- One driver

It also contract temporary staff.

Past activities implemented by the NGO include the following :

- Raising awareness of national stakeholders on the importance of pollinators for food security and biodiversity in Benin with support from the Belgian Centre for Exchange and Information on the Convention on Biodiversity;
- Involvement in the study and development of the participatory Dogo-Kétou forest management plan with the support of PGFTR (Project funded by the World Bank in Benin);
- Participatory design and development of the review the forest management plan for the Tchaourou Toui Kilibo gazette forest with the support of PGFTR;
- Capacity building of local elected representatives on forest resources standards and forest legislation with the support of the *Communes du Borgou* Support Project (PACOB, Project funded by UNDP);
- Public discussion on the implementation of forest law and governance in the forestry sector in Benin with the support of DGFRN.
- **In addition, the NGO operates with the local communities around the mangrove forests of Bénin,**
- **The organization of reforestation campaigns in community forests.**

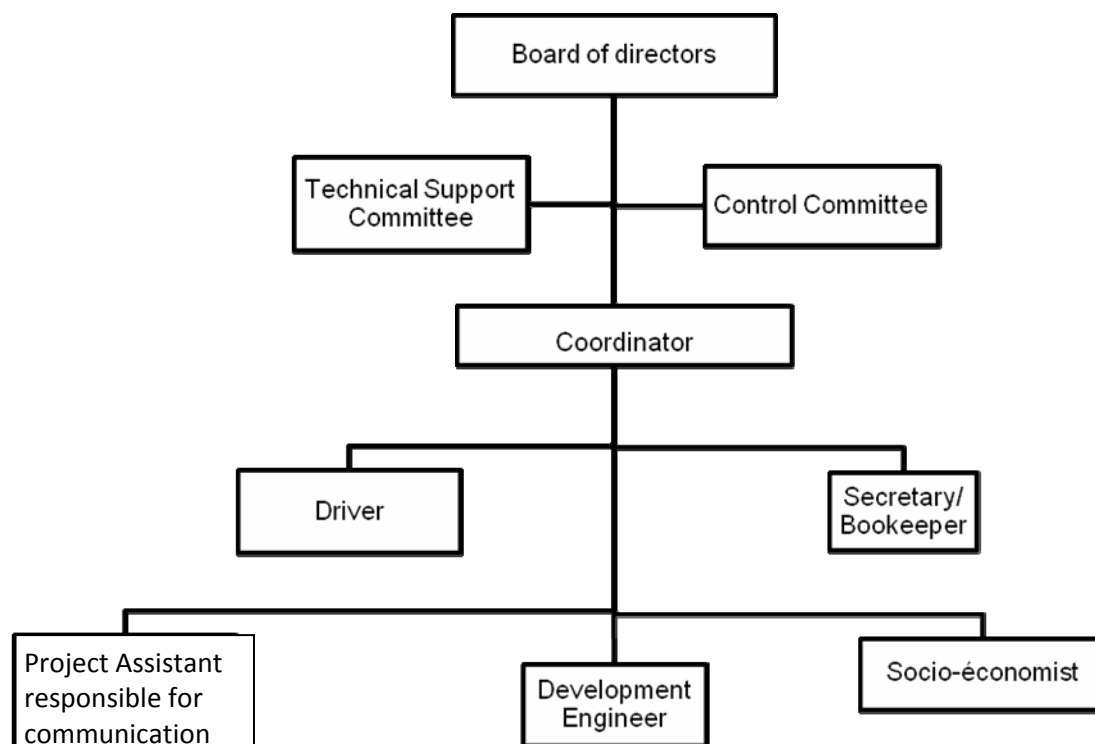


Currently the CeSaReN ONG is promoting technical and financial support (financial support contribution amounting to US\$ 92,949) of GIZ (local subsidies agreement N° 83110536, Case N° 122130.8-004.01) and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the area of fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources (APA) for :

- Developing and implementing a communication plan for the APA Protocol,
- Convening Communication, Education and Outreach sessions involving all stakeholders,
- Creating strong stakeholder groups in support of the APA Committee work in the Protocol ratification and implementation process,
- Identifying key resource persons to « impact » and assessing their capacity-building needs for the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the APA process.
- Providing support to local communities in the access to and faire and equitable sharing of traditional knowledge on natural and genetic resources.

In addition, the CeSaReN NGO is also accredited by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These features demonstrate the capacity of this NGO to implement this pre-project.

### Staff Chart of the NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N



**CeSaReN Budget in US Dollars**

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Year</b>		
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012 (September)</b>
Personnel	24000	14000	
Sub-contracting	13500	33500	
Duty Travels	4200	3200	
Missions	2500	5500	
Consumables	2000	3500	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>46 200</b>	<b>59 700</b>	<b>92 949</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>198 849</b>		

**ANNEX 2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY EXPERTS PROVIDED BY THE EXECUTING AGENCY**

<b>Engaged Experts</b>	<b>Duties and responsibilities</b>
Project coordinator (Forest Engineer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible for coordinating all project activities under the work plan developed;</li> <li>• Head of the Executing Agency;</li> <li>• Responsible for project administration;</li> <li>• Provides interface with ITTO with progress reports on project progress;</li> <li>• Ensures the interface with the collaborative structure;</li> <li>• Reports to DGFRN and Technical Support Committee on the development of Project Activities</li> <li>• Orders disbursements</li> </ul>
Project assistant Responsible for Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists the Coordinator in his project management tasks,</li> <li>• Develops the detailed work plan;</li> <li>• Performs project monitoring and evaluation tasks;</li> <li>• Develops TORs and follows through procurement orders and contracts;</li> <li>• Monitors the implementation of studies;</li> <li>• Ensures communication and Stakeholder advocacy campaign;</li> <li>• Prepares the final technical report of the pre-project with an appendix summarizing the studies and project proposals formulated.</li> </ul>
Secretary / Bookkeeper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assists the Coordinator in the pre-project clerical work;</li> <li>• Performs data entry, editing, filing and storage of project documents;</li> <li>• Manages Coordinator's telephone calls;</li> <li>• Manages the Coordinator's work plan;</li> <li>• Provides editing of the minutes of meetings chaired by the Coordinator</li> <li>• Designs recording media and Accounting Financial Project</li> <li>• Records all accounting operations of the project</li> <li>• Develops the cash flow plan of the project</li> <li>• Prepare all original documents to be used in the audit of the project accounts;</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 3. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PERSONNEL ET CONSULTANT FUNDED BY ITTO**  
**As part of the implementation of this study all Consultants will be required to work in collaboration and synergy.**

<b>Experts to be hired</b>	<b>Duties and responsibilities</b>
<p>National consultant responsible for the inventory study on Sacred Forests of Benin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To synthesize and analyze data on sacred forests existing in Benin.</li> <li>- To identify and map out of Sacred Forests and habitats in the areas targeted, using vegetation maps, aerial and satellite photographs and ground-truth surveys;</li> <li>- To review the status of land management and land-use planning in the target area ;</li> <li>- To describe and map out the habitats under various pressures, which contain rare or endangered species or plant associations of particular scientific or cultural interest and to describe the diversity of such habitats;</li> <li>- To assess the potentials for multiple-resource uses by the communities;</li> <li>- To conduct a rapid inventory and description of the main forest stands as well as any other plant formations associated to the area under study;</li> <li>- To assess the diversity of sacred forests;</li> <li>- To produce the map of vegetation and assess the surface area covered by each plant formation present;</li> <li>- To list, whenever possible, the plant and animal species which are endemic, rare, endangered or close to extinction in the pre-project intervention area;</li> <li>- To identify all human activities conducted in the area and their impact on the mangrove forest conservation and sustainable management in the target area;</li> <li>- To prepare a land-use plan (zoning plan);</li> <li>- To identify the problems relating to conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of targeted sacred forests;</li> <li>- To identify and evaluate existing reforestation attempts (technical procedures, weaknesses and strengths, etc.);</li> <li>- To assess the opportunities and constraints of natural regeneration and reforestation;</li> <li>- To undertake and analysis of constraints and opportunities associated with the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of targeted sacred forests;</li> <li>- To propose a participatory management model for the conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management of targeted sacred forests in pre-project intervention area;</li> <li>To make a presentation of the complete study to a validation workshop;</li> <li>To participate in the workshop to validate the project document for submission to ITTO.</li> </ul>

<p>National consultant responsible for the socio-economic study of sacred forests on target sites.</p>	<p>By drawing from ITTO Guidelines on the participation of stakeholders to the project cycle, the Consultant shall :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To identify the stakeholders of the future project;</li> <li>- To study the social structure, socio-political relations between the communities and local social groups (conflicts, competition, cooperation);</li> <li>- To conduct a socio-economic study in order to identify the baseline data of the socio-economic context and resource use patterns;</li> <li>- To research data on the current use of natural resources in the area and forecast future trends ;</li> <li>- To seek information on the traditional access rights to forest resources;</li> <li>- To seek relevant information on local knowledge relevant to biodiversity management;</li> <li>- To seek information on the attitude of local communities vis-à-vis the SF management and conservation objectives;</li> <li>- To identify possible income-generating activities to be implemented under this project to support the livelihoods of local communities engaged in sustainable sacred forest management;</li> <li>- To propose policies for an adequate participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the proposed project;</li> <li>- To make a presentation of the complete study to a validation workshop;</li> </ul> <p>To participate in the workshop to validate the project document for submission to ITTO.</p>
<p>National consultant responsible for the environmental and social impact study</p>	<p>In drawing from the ITTO Guidelines on the assessment of project environmental and social impacts, the Consultant shall :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a study on the environmental and social impact of the project;</li> <li>• Propose approaches to maximize the positive impacts and reduce negative impacts to a minimum</li> <li>• To make a presentation of the complete study to a validation workshop;</li> <li>• To participate in the workshop to validate the project document for submission to ITTO.;</li> </ul>
<p>National consultant responsible for formulating the full project proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the different studies conducted in the area and the recommendations from the validation workshop and in keeping with ITTO project formulation procedures, the National Expert shall:</li> <li>• To formulate the draft project proposal and have it validated by a workshop involving the key stakeholders of the project ;</li> <li>• To finalize the project proposal by incorporating the amendments and recommendations of the validation workshop ;</li> <li>• To remain available to integrate the amendments formulated by the stakeholders and ultimately by the ITTO Expert Panel for the Appraisal of Project Proposals.</li> </ul>

## **ANNEX 4 : Recommendations by the 44th Session of the Expert Panel**

**PPD 165/12 (F)**

### **Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on RAMSAR Sites 1017 And 1018 In Benin**

#### Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

##### A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the proposal, submitted by the Government of Benin, which was well formulated and structured in accordance with the format stipulated in ITTO's Project formulation Manual. The Panel noted that the pre-project's goal is to gather useful information and data for the formulation of a project proposal aimed at contributing to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of sacred forests located in two RAMSAR sites in Benin. It also noted that sacred forests could be the only site for biodiversity conservation in most Sahel West African countries.

Moreover, the development objective, the specific objectives, expected outputs, the approaches and methods were clear and correlated in the proposal. However, there was a need for improvement regarding the following sections and sub-sections additional information on sacred forests in Benin (typology, role, size, location, etc.) in the preliminary problem identification, more information on social and economic aspects of sacred forests in the preliminary problem identification, ways and means to get the involvement of local communities due to restrictions to access in some sacred forests in the approaches and methods, technical elements in relation to the capacity and experience to work with local communities in the profile of the Executing Agency. Finally, the Panel noted that results and findings from the management of these sacred forests located in two RAMSAR sites should be used to develop a national strategy for conservation of sacred forests in Benin, in the future project to be designed through the implementation of this pre-project.

##### B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the section regarding the preliminary problem identification with the inclusion of additional information on sacred forests in Benin (typology, role, size, location, etc.) and on their social and economic aspects;
2. The section on approaches and methods should be improved to ensure the involvement of local communities in the implementation of the future project especially as there are tradition-related restrictions to access some sacred forests; this section should also work on the best way to aim for the development of a national strategy for the conservation of the sacred forests in Benin;
3. Improve the profile of the Executing Agency by adding the technical elements in relation to the capacity and experience to work with local communities;
4. Readjust the ITTO budget in the following way:
  - a) Correct mistakes noticed in the calculation of component total 59 in consolidated budget, sub-totals 69 and 89 in the ITTO budget and subsequently total for all budget tables,
  - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (Sub-item 83), after correcting the above mentioned mistakes, so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO pre-project costs (on the sum of budget items 10 to 82); and

5. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with the incorporation of amendments.



**ANNEX 5. : Amendments addressing specific recommendations by the 44th Expert Panel**

N°	Recommendations by the 44th Expert Panel	Resulting amendments
1	<p>Improve the section regarding the preliminary problem identification with the inclusion of additional information on sacred forests in Benin (typology, role, size, location, etc.) and on their social and economic aspects</p>	<p>Recommendation addressed in the section on problem identification. The following text has been included, together with other improvements: <u><b>In Benin, forests play an important part in traditional religious practices and in the lives of local people. They fulfill three basic functions, namely:</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u><b>ecological function (protecting water sources, protecting the topsoils against erosion, providing habitat for sacred wildlife and plants),</b></u></li> <li>• <u><b>religious function (abode of deities, place of worship, rituals or other ceremonies),</b></u></li> <li>• <u><b>economic and cultural functions (dry wood gathering, collecting medicinal and edible plants and fruits and other non-timber products, burial grounds, places of initiation, ceremonial blessings and curses, etc.)..</b></u></li> </ul> <p><u><b>The variability of sacred forests is due to the multiplicity of deities but also the diversity of concepts relating to the various functions assigned to them and to the legends that mark their origin, the nature of the individual totem which generates particular cultural and food taboos and also the diversity of habitats. According to Kokou and Sokpon (2006), there are several types of SFs in Benin -- sacred animal or plant species, sacred groves and game reserves, ancestors' forests, burial grounds, sylvan abodes of gods or geniuses and secret societies' forests.</b></u></p> <p><u><b>One problem inherent in the management of sacred forests in Benin is related to their small individual acreages: 69.4% of SFs identified cover an area less than 1 ha; 18.3 % have a area between 1 and 5 ha, and the largest sacred forests have an average area equal to or greater than 5 ha. This fragmentation of the size of SFs does not facilitate the development of large-scale actions.</b></u></p> <p><u><b>Until recently, SFs were showcases of successful traditional forest management including in the recent, but are currently subject to significant degradation</b></u></p>

2	The section on approaches and methods should be improved to ensure the involvement of local communities in the implementation of the future project especially as there are tradition-related restrictions to access some sacred forests; this section should also work on the best way to aim for the development of a national strategy for the conservation of the sacred forests in Benin	The involvement of local communities has been enhanced through the implementation of the pre-project and the consultation of a multi-stakeholders advisory committee.
3	Improve the profile of the Executing Agency by adding the technical elements in relation to the capacity and experience to work with local communities	The executing agency profile has been improved and recent actions undertaken by the Agency have been described.
4	Readjust the ITTO budget in the following way: a. Correct mistakes noticed in the calculation of component total 59 in consolidated budget, sub-totals 69 and 89 in the ITTO budget and subsequently total for all budget tables, b. Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (Sub-item 83), after correcting the above mentioned mistakes, so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO pre-project costs (on the sum of budget items 10 to 82); and	Addressed in the revised version.
5	Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44 <sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted ( <b><u>bold and underline</u></b> ) in the text.	Addressed in the revised version.