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PROJECT BRIEF

1. Context and issues to be addressed

With a view to reversing the negative trends associated with forest degradation and timber demand, Benin has taken a number of initiatives, including the establishment of the *Société Nationale du Bois* (SONAB) and the implementation of several projects and programs focusing on reforestation and biodiversity conservation.

The strategies used for promoting reforestation include the development of forest plantations, the enrichment of degraded natural forests, community plantations, municipality plantations and private plantations.

Southern Benin has few natural forests compared with the North. Private forest plantations are being promoted to meet the need for timber forest products. Private forest plantations are an important source of wood energy, utility wood and timber in southern Benin. However private plantations are generally poorly managed, and technical itineraries are not properly followed and applied. As a result, the income they generate is not commensurate with the investments made. This situation does not encourage the promotion and development of forest plantations, particularly private and community plantations in southern Benin.

The project follows on from pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin", implemented between March 2022 and January 2023. Two major studies were conducted, namely (i) an inventory study of private and community plantations in southern Benin; and (ii) a socio-economic study of private and community forest plantations in southern Benin. The studies made it possible to document the situation of private and community forest plantations in the area, and to generate basic data with a view to developing a project for the sustainable management of these forest plantations. The pre-project also provided an opportunity to exchange views with all stakeholders, to develop a shared vision and to design a project using a participatory approach.

2. Objectives and outcome indicators

The Project development objective is to contribute to forest landscape restoration in Benin.

The Project development objective indicators are as follows:

- By 2030, forest landscape degradation in southern Benin has been reduced by at least 30%;
- By project completion, the income of tree farmers and local populations dependent on forest plantations has improved by at least 20%;
- Forest cover in RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 has increased by at least 10% by 2030.

The project's specific objective is to strengthen the capacities of private tree farmers in southern Benin, with a view to improving their living conditions and professionalizing their operations.

The Project specific objective indicators are as follows:

- By project completion, all 55 forest plantations have sustainable management tools;
- By project completion, forest plantation revenues have increased by 20%;
- By project completion, a consultation framework for private tree farmers has been established and is operational.

The Project has been designed to ensure the production of forest resources and the conservation of forest ecosystems in Benin.

3. Beneficiaries, expected outputs and outcomes

The main beneficiaries of the project will be: The private and community tree farmers operating 55 forest plantations; the various workers or laborers working in the forest plantations; and the local or neighboring populations.

Three outputs are expected from project implementation, as follows:

Output 1: The technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced;

Output 2: The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed;

Output 3: A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been developed and operationalized.

4. Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes by project completion are as follows:

- **55** private and community forest plantations (PCFPs) are managed sustainably in southern Benin through:
- Development of simple management plans for the 55 plantations in accordance with current regulations to ensure their sustainable management;
- Topographical surveys to be used for legal title issuance have been conducted for all 55 plantations to settle land ownership disputes once and for all;
- Development of alternative income-generating activities to diversify and improve tree farmer income;
- Technical capacity building for at least 55 tree farmers (men and women) among rural populations;
- Strong involvement of Municipalities in forest plantation management through the establishment and operation of Municipal Committees belonging to the National Association of Benin Tree Farmers (ANPB);
- Improved organization of the "Best Tree Farmers" contests, where the best tree farmers will be rewarded and encouraged;
- Organizational and institutional capacity building of private tree farmers through the establishment of ANPB's Departmental and Municipal Committees, operational support, and training of their members.

5. Implementation strategy

Since private forest plantations are owned by private individuals or communities, capacity-building actions for their sustainable management will necessarily involve a participatory approach. The Project will work in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. All project stages will be implemented based on a participatory approach. To this end, the Information, Education and Communication approach will be promoted at every stage of project implementation. As a result, all project stakeholders will share a common vision and work in synergy to achieve the desired outcomes. The project will seek the support of consultants to carry out specific studies aimed at building the technical capacities of private and community tree farmers, such as developing simple management plans for all 55 forest plantations and monitoring the technical itineraries applied in forest plantations. A consultant will also be hired for building the organizational capacities of tree farmers at municipal and departmental levels.

6. Project outcome sustainability

The financial sustainability of project outcomes beyond project duration will be ensured through developing the potential for NTFP value-adding in forest plantations and the commitment of stakeholders to continue project activities.

Project institutional and political sustainability will be ensured through the involvement of the General Directorate of Water, Forest and Hunting (DGEFC), as well as of municipalities in all project development and implementation stages. At technical level, project outcome sustainability will be ensured by using traditional and new forest plantation management methods, as well as technical monitoring to be conducted by the National Forestry Service, which is represented in all municipalities throughout Benin.

7. Assumptions and risks

The main project risks relate to climate hazards and the adverse effects of climate change, as well as forest fires. However, local tree farmers have already anticipated such risks by selecting forest tree species resilient to climate change.

8. Budget contributions

SOURCES	CONTRIBUTION (US\$)
ITTO	<u>537 712</u>
Benin (CPDRN-NGO)	<u>91 900</u>
TOTAL	<u>629 612</u>

Designation	Computing formula	Percentage
<u>Percentage allocated for project personnel from ITTO budget</u>	$(108000/537712) \times 100$	<u>20.60%</u>
<u>Percentage allocated to project investment components (capital items)</u>	$(53600/537712) \times 100$	<u>10.02%</u>

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<u>ANPB</u>	:	<u>National Association of Benin Tree Farmers (Association Nationale des Planteurs du Bénin)</u>
ANPFB	:	National Association of Benin Forest Tree Farmers (<i>Association Nationale des Planteurs Forestiers du Bénin</i>)
ATDA	:	Territorial Agency for Agriculture Development (<i>Agence Territoriale de Développement Agricole</i>)
CC	:	Carbon credits
<u>CDB</u>	:	<u>Convention on Biological Diversity</u>
CDM	:	Clean Development Mechanism - Carbon Credits (CC)
CENAGREF	:	National Center for the Management of Wildlife Reserves
CHM	:	Clearing-House Mechanism (information exchange platform of the Convention on Biological Diversity)
<u>CITES</u>	:	<u>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</u>
CPDRN	:	Center for the Promotion of Local Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (<i>Centre de Promotion du Développement Local et de Gestion Durable des Ressources Naturelles</i>)
<u>CSO</u>	:	<u>Civil society organizations</u>
DGEFC	:	General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (<i>Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse</i>)
EA	:	Executing agency
<u>FAO</u>	:	<u>Organization of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture</u>
<u>FPSM</u>	:	<u>Forest plantation sustainable management</u>
<u>FLP</u>	:	<u>Forest landscape restoration</u>
<u>ESS</u>	:	<u>Environmental and social standard</u>
FP	:	Forest plantation
FPSM	:	Forest Plantation Sustainable Management
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GEEW	:	<u>ITTO Guidelines for Gender Equality and Empowering Women</u>
<u>GEF</u>	:	<u>Global Environment Fund</u>
GF	:	Gallery forests
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
<u>GPHC</u>	:	<u>General Population and Housing Census</u>
ha	:	hectare
IEC	:	Information, Education and Communication
IGA	:	Income-generating activity
IPSI	:	International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative
ITTA	:	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	:	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	:	International Union for Nature Conservation
MCVDD	:	Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development (<i>Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable</i>)
<u>MEHU</u>	:	<u>Former Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Urbanism</u>
NDCs	:	Nationally-Determined Contributions
NGO	:	non-governmental organization
NTFPs	:	Non-timber Forest Products
PAE	:	Environmental Action Plan (<i>Plan d'Action Environnementale</i>)
PAG	:	Government Action Program (<i>Programme d'Action du Gouvernement</i>)
PAGEFCOM	:	Project to Support the Management of Municipal Forests (<i>Project d'Appui à la Gestion des Forêts Communales</i>)
<u>PANA</u>	:	<u>National Action Program for Climate Change Adaptation (Programme d'Action National d'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques du Bénin–PANA-Bénin)</u>
PCFP	:	Private and Community Forest Plantations
PCIV	:	Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verificators
PEFC	:	Water, Forestry and Hunting Program (<i>Programme Eaux, Forêts et Chasse</i>)
PES	:	Payments for ecosystem services

PGFTR-FA	:	Forest and Adjacent Land Management Project (<i>Programme de Gestion des Forêts et Terroirs Riverains</i>)
PND	:	National Development Program for 2018-2025 (<i>Programme National de Développement 2018-2025</i>)
PPD	:	<u>Pre-Project Document</u>
PRI	:	Intensive Reforestation Program (<i>Programme de Reboisement Intensif</i>)
ProCGRN	:	Program for the Conservation and Management of Natural Resources
PSBE-GAZ	:	Project for the Substitution of Wood Energy by Gas (<i>Projet de Substitution du Bois Énergie par le Gaz</i>)
PSC	:	<u>Project Steering Committee</u>
PT	:	Project team
PTF	:	Private tree farmers
Q	:	<u>Quarter</u>
SCRIP	:	Growth strategy for Poverty Reduction (<i>Stratégie de Croissance pour la Réduction de la Pauvreté</i>)
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goal
SH	:	Stakeholders
SMP	:	<u>Simple Management Plan</u>
SO	:	<u>Strategic Objective</u>
SONAB	:	National Timber Corporation (<i>Société Nationale du Bois</i>)
SPANB	:	Biodiversity Conservation Strategies and National Action Plan (<i>Stratégies et Plan d'Action National pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité</i>)
TFP	:	Timber Forest Products
TFPs	:	<u>Technical and Financial Partners</u>
ToR	:	Terms of reference
UNDP	:	<u>United Nations Development Program</u>
UNFCCC	:	<u>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</u>

1. PART 1: PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1. Origin

In recent decades, Benin has experienced a significant loss of its forests and forest plantations. Between 1978 and 2010, Benin lost nearly 85 per cent of its dense forests and over 30 per cent of its plant cover (FAO 2010). Benin's total forest cover is currently estimated at 4 625 000 ha, which represents almost 42 per cent of national territory. Forest cover is partially degraded and increasingly fragmented. According to the FAO, about 75 000 ha of forests were destroyed every year in Benin during the 1990-2010 decade. This high rate of destruction places Benin in the group of African countries with high deforestation rates.

According to a study carried out in Benin by the General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC) and funded by the World Bank in 2016, recent changes in forest cover in Benin, particularly during the decade 2007-2016, are of concern. While forests still covered 8.12 million ha (70.4 per cent of the national territory) in 2007, they accounted for only 7.9 million ha (68.5 per cent of the territory) in 2016, i.e. a loss of 215 738 ha, or 2.66 per cent of their area during the study period. If current trends continue, the forest area per capita, which fell from 1.63 ha in 1980 to 0.87 ha in 1995, is expected to fall to 0.29 ha in 2025 (Ministry of the Environment, Housing and Urban Planning—MEHU/General Directorate of Forests and Natural Resources—DGFRN 2012). Environmental costs resulting from the loss of forest cover in Benin (soil erosion, loss of woody vegetation, forest and savanna fires, soil depletion) are estimated at over 3 per cent of the GDP (FAO 2001).

This decline in forest cover as a result of anthropogenic pressures and inadequate systems of agricultural production dominated by slash and burn farming practice, illegal logging, uncontrolled wildfires and overgrazing poses a serious threat to the balance of Benin's main ecosystems.

Aware of the situation and convinced of the adverse effects of natural resource degradation on its progress toward socio-economic development and poverty reduction, successive governments in Benin have initiated a number of projects for the management of natural forests with a view to reducing the pressure on scarce forest resources with the support of technical and financial partners. However, initiatives for the establishment of plantations remain limited to those of the National Timber Board (*Office National du Bois*—ONAB) for the production of timber, and to some forestry projects for the production of fuelwood and utility wood plantations, including in particular the firewood project [*Projet Bois de Feu*] (PBF 1 and 2) in southern Benin, the Project for forest management and village land use and the Project for participatory management of natural forests and village forest reforestation for carbon reduction (Funding: Global Environment Facility—GEF; United Nations Development Program—UNPD).

Forest plantations, like natural forests, provide timber, utility wood, fibers, fuelwood and non-timber forest products for industrial and non-industrial uses. Planted forests, when managed responsibly, can also contribute to the provision of environmental services (soil and water protection, rehabilitation of degraded land, restoration of landscapes, habitat development, carbon sequestration, etc.) and social services as well as support for livelihoods (income-generating activities, job creation and recreation activities). They can also offset the pressures on natural forests and valuable forest ecosystems resulting from timber production.

Despite the conducive national forest policy, the reduction in government resources has serious consequences on the coaching of producers in the private forest estate and its productivity. Producers are often left to themselves once their plantations have been established, without informed guidance for the continuation of silvicultural work. Coaching private farmers remains essential for achieving the forestry policy vision.

In addition, there are far fewer natural forests in southern Benin than in northern Benin. Private forest plantations are encouraged to meet the need for timber forest products. Private forest plantations are an important source of fuelwood, utility wood and timber in southern Benin. However, private plantations are poorly managed, and the technical approaches involved are not properly followed. This situation is not conducive to the promotion and development of forest plantations in the southern Benin.

The project follows on from pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin", implemented between March 2022 and January 2023. Two major studies were conducted, namely (i) an inventory study of private and community plantations in southern Benin; and (ii) a socio-economic study of private and community forest plantations in southern Benin. The studies made it possible to document the situation of private and community forest

plantations in the area, and to generate basic data with a view to developing a project for the sustainable management of these forest plantations. The pre-project also provided an opportunity to exchange views with all stakeholders, to develop a shared vision and to design a project using a participatory approach. Local communities, decentralized Forestry Administration, Municipal Authorities and local populations demonstrated their willingness to participate effectively in the implementation of a project on the sustainable management of forest plantations in southern Benin during the exchanges. To this end, the CPDRN-NGO will work in collaboration with project stakeholders to achieve identified objectives.

The project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of community and private forest plantations located in the RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in southern Benin with a view to improving the living conditions of local populations.

In Benin, rural and urban communities depend on forest resources to meet their basic needs (foodstuffs, medicines, firewood, building materials, etc.). In the absence of reliable data, the forestry sector's contribution to the country's socio-economic development is not precisely known. It is estimated at nearly 7% of national GDP (ProCGRN 2009) for the wood energy and cashew nut sectors alone. Forest resources generate income and jobs for local populations (harvesting, trade, transport, processing, private plantations, etc.), while providing ecosystem services (combating climate change, preserving terrestrial and fluvial ecosystems, water regimes, etc.) and other goods and services. Forests also provide habitats for almost 80% of terrestrial wildlife.

Overall, the inventory of private and community forest plantations (PCFP) conducted as part of Pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) showed that private and community tree farmers were satisfied overall, despite issues and other constraints associated with the establishment and sustainable management of plantations.

1.2. Project relevance

1.2.1. Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities

The ITTO is one of the main international organizations working with the conservation and sustainable management of forests. The project meets the ITTO objectives c, j, r, as listed in ITTA, 2006, Article 1, as follows:

c. "Contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation": The project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of private and community forest plantations in southern Benin, with a view to improving the living conditions of local populations. Forest plantations represent a "green treasure chest" in Benin. Forest plantations generate income for low-income local populations. In practical terms, the project will organize stakeholders at grassroots level for developing and managing their forest plantations sustainably. The project will also facilitate training and capacity building for primary stakeholders to overcome technical and financial constraints and generate more profit. In short, the project will professionalize and improve the efficiency of at least 55 tree farmers, and improve the livelihoods of local populations through the development of forest plantations.

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 raise awareness and promote forest plantations, agroforestry and the restoration of degraded land through reforestation with more economically profitable and valuable species. The project will build the capacity of at least 55 private and community tree farmers, who will serve as model/learning plantations for local communities.

r. "Encouraging members to recognize the role of forest -dependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management and develop strategies to enhance the capacity of these communities to sustainably manage tropical timber producing forests": The project will demonstrate the fundamental role played by private and community tree farmers in protecting natural tropical timber producing forests through the production of timber to meet the growing need for forest resources that natural forests alone cannot satisfy. The project will develop strategies to encourage private tree farmers, including improving the "Best Planters" game contest.

Furthermore, this project is fully in line with the **first of the six Global Forest Objectives** to be achieved by 2030 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in relation to forests, which aims to "halt the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration,

afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to global efforts to combat climate change".

The project is also in line with the **second of ITTO's Overarching Objectives** which aims to "promote the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests" as mentioned in **ITTO Strategic Action Plan for 2022-2026**. The aim of the project is to ensure the sustainable management of private and community forest plantations in Benin in order to guarantee timber production and meet national and international demand for tropical forest products.

The project is in line with the **ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics. ITTO Policy Development Series No. 24**, Principle 2 "Engage stakeholders and support participatory governance". The project recognizes that stakeholder participation and collaboration are essential to maximize forest landscape restoration (FLR) outcomes. The diverse requirements, values and perspectives of stakeholders need to be harmonized, and their knowledge and experience used appropriately when developing FLR interventions. This is what the project will strive to achieve by establishing a consultation framework (the National Association of Benin Tree Farmers).

The project will take into account the **ITTO Guidelines for project-related gender analyses and ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW)**. The project will ensure that gender-related considerations are taken into account. In the primary stakeholder group (private tree farmers), the project will focus on protecting the interests of vulnerable groups, notably women, the elderly and young people, in the distribution of benefits and in the planning, monitoring-evaluation and review processes.

The project will implement the **ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Tropical Planted Forests. ITTO Series. Policy Development No.4**. Forest landscape restoration is an integrative, whole-landscape approach that can help reverse land degradation, increase carbon storage, conserve biodiversity and create sustainable livelihoods for local communities. The project will ensure rigorous guidelines implementation. It will contribute to the professionalization and increased efficiency of private and community tree farmers (at least fifty), and to improving the livelihoods of local populations through the development of forest plantations and income-generating activities.

In addition, the **ITTO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESIA). Policy Development Series No. 23, in particular Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 6: Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest landscapes, will be implemented**. ESS 6 applies to all ITTO field projects involving the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forest landscapes, and reforestation/management of forest plantations. The Guidelines require that all project proposals should comply with the ESS 1-4 requirements. In addition, all project proposals involving forest restoration, forest rehabilitation or reforestation work should:

- comply with the *ITTO Guidelines for Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Tropics* and;
- comply with the commitments entered into by an ITTO member under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and contribute to the member's national action program.

The Guidelines also require that any project proposal involving the management or development of a forest plantation should:

- comply with the *ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests*; and;
- Select forest tree species in close consultation with local stakeholders, taking into account the ecological, social, cultural and economic value of the species.

The project will ensure implementation of all standards and principles set out in the **ITTO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines**.

Finally, the project is part of ITTO's collaboration with the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), which aims to promote and preserve socio-ecological production in landscapes and seascapes. This will be achieved through awareness-raising activities and the promotion of private forest plantations to restore degraded land.

1.2.2. Relevance to the submitting country's policies

The project is in line with Benin's national and international policies pertaining to forest resource management.

From a national perspective:

Article 27 of the Constitution of Benin stipulates that "Everyone has the right to a healthy, satisfactory and sustainable environment, and has the duty to defend it. The State shall ensure the protection of the environment". Article 98 states, among other things, that the law determines the fundamental principles of environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources. The project aims to build the capacity of stakeholders to conserve forest resources sustainably through the development of forest plantations.

The project is in line with the Government Action Program (PAG), and the National Determined Contribution (CND) through the actions of the Water, Forests and Hunting Program (PEFC), which aims to achieve by 2025 "A green Benin where forest, wildlife and natural resources are sustainably managed to meet the ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs of the population, and contribute to poverty reduction, food security and the combat against climate change". It will contribute to achieving Strategic Objective 5 (SO5), Mobilizing resources for sustainable funding of the forestry sector.

The project proposal is in line with Law No. 93-009 of July 2, 1993 establishing the forest regime in the Republic of Benin, which stipulates in Article 7 that "private forests shall be those for which a title of ownership or enjoyment is held in the name of an individual or a legal entity under private law". To this end, the project will provide 55 private and community forest plantations with title deeds. Article 60, paragraph 2, of Law 93-009 of July 2, 1993 governing forests in the Republic of Benin requires owners of areas planted or reforested for economic or non-economic purposes to notify the forestry administration. Article 61 of the aforementioned law provides incentives for the planting of such areas. These include exemption from all exploitation taxes: "Private individuals and cooperatives owning forests shall exercise the rights resulting from their title of ownership. As an incentive to reforestation, the exploitation of the forest products of these individuals and cooperatives shall be exempt from all exploitation taxes". The project will facilitate the implementation of these terms to private and community tree farmers in Benin.

Article 61 of Law no. 93-009 of July 2, 1993 on forest management in the Republic of Benin stipulates that private individuals and cooperatives owning forests shall exercise the rights resulting from their ownership titles. As an incentive to reforestation, the exploitation of forest products by these individuals and cooperatives shall be exempt from all exploitation taxes.

The project meets certain requirements of the Framework Law on the Environment in the Republic of Benin (Law No. 98-030 of February 1, 1999), which stipulates in articles 55 and 56 that forests, whether public or private, are a national heritage that shall be managed with due regard for environmental concerns, so that the protective functions of forests are not compromised by economic, social or recreational uses. Article 56 specifies that forests shall be protected against all forms of degradation, pollution or destruction caused in particular by overutilization, grazing, abusive clearing and fires, burning, diseases or the introduction of unsuitable species.

Order 2022 No. 007/MCVDD/DC/SGM/DGEFC/SA 001SG22 of January 17, 2022 establishing the regulatory framework for the implementation of reforestation and landscape restoration interventions in the Government forest estate calls on tree farmers to register by 2024. In addition, the forestry administration is required to strengthen its advisory support structures for tree farmers. The forestry administration is available to provide technical and material support to forest nursery operators, private tree farmers and forest plantation operators recognized under the national reforestation program, in order to extend its support base to tree farmers. (Article 17, Order No. 007/MCVDD/DC/SGM/DGEFC/SA 001SG22 of 2022 establishing the regulatory framework for the implementation of reforestation and landscape restoration interventions in the Government forest estate.

The project is also in line with other strategies and policies of the Ministry in charge of forests, in particular:

- the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation (SPANB 2011-2020), which aims to promote forest plantations as a means of conserving natural forests, under Axis 2, Objective 4.
- the National Strategy for the Implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2003), which emphasizes the urgency and necessity of managing forests and forest plantations sustainably as a means of adapting to climate change.
- the environmental action plan (PAE 2002), and the forestry policy (1994), which aim to contribute to sustainable management of wetland forest resources to improve people's incomes and living conditions.

In addition, the project is in line with the priority action program of the Growth Strategy for Poverty Reduction as defined in the Government Action Program (PAG), which aims, among others, to:

- mobilizing resources for the forestry sector;
- maintaining the environmental, economic and social functions of forests as part of land-use planning;
- increasing the sustainability of wood potential, in line with international conventions;
- promoting an integrated approach to the management of local natural resources.

In Benin's National Action Program for Climate Change Adaptation (PANA), potential adaptation options identified in the forestry sector include:

- Forest fire prevention and control: capacity building for local communities;
- Support for municipality plantations;
- Support for sustainable management of the wood-energy sector.

The project will therefore contribute to the implementation of several activities under the forestry component of PANA.

With regard to Benin's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi objectives, the project will contribute to the operational objectives which aim, among others, to restore the natural biological resources to a level that exceeds the needs of the population, making a significant contribution to economic development and promoting private plantations. The project will also contribute to reforestation efforts, which help to reduce pressure on existing forests and improve carbon stocks. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to achieve the 15% restoration target for degraded ecosystems set out in Benin's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2011-2020.

This project is also in line with the strategic choices and orientations of Benin's National Development Program 2018-2025 (NDP), where government interventions are expected to achieve the following results:

- people protect and enhance natural resources;
- resilience and adaptability to climate-related hazards and natural disasters are strengthened;
- populations benefit from a better quality of life, especially in terms of sanitation and energy services; and
- more efficient and equal regional planning and land-use management are taken into account in sectoral policies and supported to revitalize regional and local economies.

From an international perspective:

Benin is a signatory to a number of international conventions and agreements, including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands; the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA, 2006). Benin is bound by these various agreements and conventions to implement actions for the sustainable management of natural resources, including forest resources. The project represents an opportunity for securing necessary funding for implementing actions in line with international engagements pertaining to forest resource conservation.

1.3. Target area

1.3.1. Geographical location

The project will be implemented in the Departments located in the southern Benin and Zou areas. The implementation area will cover two basins, the Ouémé-river and the Couffo-river basins, including the RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in the entirety as well as the southern parts of the Zou and Plateau Prefectures, which are not part of the RAMSAR sites. This area lies between the geographical coordinates 1°35' and 2°45' East longitude and between 6°12'37" and 7°35' North latitude, as shown in Figure 1 below. The area covered covers 17,221 km², including 11,337 km² for the Ouémé basin and 5,884 km² for the Mono-Couffo basin. The area covers six administrative jurisdictions: Departments of Atlantique, Mono, Couffo, Ouémé, Plateau and Zou (in part).

The studies conducted as part of Pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) showed that the project area includes 1,348 plantations (all species combined) and 910 Private and Community Forest Plantations (PCFP). Based on investigations, 55 PCFPs with high potential for sustainable management were selected. The PCFPs will benefit from the project's activities. The PCFPs cover a total area of 3,524.94 ha and are distributed across 20 municipalities in southern Benin, as shown in Figure 1 below.

1.3.2. Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects

The project area, which covers RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018, is the most densely populated area in Benin. **According to the results of the 2013 General Population and Housing Census (GPHC4), the population in the project area is currently estimated at around 5.1 million out of the country's 10 million inhabitants, representing around 51% of total Benin's population over the country's 10% surface area. The population was 3.554 million in 2002 (GPHC3, 2002), i.e, a 44% increase over 11 years. The population is projected to reach 24 million by 2050. The population density was 444 inhabitants/km² in 2013. The high population concentration in this area exerts considerable pressure on natural resources in general, and forest resources in particular.**

The three main religions practised in the project area include traditional religions as well as Christianity and Islam. The share of Christianity and Islam followers varies among communities. Islam followers include essentially Nago and Yoruba communities, which focus trade, in particular with Nigeria. However, communities following traditional religions and Christianity are more focused on farming and forestry.

Farming is the leading source of wealth in Benin, contributing over 25% to GDP. It employs over 55% of the working population. Extensive and slash-and-burn agriculture, which is common practice, is an environmental threat as well as a source of pressure on land. Slash-and-burn agriculture contributes to environmental degradation and deforestation. In general, environmental degradation weighs heavily on the national economy. According to a study carried out by the World Bank for the Republic of Benin in 2010, the main causes include:

- **Uncontrolled land clearing for farming, mainly cotton farming;**
- **Wildfires in connection with agriculture, animal farming and hunting, reported to be responsible for the destruction of close to 50,000 hectares of forest each year;**
- **Transhumance, including transborder, characterized by overgrazing;**
- **Overutilization of timber resources.**

Inventory of forest plantations in project area

The inventory of PCFPs was conducted as part of studies conducted during Pre-project implementation. Plantation status is shown in the table below.

Table 1: Findings from Private and Community Forest Plantations inventory in study area

Departments	Number of plantations (all forest tree species included)	Surface (ha)	Number of forest plantations	Surface (ha)	Number of fruit tree plantations	Surface (ha)
Atlantique	381	866,31	275	704,93	106	161.39
Mono-Couffo	239	178,51	200	145,59	39	32.92
Ouémé-Plateau	469	2837,94	224	1937,36	245	900.57
Zou	259	1085,95	211	737,06	48	348.89
Total	1348	4,968.71	910	3,524.94	438	1,443.77

The table shows that plantations are very numerous (over 1,300) and come in a variety of sizes. Very small plantations (between a few centiares to under 3 ha) fail to meet the selection criteria for forest plantations that will benefit from project activities. Such plantations must be provided with sustainable management tools, provide a steady income for owners while contributing to environmental protection through the carbon sequestration process and the provision of other ecosystem services.

As indicated under project area location map, plantations are distributed throughout the two RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin, and partly North of these sites, as shown in Figure 1. It should be pointed out that the map only shows private and community plantations of forest species with a real surface area of over 3.46 hectares, i.e., the minimum surface area selected for pre-project implementation. Careful observation of the map shows that plantations are generally located along watercourses such as the Couffo River and its tributaries, as well as a few other rivers such as the Zou River. While the reasons for this are not made explicit, these plantations contribute in one way or another to the preservation of watercourse banks and fixing the soil to prevent erosion and soil degradation, as well as filling in the watercourses. This observation provides tangible, practical and real examples of the ecosystem services provided by forest plantations in an ecological area of international importance, the RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018.

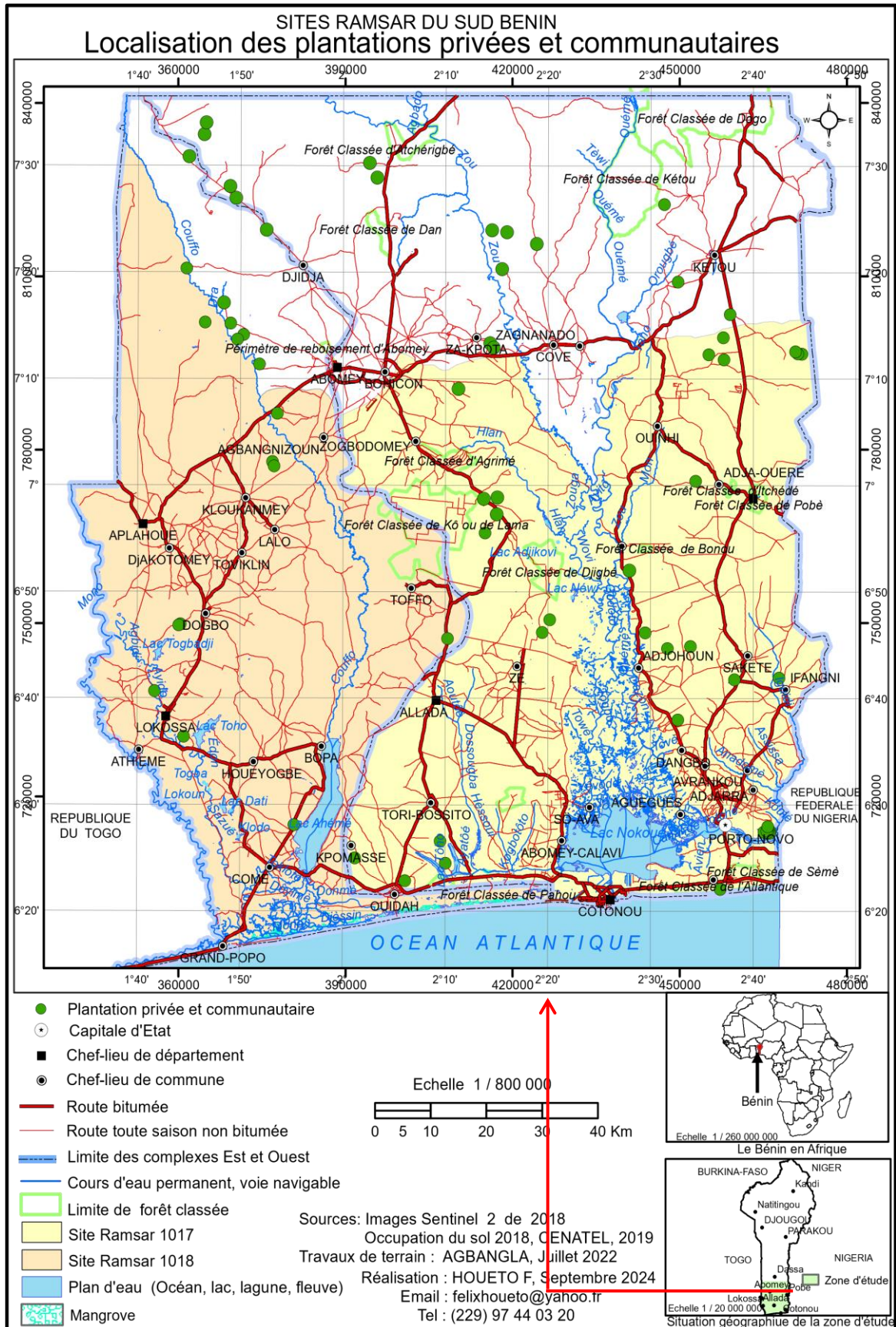


Figure 1: Map showing the location of private and community forest plantations (PCFPs) in the RAMSAR sites, Southern Benin

1.4 Expected outcomes at project completion

Expected outcomes at project completion include:

In the short term, 55 private and community forest plantations (PCFPs) in southern Benin are managed sustainably as follows:

- **55 private and community plantations have developed sustainable management tools, including simple management plans and topographical surveys;**
- **Private and community tree farmers income has been increased by 20% through the development of alternative income generating activities;**
- **A consultation framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized through the establishment of Tree Farmer Association's Departmental and Municipal Committees, operational support, and training of their members in the project implementation area;**
- **80% of supported tree farmers have developed professional skills through the implementation of sustainable management techniques for forest plantations.**

2. PART II: PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. Rationale

2.1.1. Institutional set-up and organizational issues

In Benin, forest resource management is carried out by government structures and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in collaboration with local populations. Following the adoption of a national forest policy introducing a participatory approach, and the effective decentralization of the administration, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are heavily involved in forest resource management alongside local populations.

The Center for the Promotion of Local Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (CPDRN, a non-governmental organization), registered under the registration number: No. 2020/090/DEP-ATL/SG/SAG-ASSOC of June 3, 2020 as published in the *Journal Officiel de la République du Bénin* operates within this framework and will serve as the project Executing Agency. The CPDRN was responsible for developing and implementing Pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin", which led to the development of this project proposal. The project Executing Agency (EA) will therefore be the CPDRN ONG, an organization that has operated in the field of natural resource management for several years.

It will be accountable to ITTO for project implementation. Activities will be implemented by a Management Unit. The unit will be headed by a National Coordinator, assisted by a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and an Administrative and Financial Secretary. The Executing Agency will work with all identified partners. They will be expected to contribute to the successful execution of the project. The DGEFC will serve as the collaborating agency. It will provide its expertise and support in implementing the project. The DGEFC is in charge of collecting and managing statistical information on the sector. The DGEFC has developed and managed several projects and programs to support its regalian missions, and it is supported by several programs/projects and forestry sector centers and offices.

It will also make available to the project all forestry agents to facilitate data collection activities at Forest Inspectorate level.

For project implementation, the CPDRN-NGO will be supported by other key entities such as:

- The General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC) is the forestry administration responsible for drawing up legislation and regulations, government policies and strategies, and national programs for the sustainable management of forest resources. It is responsible for drawing up and validating simple management plans for private and community forest plantations, and for ensuring that activities comply with current legislation on forest plantation management. In addition, the DGEFC represents the Focal Structure responsible for implementing and managing ITTA in Benin. It will collaborate in monitoring project implementation through its participation in the Project Steering Committee. The DGEFC will serve as the project's Collaborating Agency;
- The National Timber Corporation (SONAB) is the state-owned company responsible for managing state-owned forest plantations. SONAB is in charge of developing policies, strategies and management plans for Benin's state-owned forest plantations. It will be associated with this project to ensure compliance with the strategies and management plans for forest plantations, and synergy with the various actions underway.
- A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for monitoring project management and implementation, and to assist the EA. The PSC will be made up of the DGEFC, SONAB, representatives of tree farmers from all municipalities involved in the project, and the project's Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs).

2.1.2. Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders involved in the sustainable management of forest plantations in southern Benin were identified and characterized through pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin" implementation. According to the *ITTO Project Formulation Manual* (2009), third edition, these stakeholders fall into three categories:

- Primary stakeholders directly concerned by the sustainable management of forest plantations, including:
 - private and community tree farmers. These are the owners and/or managers of forest plantations. Their lives and livelihoods depend on forest plantations;
 - Local populations and various workers or laborers who may have access to FPs, harvest forest resources or carry out silvicultural activities or tasks;
 - Farmers living near forest plantations. They carry out agricultural activities in the immediate vicinity of FPs, which can have positive or negative impacts on the latter.
- The secondary stakeholders involved in sustainable FP management include:
 - Municipal Authorities. They are responsible for the development and sustainable management of the Municipality's forest resources. They will support project implementation at institutional, land tenure and financial levels. The Municipal Authorities have actually strongly endorsed the project and are committed to supporting it. They are very important players for securing FP land tenure;
 - The Forestry Administration (DGEFC) serves as the project's collaborating agency. It provides institutional and technical support for the project. It is represented in all Benin's Municipalities through its decentralized structures (Forestry Inspectorates, Forestry Cantonments and Municipal Water, Forestry and Hunting Sections). It will contribute its expertise for validating simple FP management plans. It will also ensure that Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verificators (PCIVs) for forest plantations are taken into account.
- Tertiary stakeholders include the Territorial Agency for Agriculture Development (ATDA), the National Agency for Land Development (ANDF), traders in forest plantation products (firewood, poles, posts, logs, etc.), and local development NGOs.

Stakeholder category	Characteristics	Issues, needs and interests	Potential	Project involvement
Primary stakeholders				
Private and community tree farmers	Made up mostly of men and a few poor women with limited resources. They are not coordinated. Not organized into strong associations to defend their interests. Insufficient knowledge and practices in silviculture and forest plantation management. Various capacity-building needs to improve their activities	Insufficient technical and organizational capacity to ensure sustainable management of forest plantations; Weak financial and structural capacities to meet the technical and regulatory requirements of forest plantations. Lack of means to ensure sustainable management of FPs	Strong will and commitment to the DGPF and the development of forest plantations and green jobs. Strong willingness to participate in capacity-building activities for sustainable management of PFs. Important role in natural forest conservation and ecosystem services; Strong contribution to meeting needs in timber forest products and non-timer forest products	As the first project beneficiaries, they will be supported by the project in terms of capacity building for sustainable management of private and community forest plantations. They will lead the establishment of the National Association of Benin Tree Farmers (ANPFB) and its Department-level, Municipality-level and local Committees

Stakeholder category	Characteristics	Issues, needs and interests	Potential	Project involvement
Local populations and various workers/ laborers	Users made up of village men, women and children who depend on forest plantations. Collect NTFPs or plantation waste. Used as workers or laborers in forest plantation activities.	Low-skilled forestry workers. Capacity-building needs for professionalization to ensure sustainable management of FPs. Their livelihoods depend on FPs. FPs and NTFPs collected from plantations play an important role in their livelihoods	High potential for learning and capacity building. Development of IGAs to preserve forest plantations. Looking forward to project implementation. Strong desire to participate in the sustainable management of forest plantations.	Primary beneficiaries and direct actors for the implementation of project development activities and alternative income-generating activities. Forest users or workers
Farmers in the vicinity of forest plantations	Active group made up of farmers living near forest plantations. Can have significant impacts on FPs' health due to their proximity	Need for information, awareness-raising and training to increase agricultural production and plantation security. Lack of means to implement improved production techniques; encroach or nibble on FPs	Understand the importance of forest plantations in the landscape and for meeting needs. Willingness to adopt improved plantation production and protection techniques. Favorable to behavior change	First actors and beneficiaries of project activities such as: awareness raising, IEC, capacity building, Willing to enhance the positive impacts of fields on FPs; and mitigate the negative impacts of adjacent fields on FPs; Collaborate to respect the rules of good neighborliness, etc.
Secondary stakeholders				
Municipality Authorities	Decentralized administration, responsible for land management (the basis for forest plantations), and for producing and implementing development plans for Municipalities.	Limited knowledge of the full potential of the project area, poor use of development opportunities Insufficient capacity for integrated natural resource planning	Exercise authority and influence over land management. Play a very important role in securing land tenure (supporting forestry and agricultural activities). Can strongly influence or facilitate sustainable management of FPs	Collaborate to secure land tenure for FPs Support the establishment of private and community tree farmer associations
Forest Administration	Represented in all project municipalities. Responsible for implementing national forestry policy, laws and regulations relating to the sustainable management of forest resources.	Lack of sufficient resources to supervise, support and monitor activities, principles and guidelines in relation with sustainable management of FPs	Good collaboration with NGOs, private and community tree farmers and rural communities. Strong willingness to support actions to conserve forest resources	Support the development and validation of FP management plans. Support the implementation of management plans. Ensure compliance with DGPF guidelines and principles.

Stakeholder category	Characteristics	Issues, needs and interests	Potential	Project involvement
Tertiary stakeholders				
ATDA (Atlantique, Mono-Couffo, Ouémé-Plateau, Zou)	Mandate for ensuring rural development	Concerned about site degradation and management of forest plantation adjacent areas	Competence in capacity building for Improved Production Systems	Collaborate with project team to build the capacity of local farmers with land adjacent to plantations selected by project
Traders of forest plantation products (buyers of firewood, poles, posts, logs, etc.)	Intermediaries between tree farmers and end users of FP products. They buy forest products from private and community tree farmers and resell them to end users.	Transport-related issues Highly variable product prices, High product prices, Low availability of quality products, Too many taxes, Approval procedures too complex Poor knowledge of foreign markets	Good experience in the marketing of FP forest products Can influence the profitability of forest plantations Command of local timber forest products supply and demand	Financial assistance for purchasing forest products and obtaining certification Training in product marketing for foreign markets
Local development NGOs	Actively involved in forestry and local development activities. Provide guidance and support to grassroots communities and stakeholders.	Lack of resources and skills to accompany and support grassroots populations in sustainable rural development activities.	Good experience of working with local populations in the project area and in forestry activities	Subcontracting of forestry activities, capacity building for direct beneficiaries and experience sharing.

2.1.3. Problem analysis

The degradation of forest landscapes is a major threat for ecosystem sustainability and the livelihoods of local communities. Investigations carried out as part of the pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.1 (F) showed that the fundamental problem with forest plantations is that they are not managed sustainably due to limited capacity. It inevitably leads to their reduction in number and surface area, or even their disappearance, followed by a change of vocation for the tree farmers. The main causes of this problem are threefold:

1. Low technical capacity among private tree farmers;
2. Low income generated from forest plantations;
3. Lack of formal consultation framework for private tree farmers.

a) Low technical capacity among private tree farmers

The owners or managers of forest plantations are neither foresters nor forestry technicians. According to the inventory of private forest plantations conducted as part pre-project implementation, private tree farmers are generally rural populations with limited resources: farmers, shopkeepers, economic operators, craftsmen, loggers, nurserymen, freelancers and some salaried workers, who have very limited knowledge and technical skills in forestry and silviculture. They engage in forest plantations because it's an economic activity which, in principle, is profitable if carried out under normal conditions. Forest plantations are also an endogenous way of securing land tenure in Benin. As a matter of fact "only landowners are entitled to establish forest plantations on their land" according to Beninese culture. Also based on Beninese culture, forest plantations are a way of hoarding money for old age or retirement. It's a veritable "wallet" or "green piggy bank" whereby one can get some money from harvesting trees. So private tree farmers are not generally forestry or silviculture professionals. Tree farmers or plantation owners subcontract to technicians who are, for the most part, also poorly trained in forestry/silviculture. As a result, the plantations' technical itineraries are not followed, yields are low and businesses are not very profitable.

Furthermore, due to a lack of resources, most forest plantations do not have simple management plans as required by current legislation.

This situation, combined with the fact that technical itineraries are not followed, is due to the lack or inadequacy of technical assistance for tree farmers, who are not provided with useful information on the relative importance of the sustainable management of FPs and the need for forest plantations to have management documents in accordance with the requirements of existing regulations.

b) Low valorization of forest plantation potential

Visits conducted in forest plantations during pre-project implementation showed that, in general, technical itineraries are not followed (from nursery to harvesting, including spacing, density and maintenance of forest plantations). Non-compliance with technical itineraries results in low yields, both in terms of quality and quantity, and consequently low income from forest plantations. This situation leads to a reduction in the number and surface area of forest plantations in favor of other farming crops (fruit plantations or agricultural fields). As a result, the growing demand for forest products will be switched to natural forests, with their degradation as a consequence.

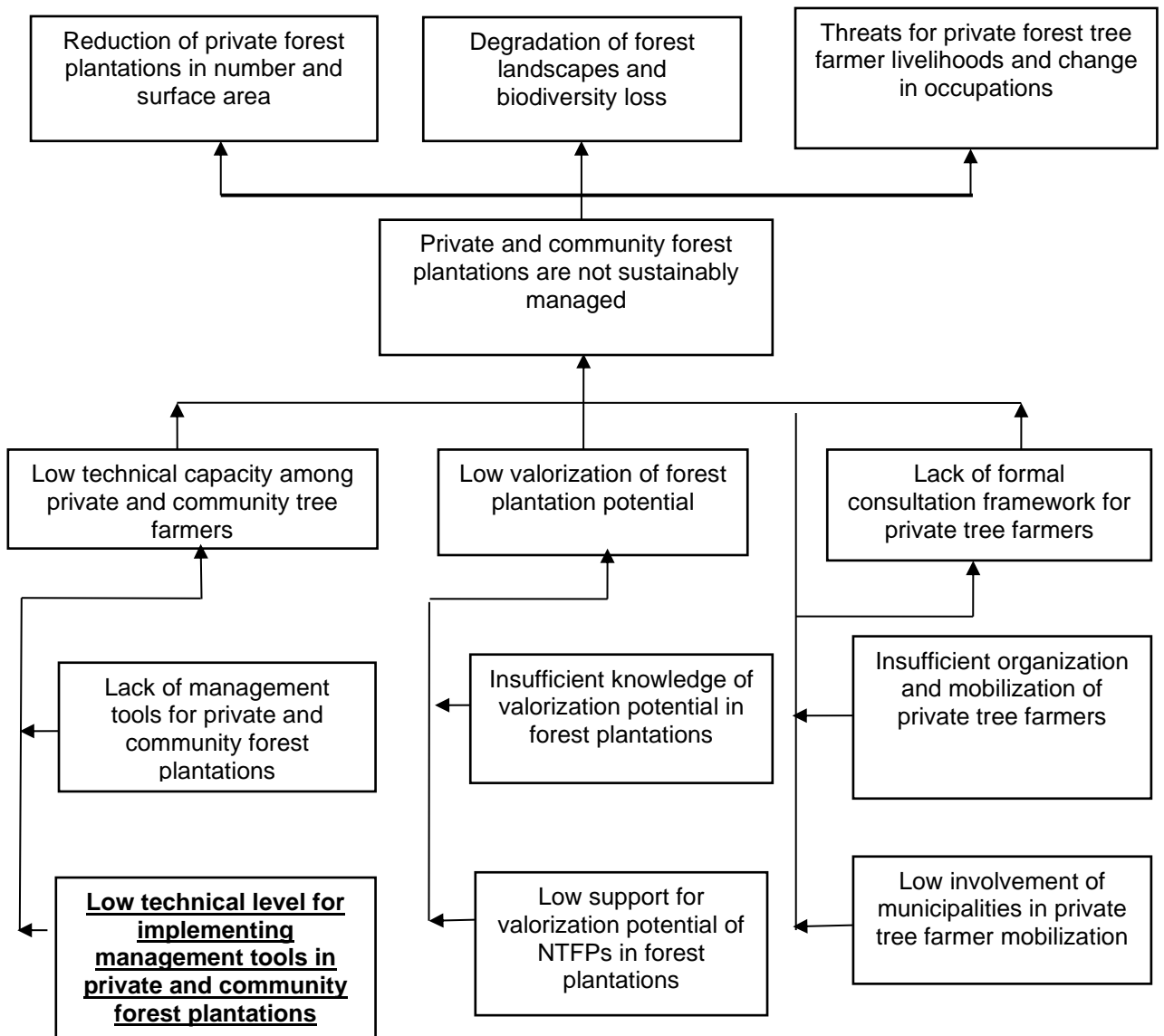
In addition, the poor quality of forest plantations and the absence of management and regulatory documents mean that tree farmers cannot benefit from the tax and regulatory advantages associated with forest plantations, and that these plantations are not eligible for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) financing, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and Carbon Credits (CC). Also, the nature of forest plantations, the risks associated with this activity and the plantation rotation cycle make it impossible to seek financing from banks or microfinance structures to support the forest plantation-related activities that require financing. However, such facilities do exist for fruit plantations (cashew plantations - *Anacardium occidentale*) or agricultural crops (cotton and food crops). Forest plantations are therefore the "poor cousins" of agricultural financing.

c) Lack of formal consultation and mobilization framework for private tree farmers

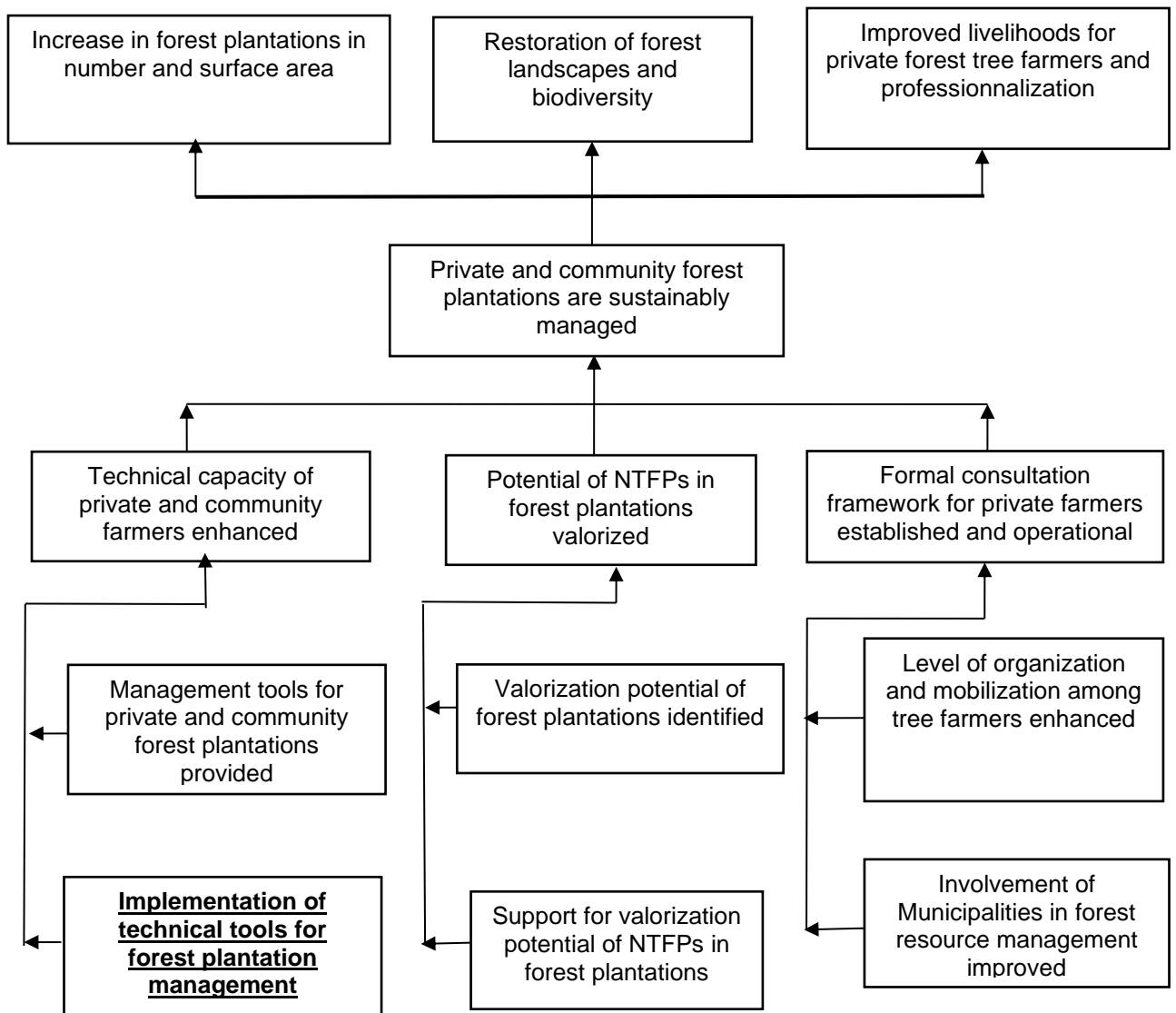
Tree farmers lack a formal framework in which to exchange ideas, organize, inform and mobilize in order to be stronger together. They operate without any coordination, each one isolated and relying on his own strengths. This situation further aggravates and weakens tree farmers. Public administration foresters are in short supply and unable to provide adequate supervision of private tree farmers. They sometimes fall back on NGOs, which have funding issues to support them. In the end, they're left to their own devices. Some get discouraged and give up, while others persevere as best they can and manage to get by. The Municipalities, which should be promoting forestry resources in their areas of jurisdiction, are not sufficiently aware or informed. This project will make it possible to establish or strengthen a consultation platform that will defend their interests at various levels and ensure the project achievements in the long term, the National Association of Benin Forest Tree Farmers (ANPFB).

Project implementation will help address the above-mentioned causes and resolve the key problem in order to initiate the sustainable management of forest plantations.

Problem tree



Solution tree



2.1.4. Logical framework matrix

Intervention strategy	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<p><u>Development objective:</u></p> <p>To contribute to forest landscape restoration in Benin</p>	<p><u>Impact indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2030, forest landscape degradation in southern Benin has been reduced by at least 30%; • By project completion, the income of private tree farmers has improved by at least 20%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satellite images, aerial photos, vegetation cover map - Inventory of southern Benin forest plantations; - DGEFC annual progress reports - Project implementation reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable management of forest landscapes in southern Benin remain a national priority; - FPs are not unduly affected by climate change; - Income generated from FPs is competitive.
<p><u>Specific objective:</u></p> <p>To strengthen the capacities of private tree farmers in southern Benin with a view to improving their living conditions and providing them with professional skills</p>	<p><u>Outcome indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By project completion, all 55 FPs have sustainable management tools; • By project completion, FP-generated income has increased by 20%; • By project completion, a consultation framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55 FP-related SMPs - Interview-surveys with stakeholders; - Official documents establishing the establishment of private tree farmer consultation framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FP sustainable management remains a priority among local stakeholders; - Effective uptake of project objectives by all stakeholders; - Willingness of stakeholders to establish a consultation framework (National Association of Benin Tree Farmers—ANPFB).
<p><u>Output 1:</u></p> <p>Technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced</p>	<p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>At the end of Year 1, SMPs for 55 FPs have been developed and validated based on a participatory approach;</u> • <u>From Year 2, the SMPs are implemented in FPs.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 55 simple management plan documents of FPs; - Technical itinerary documents for main forest tree species planted; - Project progress reports; - References and registration certificates for the 55 FPs; - DGEFC annual reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries participate in training sessions; - Local populations support project objectives; - Participatory and iterative approach implemented; - FP sustainable management; remains a priority for local stakeholders.
<p><u>Output 2:</u></p> <p><u>The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest</u></p>	<p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>At the end of year 1, valorization potential of NTFPs in PCFPs has been identified;</u> • <u>By project completion, valorization potential of at least three NTFPs in PCFPs has been developed;</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FP valorization potential document validated and disseminated - Number of potential ways for NTFP valorization in FPs developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willingness to participate in sessions and changes in practices; - Willingness of local stakeholders to implement new

Intervention strategy	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<u>plantations has been developed</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Income derived from NTFPs improved by 20% at the end of Project Year 3, through the development of IGAs based on NTFP utilization.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developed IGAs in Forest Plantations for increasing income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mechanisms for funding and valorizing forest resources.
<p><u>Output 3:</u> A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized</p>	<p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of Year 1, a formal framework for consultation and mobilization of Benin's private and community farmers has been set up and is operational; By the end of Project Year 1, a formal document for the organization of the Best Tree Farmers Contest is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document establishing FP consultation framework; Minutes of meeting between national bureau for consultation framework and decentralized agencies; Project progress reports; Official document for the organization of "Best Tree Farmers" contest validated and approved by authorities; Project and DGEFC annual progress reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The various stakeholders play their role; Tree farmers organize into an Association; FP sustainable management remains a priority for grassroots stakeholders; Income generated by forest plantations is competitive.

2.2. Objectives

2.2.1. Development objective and impact indicators

The project development objective is to contribute to forest landscape restoration in Benin.

Indicators

- By 2030, forest landscape degradation in southern Benin has been reduced by at least 30%;
- By project completion, the incomes of tree farmers and local populations dependent on forest plantations have improved by at least 20%.

2.2.2. Specific objective and outcome indicators

The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of private tree farmers in southern Benin with a view to improving their living conditions and providing them with professional skills.

Indicators

- By project completion, all 55 FPs have sustainable management tools;
- By project completion, FP-generated income has increased by 20%;
- By project completion, a consultation framework for private farmers has been established and operationalized.

3. PART III: DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

3.1 Outputs and activities

3.1.1. Outputs

Outputs expected from project implementation include:

Output 1: The technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced

Output 2: The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed

Output 3: A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized

3.1.2. Activities

To achieve above outputs, activities will be conducted as follows:

Output 1: The technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced

Activity 1.1: Develop and validate simple management plans (SMP) for the 55 forest plantations selected

Activity 1.2: Implement SMPs in forest plantations

Output 2: The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed

Activity 2.1: Conduct and validate a study on valorization potential of NTFPs in PCFPs

Activity 2.2: Assist with the development of valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations

Output 3: A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized

Activity 3.1: Establish a formal consultation framework for private tree farmers in the project implementation area

Activity 3.2: Assist with the operation of the consultation framework established for private tree farmers

Activity 3.3: Develop and validate the Organization Guide for the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest, including rewards

4. Good project management is achieved

Activity 4 1: Establish the project team and Project Steering Committee

Activity 4.2: Hold the project inception workshop

Activity 4.3: Supervise, produce and submit the various project reports

Activity 4.4: Conduct project audits

Activity 4.5: Hold the project closing workshop

3.2 Implementation approaches and methods

The project aims to reduce the increasing degradation and reduction in private forest plantations in southern Benin by addressing the main causes identified. Since private forest plantations are owned by private individuals or communities, capacity-building actions for their sustainable management will necessarily involve adopting a participatory approach. The project will work in collaboration with all stakeholders. All stages will be implemented according to this approach, the reason why the Information, Education and Communication approach will be promoted at every stage of the process. It will enable all project stakeholders to share the same vision and work in synergy to achieve expected outcomes.

In addition, the project will be implemented by a multi-disciplinary team comprising foresters, forestry socio-economists, experts in the sustainable management of forest plantations and local development officers, with the participation of local populations and managers of private forest plantations, as well as the collaboration of the Municipal Authorities and the Forestry Administration. Specific studies will be subject to consultation. The project will be implemented in three stages, based on the outputs:

3.2.1. Technical capacity building for private and community tree farmers

The sustainable utilization of forest resources requires the development and implementation of management tools. Implementing management tools assists tree farmers with the implementation of silvicultural techniques with the aim of enhancing the quantity and quality of timber forest products. However, private tree farmers, whose resources are limited, lack the financial means to develop such management tools. The project aims to support private and community tree farmers with the aim of providing them with the technical tools and capacity necessary for managing their plantations.

Management tools will be developed from project Year 1 first year and implemented in a participatory manner. To this end, the proposed strategy is to:

- **Develop SMPs for forest plantations through the services of consultants. Experienced partner NGOs or individual consultants will be recruited to develop SMPs for the 55 selected Forest Plantations. The SMPs will then be validated at several levels by the relevant authorities in charge, and environmental compliance certificates will be issued by the relevant entities. The implementation of SMP specifications will be carried out jointly by the project team with the support of the communities. Aspects relating to the demarcation of private forest plantation boundaries will be taken into account in SMP implementation;**
- **Implement SMPs through technical capacity building among tree farmers to improve yields in forest plantations, both in terms of quality and volume. It will be achieved through the services of a consultant experienced in the establishment, operation and management of forest plantations. Topographical surveys will be carried out in forest plantations as part of SMP implementation, and will enable forest tree farmers to achieve plantation registration by Forest Administration Authorities.**

3.2.2. The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed

The poverty level among private forest tree farmers is a limiting factor for the sustainable management of forest plantations. The instinct to survive sometimes leads forest plantation owners to prematurely utilize or sell off plantations. The project will make it possible to develop approaches for reducing forest plantation-related costs and developing income-generating activities in plantations. There are opportunities for developing IGAs through NTFPs in plantations. These include, for example, collecting packaging leave harvesting (in teak plantations), beekeeping (in *Acacia auriculliformis* plantations), small game farming, **snail farming, mushroom farming**, etc.

Tree farmers' wives will be given priority and organized to attend capacity-building sessions with a view to developing IGAs in the plantations.

To this end, a consultant will carry out a study of potential valorization in forest plantations, together with the socio-economic profitability and business plans for the selected IGAs. The resources needed to implement these IGA activities will be made available to beneficiaries as loans, i.e. green microcredit.

3.2.3. Establishment of formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers

At present, there is no platform for consultation and mobilization of private tree farmers. This project will establish and operationalize a consultation platform that will advocate for the interests of private tree farmers at various levels and ensure project outcomes are achieved in the long term. **This process will lead to the establishment of the National Association of Benin Forest Tree Farmers (ANPFB) at a later stage. This output will be achieved by the project team in collaboration with the central**

and decentralized Forestry Administration, through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) sessions and awareness-raising among grassroots actors (private tree farmers). The following strategy will be followed: First, Municipal Associations of Private Tree Farmers will be established; secondly Municipal Associations of Private Tree Farmers will designate two delegates per municipality, who will join together at the Departmental level to establish the Departmental Office of the Association of Private Tree Farmers. This process will be implemented in the project implementation area exclusively, and resulting project outputs will serve as inputs for the establishment of the National Association of Benin Private Forest Tree Farmers by the DGEFC.

The project will facilitate the organization of these activities for a three-year duration. At project completion, the Departmental Offices will take over to follow on with activity implementation.

3.3 Work plan

Outputs/Activities	Work schedule												
	Party in charge/ collaborator	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1: The technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced													
Activity 1.1: Develop and validate simple management plans (SMP) for the 55 forest plantations selected	Consultant/ Project Coordinator												
Activity 1.2: Implement SMPs in forest plantations	Communities/ Coordinator												
Output 2: The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed													
Activity 2.1: <u>Conduct and validate a study on valorization potential of NTFPs in PCFPs</u>	Consultant/Projec t Coordinator												
Activity 2.2: Assist with the implementation of valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations	Project Coordinator/Local stakeholders												
Output 3: A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized													
Activity 3.1: <u>Establish a formal consultation framework for private tree farmers in the project implementation area</u>	Project coordinator/Tree farmers												
Activity 3.2: Assist with the operation of the consultation framework <u>established</u> for private tree farmers	Project coordinator/Tree farmers												
Activity 3.3: Develop and validate the Organizing Guide for the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest	Project coordinator/Tree farmers												
4. Project management													
Activity 4 1: Establish the project team and Project Steering Committee	Project coordinator												
Activity 4.2: Hold the project inception workshop	Project coordinator												
Activity 4.3: Supervise, produce and submit the various project reports	Project coordinator												
Activity 4.4: Conduct project audits	Project coordinator												
Activity 4.5: Hold the project closing workshop	Project coordinator												

3.4 Budget

The project budget is shown in the master budget schedule below. It provides a breakdown of the costs of the activities, indicating the quantities, unit costs, the total and distribution per funding source.

3.4.1 Master budget schedule

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Output 1:	Output 1: The technical capacities of private and community tree farmers have been enhanced													
Activity 1.1:	Develop and validate simple management plans (SMP) for selected forest plantations													
	Recruitment of consultants for developing Simple Management Plans for the 55 forest plantations	211	55			Lump sum	<u>800</u>	<u>44000</u>	44000	0	0			
	Validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans (10 workshops x 2 days x 25 participants)	611	10			Lump sum	2000	20000	20000	0	0			
	Rental of room for validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	612	10			Lump sum	200	2000	2 000	0	0			
	Travel of participants to validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	311	10			Lump sum	500	5000	5000		0			
	Hold 4 IEC missions (5 days x 4 participants)	312	2	2		Unit	1600	6400	3200	3200	0			

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Travel for IEC missions	313	2	2		Lump sum	250	1000	500	500	0			
Activity 1.2:	Implement SMPs in the 55 forest plantations													
	Support and guidance for maintenance, silviculture and protection work in forest plantations	212	55	55		Lump sum	<u>80</u>	<u>8800</u>	<u>4400</u>	<u>4400</u>	0			
	Exchange visit for tree farmers in SONAB/private school/model plantations (55 tree farmers and 3 project team members)	314		58		Lump sum	80	4640		4640				
	<u>Travel for exchange visit</u>	<u>315</u>		<u>58</u>		<u>Lump sum</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1160</u>		<u>1160</u>				
Activity 1.4:	Train forest tree farmers in forest plantation sustainable management (FPSM) techniques (3 days x 55 forest tree farmers)													
	Recruitment of trainer consultant	216	10	10		p/d	300	6000	3000	3000				
	Room rental for FPSM workshops	<u>614</u>		3		day	100	300		300				
	<u>Travel for FPSM workshop participants</u>	<u>316</u>		<u>55</u>		particip ant	20	1100		1100				
	<u>Travel for project team (fuel) for FPSM mission</u>	<u>343</u>				<u>Lump sum</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>				
	Training workshop on FPSM techniques (3 days x 55 tree farmers)	<u>613</u>		55		Particip ant	80	<u>13200</u>		<u>13200</u>				

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Conduct topographic surveying work in forest plantations over 1357.46 ha, and demarcation of FP boundaries	616	679	679		ha	Lump sum	51230	25615	25615				
Output 2: <u>The valorization potential of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in private and community forest plantations has been developed</u>														
Activity 2.1:	<u>Conduct and validate a study on valorization potential of NTFPs in PCFPs</u>													
	<u>Hiring of consultant for conducting study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations</u>	221		2		p/m	<u>3000</u>	<u>6000</u>		<u>6000</u>	0			
	<u>Validation workshop for study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations (30 participants x 1 day)</u>	621		30		Participant	80	2400		2400	0			
	Rental of meeting room	622		<u>1</u>		Room	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>				
	Travel for NTFP workshop participants	317		30		Lump sum	20	600		600				
Activity 2.2:	<u>Assist with the development of valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations</u>													
	<u>Financial support for tree farmers to start IGAs in connection with NTFP valorization in forest plantations</u>	623	-	<u>25</u>	-	Tree farmer	<u>600</u>	<u>15000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>15000</u>	<u>0</u>			
Output 3: <u>A formal exchange, consultation and support framework for private tree farmers has been established and operationalized</u>														

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Activity 3.1:	<u>Establish a formal consultation framework for private tree farmers in the project implementation area</u>													
	Meetings for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Offices (910 identified tree farmers as participants)	631	910			Participant	<u>10</u>	<u>9100</u>	<u>9100</u>					
	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committees (8 days x 3 participants)	632	24			p/d	<u>80</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1920</u>	0	0			
	Fuel for support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committees	332	1			Lump sum	200	200	200	0	0			
	Meetings for establishing ANPFPB's Departmental Offices	633	200			Participant	10	2000	2000					
	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committees/Offices (<u>6</u> days x 3 participants)	634	18			p/d	80	1140	1140	0	0			
	Fuel for support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committee Offices	334	1			Lump sum	200	200	200	0	0			
Activity 3.2:	Assist with the operation of Benin private tree farmers' consultation framework													

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Facilitate holding of ANPFB statutory meetings at municipal (43) and departmental (6) levels <u>(9 participants per meeting)</u>	635		49		Meeting	90	4410		4410	0			
	Support mission for project team in connection with holding of statutory meetings (10 days x 3 participants)	639		30		p/d	80	2400		2400				
	Fuel for mission for establishment of departmental committees or offices	335		1		Lump sum	300	300		300				
Activity 3.3:	<u>Develop and validate the Organization Guide for the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest, including rewards</u>													
	Hiring of consultant for producing the Organization Guide for the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest	231		2		p/m	4000	8000		8000	0			
	Validation workshop for the Organization Guide for the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest (1 day x 20 participants)	636	20			Participant	80	1600		1600	0			
	<u>Rental of meeting room for guide validation (DGEFC)</u>	637	1			Room	200	200				200		
	Assist with the organization of a “Best Tree Farmers” game	638			1	Contest	8000	8000			8000			

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	contest in Benin (project Year 2 and Year 3)													
4	<u>Project management</u>													
Activity 4.1:	Establish the project team and Project Steering Committee													
	<u>1 Project coordinator</u>	<u>11.1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>p/m</u>	<u>1500</u>	<u>54000</u>				<u>18000</u>	<u>18000</u>	<u>18000</u>
	1 Project monitoring and evaluation assistant	11.2	12	12	12	p/m	925	33300	11100	11100	11100			
	1 Administrative and financial assistant	11.3	12	12	12	p/m	875	31500	10500	10500	10500			
-	2 Facilitators	11.4	24	24	24	p/m	600	43200	14400	14400	14400			
	1 vehicle driver	11.5	12	12	12	p/m	300	10800				3600	3600	3600
	1 All-terrain vehicle	441	1			Unit	40 000	40000	40000	0	0			
-	2 All-terrain motorbikes	442	2			Unit	2500	5000	5000	0	0			
	Vehicle insurance	541	1	1	1	Unit	300	900	0	0	0	300	300	300
	Vehicle repair and servicing	542		1	1	Unit	Lump sum	3500	0	0	0	500	1500	1500
	Fuel and lubricants	543	12	12	12	m	<u>300</u>	<u>10800</u>	<u>3 600</u>	<u>3600</u>	<u>3600</u>			
	5 Laptops	443	5			Unit	1000	5000	5000	0	0			
	Printers	444	3			Unit	1200	3600	3600	0	0			
	Photocopy machines	445	1			Unit	2000	2000	2000	0	0	2000		
	Video-projector	446	1			Unit	1000	1000	1000	0	0			
	Networks and utilities	544	12	12	12	m	250	9000	3000	3000	3000			
	Office supplies	545	12	12	12	m	300	10800	3 600	3600	3600			

Outputs/ Activities	Description	Budget component	Quantity			Units	Unit costs (US\$)	Total cost (US\$)	ITTO			EA		
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
	Office rental	641	12	12	12	m	500	18000				6000	6000	6000
	6 Meetings of Project Steering Committee	642	2	2	2	Unit	600	3600	1200	1200	1200			
	Project audits (3)	650	1	1	1	p/m	3000	9000	3000	3000	3000			
Activity 4.2:	Hold the project inception workshop													
	1 Project inception workshop (1 workshop x 1 day x 40 participants)	643	40			Particip ant	80	3200	3200					
	Travel for project inception workshop	341	40			Particip ant	20	800	800					
	Room rental for project inception workshop	644	1			1	400	400	400	0	0			
Activity 4.3:	Hold the project closing workshop													
	1 workshop x 1 day x 40 participants	645	40			Particip ant	80	3200			3200			
	Travel for project closing workshop	342	40			Particip ant	20				800			
	Room rental	663	1			Lump sum	400	400		0	400			

3.4.2. Consolidated budget by component (US\$)

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
10	Personnel				
11.1	1 Project coordinator	54000	18000	18000	18000
11.2	1 Project monitoring & evaluation Assistant	33300	11100	11100	11100
11.3	1 Administrative and financial secretary	31500	10500	10500	10500
11.4	2 Facilitators	43200	14400	14400	14400
11.5	1 Vehicle driver	10800	3600	3600	3600
19	Component total	172800	57600	57600	57600
20	Sub-contracting				
211	Hiring of consultants for developing Simple Management Plans for the 55 forest plantations	44000	44000	0	0
212	<u>Support and guidance for maintenance, silviculture and protection work in forest plantations</u>	8800	4400	4400	
216	<u>Hiring of trainer consultant for FPSM techniques</u>	6000	3000	3000	
217	Demarcation of boundaries 55 forest (demarcation markers and plantings)				
221	<u>Hiring of consultant for conducting study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations</u>	6000		6000	
231	Hiring of consultant for producing the Organization Guide for the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest	8000		8000	
29	Component total	90850	70675	20175	0
30	Duty travel				
311	Travel of participants to validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	2000	1 000	1 000	
312	<u>Hold 4 IEC missions (5 days x 4 participants)</u>	6400	3200	3200	
313	Travel for IEC missions	1000	500	500	
314	<u>Exchange visit for tree farmers in SONAB's school/model plantations/private plantations</u>	4640	4640		
315	Travel for exchange visit	1160		1160	
316	<u>Travel of participants for FPSM workshop</u>	1100		1100	
317	<u>Travel of participants for NTFP workshop</u>	600		600	
332	Fuel for mission in charge of establishing Municipal Committees	200	200		
335	Fuel for mission in charge of establishing Departmental Committees or offices	300		300	

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
341	Travel for project inception workshop participants	800	800		
342	Travel for project closing workshop participants	800			800
343	<u>Travel of project team (fuel) for SMFP workshop</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	
39	Component total	21 900	11 600	9 500	800
40	Capital items				
441	1 All-terrain vehicle	40000	40000		
442	2 All-terrain motorbikes	5000	5000		-
443	5 Laptops	5000	5000		
444	Printers	1200	1200		
445	Photocopy machines	1200	1200		
446	Video-projector	1200	1200		
49	Component total	53600	53600	0	0
50	Consumable items				
541	Vehicle insurance	900	300	300	300
542	Vehicle servicing	5 000	500	2 000	2 500
543	Fuel and lubricants	9 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
544	Utilities	7 200	2 400	2 400	2 400
545	Office supplies	10 800	3 600	3 600	3 600
59	Component total	32900	9800	11300	11800
60	Miscellaneous				
611	Validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans (10 workshops x 2 days x 25 participants)	20000	20000		
612	Rental of room for validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	2000	1000	1000	
613	<u>Tree farmer training workshop on FPSM techniques (3 days x 55 forest tree farmers)</u>	<u>13200</u>		<u>13200</u>	
614	<u>Room rental for FPSM workshops</u>	<u>300</u>		<u>300</u>	
616	Conduct of topographic surveying work in forest plantations (44) over 1357.46 ha	51230	25615	25615	
621	<u>Validation workshop for study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations (30 participants x 1 day)</u>	2400		2400	
622	<u>Meeting room rental for NTFP workshop</u>	100		100	
623	<u>Financial support for tree farmers to start IGAs in connection with NTFP valorization in forest plantations</u>	33000		33000	

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
624	Establishment of green credit mechanism for financial support for development of forest plantations	30000	15000	15000	
631	<u>Meetings for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Offices (910 identified tree farmers as participants)</u>	<u>9100</u>	<u>9100</u>		
632	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committees (<u>8 days x 3 participants</u>)	<u>1920</u>	<u>1920</u>		
633	Meetings for establishing ANPFB's Departmental Offices	2000	2000		
634	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFB's Departmental Committees (<u>6 days x 3 participants</u>)	<u>1140</u>	<u>1140</u>		
635	<u>Facilitate holding of ANPFB statutory meetings at municipal (43) and departmental (6) levels (9 participants per meeting)</u>	<u>4410</u>	-	<u>4410</u>	
636	<u>Validation workshop for the Organization Guide for the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest (1 day x 20 participants)</u>	<u>1600</u>		<u>1600</u>	
637	Rental of meeting room (DGEFC)	200	200		
638	Assist with the organization of the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest in Benin (project Year 2 and Year 3)	8000	0	8000	0
<u>639</u>	<u>Project team support mission for holding statutory meetings (10 days x 3 participants)</u>	<u>2400</u>		<u>2400</u>	
641	Office rental	21000	7000	7000	7000
642	6 Meetings of Project Steering Committee	3600	1200	1200	1200
643	Project inception workshop (1 day x 40 participants)	3200	3 200		
644	Room rental for project inception workshop	400	400		
645	Project closing workshop (1 day x 40 participants)	3200			3200
646	Rental of room for project closing workshop	400			400
650	Project audits (3)	9000	3000	3000	3000
69	Component total	244840	101775	118265	24800
80	Project monitoring and administration				
81	ITTO monitoring and review	30 000	10 000	10000	10 000
82	ITTO mid-term evaluation	10000		10000	
83	ITTO ex-post evaluation	15 000			
84	Sub-total for items 10-83 above	480 100	238 915	162 585	78 600
85	ITTO program support costs (12% on items 10-83 above)	57 612	28 670	19 510	9 432
89	Component total	<u>102 612</u>	<u>38 670</u>	<u>29 510</u>	<u>34 432</u>

3.4.3. ITTO budget by component

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
10	Personnel				
11.2	1 Project monitoring & evaluation Assistant	33300	11100	11100	11100
11.3	Administrative and financial secretary	31500	10500	10500	10500
11.4	2 Facilitators	43200	14400	14400	14400
19	Component total	108000	36000	36000	36000
20	Sub-contracting				
211	Recruitment of consultants for developing Simple Management Plans for the 55 forest plantations	44000	44000	0	0
212	<u>Support and guidance for maintenance, silviculture and protection work in forest plantations</u>	8800	4400	4400	
216	<u>Hiring of trainer consultant for FPSM techniques</u>	6000	3000	3000	
221	<u>Hiring of consultant for conducting study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations</u>	6000		6000	
231	Hiring of consultant for producing the Organization Guide for the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest	8000		8000	
29	Component total	72800	51400	21400	0
30	Duty travel				
311	Travel of participants to validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	2 000	1 000	1 000	
312	<u>Hold 4 IEC missions (5 days x 4 participants)</u>	6400	3200	3200	
313	Travel for IEC missions	1000	500	500	
314	<u>Exchange visit for tree farmers in SONAB's school/model plantations/private plantations (55 tree farmers and 3 project team members)</u>	<u>4640</u>	<u>4640</u>		
315	Déplacement pour la visite d'échange	1160		1160	
316	<u>Travel of participants for FPSM workshop</u>	1100		1100	
317	<u>Travel of participants for NTFP workshop</u>	<u>600</u>		<u>600</u>	
332	Fuel for mission in charge of establishing Municipal Committees	200	200		
335	Fuel for mission in charge of establishing Departmental Committees or offices	300		300	
341	Travel for project inception workshop participants	800	800		
342	Travel for project closing workshop participants	800			800

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
343	<u>Travel of project team (fuel) for SMFP workshop</u>	<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	
39	Component total	19 100	10 340	7 960	800
40	Capital items				
441	1 All-terrain vehicle	40000	40000		
442	2 All-terrain motorbikes	5000	5000		-
443	5 Laptops	5000	5000		
444	Printers	1200	1200		
445	Photocopy machines	1200	1200		
446	Video-projector	1200	1200		
49	Component total	53600	53600	0	0
50	Consumable items				
543	Fuel and lubricants	10 800	3 600	3 600	3 600
544	Utilities	7 200	2 400	2 400	2 400
545	Office supplies	10 800	3 600	3 600	3 600
59	Component total	28 800	9 600	9 600	9 600
60	Miscellaneous				
611	Validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans (10 workshops x 2 days x 25 participants)	20000	20000		
612	Rental of room for validation workshops for 55 forest plantation simple management plans	2000	1000	1000	
613	<u>Tree farmer training workshop on FPSM techniques (3 days x 55 forest tree farmers)</u>	<u>13200</u>		<u>13200</u>	
614	<u>Room rental for FPSM workshops</u>	<u>300</u>		<u>300</u>	
616	Conduct of topographic surveying work in forest plantations (44) over 1357.46 ha	51230	25615	25615	
621	<u>Validation workshop for study on valorization potential of NTFPs in forest plantations (30 participants x 1 day)</u>	2400		2400	
622	<u>Meeting room rental for NTFP workshop</u>	100		100	
623	<u>Financial support for tree farmers to start IGAs in connection with NTFP valorization in forest plantations</u>	15000		15000	
631	<u>Meetings for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Offices (910 identified tree farmers as participants)</u>	<u>9100</u>	<u>9100</u>		
632	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFPB's Municipal Committees (8 days x 3 participants)	<u>1920</u>	<u>1920</u>		
633	Meetings for establishing ANPFB's Departmental Offices	2000	2000		

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
634	Project team support mission for establishing ANPFB's Municipal Committees (7 days x 3 participants)	1680	1680		
635	<u>Facilitate holding of ANPFB statutory meetings at municipal (43) and departmental (6) levels (9 participants per meeting)</u>	<u>4410</u>	-	<u>4410</u>	
638	Assist with the organization of the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest in Benin (project Year 2 and Year 3)	8000	0	8000	0
639	<u>Project team support mission for holding statutory meetings (10 days x 3 participants)</u>	<u>2400</u>		<u>2400</u>	
642	6 Meetings of Project Steering Committee	1800	600	600	600
643	Project inception workshop (1 day x 40 participants)	3200	3 200		
644	Room rental for project inception workshop	400	400		
645	Project closing workshop (1 day x 40 participants)	3200			3200
646	Rental of room for project closing workshop	400			400
650	Project audits (3)	9000	3000	3000	3000
69	Component total	152800	67975	77625	7200
80	Project monitoring and administration				
81	ITTO monitoring and review	30 000	10 000	10 000	10 000
82					
83	ITTO ex-post evaluation	15000			15000
84	Sub-total for items 10-83 above	480 100	238 915	162 585	78 600
85	ITTO program support costs (12% on items 10-83 above)	57 612	28 670	19 510	9 432
89	Component total	102 612	38 670	29 510	34 432
100	GRAND TOTAL	537 712	267 585	182 095	88 032

3.4.4. Executing agency budget by component

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
10	Personnel				
11.1	<u>1 Project coordinator</u>	<u>54 000</u>	<u>18 000</u>	<u>18 000</u>	<u>18 000</u>
11.5	1 Vehicle driver	10800	3 600	3 600	3 600
19	Component total	64 800	21 600	21 600	21 600
50	Consumable items				
541	Vehicle insurance	900	300	300	300
542	Vehicle servicing	5000	500	2000	2 500
59	Component total	5900	800	2300	2800
60	Miscellaneous				
637	Rental of meeting room (DGEFC)	200	200		
641	Rental of office	21 000	7 000	7 000	7 000
69	Component total	21200	7200	7000	7000
100	GRAND TOTAL	91 900	29 600	30 900	31 400

3.5. Assumptions, risks and sustainability

3.5.1. Assumptions and risks

The main assumptions for the success of this project are as follows:

The sustainable management of forest resources remains a national priority: One of the reasons for the enthusiasm of stakeholders at both national and local level is the growing awareness of the roles and functions of forest plantations in improving the living conditions of populations, especially in rural areas. In this regard, Benin has made commitments, including at international level, by signing the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA). It is clear that promoting forest plantations to satisfy the ever-increasing need for forest products is an effective strategy that contributes to the conservation of natural forests, biodiversity and rare species.

In addition, this project, which aims to reverse the degradation of Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018, will contribute to greater mobilization of stakeholders at various levels for the conservation of these globally important sites.

Climate change will not affect the development of forest plantations in Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 to such an extent as to prevent the achievement of project objectives. However, as a result of climate and rainfall disturbances, some forest tree species are highly sensitive to these phenomena and their normal development is affected. Fast-growing tree species that are resilient to climate change are now used in reforestation programs in Benin to address this issue.

The financial and economic benefits derived from forest plantations are competitive: Spatio-temporal dynamics show the importance of land use, land-use change and forestry. Promoting competitive reforestation IGAs in forestry and economic reforestation (agroforestry) could increase complementary income from forest resources as a result. Pilot experiments in the sustainable use of forest resources are attracting the attention of the authorities and rural communities. Local participation remains strong and current market conditions favorable.

Risks

The likely risks identified for this project are:

Reallocation and reduction of forest land: As Benin's population grows, so does the need for farmland to produce agricultural products and meet ever-increasing food requirements. Land areas allocated to forestry is shrinking. Policies can change the support of decision-makers for the conservation of forest resources. However, in view of the international context where climate change issues are a priority and taken seriously by the international community, this risk is almost non-existent. The continuation of IEC actions would totally eliminate this risk.

Climate change affects ecosystems: Recent climatic hazards and climate change may affect ecosystems, hydrographic systems and forest health in the project area. It could have negative impacts on management actions that are initiated. This risk can be reduced by using appropriate adaptation measures for the most immediate adverse effects of climate change, and by using resistant and resilient species.

3.5.2. Sustainability

The project will address the long-expressed need by a number of local stakeholders, and will help to build the capacity of local communities and establish sustainable management systems for forest plantations. Project long-term sustainability will depend on its ownership by all stakeholders at technical, institutional, political, financial and economic levels:

- In terms of institutional and political sustainability, the participation of the DGEFC in all project stages, from design to implementation, is a strong signal of the institutional and political sustainability of project actions. In addition, the various commitments made by the Municipalities in the letters of endorsement attached in Appendix bear witness to the Municipal Authorities' ownership of the project and are clear precursors of project institutional sustainability. By project completion, the Forestry Administration will take over the actions initiated through the Municipal and Prefectural Private Tree Farmer Associations that will be established by the project. At local level, the establishment and strengthening of the Private Tree Farmer Associations will serve as a guarantee of project outcomes sustainability.
- In terms of financial sustainability, the letters of financial commitment from the Municipalities to help finance project activities are a strong signal that the Municipalities, which are institutions with autonomous budgets, will continue to provide financial support for project achievements provides project outcomes are satisfactory. By project completions, the various committees set

up will need resources to cover meetings and other operating costs. The principle of financing these recurring costs upon project completion has been accepted by the communes. At the level of local committees, it is proposed that a portion of the revenue from green credits and economic reforestation be used to cover operating costs at the end of the project.

- At the socio-economic level, the development of sustainable alternative income-generating activities is a guarantee that project achievements will be sustained through the self-financing mechanism.
- **Technical sustainability: The methods and techniques to be used for the project will be borrowed from SONAB (*Société Nationale du Bois*), a technical structure already established in the project area. This is the reason why exchange visits will be organized at SONAB to allow for best practices to be replicated by private tree farmers. Local labor will also be enlisted to carry out the project's technical activities (climber-cutting, thinning work, firebreaks, etc.). Capacity building will be conducted for private tree farmers and enable the continued use of new technologies experimented during project implementation.**

4. PART 4: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Organization structure and stakeholder involvement mechanisms

4.1.1. Executing agency and partners

The Center for the Promotion of Local Development and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (CPDRN) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with legal personality and financial autonomy. It will serve as the project Executing Agency supported by a multidisciplinary team. The CPDRN was responsible for pre-project implementation. The project will be directed by a Steering Committee comprising the CPDRN-NGO Executive Director, who will serve as the project coordinator, the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, the secretary accountant and two facilitators (see Project Organization Chart in Annex 1). The Steering Committee will oversee the execution of the project's various activities.

The Executing Agency (CPDRN-NGO) will work with the collaborating agency, the DGEFC, and all stakeholders identified during project development. They will be expected to make their respective contributions to the successful execution of the project.

4.1.2. Project management team

The project management team will consist of the Coordinator, the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, the Accounting Secretary, two facilitators and the vehicle driver. This permanent staff will be supplemented by consultants and other service providers.

The tasks and responsibilities of the main experts mobilized by the Executing Agency are specified in the appendix. The terms of reference for ITTO-funded personnel and consultants are attached in Annex 5.

4.1.3. Project Steering Committee

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established in accordance with the *ITTO Manual for Project Formulation*. The PSC mission will be to supervise project implementation, approve expenditures, ensure compliance with current procedures, review activities carried out, and consider and propose modifications to the budget and activities. The PSC will ensure the strategic management of the overall project, and that its implementation is on schedule, efficient and in line with the logical framework and other aspects of the project document.

The PSC will consist of seven members, as follows:

- one (01) representative of technical and financial partners from project funding countries pays;
- one (01) representative of ITTO;
- **the project coordinator, serving as observer and secretary of the Project Steering Committee;**
- one (01) representative of DGEFC acting as Government of Benin contact point with the ITTO;
- one (01) representative of SONAB;
- one (01) representative of CPDRN-NGO (CPDRN Executive Director);
- two (02) representatives of private tree farmers.

The PSC will meet at least twice a year.

This arrangement will allow for project outcomes to be reflected in national policy and strategy documents. As a result, since the DGEFC is a member of the PSC and a repository of project outcomes, it will use them for the development of a national strategy for managing private and community forest plantations in Benin. Similarly, achieved outcomes will be scaled up nationwide through the development and implementation of similar projects.

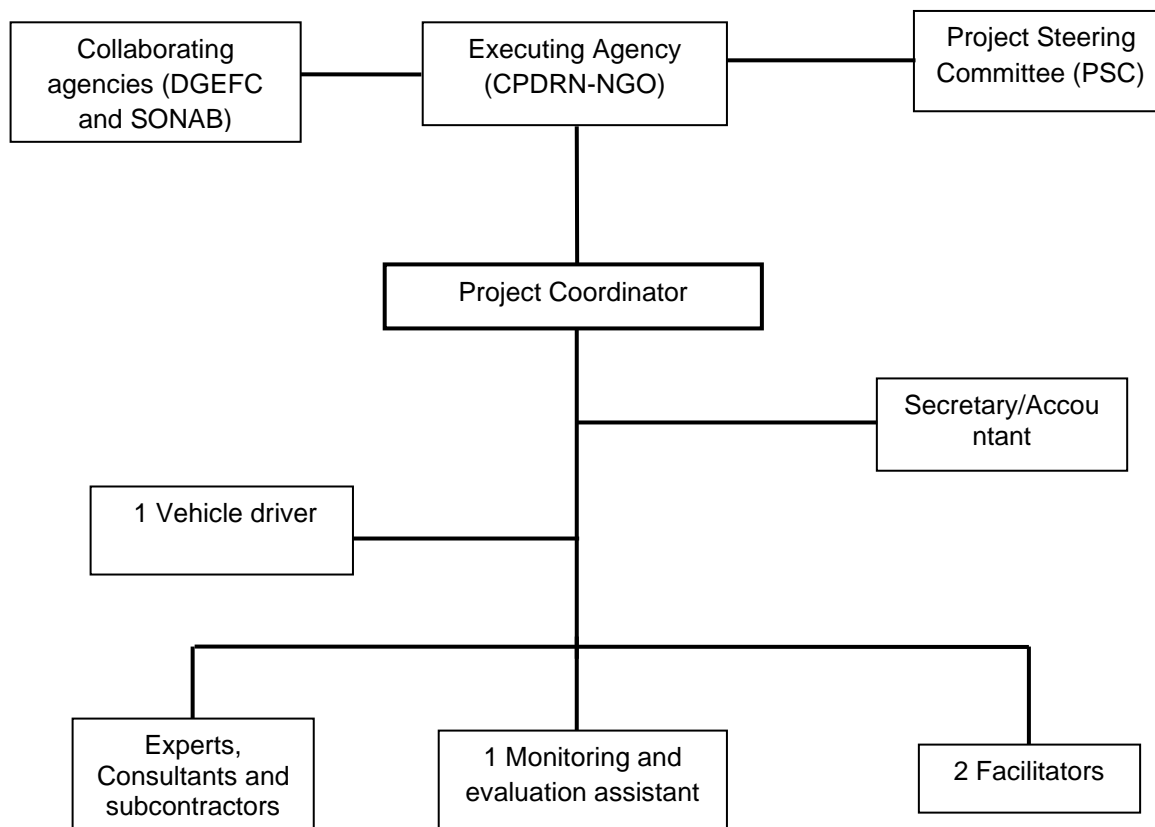
4.1.4. Stakeholder participation mechanism

Stakeholder participation will take place at three levels:

- At central level, through the Project Steering Committee's strong involvement in the implementation and monitoring of field activities. As described above, the Project Steering Committee brings together key stakeholders with political, legal and decision-making power. Their participation in the project will be an asset.
- At the decentralized level, the project will facilitate the establishment of Municipal Committees of the Private Tree Farmer Association. They will participate in project implementation and monitoring at local level. The Municipal Committees will ensure that project outcomes and certain activities will continue upon project completion.

The various committees will also serve as intermediaries and facilitators in resolving any issues that may arise during project implementation.

Project organizational chart



4.2. Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation

The Executing Agency (CPDRN-NGO) will submit the various reports to ITTO at intervals appropriate for three year-duration projects. ITTO will conduct monitoring and evaluation missions at intervals to be determined by ITTO.

The project will be monitored and evaluated by ITTO representatives in accordance with the Organization's standard procedures as described in the *ITTO Manual for Project Monitoring, Review, Reporting and Evaluation*.

4.2.1 Project progress reports

A project inception report and the first related Annual Operating Plan (AOP) will be submitted in connection with the transfer of the first tranche of ITTO funds required for project start-up. Semi-annual progress reports will be submitted to ITTO on a regular basis. The annual financial audit report will also be produced and submitted each year throughout project duration.

4.2.2 Project completion report

At the end of the project, the coordinator will prepare a completion report to be submitted to ITTO three months after project closure, together with the audit report in accordance with ITTO standards and requirements. This report will summarize all project activities, achievements and outcomes, lessons learned, level of achievement of objectives, structures and systems implemented, etc., and will constitute the final report on project activities throughout project implementation period. It will also set out recommendations to ensure the sustainability and replicability of project activities.

4.2.3 Project technical reports

The Executing Agency will make available to ITTO and other relevant bodies all technical and consultancy reports produced during project implementation.

4.3 Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning

4.3.1. Dissemination of project results

The project inception and closing workshops, which will be widely publicized by the media, will be effective means for disseminating relevant information about the project and its contribution to nature conservation and poverty reduction in rural areas by improving the standard of living of local populations, both nationally and internationally.

At local level, community or local radio stations will be used intensively for Information, Education and Public Awareness during project first and second years. In the third year, radio programs will focus on disseminating project outcomes and lessons learned.

At national and international level, the project team will take advantage of opportunities to report project outcomes at workshops, seminars and conferences. Communications on project achievements and outcomes will take the form of oral, written or poster presentations.

Outcomes will be reported to ITTO through technical reports, progress reports and final reports. Reports of workshops held for awareness raising among project stakeholders and providing training to various stakeholders will also be disseminated.

In addition, the websites of the DGEFC, ITTO (specifically the newsletter *Tropical Forest Update*—TFU), BCH and others will also be used to disseminate relevant results and lessons learned from project implementation.

4.3.2. Mainstreaming of project learning

The main innovations of this project lie in the development of a sustainable management model that will combine traditional and modern forest plantation management practices. The introduction of a green credit mechanism for supporting local communities in reforestation activities is another an innovation in natural forest conservation. The chance of success for these models is very high, given the enthusiasm of the tree farmers. However, challenges will need to be addressed.

Project outcomes will be disseminated within and beyond the project area through the above-mentioned channels. The project will identify, analyze and share lessons learned that could be beneficial for the design and implementation of future similar projects in municipalities or areas not covered by this project. In addition, exchange visits will be organized towards the end of the project for the benefit of primary stakeholders, with a view to promoting project replication in other regions or prefectures in Benin experiencing the same acute issues in relation to forest plantations.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 a: Profile of the executing agency (CPDRN-NGO)

The Center for the Promotion of Local Development and the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (CPDRN) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with legal personality and self-funding.

The CPDRN NGO is located in the district of **Tchinagbégo - Agori Plateau**, Commune **d'Abomey-Calavi**., Rue de l'Espoir, BP: 334 Abomey-Calavi; Tél: (00229) 96965476 ou 66476188, cpdrn2020@gmail.com severin_nsia2002@yahoo.fr

CPDRN-NGO focus areas

The CPDRN-NGO operates in the following fields:

- Management of forests and natural resources;
- Adult learning and training, capacity-building and advisory support;
- Research & Development;
- Land-use planning and local development;
- Local economy;
- Sustainable land and soil fertility management;
- Management of the environment and climate change.

Overall objective

The overall objective of the CPDRN is to contribute to the harmonious development of territories through inclusive local development and sustainable management of natural resources.

Specific objectives

CPDRN-NGO specific aims include:

- promote inclusive local development and the local economy through diversification of income-generating activities with populations living near bodies of water and forests.
- promote new technologies for the decentralized and sustainable management of natural resources,
- provide stakeholders with grassroots support for the efficient implementation of new technologies for sustainable land management and soil fertility, as well as actions relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- assist administrations in charge of the environment and natural resources in the effective management of agreements and conventions within their respective fields;
- conduct applied research and development processes and establish Incubation Centers (IC).

The CPDRN-NGO works to ensure that the notion of natural resource dynamics is appropriated by those involved in the exploitation of resources with a view to their sustainable use. CPDRN ONG also works to raise awareness, educate, organize and build the capacities of populations in conservation, rational management of natural resources, biodiversity and environmental sanitation.

CPDRN-NGO is managed by a Board of Directors, supported by a Technical Support Committee and a Control Committee. The organization's activities are implemented by a permanent staff of six (see organization chart below):

- Two forestry engineers;
- One development engineer;
- One socio-economist;
- One project manager;
- One secretary/accountant; and
- One vehicle driver.

CPDRN-NGO also subcontracts temporary staff.

CPDRN-NGO has carried out several natural resource management activities with grassroots communities. These include:

- Support for the production of the sixth national biodiversity assessment report. **Collection and analysis of data from stakeholders for assessing the degree of implementation of the biodiversity strategy in Benin. Support for the drafting of the 6th national report and the review of the SPANB.**
- Implementation of pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) “Study for capacity building of private and community tree farmers in Benin”. **Conducting studies on the level of management of forest plantations and their economic value. The studies led to the development of this project proposal.**
- Reflection on forest law enforcement and governance in Benin's forestry sector with the support of the DGEFC. **Organization of brainstorming and social intermediation workshops to promote better governance in the forestry sector. Analysis of major forestry challenges for contributing inputs for forestry policy development.**
- Mobilization and capacity building of local communities in sustainable forest management; mangroves and sacred forests and community forests in Benin. **IEC and social intermediation activities for improving the management of forest resources**
- Participation in national reforestation campaigns in 2021 and 2022.
- **Dissemination of the new Kuming-Montreal global framework and consultation of national stakeholders for an improved revision of the SPANB. IEC activities.**

The projects and activities implemented by CPDRN-NGO over the last three years are as follows:

Project/Activity	Technical and funding partners	CPDRN-NGO contribution (US\$)	Amount sought (US\$)	Total amount (US\$)
PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) Study for capacity building of private and community tree farmers in Benin (2021 – 2022)	ITTO	24 200	65 000	89 200
Support project for producing the sixth national report on biodiversity assessment (2020)	CDB		9000	9000
Diffusion du nouveau cadre mondial Kuming-Montréal et consultation des acteurs nationaux pour une meilleure révision de la SPANB (2023)	CEBIOS		10 472	10 472

CPDRN-NGO budget (US\$)

Budget	Years		
	2022	2021	2020
Personnel	24000	14000	
Sub-contracting	13500	33500	9000
Duty travel	4200	3200	
Missions	2500	5500	
Consumables	2000	3500	
Sub-total	46 200	59 700	9000
Grand total	114 900		

Annex 1 b Profile of the Executing Agency

Name: General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC)

Postal address: BP : 393 COTONOU (Rep. of Benin)

Tel.: (229) 95450724, E-mail : foretsbenin@yahoo.fr; lokossou@yahoo.fr

Established by decree n° 2428 of the Governor of French West Africa (FWA) of 23 July 1938, the Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting became the General Directorate of Forests and Natural Resources (DGFRN) in 2006 by decree 2006-460 of 07 September 2006 on the Responsibilities, Organization and Functioning of the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Nature (MEPN), and the General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC) in June 2015 through law N° 2015-20 of 19 June 2015 establishing the special status of personnel from the public security forces and associated units. Its main mission is to ensure the protection, production and valorization of forest resources (soil, water, flora, fauna) in order to make the forest sector a source of increased social benefit and added value to the national economy within the framework established in the Water, Forest and Hunting Program (PEFC), which is one of the five major programs of the Ministry in charge of forests, the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development (MCVDD). From an institutional point of view, the DGEFC is responsible for implementing the national forest policy. As such, the DGEFC is responsible for carrying out exclusive and non-exclusive missions.

The DGEFC's exclusive missions include:

- **Development and implementation monitoring of policies, strategies and development programs in the forestry sector;**
- **Coordination, planning and monitoring & evaluation in the forestry sector;**
- **Development and monitoring of forestry and wildlife-related legislation and regulations;**
- **Development of management plans for Government-owned gazetted estates;**
- **Validation of management plans and other tools for the management of protected areas;**
- **Administration and monitoring of management plan implementation in Government-owned gazetted estates;**
- **Orientation, definition, monitoring and control of public and private actors involved in natural resource management and related roles;**
- **Monitoring of international and regional conventions and agreements ratified in the field of forests and wildlife;**
- **Facilitation of intersectoral consultation framework involving all forestry sector stakeholders;**
- **Organization and implementation of forestry enforcement forces;**
- **Development and implementation monitoring of sustainable funding strategy in the forestry sector;**
- **Collection of taxes and fees on natural resources in compliance with the finance law terms and other law and regulations;**
- **Implementation of all specific missions allocated to Water, Forests and Hunting staff corps as part of the Public Security Forces and related bodies.**

Non-exclusive missions include:

- **Implementation of policies, strategies and development programs in the forestry sector;**
- **Participation in implementation of water and soil conservation and management-related work;**
- **Implementation of communication strategy for promoting behavioral change in connection with all other authorized structures;**

- **Implementation of international conventions and agreements ratified in the field of forests and wildlife;**
- **Implementation of sustainable funding strategy in the forestry sector;**
- **Promotion of reforestation and support and guidance for local communities and private actors in the fields of forest, wildlife and natural resources sustainable management.**

At the central level, the DGEFC is based on a General Secretariat, a General Inspectorate of Forest Services (IGSF), a Cabinet of the DGEFC and six Technical Departments:.

The DGEFC has a staff of 592 forestry and hunting civil servants (paramilitary) and 178 civilian civil servants working at central level, in decentralized structures, in Projects/Programs and in supervised Centers and Offices.

N°	List of projects and programmes	Specific Objectives	Starting Date	Planned Completion Date	Dotation 2017 (FCFA million)	Funding Sources
4	PAGEFCOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for the implementation and monitoring of communal plantation - Support the establishment of wildlife ranches - Promote the blue economy - Support for the development of Simplified Development and Management Plans for reforestation ar 	June 2017	June 2024	6 900 500	FAD and GEF: 6 180 470 BN : 720 230
	Gazetted Forests-Benin Project Bénin (PFC-BENIN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the operational capacity of the forestry administration - Developpement of agroforestry methodologies - Protection of high value conservation areas; - Development of large-scale energy wood and timber plantations to address the increasing demand in Benin's main (Cotonou, Abomey-Calavi and Porto-Novo); - Development of the honey value chain to provide forest communities with alternative incomes and thus reduce human pressure on Classified Forests 	01/10/2019	30/11/2026	41 500 000	BN: 7 000 000 IDA: 34 500 000
	National program for biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest and land management (PNCBGDE FT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen the institutional, technical and organizational capacities of the various stakeholders in the forestry sector for the sustainable management of agricultural land and biodiversity. - Intensive reforestation and sustainable management of fragile ecosystems and community biodiversity conservation areas - Ensure the sustainable management of agricultural land and promote agroforestry to ensure the resilience of the human system to the adverse effects of climate change. - Strengthen the institutional, technical and organizational capacities of the various stakeholder. 	03/01/2022	31/12/2026	43 200 000	BN: 43 200 000

Annex 2. CV of key personnel provided by the Executing Agency

CV of Project Coordinator

Name: Mr. K. Séverin NSIA

For over thirty (30) years, Mr. K. Séverin NSIA, Engineer Officer, Senior Water, Forests and Hunting Keeper, has worked in the areas of environment and forest resource management, land-use planning and local development. He has been a senior technical executive in the management of projects and programs as well as in public administration. He has sound knowledge of the principles and procedures for managing projects funded by technical and financial partners, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, *Coopération Suisse*, the Netherlands, UNDP and the European Union. He has capitalized on his proven experience in the preparation of policy, strategy and project and program design documents. His areas of expertise can be grouped into four categories:

Category 1 experience: Permanent positions within projects/programs and public administration structures.

From 1988 to 1996: Area manager (Atacora department) on the "Multi-purpose tree planting project (**Financing: UNSO/UNDP**) and the Participatory natural forests and village reforestation development project for carbon reduction (**financing: GEF-UNDP**).

From 2002 to 2004: Recruited as a forestry expert, Mr NSIA assumed the responsibilities of Head of the Bantè branch in the Agoua, Monts Kouffé and Wari Maro (PAMF) Forest Management Project, **funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB)**.

From 2016 to 2018: Director General of Water-Forests and Hunting concurrently with the functions of Coordinator of the Forest Management and Adjacent Zones Project (**World Bank funding**), National Coordinator of the Support Project for the Preservation and Development of Gallery Forests and Production of Digital Base Map (**PAPDFGO**) **EU/UNDP funding**.

From April 2022 to January 2023: **Coordinator for** Pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin" funded by ITTO.

Category 2 experiences: Studies, design and assessment of projects and programs.

2019: Team leader in the development of progress made in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans for the achievement of the Aichi targets in Benin (contribution to the compilation of the national report). Study commissioned by the CERF, focal point of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

From 2017 to 2018, as Director General of Water, Forests and Hunting, Mr. NSIA coordinated the diagnostic study conducted by the international consultant (recruited by the World Bank) on the management status of gazetted forests in Benin. This study was used as a basis for the development of the Benin Gazetted Forests Project, funded by the World Bank. (**PAD**). **Funding by the World Bank.**

2018: Support for the development of the coastal and mangrove ecosystem restoration project with FAO support through the funding of project TCP/BEN/3502: Restoration of the mangrove ecosystems at the RAMSAR 1017 site.

Category 3 experiences: Development of sectoral policy and strategy documents.

2018: Support with updating the National Forest Policy with a new forest tax and forest code. **RECASEB, European Union Funding.**

2017-2018: Coordination of the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the sustainable management of mangroves ecosystems in Benin. This strategy was developed as part of project TCP/BEN/3502: Restoration of the mangrove ecosystems at the RAMSAR 1017 site, funded by the FAO.

Category 4 experiences: Training and capacity building

2010-2015: International technical assistance for capacity building of local organizations and local elected officials in the field of natural resources management within the framework of the implementation of the **Fatick** Integrated Development Program (**Senegal**) **funded by the Belgian General Directorate for Development.**

I hereby certify that the above information is accurate and verifiable.

Cotonou, 2 March 2024



Mr. K. Séverin NSIA

Annex 3. Tasks and responsibilities of key experts provided by the Executing Agency

Experts in charge	Tasks and responsibilities
Project coordinator (Forestry Engineer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for coordinating all project activities according to developed work plan; • In charge of Executing Agency; • In charge of project administration; • In charge of liaising with ITTO through progress reports on project implementation; • In charge of liaising with collaborating entities; • Report to DGEFC and Technical Support Committee on project activity progress, • Authorize disbursements
Project monitoring & evaluation assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Coordinator with project management tasks, • Develop the detailed project plan; • Conduct the monitoring/evaluation of project implementation • Compile the terms of reference and monitor the procurement process • Monitor the conduct of studies, • Ensure communication with, and raising awareness of, stakeholders, • Prepare the project final technical report, including summary of studies and developed project proposal attached as an annex.
Administrative and financial assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Coordinator with secretarial tasks; • Enter, edit, file and store the project-related documents; • Manage the Coordinator's phone calls; • Manage the work schedule of the Coordinator; • Edit the minutes of meetings chaired by the Coordinator • Designs the media for recording project accounting and financial transactions; • Record all project accounting operations; • Develop the project cashflow plan; • Prepare all documents to be used for auditing project accounts.
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement project at local level; • Coach project beneficiaries; • Monitor and assist consultants; • Produce monthly activity reports; • Report all situations and issues arising in the course of project implementation; • Participate in monthly meetings.

Annex 4. Terms of reference of personnel and consultants funded by ITTO

Experts to be recruited	Experience	Tasks and responsibilities
National consultants in charge of developing simple management plans	Master level foresters with at least 10 years' experience. Proven experience in drafting development and management plans for forests and forest plantations. Good capacity in drafting and communication, Good command of participatory approach Good knowledge of forestry-related regulations/law in Benin	Based on studies previously conducted for pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft a summary of the state of 55 selected forest plantations - Propose a forest plantation zoning, including adjacent land; - Develop simple management plans for forest plantations based on a participatory approach, - Develop management plans for each forest plantation - Develop monitoring and evaluation plans for each forest plantation - Hold workshops for consultation and adoption of proposed forest plantation zoning plan, - Hold workshops for adoption of simple management plans, including management and monitoring plans, and reflect improvements made by participants.
National consultant in socio-economics for valorization of NTFPs in forest plantations	Master-level foresters, agro-economics/socio-economics engineer with at least 10 year experience. Proven experience in drafting agro-/socio-economics studies. Good knowledge in micro-credit for promoting IGAs. Good knowledge of organization methods in rural areas. Good ability in drafting and communication. Good command of participatory approach.	Based on studies previously conducted for pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select potential IGAs for technical and financial support at the level of populations for reducing pressure on forest resources, based on established criteria - Assess the organization level of communities regarding each type of selected IGAs - Identify and assess needs in capacity building for promoting selected IGAs - Propose operating accounts for each type of selected IGA - Submit conducted study to validation workshop and reflect improvements made by participants
National consultant in charge of boundary delimiting and demarcation in 55 forest plantations (demarcation markers and planting)	NGOs, consulting firm with at least 3-year experience in forest delimiting and demarcation work implemented following a participatory approach with grassroots communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the boundaries of selected forest plantations - Demarcate FPs with local stakeholders - Delimit the boundaries using concrete and trees based on a participatory approach - Produce detailed map of each FS based on agreed format and scale
Consultant in charge of developing technical itineraries for main forest tree species planted	Master level forester/silviculturalist with at least 10-year experience. Proven experience in reforestation and forest plantations. Proven experience in operating forest tree species nurseries Good ability in drafting and communication. Good command of participatory approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop technical itineraries for main forest tree species planted, from seed collection, nurseries, and planting to forest plantation maintenance - Include sufficient illustrations in technical itinerary briefs; - Take into account endogenous practices for forest plantations
Consultant in charge of developing the Organization Guide	Forester with experience in organizing national reforestation campaigns and National Days of Trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define the various steps and activities for organizing the "Best Tree Farmer" game contest - Develop the standard planning for organizing the "Best Tree Farmers" game contest - Assess the costs of activities

Experts to be recruited	Experience	Tasks and responsibilities
for the “Best Tree Farmers” contest	Proven experience in monitoring and evaluation of forest plantations.	- Determine the procedure, criteria and selection and assessment scoring schedules for tree farmers participating in the “Best Tree Farmers” game contest

Annex 5: Selection criteria for plantations eligible for potential project support

Private and community plantations with a surface area of at least 3.46 ha were identified in the project area and numbered 64 in total. However, not all of these plantations will benefit from project support. The selection criteria for plantations eligible for project support are based on two important considerations: the initial criteria adopted during the methodological scoping meeting, and the criteria relating to *ITTO Guidelines for the establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests*.

1. Initial selection criteria

The initial selection criteria include:

To select only forest tree species (Teak, *Gmelina arborea*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Eucalyptus* spp.) and other indigenous species (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Khaya senegalensis*, etc.), to be planted in monoculture plantations and mixed plantations. Fruit tree plantations (mango tree, cashew nut tree, palm tree, coconut tree, citrus fruit trees, etc.) will be excluded.

Plantations with a minimum surface area of between 5 and 10 ha. However, preparatory selection work conducted using the available database will make it possible to specify the minimum area threshold. Further to preparatory work and collected field data, and considering the small number of plantations with a surface area of at least 4 ha, a minimum area of 3.46 ha was selected.

Plantations to be managed as permanent coppice forest or high stand forests.

Large-scale firewood plantations with the possibility of rotating annual harvesting in plots.

2. Other criteria considered for plantation selection

Confirmation of 4 ha minimum surface area

To ensure appropriate management plans and appropriate plot distribution, the minimum area should be 4 ha with four plots for a four-year rotation, including management for permanent wood energy production.

Taking into account young plantations

Young plantations will be prioritized for support to be provided. As a result, only plantations between one and 20 years old will be taken into account.

Priority given to community plantations

A large number of people benefit from community plantations. Community plantations will be prioritized for support to be provided in order to impact the largest number of beneficiaries.

3. Objective for plantation owners

The objective to be achieved by plantation owners is decisive for the long-term maintenance of plantations. To this end, only plantations whose objectives are the production of timber, utility wood and, to a limited extent, energy wood, will be taken into account. Objectives such as vegetation cover restoration or soil protection can quickly be changed. In any case, good plantation management will take into account both production and soil protection objectives. Unfortunately, two plantations will be eliminated based on this criterion. However, the restoration objective set for the plantation of a religious community should not change. Consequently, only one plantation with this objective will be eliminated.

Number of potential plantations benefiting from project support

On the basis of the above-mentioned criteria, 55 plantations out of the 64, i.e. 86% of the plantations, have been selected to benefit from project support, as follows:

- Twelve (12) plantations holding land deeds;
- One plantation only with a management tool;

- Three (3) plantations meet the management plan criteria;
- Twenty-six (26) will be provided with simple management plans;
- Twenty (26) (*sic*) meet the management technical sheet criteria.

The list of plantations is included in annex.

To ensure that plantations benefiting from support will be managed based on science, some support aspects should comply *with ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests*.

4. Taking into account the *ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests* (in part)

The *ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests* are the international reference standard established by ITTO to facilitate the development of more specific guidelines at the national level for the establishment and rational management of planted tropical forests for timber production and other purposes (ITTO 1993).

In the context of the present study, secure tenure for plantation land, provision of plantation management tools, and plantation economic monitoring are important aspects.

5. Taking into account tenure security

According to Principle 2 of the *ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted tropical forests*, "Any large-scale plantation scheme must incorporate provisions to meet address the needs for site conservation and protection of the environment, customary and statutory land rights and the subsistence needs of local communities." In accordance with Principle 15, the principles and recommended actions outlined in these guidelines can only be implemented if there is secure and long-term tenure of the land.

6. Taking into account management plans

Plantations will be provided with management tools. "The plantation management plan should form the basis for all action and forecasts for sustainable management. It should cover at least the full initial rotation and provide a systematic framework from which the forest manager can prepare a detailed management plan. The latter document should outline the operations that have to be carried out, the resources required to undertake them and the time scale involved." (Guidelines, Principle 48). The aim is to provide selected plantations with management tools in line with national laws and regulations (management plans, simple management plans or technical management sheets).

7. Taking into account plantation economic monitoring

"Management of planted forests for timber and other benefits can only be sustained in the long-term if it is economically viable. Thus, monitoring the economic performance of the forest is an essential component of sustainable and research-based management." (Guidelines, Principle 53).

To this end, support will be given to tree farmers for establishing in plantations a system for continuous and comprehensive collection of detailed data on all costs and benefits associated with planted forests (Guidelines, Recommended Action 56).

Annex 6. Recommendations by the 49th Expert Panel

PD 941/24 (F)

Capacity Building for Private and Community Tree Farmers in Relation with the Sustainable Management of Forest Plantations in Southern Benin

Assessment by the Fifty-ninth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal, which is derived from the results and findings of the completed pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) "*Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin*", to contribute to strengthening the capacities of private tree farmers in southern Benin with a view to improving their living conditions and providing them with professional skills. As general comment, there is a need to use the scientific names of the timber and fruit species to be planted during the project implementation.

However, the Panel noted that there was still a need for improvement on some Sections and Sub-sections of the project proposal dealing with: (1) Project brief missing the percentages allocated to personnel and capital items impact; (2) Many relevant abbreviations and acronyms (CBD, CITES, FAO, FLR, etc.) are not included in the list of abbreviations and acronyms; (3) Map with non-appropriate scale for showing main access roads to the project target area; (4) Need to provide in Sub-section 1.3.2 adequate social and demographic data on the resident population in the project target area; (5) Most expected outcomes at project completion are not formulated in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation; (6) Activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (7) There is no clear baseline (data and/or year) to be considered for comparative analysis regarding the long-term changes/effects to be derived from the project implementation; (8) There is no description in the Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods) on how possible problems related to women's participation in the project will be solved; (9) Work Plan table with activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (10) Master Budget table with activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (11) There is a need to readjust the Budget by Components tables because of the activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (12) Technical-related sustainability of the project not described in the Sub-section 3.5.2; (13) There is a need to include the project coordinator, as observer and secretary of the project steering committee (PSC); (14) There is a need to move the Project Organization Chart from Annex 1 to the right Sub-section in the core part of the document; (15) There is no explanation on how the project results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans; (16) There are no details on the project Executing Agency past experience and capabilities in correlation with this project, while the profile of the project Collaborating Agency is missing in Annex 1.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Improve the Project brief by adding a paragraph with the percentages allocated to Project personnel and capital items.
2. Improve the list of abbreviations and acronyms by adding all those used in the sections and sub-sections.
3. Improve the map by replacing the current one with a map having an appropriate scale for showing main access roads to the project target area.
4. Improve the Sub-section 1.3.2 by providing appropriate social and demographic data on the resident population in the project target area.
5. Improve the Section 1.4 by reformulating most of them in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
6. For ensuring the consistency with the Objective Tree and Logical Framework Matrix, readjust the number of Activities listed under the Output 1 and Output 3 in the Sub-section 3.1.2.
7. Improve the indicators of the Development Objective by adding a clear baseline (data and/or year) to be considered for comparative analysis regarding the long-term changes/effects to be derived from the project implementation.
8. Improve the implementation approaches and methods by clearly describing how possible problems related to women's participation in the project will be solved during the project implementation.

9. Subsequent to the 6th specific recommendation, here above, readjust the Activities in the Work Plan table for Output 1 and Output 3 in consistency with the Objective Tree.
10. Improve the Sub-section 3.5.2 by clearly adding appropriate information on technical-related sustainability of the project.
11. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.3 by adding the project coordinator, as observer and secretary of the project steering committee as required by the ITTO manual for project implementation.
12. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.4 by moving the Project Organization Chart from Annex 1 to this Sub-section.
13. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.3 by adding an appropriate explanation on how the project results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans.
14. Provide details on the project Executing Agency past experience and capabilities in correlation with this project, and add the profile of the project Collaborating Agency, in Annex 1.
15. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
 - a) Revise the master budget table (by activity) in correlation with the readjusted Work Plan (refer to 8th specific recommendations, here above) and its associated activities, while complying with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation,
 - b) Add the budget tables by component for ITTO and for the Executing Agency in correlation with the revised master budget,
 - c) Readjust the budget item 81 by using the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 84 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs, while deleting the budgeted amounts for item 82 and item 83,
 - d) Calculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
16. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 59th Expert Panel and 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 incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

Annex 7. Specific recommendations by the 59th Expert Panel and resulting amendments

Assessment by the Fifty-ninth Panel	Resulting amendments
A) <u>Overall Assessment</u>	
<p>The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal, which is derived from the results and findings of the completed pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) “<i>Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin</i>”, to contribute to strengthening the capacities of private tree farmers in southern Benin with a view to improving their living conditions and providing them with professional skills. As general comment, there is a need to use the scientific names of the timber and fruit species to be planted during the project implementation.</p> <p>However, the Panel noted that there was still a need for improvement on some Sections and Sub-sections of the project proposal dealing with: (1) Project brief missing the percentages allocated to personnel and capital items impact; (2) Many relevant abbreviations and acronyms (CBD, CITES, FAO, FLR, etc.) are not included in the list of abbreviations and acronyms; (3) Map with non-appropriate scale for showing main access roads to the project target area; (4) Need to provide in Sub-section 1.3.2 adequate social and demographic data on the resident population in the project target area; (5) Most expected outcomes at project completion are not formulated in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation; (6) Activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (7) There is no clear baseline (data and/or year) to be considered for comparative analysis regarding the long-term changes/effects to be derived from the project implementation; (8) There is no description in the Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods) on how possible problems related to women's participation in the project will be solved; (9) Work Plan table with activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (10) Master Budget table with activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (11) There is a need to readjust the Budget by Components tables because of the activities listed under Output 1 and Output 3 which are not consistent with the Objective Tree; (12) Technical-related sustainability of the project not described in the Sub-section 3.5.2; (13) There is a need to include the project coordinator, as observer and secretary of the project steering committee (PSC); (14) There is a need to move the Project Organization Chart from Annex 1 to the right Sub-section in the core part of the document; (15) There is no explanation on how the project results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans; (16) There are no details on the project Executing Agency past experience and capabilities in correlation with this project, while the profile of the project Collaborating Agency is missing in Annex 1</p>	<p>The required amendments were reflected throughout the project document (all changes were highlighted in bold and underlined).</p>
B) <u>Specific Recommendations</u>	
1. Improve the Project brief by adding a paragraph with the percentages allocated to Project personnel and capital items.;	Percentages allocated to project personnel and investment components (capital items) were included in page 3.
2. Improve the list of abbreviations and acronyms by adding all those used in the sections and sub-sections	See the list of abbreviations and acronyms in pages 4 and 5.
3. Improve the map by replacing the current one with a map having an appropriate scale for showing main access roads to the project target area.	See the new map showing requested changes in page 13.
4. Improve the Sub-section 1.3.2 by providing appropriate social and demographic data on the resident population in the project target area.	See improved Sub-section 1.3.2 in page 11.

5. Improve the Section 1.4 by reformulating most of them in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation	Section 1.4 was improved by reformulating most of the outcomes in page 14.
6. For ensuring the consistency with the Objective Tree and Logical Framework Matrix, readjust the number of Activities listed under the Output 1 and Output 3 in the Sub-section 3.1.2.	For ensuring consistency with the Objective Tree and the Logical Framework Matrix the number of Activities listed under the Output 1 and Output 3 in the Sub-section 3.1.2 was readjusted. See pages 23, 24 and 25.
7. Improve the indicators of the Development Objective by adding a clear baseline (data and/or year) to be considered for comparative analysis regarding the long-term changes/effects to be derived from the project implementation	The indicators of the Development Objective were improved by adding a baseline. See pages 23 and 24.
8. Improve the implementation approaches and methods by clearly describing how possible problems related to women's participation in the project will be solved during the project implementation	The strategy for women's participation in the project is described in page 27.
9. Subsequent to the 6 th specific recommendation, here above, readjust the Activities in the Work Plan table for Output 1 and Output 3 in consistency with the Objective Tree	The Output 1 and Output 3 Activities in the Work Plan table were made consistent with the Objective Tree (see page 28 and following).
10. Improve the Sub-section 3.5.2 by clearly adding appropriate information on technical-related sustainability of the project.	Sub-section 3.5.2 was improved by adding a paragraph describing project technical sustainability. See page 44.
11. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.3 by adding the project coordinator, as observer and secretary of the project steering committee as required by the ITTO manual for project implementation	The project coordinator was added to the Project Steering Committee as observer and secretary. See page 45.
12. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.4 by moving the Project Organization Chart from Annex 1 to this Sub-section	The Project Organization Chart was moved and inserted in Sub-section 4.1.4. See page 47.
13. Improve the Sub-section 4.1.3 by adding an appropriate explanation on how the project results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans	An explanation on how the project results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans was added in Sub-section 4.1.3. See page 45.
14. Provide details on the project Executing Agency past experience and capabilities in correlation with this project, and add the profile of the project Collaborating Agency, in Annex 1	The profile of the Project Executing Agency was added in Annex 1b.
15. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations, and also in the following way: a) Revise the master budget table (by activity) in correlation with the readjusted Work Plan (refer to 8 th specific recommendations, here above) and its associated activities, while complying with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation, b) Add the budget tables by component for ITTO and for the Executing Agency in correlation with the revised master budget, c) Readjust the budget item 81 by using the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 84 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs, while deleting the budgeted amounts for item 82 and item 83, d) Calculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and	The ITTO budget was amended based on the overall assessment and specific recommendations. See page 40. The master budget schedule (by activity) was amended in correlation with the readjusted Work Plan. See pages 29-42.
16. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 59 th Expert Panel and respective	<u>See this table in pages 60, 61, 62.</u>

modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.