

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION

ITTO

PROJECT PROPOSAL

TITLE:	CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF <i>PTEROCARPUS ERINACEUS</i> AND <i>AFZELIA AFRICANA</i> IN BENIN
SERIAL NUMBER:	PD 947/25 (I)
COMMITTEE:	FOREST INDUSTRY
SUBMITTED BY:	GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN
ORIGINAL LANGUAGE:	FRENCH

SUMMARY

Pterocarpus erinaceus and *Afzelia africana* are two of the local timber species most in demand, and currently in danger of extinction in their natural habitat due to strong anthropic pressure and overlogging aggravated by the growing demand for their timber. In addition, due to lack of awareness of the risks of wildfire, encroachment on forest lands for farming, and the uncontrolled logging of both species, *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia Africana* are in danger of becoming extinct nationwide, with major economic and environmental impacts. Further to the CITES Appendix II-listing of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in 2016, the entire genus of *Afzelia* was also listed in CITES Appendix II in 2022. Despite the country's interest for these multipurpose species, Benin lacks up-to-date information on their availability; the extent of threats faced by both species; and their economic importance necessary for ensuring their sustainable management. As a precautionary measure, the Government of Benin has imposed a logging ban for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia Africana*, in view of the lack of essential information required for decision-making and of the low level of threat awareness. The project aims to provide necessary information and to raise awareness for ensuring the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia africana* in Benin. The project specific objectives are to (i) collect necessary information for developing Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia africana*; (ii) implement restoration interventions; and (iii) raise awareness among stakeholders. Project expected outputs are as follows: i) updated ecological and socio-economic data on *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia africana* is available in Benin; ii) Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) is available for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Afzelia africana*; and iii) awareness raising and conservation activities have been conducted.

EXECUTING AGENCY: INITIATIVE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE-NGO
(ONG INITIATIVE POUR LA PRÉSERVATION DE LA VIE)

COLLABORATING AGENCY GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING
(DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC)

DURATION: 24 MONTHS

PROPOSED BUDGET AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES:

SOURCE	CONTRIBUTION IN \$US
ITTO	177,794
BENIN	60,601
TOTAL	238,395

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PROJECT BRIEF

1. Context and issues to be addressed

The study on the status of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* was carried out by the DGEFC between 2020 and 2022 with the support of the CITES-ITTO program, and supplemented by the literature review on both species, showed that there were constraints on their sustainable management, as follows:

- Lack of up-to-date data on the logging and trade of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*;
- Lack of Non-Detriment Findings essential for determining harvesting quotas and ensuring the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* and their habitats; and
- Insufficient conservation efforts for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*.

All these constraints are compounded by the degradation of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* habitats. As the scarcity of fertile land intensifies, local populations are increasingly turning to new land, particularly in gazetted forests that constitute nowadays the main areas of occurrence of *Azelia africana* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Benin. Anthropogenic pressures on the latter protected areas are contributing to the degradation of potential habitats for the conservation of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*. As a result of severe degradation due to the destruction of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* populations by farming, logging and wildfires, habitat fragmentation and a reduction in their populations have been observed. While the short-term threats are mainly selective logging, deforestation, wildfires and farming, in the long term, the reduction in population size and the lack of gene flows between populations will threaten the species' capacity for regeneration and adaptability. Priority actions must therefore be carried out with regard to communities living in the vicinity of the various forests still home to *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*.

In the absence of updated data and hands-on actions for the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, the Government of Benin has imposed strict restrictive measures since 2018 to exclude both forest tree species from all forms of logging and use, including even at national level. The project proposal has strong support from the government at the national level and is fully in line with the Government's Action Program, the fundamental objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA, 2006), and the priorities of ITTO's current strategic action plan.

Project implementation will enable Benin to meet its CITES obligations in relation to the sustainable management of CITES-listed forest tree species.

2. Objectives and impact indicators

The project "Capacity building for the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in Benin" is primarily aimed at improving knowledge on the status of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, two valuable forest tree species which are not only important for local biodiversity, but also for the people who depend on these resources. The project will therefore contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, while improving the livelihoods of local communities, thereby reducing the pressure exerted on these resources by illegal and unsustainable logging. The indicators of this objective are as follows:

- By 2030, the degradation of forest landscapes favorable to *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* growth in Benin's gazetted forests has been reduced by at least 30%;
- At project end, *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* are strongly integrated into reforestation programs in Benin;
- At project end, Non-Detriment Findings have been produced and submitted to the CITES Secretariat.

3. Beneficiaries, and expected results, outcomes and outputs

Project main beneficiaries will be: the CITES Scientific Authority; the CITES Management Authority; the Forest Management Technical Unit (CTAF) in charge of gazetted forests (Sota and Goungoun) in the

project area; *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*-related private conservation initiatives; co-management structures; and local communities and populations.

The key outcomes and outputs expected at project completion include:

- The necessary studies have been carried out and the NDF document has been developed;
- The co-management structures in place are organized to implement community forestry activities (reforestation, enrichment) enabling local communities, women and youth to proactively participate in the management and restoration of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* natural populations;
- CTAF officers have been provided with support for the prevention, detection and control of illegal logging and unsustainable agroforestry practices to ensure the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*;
- Awareness-raising activities on illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and their economic, social and environmental impacts have been carried out.

4. Implementation strategy

The sustainable management of timber from natural forests requires concerted action under the supervision of the General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC), and the project will be implemented using a participatory approach involving various stakeholders.

Implementation will follow three main stages; each aimed at achieving specific results in line with project objectives:

Stage 1: Preparing and establishing project bodies—Project foundations will be laid by mobilizing local and national stakeholders.

Stage 2: Implementation of field activities— Planning and implementation of field activities.

Stage 3: Monitoring, evaluation and sustainability—In this last stage, a monitoring and evaluation system will be established to assess the effectiveness of actions, based on clear indicators (reduction of illegal logging).

Sustainable financing mechanisms will be developed to ensure the continuity of actions after project completion.

5. Project outcome sustainability

The project proposal has strong support from the government at the national level and is fully in line with the Government's Action Program, the fundamental objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA, 2006), and the priorities of ITTO's current strategic action plan.

The sustainability of the project's achievements is based on several strategic drivers and an integrated approach for ensuring long-term sustainability.

- a) Institutional capacity building for NDF development: This process will ensure the effective and sustainable management of endangered species in Benin, including beyond project completion, and ensure that restoration interventions are continued.
- b) Active involvement and autonomy of local communities: The participation of communities, including women and youth, is at the heart of project sustainability. Involving co-management structures in decision-making will ensure their long-term commitment and the ownership of activities by the direct beneficiaries.
- c) Awareness raising: It will maintain community support and also encourage the multiplication of similar initiatives on a national and regional scale.
- d) Long-term monitoring and evaluation: A robust monitoring system involving the DGEFC will be established. This mechanism will be based on adaptive management and informed decision-making to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes.

These foundations, both technical and institutional, will ensure the sustainability of project outcomes, and, as a result, the long-term management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* based on NDFs and the continuation of hands-on activities in the field.

6. Assumptions and risks

The project is based on several basic assumptions:

- Political stability and institutional support: The project assumes that national and local authorities, as well as the stakeholders involved, will continue to support the project throughout its implementation.
- Involvement of local communities: The project assumes that local communities, in particular co-management structures, women and youth, will actively participate in forest resource management and ecological restoration, which is a key factor for project sustainability.
- Availability of funding: The project is based on the assumption that necessary financial resources will be available and sufficient to cover long-term implementation costs.
- Commitment of local authorities to maintain security: The assumption is that the authorities responsible for security will implement adequate measures to ensure safety in the project area, particularly in sensitive areas.

Potential risks

- Security situation:
 - High risk of disruption to project activities—Attacks by unidentified individuals occur in the northern part of Benin. Security incidents may affect the progress of activities, particularly in rural and remote areas, making access to the site difficult, and compromising the participation of local communities, who could be directly affected by such violence.
 - Impact on personnel and resources—Security tensions can endanger project personnel, including local government officials and community members, reducing their ability to work in the field.
- Political instability and internal tensions—Although Benin enjoys relative political stability, internal tensions or changes in government priorities may reduce the commitment of local and national authorities to supporting the project. This could also affect the allocation of resources needed for project implementation.
- Illegal logging—Despite awareness-raising and surveillance efforts, illegal logging of forest resources could persist, undermining efforts to restore and sustainably manage *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*. Impunity for perpetrators remains a major challenge, particularly in sensitive areas where law enforcement is limited.
- Unforeseen climate change—The impacts of climate change can evolve unpredictably, making certain aspects of the project, such as ecosystem restoration or water resource management, more complex or costly to implement. Extreme climatic events, such as prolonged droughts or floods, could slow down or compromise outcomes.
- Land tenure conflicts and community resistance—In some areas, land tenure conflicts or cultural resistance to forest management practices may emerge, hindering local community support and the implementation of restoration actions. Managing these conflicts requires a sensitive and inclusive approach.
- Logistical problems of access to the field—In an unstable security context, difficulties of access to project areas, particularly for field teams and the equipment needed for surveillance, can limit the effectiveness of actions undertaken, and delay implementation deadlines.

Risk mitigation measures

To minimize these risks, several mitigation measures will be implemented:

- Collaboration with security authorities—Close partnerships with the security forces will be established to guarantee the safety of personnel and resources in case of need.
- Ongoing planning and adaptation—The project will include adaptive management, enabling adjustments to be made based on the security, climatic and socio-economic circumstances. Regular monitoring of local risks and tensions will be carried out to adjust actions accordingly.
- Reinforcement of monitoring systems—The use of new monitoring technologies (such as drones or GPS systems) will be reinforced to monitor high-risk areas, and for early detection of illegal logging and potential threats.
- Ongoing awareness-raising and dialogue with communities—Ongoing dialogue with local communities will be maintained, to strengthen their participation and ensure that the actions undertaken address their needs and realities, thus minimizing the risk of local resistance.

These assumptions and risks will be carefully considered and integrated into the project management strategies to ensure success and sustainability in the face of security and environmental challenges.

7. Budget inputs

SOURCES	CONTRIBUTION IN US\$
ITTO	177 794
Benin	60 601
TOTAL	238 395

Designation	Calculation formula	Percentages
Percentage allocated to project personnel funded by ITTO	$(32400/177794) \times 100$	18.22%
Percentage allocated to project investment items (capital goods)	$(8700/177794) \times 100$	4.89%

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronyms	:	Full name
CBD	:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CITES	:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CTAF	:	Forest Management Technical Cell (<i>Cellule Technique d'Aménagement Forestier</i>)
DGEFC	:	General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (<i>Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse</i>)
EA	:	Executing Agency
GF	:	Gazetted Forest
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
Ha	:	Hectare
IGA	:	Incomes Generating Activities
IPS	:	Improved Production Systems
ITTA	:	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTC	:	International Tropical Timber Council
ITTO	:	International Tropical Timber Organization
MCVT	:	Ministry of Living Environment and Transportation in charge of Sustainable Development (<i>Ministère du Cadre de Vie et des Transports en charge du Développement Durable</i>)
NDF	:	Non-Detrimental Findings
ONG	:	NGO
PAG	:	Government's Actions Programme
PSC	:	Project Steering Committee
RGPH4	:	General Census, 4th edition
TFPs	:	Technical and Financial Partners
ToR	:	Terms of Reference
TSC	:	Technical Scientific Committee

PART 1: PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1. Origin

In July 2024, the NGO Initiative for the Preservation of Life (IPV- ONG) submitted a concept note to conduct studies with the support of the DGEFC aimed at developing a Non-Detriment Findings for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in Benin, and a project proposal for the sustainable management of both forest tree species. The concept note was approved by the ITTO Secretariat and developed into a full project proposal with an increased budget based on resources made available.

Forest resources cover 65% of Benin's territory (around 73,450 km²). For several decades, they have been undergoing severe degradation under the combined effect of demographic pressure and the adverse effects of climate change. As a result, there was an uncontrolled expansion of farming and cattle herding areas and of practices harmful to the sustainable management of natural resources (shifting cultivation, over logging, etc.), and soil impoverishment. Between 1990 and 2015, around 70,000 ha of forests were destroyed each year for farming, hunting, cattle herding and timber harvesting activities. The high population density in the south of the country has resulted in intense land use, and forests have become very scarce as a result. Only a few forest formations subject to less anthropic pressure remain in the northern area, where development is underway.

Developing Non-Detriment Findings for forest tree species listed in the CITES Appendices has become a requirement for ensuring their sustainable utilization. However, developing Non-Detriment Findings is a complex and sensitive procedure requiring the collection and use of up-to-date data. Specific studies will therefore be carried out to collect data for processing and analysis. Restoration interventions and promotion activities will be carried out for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in target Gazetted Forests and privately owned conservation areas.

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 valuable timber species. In practical terms, it will organize local populations to implement activities that will contribute to the conservation of forest resources. The project will also initiate local development activities aimed at engaging local communities towards project objectives.

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 carry out restoration interventions in target forests through reforestation and enrichment work. The project will also facilitate the establishment of buffer zones and of firewood and timber plantations with indigenous species in line with the needs of local populations.

p. "Promoting access to, and transfer of, technologies and technical cooperation to implement the objectives of this Agreement, including on concessional and preferential terms and conditions, as mutually agreed"—The project will use artificial intelligence (AI) and new technologies (such as drones) to enhance the conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems.

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":

In addition, this project is fully in line with the *ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests*, in particular Principle 9: Biodiversity considerations at the forest management unit level, which states that an effective forest management process, in which economic, social and environmental objectives are balanced with societal needs and priorities, is essential to define and achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use goals.

The project is in line with the *ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics* and is structured around the six-forest landscape restoration (FLR) principles developed by the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

1.2.1.1. Conformity with ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026

This project is in line with Strategic Priority 3: Resilience, restoration and conservation, which aims to curb deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics, strengthen the restoration of forest landscapes and the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change, and conserve forest biodiversity and ecosystem services. In the short and medium term, this project will help to reduce forest degradation by implementing sustainable management tools. This priority will aim to enhance and promote ITTO's role in reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics, and in contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as forest landscape restoration.

1.2.1.2. ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW)

Gender equality is a human rights issue and a core value of ITTO. The project will commit to mainstreaming gender considerations and improving the project's gender equality performance throughout its project work.

In accordance with *ITTO Guidelines for Project-related Gender Analyses and ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women*, gender issues mainstreaming will be ensured throughout the project cycle. Gender equality will be addressed in all phases of the project cycle, including project formulation, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation.

1.2.1.3. ITTO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESIA)

This project complies with Principle 1: Environmental sustainability, which encompasses the essential functions provided by forest ecosystems, including soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration and disaster risk reduction, as well as the values of forest biodiversity. In line with Sustainable Development Goal 15 and Global Forest Goals 2 and 3, this project is committed to conserving, maintaining and, where possible, restoring forest ecosystem services, conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, and preserving and enhancing the health and vitality of forest resources in the project area.

The project is also in line with Principle 2: Social Sustainability. Social sustainability has taken into account the needs of individual populations, households, communities, workers and other societal groups dependent on forest resources and who are likely to be affected (positively and negatively) by the project. The project will maintain and enhance the socio-economic benefits and opportunities derived from forests, support job creation and decent and healthy working conditions, and preserve the natural and cultural heritage.

Based on the *ITTO Environmental and Social Screening Checklist Questionnaire*, as annexed to the *ITTO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines*, the project was rated Category C: minimal or no risk.

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:

The project is in line with the vision stated in Benin's Forest Policy for 2021-2030, which states that "By 2030, Benin should be a green country where natural and forest resources are managed in a sustainable manner with the aim of conserving biodiversity, alleviating poverty and combating climate change and desertification". Expected project outcomes are in line with Strategic Objective 2.1: Support the sustainable management of forests and natural areas; and Strategic Objective 2.2: Enhance the value of forest resources to contribute to the local economy.

The project is also fully in line with Benin's new forest policy, legislative and regulatory instruments, current national strategies and sectoral action plans, as well as the Government's–Action Program (*Programme d'Actions du Gouvernement*, PAG). Benin's forest resource management policy is based on a participatory approach to the management of natural forest and wildlife resources, involving local populations in the sustainable management of protected areas. It advocates strengthening the technical, logistical and operational capacities of stakeholders. It also aims to conserve the various environmental, economic and social functions of forest and wildlife stands, while organizing resource management in a manner consistent with farming and cattle herding development strategies. The project will provide an opportunity to implement certain aspects of Benin's national policy. The project will serve as a framework to help achieve action 4 of the PAG 2021-2026, which aims to improve the well-being of all and preserve the environment.

The project will also contribute to addressing the strategic policies which Benin has endorsed at international level through the ratification of several conventions, environment-related agreements and initiatives. *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* are both CITES Appendix II-listed species, and require as such the development of NDFs, to which project outcomes will greatly contribute. As a precautionary measure, Benin has imposed a strict ban on all *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* logging, including for domestic consumption. The project will therefore provide the country with up-to-date data for decision-making and the development of a conservation and sustainable logging plan for both species.

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 commitments pertaining to forest resource conservation.

1.3. Target area

1.3.1. Geographical location

The project will be implemented in Benin. Benin is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso and Niger, to the east by Nigeria, to the west by Togo and to the south by the Atlantic Ocean, with a 120-kilometer coastline. Geographically, the region is characterized by low and even relief, with a sandy coastal strip followed by the two zones forming the massive Atacora Plateau to the north, where all rivers have their source. There are two types of climates: in the south, a sub-equatorial climate characterized by two rainy seasons (April-July and October-November) and two dry seasons (August-September and December-March), and in the north, a tropical climate with low humidity, with one rainy season (May-

October) and one dry season (November-April). Benin is irrigated by two major basins. These are the Niger Basin and the coastal basin. The Niger Basin is irrigated by three rivers: the Mékrou, the Sota and the Alibori rivers. The coastal basin is considerably more irrigated, notably by the Ouémé, Couffo and Mono rivers. Vegetation is characterized by two components: the Sudanese region vegetation, found in the north with a wooded savannah dominated by Neré tree, Shea tree, Cailcedrat, Baobab and Kapok tree, and the degraded vegetation of southern Benin, which extends from the coast until the latitude of Setto in Zou. Administratively, Benin has 12 departments divided into 77 municipalities.

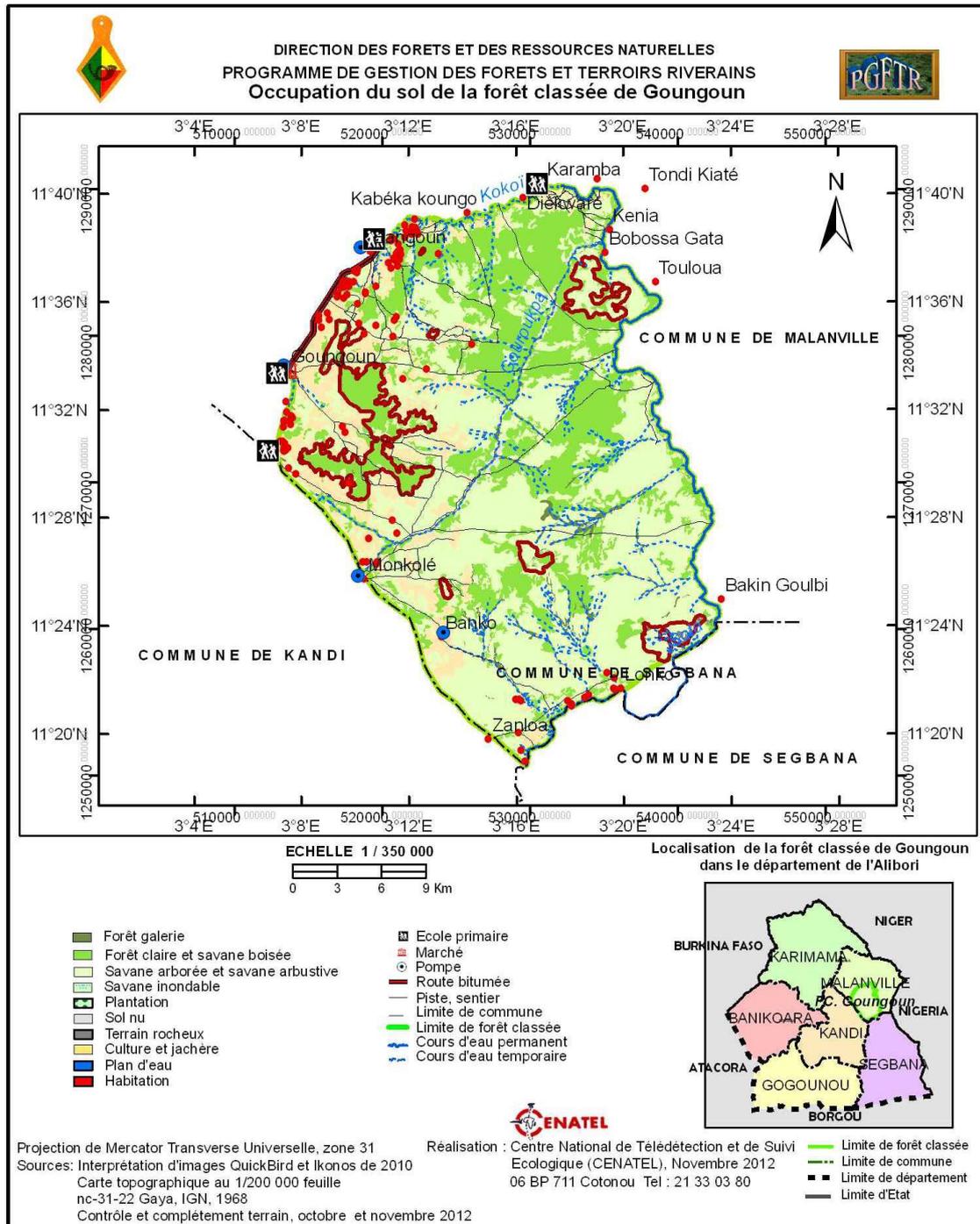


Fig. 1: Map of Goungoun gazetted forest in Benin

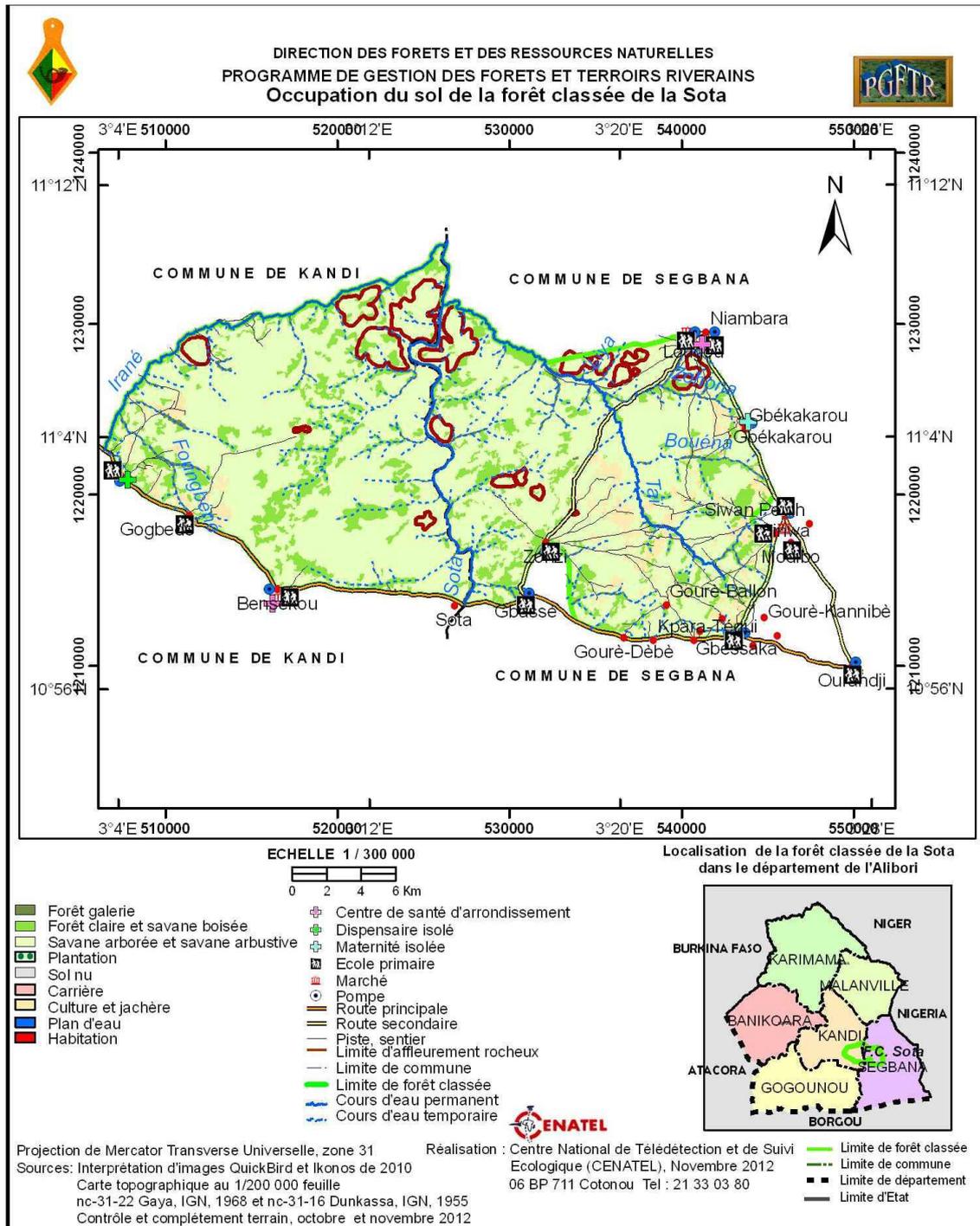


Fig. 2: Map of Sota gazetted forest in Benin

As part of the project, pilot restoration interventions will be carried out mainly in two gazetted forests, namely the Sota Gazetted Forest and the Goungoun Gazetted Forest. Both forests have been selected for reinforcing activities already planned by the DGEFC and IPV-ONG in connection with an emergency project to be implemented with the support of the Government of Japan. In addition, two private initiatives will be implemented and supported for the conservation of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in their natural environment in the Boukoussera forest, Municipality of Tchaourou, and the Adegnigon forest, Municipality of Abomey.

1.3.2. Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects

Benin is located in West Africa and has a complex socio-economic and environmental dynamics that has a direct influence on the utilization of its natural resources, including valuable forest species such as *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*. Both species are in high demand for their valuable timber and play an important economic role, but their unregulated logging presents considerable challenges for local communities and for the country's environmental sustainability.

Benin's population is estimated at 13 million (2023) and predominantly rural, as most families depend on farming for their livelihoods. The population is ethnically diverse, with groups such as the Fon, Yoruba, Adja, and Bariba, each with unique cultural practices and beliefs influencing their interaction with natural resources. Forests, specific forest tree species in particular, are sometimes perceived as sacred and of spiritual importance in many communities, which can limit their use and create opportunities for conservation. However, Benin's social challenges are significant. Although progress has been made in poverty alleviation, around 40% of the population still lives below the poverty line (World Bank, 2019), with marked disparities between urban and rural areas. Rural areas are often the most vulnerable and farming and forest product harvesting are the main sources of income. Lack of access to social services and quality education aggravates inequalities. Sustainable management of forest resources could contribute to improving the living conditions of rural populations while preserving ecosystems.

Cultural beliefs and traditions play a crucial role in the use and management of natural resources in Benin.

Benin's economy is largely based on agriculture, with products such as cotton, corn, soya and cassava as the main cash crops. However, the forestry sector is an important resource, particularly for rural populations who depend on forests for timber, firewood and other non-timber forest products.

Illegal timber trade remains a major issue, including for species such as *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, which is in high demand both locally and internationally for its remarkable properties. Unregulated exports of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* timber to foreign markets, including Asia and Europe, generate substantial revenues, but have negative impacts on forests, biodiversity and local communities that depend on this resource. According to the World Bank report (2020), ineffective management of forest resources and pressure from illegal trade are contributing to a significant loss of Benin's forests.

Benin's forest resources, including *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, are threatened by increasing pressure from deforestation, extensive farming and logging for charcoal production. The country loses around 0.5% of its forest cover every year, with dramatic consequences for biodiversity, soil and climate. Accelerated deforestation is also contributing to climate change, particularly in rural areas that depend on forests for their livelihoods. Unsustainable farming practices and the growing demand for wood for construction and handicrafts exacerbate these trends. Biodiversity loss is a direct consequence of unsustainable forest management, threatening not only natural resources but also the resilience of ecosystems to climate change. The Intergovernmental Expert Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (2021) highlights that West Africa, including Benin, is particularly vulnerable to such environmental impacts. Faced with these challenges, initiatives are being implemented by Benin with the aim of improving sustainable forest management, but efforts remain often limited by insufficient resources and weak regulation. Integrated forest management strategies, which include reforestation, natural regeneration and the extension of community forest management, are needed to restore and protect ecosystems while ensuring economic gains for local communities.

1.4 Expected outcomes at project completion

Outcomes expected at project completion include:

- Socio-economic studies and studies on the conservation status of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* have been carried out;
- Non-Detriment Findings for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* have been developed and validated;
- Community forestry activities empowering local communities, women and youth to proactively participate in the restoration of project areas have been implemented;
- Awareness-raising activities on illegal logging and its economic, social and environmental impacts have been carried out.

PART 2: PROJECT RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. Rationale

2.1.1. Institutional set-up and organizational issues

The project aims to provide Benin with technical and financial assistance to address the degradation of natural populations of *Azelia africana* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.

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.

Initiative for the Preservation of Life (IPV-NGO) registered under the registration number N° 2023/183/DEP-ATL/SG/SAG-ASSOC of December 12, 2023, as published in the *Journal Officiel de la République du Bénin* operates within this framework and will serve as the project Executing Agency. IPV-NGO was also the agency that developed the initial concept note in collaboration with the CITES Management Authority.

IPV-NGO 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 Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC) will serve as the collaborating agency. It will provide its expertise and support for project implementation. The DGEFC is in charge of collecting and managing statistical information of the forestry sector. The DGEFC has developed and managed several projects and programs to support its sovereign missions. It will also provide the project with forestry agents to facilitate data collection activities for developing NDFs and will facilitate collaboration with Benin CITES Scientific Authority.

For project implementation, the IPV-NGO will be supported by other key entities, namely:

- The Scientific Authority, represented by the Applied Ecology Laboratory, University of Abomey-Calavi.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to support the Executing Agency and oversee project management and implementation. The PSC will comprise representatives from the DGEFC, IPV-NGO, the CITES Scientific Authority, the private sector, and ITTO as the project's technical and financial partner.

2.1.2. Stakeholder analysis

Project activities will include: (i) carrying out studies to develop NDFs for *Azelia africana* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; (ii) implementing hands-on forest ecosystem restoration-related activities beneficial for *Azelia africana* and *Pterocarpus erinaceus*; and (iii) conducting awareness-raising activities.

- Primary stakeholders directly affected by the project are:
 - Benin's CITES Scientific Authority, which will be responsible for developing NDFs and for ensuring the scientific soundness of the studies;
 - the DGEFC, in charge of managing the forests identified for pilot restoration interventions;
 - the IPV-NGO, responsible for community involvement and support, as well as project activity implementation;
 - managers of the Boukoussera community forest and the Adegignon private forest;

- private-sector actors who utilize resources for economic gain: they will be the main target of awareness-raising activities.
- local communities or populations, including men, women and youth who may have access to the forests and harvest natural resources;
- Secondary stakeholders include:
 - Municipal authorities—Responsible for the development and sustainable management of resources in target municipalities. They will support project implementation at institutional level and assist with stakeholder engagement at grassroots level. They are key actors for ensuring project outcome sustainability.
- Tertiary stakeholders—Include other NGOs and development associations operating in the project implementation area.

Category	Characteristics	Problems, needs and interests	Potential	Project involvement
<i>Primary stakeholders</i>				
CITES Scientific Authority in Benin	Responsible for the scientific soundness of the CITES Management Authority decisions	Need for training on the development of NDFs for plant species	Sound scientific knowledge Appropriate scientific expertise to conduct analyses	Will be in charge of developing and validating NDFs
Forestry Administration	Represented in all project municipalities. Responsible for implementing national forestry policy, laws and regulations pertaining to the sustainable management of forest resources	Insufficient financial, technical and operational capacity to ensure the conservation of GFs and timber resources	Technical training in forestry and paramilitary skills Extensive experience in forest resource management	As a primary project beneficiary, the DGEFC will facilitate the participation of all stakeholders and provide necessary institutional support. Will support project implementation and ensure the effective involvement of the CITES Scientific Authority
IPV-NGO	IPV-NGO is a non-governmental organization operating in the project area and in charge of implementing activities aimed at reducing wildlife trafficking and community pressure on forest resources	Maintaining community commitment despite security risks. Need for resources to support communities and monitor project achievements over the long term. IPV-NGO will work alongside its partners to improve living conditions for communities and ensure equitable	Good experience of working with populations living in project areas and forestry activities. Good experience of working with the DGEFC and its partners to combat wildlife crime Good organizational skills. Experience in project management	IPV-NGO will be responsible for organizing and direct implementation of consultancy work, training and community support-related activities under the supervision of project Technical Support Committee based on an agreement to be signed with DGEFC

Category	Characteristics	Problems, needs and interests	Potential	Project involvement
		access to resources		
Forestry sector users	Proactive group made up of farmers, shopkeepers, industry operators, transporters and workers.	Need for better knowledge of regulations.	Understand the importance of timber species. Support behavior change.	Prime actors and beneficiaries of project capacity-building activities.
Managers of private initiatives	Own private land areas dedicated to species conservation.	Lack of capacity and means to enrich and maintain ecosystems concerned while ensuring their monitoring.	Community and private commitment to species conservation.	Will benefit from restoration interventions.
Local communities and populations	Users made up of men, women and youth from local villages, and organized into socio-professional groups dependent on forest resources,	Lack of means and support to ensure sustainable use of forest resources. Declining livelihoods.	High potential for Income-generating activities (IGA) development to preserve Gazetted Forests. Looking forward to project implementation Strong desire for sustainable management of forest resources	Prime beneficiaries and direct actors for the implementation of the project activities and income-generating activities to ensure sustainable use of forest resources.
Secondary stakeholders				
Municipal Authorities	Responsible for managing land and producing and implementing municipality development plans.	Poor knowledge of Sota and Goungoun GFs potential, poor harnessing of development opportunities. Insufficient capacity for integrated planning of natural resources.	Exercise authority and influence over land management. Strongly committed to sustainable management of GFs.	Collaborate to secure land tenure in GFs and allocate resources for project implementation.
Tertiary stakeholders				
Other civil society actors	Actively involved in rural development activities.	Lack of resources and skills for planning sustainable rural development activities.	Good experience of conducting work in project implementation area.	Subcontracting of development activities, capacity building for direct beneficiaries and experience sharing.

2.1.3. Problem analysis

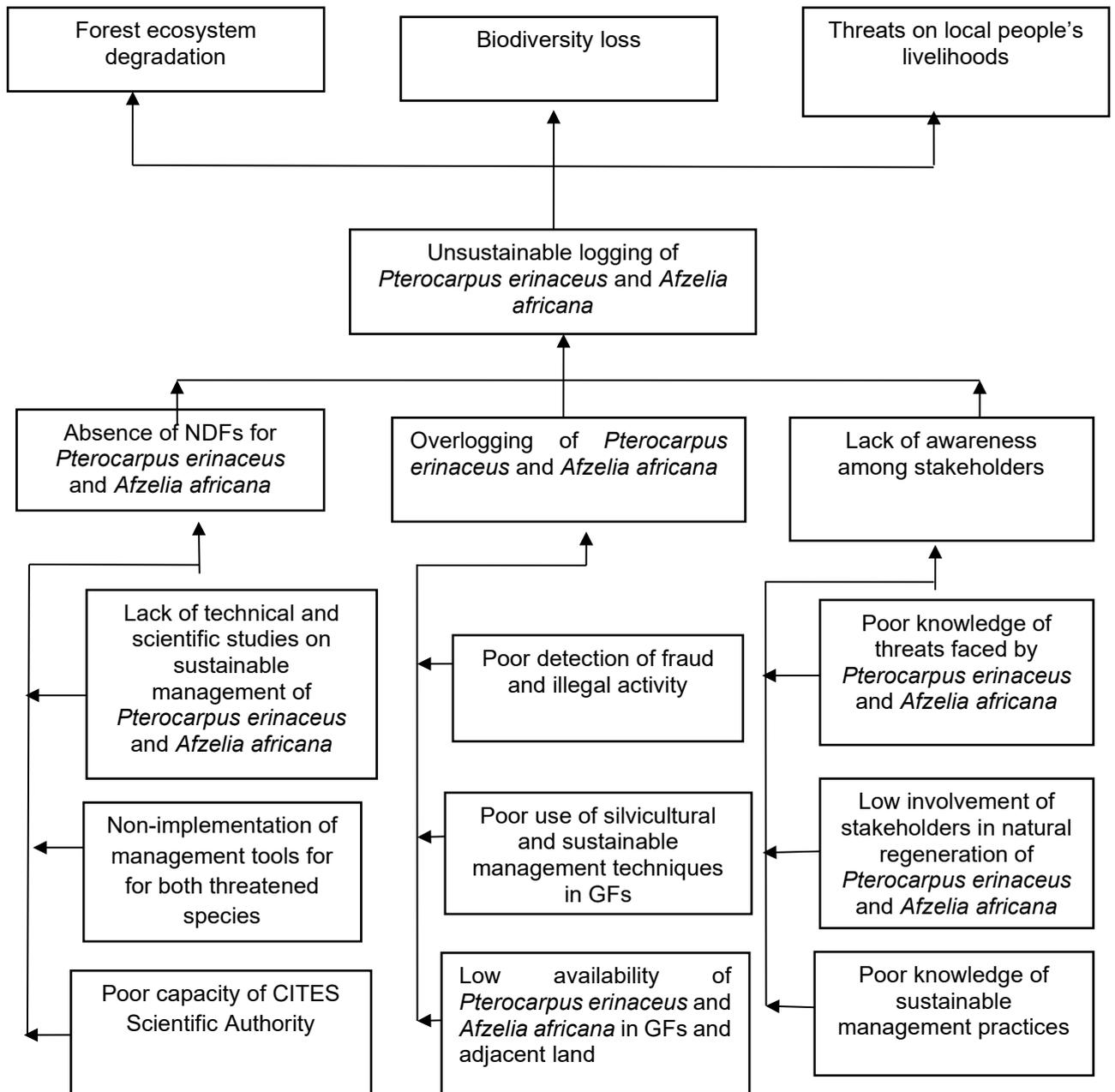
Forests are essential to global biodiversity, climate stability and the livelihoods of numerous communities. Threats not only endanger forest ecosystems but also compromise the well-being and security of forest-dependent local communities. Problem analysis in connection with the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (rosewood) and *Azelia africana* (afzelia) in Benin is part of a global approach aimed at understanding the current issues and challenges associated with the management of forest resources. The analysis should address the ecological, socio-economic and institutional aspects with a view to developing NDFs and carry out activities aimed at restoring ecosystems and raising stakeholders' awareness.

Pterocarpus erinaceus and *Azelia africana* are under considerable pressure from overlogging for their valuable timber, particularly for the production of furniture, buildings and handicrafts. Overlogging threatens resource sustainability and natural regeneration. Illegal logging of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* is common in Benin and regular seizures are made by forestry authorities despite restrictive measures in place. It results in uncontrolled logging, with no regard for resource sustainability and ecosystem preservation. Numerous rural communities depend directly on the utilization of these resources for their livelihoods, including non-timber forest products, forest product sales and farming. This situation generates a conflict between people's immediate needs and the need to protect resources in the long term. Local authorities often lack the means to implement effective sustainable management policies. Although laws and regulations are in place to protect forest resources, their implementation often remains ineffective.

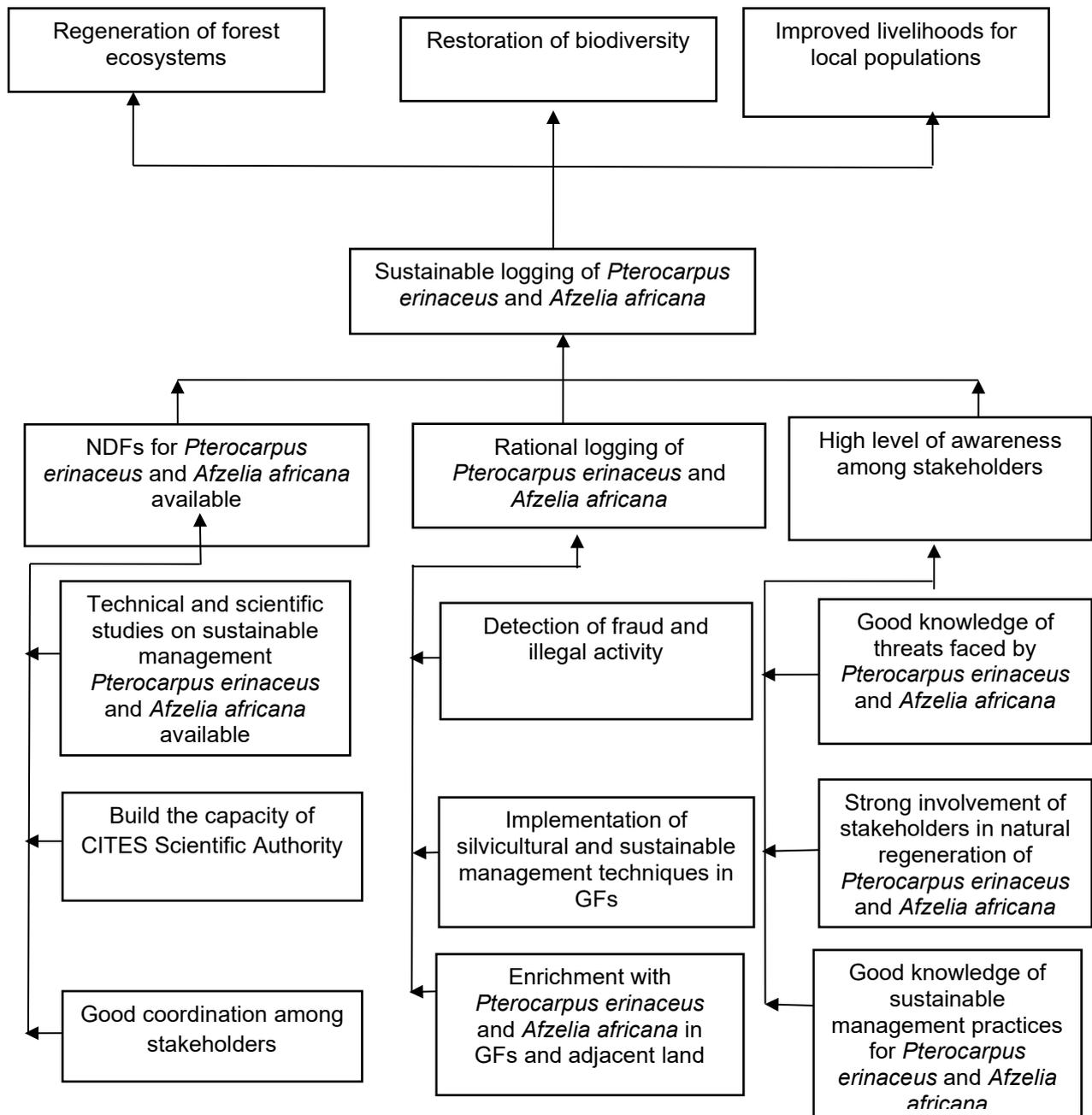
Information on the status of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* populations and their socio-economic importance is insufficient, making it difficult to plan conservation actions based on scientific data. A large number of local stakeholders (farmers, communities, local authorities) are not fully aware of the importance of sustainably managed forest resources. The pressing necessity to meet basic economic needs often prevents stakeholders from focusing on long-term sustainability. Without the active participation of local populations, sustainable management policies are likely to fail. Local communities and stakeholders often lack necessary training for adopting sustainable forestry practices. Growing demand for products derived from *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, in particular for use in high-end furniture, is intensifying pressure on both species. In view of the lack of data necessary for the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*, Benin has taken precautionary measures and imposed a logging ban, including for domestic consumption.

International markets may be instrumental in promoting unsustainable harvesting practices when traceability systems are not in place. Problem analysis highlights the complexity of sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in Benin in the absence of NDFs. Ecological, socio-economic, institutional and governance factors combine to maintain unsustainable harvesting practices, despite existing legislative and conservation efforts. It is essential to implement an integrated and participatory management that takes into account local realities to address such issues, while developing economic alternatives and building the capacity of institutions in charge. Strong support for local communities, enhanced monitoring and regulatory mechanisms, as well as increased awareness are needed to ensure the sustainable management of these valuable species.

Problem Tree



Solution Tree



- NDFs have been developed and validated for both species
- Cases of illegal logging have decreased by 50% in the project area
- Resilience and involvement have increased in the private sector and local communities for the conservation of both species.

2.1.4. Logical framework matrix

Intervention strategy	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Main assumptions
<p><u>Development objective</u> To contribute to the sustainable management of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i></p>	<p><u>Impact indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two NDFs developed and validated • Restoration interventions carried out in target forests • Increased resilience and involvement in the sustainable management of forest tree species among private sector users and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDFs validated and submitted to the CITES Secretariat. • 5000 seedlings of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and 5000 seedlings of <i>Azelia africana</i> produced. • 100 hectares area restored with <i>Azelia africana</i> and <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i>. • Awareness-raising report. • Project implementation reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of forest ecosystems remains a national priority. • Climate change and security situation does not unduly affect ecosystems.
<p><u>Specific objective</u> To ensure the sustainability of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia Africana</i> logging</p>	<p><u>Outcome indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By project end, both studies relevant to the development of NDFs have been carried out and validated. • By project end, NDFs for <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i> have been developed and validated. • By project end, beneficial ecosystem restoration interventions have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and in the Koukoussera and Adegnigon private forests. • Awareness raising has been conducted among all target groups and stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop and Steering Committee Reports • NDFs • Letter submitted to CITES Secretariat • Consultation report • Activity implementation report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support from DGEFC and CITES Scientific Authority
<p><u>Output 1</u> Sustainable management tools have been developed and validated for <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i></p>	<p><u>Output indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDF validation workshops. • NDFs established. • Cases of illegal logging have decreased by 50% in the project area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of tools developed. • Project activity reports. • Patrol reports on illegal logging and trafficking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from DGEFC. • Involvement of stakeholders.

Intervention strategy	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Main assumptions
<u>Output 2</u> Beneficial interventions for ecosystem restoration have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and the Boukoussera and Adegignon private forests	<u>Output indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10000 of seedlings produced • Surface area reforested / restored • Number of protection actions carried out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts with co-management structures • Number of cases of fraud and illegal activity • Number of organized patrols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various stakeholders play their roles • Support from DGEFC and related regional structures
<u>Output 3</u> Awareness raising has been conducted among private sector and local communities	<u>Output indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By project end, all stakeholders have been made aware of conservation/sustainable management of timber species. • Report on awareness-raising workshop on endangered timber species for stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on project activities. • Workshop report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various players play their roles. • Local populations support project objectives. • Participatory and iterative approach followed.

2.2. Objectives

2.2.1 Development objective and impact indicators

The project development objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in Benin.

The development objective impact indicators are as follows:

- Two NDFs developed and validated;
- Restoration interventions are carried out in target forests.
- Increased resilience and involvement in the sustainable management of forest tree species among private sector users and communities.

2.2.2 Specific objective and outcome indicators

The project specific objective is to ensure the sustainability of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* logging.

Outcome indicators are as follows:

- By project end, both studies relevant to the development of NDFs have been carried out and validated;
- By project end, NDFs for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* have been developed and validated;
- By project end, ecosystem restoration interventions have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and in the Koukoussera and Adegignon private forests;
- Awareness raising has been conducted among all target groups and stakeholders.

PART 3: DESCRIPTION OF INTERVENTIONS

3.1 Outputs and activities

3.1.1. Outputs

Three main outputs are expected from project implementation, namely:

Output 1: Two NDF documents have been developed

Output 2: Beneficial interventions for ecosystem restoration have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and the Boukoussera and Adegnigon private forests.

Output 3: Awareness raising activities have been conducted among private sector stakeholders and local communities.

3.1.2. Activities

The following activities will be conducted to achieve outputs:

Output 1: NDFs are available for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*

Activity 1.1: Establish the Scientific and Technical Committee.

Activity 1.2: Carry out appropriate studies

Activity 1.3: Develop NDFs

Output 2: Beneficial interventions for ecosystem restoration have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and the Boukoussera (Tchaourou) and Adegnigon (Abomey) private forests.

Activity 2.1 Implement protection and logging control measures

Activity 2.2 Carry out reforestation and enrichment operations.

Output 3: Awareness raising has been conducted among private sector stakeholders and local communities

Activity 3.1: Develop awareness raising tools.

Activity 3.2: Organize awareness-raising activities.

3.2 Implementation approach and methods

The Project "Capacity building for the sustainable management of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* in Benin" aims to implement several hands-on actions to ensure sustainable logging of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* over the long term.

The project will be implemented by the IPV-NGO together with the DGEFC as the collaborating agency.

Sustainable management tools are developed and validated for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia Africana*.

The aim is to develop and validate NDFs for *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana*. To this end, the project will support the DGEFC with the establishment of a Scientific and Technical Committee led by Benin CITES Scientific Authority. The Committee will be responsible for approving the Terms of Reference for the studies, validating the experts' reports and developing the NDF documents.

Restoration interventions have been carried out in growth supportive ecosystems in the Sota and Goungoun GFs, and in the Boukoussera (Tchaourou) and Adegnigon (Abomey) private forests

The project will:

- a) reinforce the co-management structures of both gazetted classified forests to (i) produce *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* seedlings; and (ii) carry out reforestation, enrichment and landscape protection work in the target forests;

- b) establish management structures for the Boukoussera community forest and the Adegignon private forest for reforestation and protection activities.

Awareness raising has been conducted

Awareness-raising campaigns will be organized for the local population, municipal authorities and forestry sector users to make them aware of illegal logging implications, and its impact on the economy, society and the environment.

A national workshop on the sustainable management of endangered timber species will be held to discuss solutions to the illegal logging issue with the various stakeholders, highlighting the benefits of sustainable management of natural resources.

Media involvement—Local media will be involved in disseminating information on biodiversity protection and the importance of responsible forest and wildlife management.

3.3 Work Plan

Outputs/Activities	Party in charge / collaborator	Year 1				Year 2			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 1: Two NDFs have been developed									
Activity 1.1: Establish the Technical and Scientific Committee (TSC).	DGEFC								
Activity 1.2: Carry out appropriate studies	IPV-NGO								
Activity 1.3: Develop NDFs.	TSC								
Output 2: Beneficial interventions for ecosystem restoration have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and the Boukoussera (Tchaourou) and Adegignon (Abomey) private forests									
Activity 2.1: Implement protection and logging control measures	IPV-NGO								
Activity 2.2: Carry out reforestation and enrichment operations.	IPV-NGO								
Output 3 Awareness raising has been conducted among private sector and local communities									
Activity 3.1: Develop awareness raising tools.	Coordinator								
Activity 3.2: Organize awareness-raising activities.	Coordinator								

3.4 Budget

The project budget is presented in the budget matrix table below. It provides details of activity costs, indicating quantities, unit costs, totals and breakdowns by funding sources.

3.4.1 Master budget schedule

Outputs/Activities	Description	Budget Component	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost (US\$)	ITTO	Executing Agency
Output 1: Sustainable management tools have been developed and validated for <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia africana</i>								
Activity 1.1: Establish the Restricted Scientific and Technical Committee	Decision by DGEFC							
Activity 1.2: Carry out socio-economic studies and studies on <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia africana</i> conservation status	Hire consultant to carry out study on the conservation status of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia africana</i>	22	2	Man-Month	10 000	20 000	20 000	
	Hire consultant to carry out socio-economic studies	23	2	Man-Month	5 000	10 000	10 000	
	Organize the TSC study validation workshop	61	2	Meeting	2 000	4 000	4 000	
Activity 1.3: Develop NDFs	Organize 4 sessions for Scientific and Technical Committee for NDF development	62	4	Sessions (meeting)	3 000	12 000	12 000	
Output 2: Beneficial interventions for ecosystem restoration have been carried out in the Sota and Goungoun GFs and the Boukoussera (Tchaourou) and Adegnigon (Abomey) private forests								
Activity 2.1: Implement reforestation and enrichment work	Conduct enrichment work	24	<u>2</u>	Man-Month	4 000	8 000	8 000	
	Reforestation work	25	<u>2</u>	Man-Month	4 000	8 000	8 000	

Outputs/Activities	Description	Budget Component	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost (US\$)	ITTO	Executing Agency
Activity 2.2: Implement protection measures	Assist with patrolling and control operations against illegal logging	67	4	Mission	2 450	9 800	9 800	
Output 3: Awareness raising has been conducted								
Activity 3.1: Develop awareness raising tools	Conception of posters, brochures, kakemonos	68.1		Package	1 000	1 000	1 000	
Activity 3.2: Organize awareness-raising activities	4 awareness raising missions in each project area	68.2	4	Mission	1 000	4 000	4 000	
	Organize a workshop on the sustainable management of endangered timber species	63	1	Meeting	3 500	3 500	3 500	
Management of project	Establishment of Project Steering Committee	68.3						
	Meeting of Project Steering Committee	64	4	Meeting	500	2 000	2 000	
	Project inception workshop	65	1	Meeting	565	565	565	
	Project closing workshop	66	1	Meeting	500	500	500	
	1 Project Coordinator salary	11.1	24	Man/Month	1 200	28 800		28 800
	1 Project monitoring & evaluation officer	12.1	24	Man/Month	750	18 000	18 000	
	1 Accounting Secretary	12.2	24	Man/Month	600	14 400	14 400	
	1 Facilitator	12.3	24	Man/Month	400	9 600		9 600
	1 Vehicle driver	12.4	24	Man/Month	300	7 200		7 200
	2 Motorbikes	43	2	unit	2 000	4 000	4 000	
	Laptop	44.1	1	unit	1 000	1 000	1 000	

Outputs/Activities	Description	Budget Component	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost (US\$)	ITTO	Executing Agency
	1 Printer	44.2	1	unit	900	900	900	
	1 Camera	44.3	1	unit	1 000	1 000	1 000	
	Video projector	44.4	1	unit	800	800	800	
	Fuel, lubricant and spare parts	51	2	Package	2 000	4 000	4 000	
	Networks and utilities	53	2	Package	1 000	2 000	2 000	
	Office supplies	54	2	Package	1 000	2 000	2 000	
	Rental of office premises	614	24	Month	500	12 000		12 000
	Water & electricity	615	24	Month	125	3 000		3 000

- NDFs for both species have been developed and validated;
- Community forestry actions enabling local communities, women and youth to participate actively in the restoration of project areas have been carried out;
- Awareness-raising activities on illegal logging and its economic, social and environmental impacts have been carried out.

3.4.2. Consolidated budget by component

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2
10	Personnel			
11.1	1 Project coordinator	28 800	14 400	14 400
12.1	1 Project monitoring & evaluation assistant	18 000	9 000	9 000
12.2	1 Accounting Secretary	14 400	7 200	7 200
12.3	1 Facilitator	9 600	4 800	4 800
12.4	1 Vehicle driver	7 200	3 600	3 600
19	Component subtotal	78 000	39 000	39 000
20	Subcontracting			
21	Develop awareness raising tools	2 000	2 000	0
22	Hire consultant to carry out study on the conservation status of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia africana</i>	20 000	20 000	0
23	Hire consultant to carry out socio-economic and trade-related studies	10 000	10 000	0
24	Assist with enrichment work in forests	8 000	5 000	3 000
25	Assist with reforestation work in forests	8 000	5 000	3 000
29	Component subtotal	48 000	42 000	6 000
30	Duty travel			
33.1	Organize 2 awareness raising missions	3 000	1 500	1 500
33.2	Organize activity monitoring missions	4 000	2 000	2 000
33.3	Travel for project inception workshop	300	300	
33.4	Travel for national workshop <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia Africana</i> sustainable management	3 000	3 000	
33.5	Travel for project closure workshop	300		300
39	Component subtotal	10 600	6 800	3 800
40	Capital goods			
43	2 Motorbikes	4 000	4 000	0
44.1	1 Laptop	1 000	1 000	0
44.2	1 Projection monitor	1 000	1 000	0
44.3	1 Printer	900	900	0
44.4	1 Camera	1 000	1 000	0
44.5	1 Video projector	800	800	0
49	Component subtotal	8 700	8 700	0
50	Consumable goods			
51	Fuel, lubricant and spare parts	4 000	2 000	2 000
53	Networks and services	2 000	1 000	1 000
54	Office supplies	2 000	1 000	1 000
59	Component subtotal	8 000	4 000	4 000
60	Miscellaneous			
61	Workshops for validation of Technical and Scientific study Committee studies	4 000	4 000	
62	4 sessions for NDF development Technical and Scientific Committee	12 000	3 000	9 000
63	Organize national workshop on sustainable management of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Afzelia africana</i>	6 000	0	6 000
64	4 Meetings of Project Steering Committee	2 000	1 000	1 000

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2
65	Organize Project inception workshop	565	565	
66	Organize Project closure workshop	550		550
67	Support for surveillance and protection operations	9 800	4 900	4 900
68	Rental of office premises	12 000	6 000	6 000
69	Water & electricity	3 000	1 500	1 500
70	Component subtotal	49 915	20 965	28 950
80	Project monitoring and administration			
81	ITTO monitoring and review	20 000	10 000	10 000
82	Ex-post evaluation	0	0	0
83	2 project audits	5 000		5 000
84	Sub-total for 10-83 above budget components	228 215	131 465	96 750
84	ITTO program support costs	10 179	10 179	
89	Component subtotal	35 179	20 179	15 000
100	GRAND TOTAL	238 394	141 644	96 750

3.4.3. Yearly budget by component - ITTO

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2
10	Personnel			
12.1	1 Project monitoring & evaluation assistant	18 000	9 000	9 000
12.2	1 Accounting Secretary	14 400	7 200	7 200
19	Component subtotal	32 400	16 200	16 200
20	Subcontracting			
21	Develop awareness raising tools	2 000	2 000	0
22	Hire consultant to carry out study on the conservation status of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>	20 000	20 000	0
23	Hire consultant to carry out socio-economic and trade-related studies	10 000	10 000	0
24	Support for enrichment work in forests	8 000	5 000	3 000
25	Support for reforestation work in forests	8 000	5 000	3 000
29	Component subtotal	48 000	42 000	6 000
30	Duty travel			
33.1	Organize 2 awareness raising missions	3 000	1 500	1 500
33.2	Organize activity monitoring missions	4 000	2 000	2 000
33.3	Travel for project inception workshop	300	300	
33.4	Travel for national workshop <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia Africana</i> sustainable management	3 000	3000	
33.5	Travel for project closure workshop	300		300
39	Component subtotal	10 600	6 800	3 800
40	Capital goods			
43	2 Motorbikes	4 000	4 000	0
44.1	1 Laptop	1 000	1 000	0
44.2	1 Projection monitor	1 000	1 000	0
44.3	1 Printer	900	900	0
44.4	1 Camera	1 000	1 000	0
44.5	1 Video projector	800	800	0
49	Component subtotal	8 700	8 700	0
50	Consumable goods			
51	Fuel, lubricant and spare parts	4 000	2 000	2 000
53	Networks and services	2 000	1 000	1 000
54	Office supplies	2 000	1 000	1 000
59	Component subtotal	8 000	4 000	4 000
60	Divers			
61	Workshops for validation of Technical and Scientific study Committee studies	4 000	4 000	
62	4 sessions for NDF development Technical and Scientific Committee	12 000	3 000	9 000
63	Organize national workshop on sustainable management of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>	6 000	0	6 000
64	4 Meetings of Project Steering Committee	2 000	1 000	1 000
65	Organize Project inception workshop	565	565	
66	Organize Project closure workshop	550		550

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2
67	Support for surveillance and protection operations	9 800	4900	4900
69	Component subtotal	34 915	13 465	21 450
80	ITTO monitoring and review			
81	Ex-post evaluation	0	0	0
82	2 project audits	5 000		5 000
83	ITTO monitoring and review	20 000	10 000	10 000
84	Sub-total for 10-83 above budget components	167 615	101 165	66 450
84	ITTO program support costs	10 179	10 179	
89	Component subtotal	35 179	20 179	15 000
100	GRAND TOTAL	177 794	111 344	66 450

3.4.4. Yearly budget by component - Executing Agency

Component	Description	Total	Year 1	Year 2
10	Personnel			
11.1	1 Project coordinator	28 800	14 400	14 400
12.3	1 Facilitator	9 600	4 800	4 800
12.4	1 Vehicle driver	7 200	3 600	3 600
19	Component subtotal	45 600	22 800	22 800
60	Miscellaneous			
67	Rental of office premises	12 000	6 000	6 000
68	Water & electricity	3 000	1 500	1 500
69	Component subtotal	15 000	7 500	7 500
100	GRAND TOTAL	60 600	30 300	30 300

3.5. Assumptions, risks and sustainability

3.5.1. Assumptions and risks

The main assumptions for ensuring project success are as follows:

One of the reasons for the interest shown by stakeholders at both national and local level is the growing awareness of the roles and functions of forest ecosystems in improving living conditions, especially in rural areas. Authorities seek to avoid excessive degradation of forest ecosystems. The project aims to reverse the degradation process and will contribute to increasing stakeholder involvement at various levels for the conservation of these important global forests.

The project aims to reverse degradation in the Sota-Goungoun GFC and will promote stakeholder involvement at various levels for the conservation of these globally important forests.

Risks

Potential risks for the project include:

Policies may change and decision makers' support for GF conservation could diminish as a result. However, considering the international context where climate change issues are of increased concern for the international community, this risk is almost non-existent.

Interests and perceptions towards the GFs may differ based on various cultural contexts, and their uses could hinder the development of partnerships and complicate collaboration between key stakeholders in GF management. However, this risk will be mitigated through awareness-raising and outreach. Wherever necessary, it should be made clear that the aim is not to expropriate, but rather to extend support for sustainably managing the GFs. Ongoing Information, Education & Communication activities will eliminate such a risk.

The project will be implemented on a participatory basis. In theory, all stakeholders support the project. However, if opposition is demonstrated by some stakeholders during project implementation, it will be addressed through awareness-raising and capacity building, while taking their interests into account and developing alternative approaches.

Climate change affects ecosystems—Recent climatic hazards and climate change may affect ecosystems, water regimes and forest health in the project implementation area. This could have a negative impact on management operations. 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 a long-expressed need by a number of local stakeholders and will enable the restoration of local community forest heritage as well as the establishment of Protected Areas in target municipalities. The project long-term sustainability will depend on the technical, institutional, political, financial and economic ownership of the project by all stakeholders.

The sustainability of the project's achievements is based on several strategic drivers and an integrated approach for ensuring long-term sustainability.

- a) Institutional and local capacity building—This process will ensure effective management of the Sota-Goungoun Gazetted Forest Complex, including beyond project completion, and ensure restoration and monitoring activities are continued.
- b) Active involvement and autonomy of local communities—The participation of communities, including women and youth, is at the heart of project sustainability. Involving co-management

structures in decision-making will ensure their long-term commitment and the ownership of activities by the direct beneficiaries.

- c) Awareness raising—It will maintain community support and also encourage the multiplication of similar initiatives on a national and regional scale.
- d) Long-term monitoring and evaluation—A robust monitoring system involving the IPV-NGO already operating in the project area will be established for assessing the long-term impact of implemented. This mechanism will be based on adaptive management and informed decision-making to ensure the sustainability of project outcomes.

These foundations, both technical and institutional, will ensure the sustainability of project outcomes, and the long-term management of the Sota-Goungoun Gazetted Forest Complex as a result, in line with the objectives of conservation, sustainable development and combating climate change.

PART 4: IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

4.1. Organization structure and stakeholder involvement mechanisms

4.1.1. Executing Agency and partners

The Initiative for the Preservation of Life (IPV) 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. IPV-NGO was responsible for developing the initial Concept Note. IPV-NGO collaborates with the DGEFC for the implementation of various projects and is very active in the areas where restoration and protection interventions are planned. The project will be managed by a management team consisting of the Project Coordinator, the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, the Accounting Secretary and two facilitators (see Organization Chart). The management team will oversee the execution of the project's various activities.

The Executing Agency (IPV-NGO) will work with the collaborating agency, the General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC), which will be responsible for establishing a Technical and Scientific Committee, as well as all stakeholders identified during project development. They will be expected to make their respective contributions to ensure successful project implementation.

4.1.2. Project management team

The project management team will consist of the Coordinator, the Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant, the Accounting Secretary, one facilitator and the vehicle driver. This permanent staff will be supplemented by consultants and other service providers such as the co-management structures in charge of reforestation and enrichment work.

The DGEFC as the Collaborating Agency will be responsible for establishing a Technical and Scientific Committee which will assist with the implementation of NDF-related activities.

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 budget amendments and changes in 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 meet at least twice a year.

The PSC will consist of five members, as follows:

- one (1) representative of technical and financial partners from project funding countries;
- one (1) representative of ITTO;
- the Executing Agency Representative, as observer and Project Steering Committee Secretary;
- one (1) representative of DGEFC acting as the Government of Benin contact point with the ITTO;
- one representative of the CITES Scientific Authority in Benin.

This structure will make it possible for project outcomes to be disseminated throughout national policy and strategy documents. As the DGEFC will be a member of the PSC and the repository of project outcomes, project outcomes will be scaled up at national level through the development and implementation of similar projects for other CITES-listed forest tree species.

4.1.4. Stakeholder involvement mechanisms

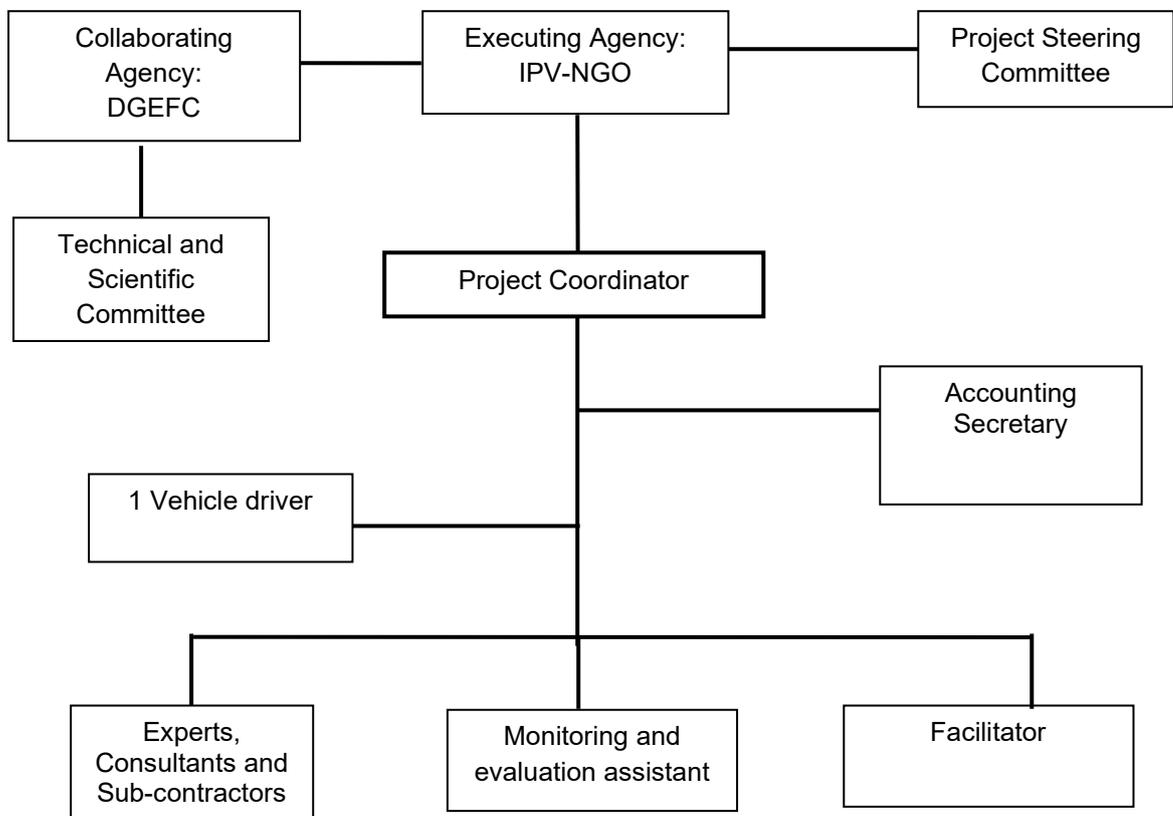
Stakeholder involvement will take place at three levels:

- 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, through the involvement of Forest Inspectorates and Municipalities in project activity implementation;
- At the local level, through the involvement of local management structures to ensure the follow-up and continuation of post-project activities.

4.1.5. Project management team

The profiles and CVs of key personnel are included in annex.

Figure 4: Project Organization Chart



4.2. Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation

The Executing Agency will submit the various reports to ITTO at intervals appropriate for two 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.

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 instalment of ITTO funds required for project start-up. Semiannual 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, etc.

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 learning

Project outcomes will be disseminated in the form of technical reports, progress reports and a final report. Reports from workshops to be held for awareness raising about the project and stakeholder training will also be edited and published. Dissemination will take place via the websites of the IPV-NGO, the ministry in charge of the environment and the DGEFC, and participation in seminars and workshops.

4.3.2. Mainstreaming of project learning

The project will be used by the DGEFC to establish a basis for managing *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Azelia africana* based on project learning.

Annex 1: Profile of the Executing Agency

Annex 1 a: Profile of the Executing Agency (IPV-NGO)

Postal address: Quartier de **Sèmè**, Commune **d'Abomey-Calavi**
BP: 495 Abomey-Calavi; Tel: (00229) 0196965476 / 0166476188
Email: ipvongbenin@gmail.com / info@ipv.ipv.com
Website: www.ipvong.com

The Initiative for the Preservation of Life (IPV) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with legal personality and financial autonomy. It was established based on the strong desire to reconcile environmental preservation, community needs and the sustainable management of ecosystems and wildlife. It is made up of a wide range of skills in environmental and wildlife management. IPV-NGO has built an active partnership with the DGEFC for the implementation of several joint activities through the CITES-ITTA Management Authority. These include:

- It serves as the collaborating agency in the emergency project funded by the Government of Japan through ITTO for capacity building for the restoration of the Sota-Goungoun Gazetted Forest Complex
- As a partner of the CITES Management Authority, it has been involved in establishing a digital tracking system for seizure management in the DGEFC (a project developed to prevent seizures ending up in the illegal trade). It is a customized app available from a confidential national server managed by the DGEFC.
- It is actively involved in the development process of a regional action plan for the conservation of endangered marine species with the DGEFC and Human Society International-NGO.
- While taking part in the regional experience-sharing workshop on the PAPBIO/IUCN Project, it became aware of the urgent need to support government structures through capacity building to enhance their ability in carrying out their missions. For example, assist with appropriate training, equipment, etc.
- It funded two routine forest brigade patrols with its own funds, and recently granted six walkie-talkies (and a used laptop).
- It took part in awareness-raising activities on early controlled burnings. After the Minister's decree was issued, IPV-NGO assisted the brigade with awareness-raising.
- IPV-NGO is one of DGEFC's partner NGO in charge of developing a forestry code in Benin.

IPV-NGO focus areas

- Forest, wildlife and ecosystem sustainable management;
- Local economy;
- Adult learning, capacity building and consultancy;
- Land and soil fertility sustainable management;
- Research & development;
- Regional planning and local development;
- Environment and climate change management;
- Zoonotic disease control.

The IPV-NGO is managed by an Executive Board assisted by a Board of Directors and a Supervisory Committee. IPV-NGO activities are implemented by a permanent staff of five, namely:

- The Executive Director;
- The Administration and Finance Officer;
- A Planning Officer in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation;
- An Accounting Secretary; and
- A vehicle driver.

For one-off activities / implementation of projects, IPV-NGO may subcontract staff.

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

- "IWTCF 126: Strengthening measures to combat illegal wildlife trade in the Arly-W-Pendjari", in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London. IEC activities and development of income-generating activities.
- "Capacity building to fight against illegal trade in natural resources", in collaboration with Born Free USA-NGO. Training activities and support for proactive investigations. Support for the establishment of a national wildlife crime task force.
- Support for the management of vulnerable mangrove ecosystems and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas in collaboration with *Nature Tropicale*-NGO. Reforestation, IEC and social intermediation activities for better management of forest resources.
- Participation in *Tree Day* and national reforestation campaigns in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.
- DGEFC partner for the dissemination of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and consultation of national stakeholders for SPANB improved revision.

The projects and activities implemented by IPV-NGO over the last two years include:

Project / Activity designation	Technical and Financial Partners	NGO counterpart US\$	Requested amount US\$	Total amount US\$
Combatting wildlife trafficking in the W-Arly-Pendjari Forest Complex	ZSL	5 250	44 600	49 850
Capacity building to fight against illegal trade in natural resources	Born Free USA	3 500	27 230	30 730
Urban sensitization to reduce illegal trade logging	YériMak Foundation	1 500	0	1 500

IPV-NGO (US\$)

Budget	Year	
	2024	2023
Personnel	18 000	1 500
Subcontracting	17 500	2 500
Duty Travel	8 200	3 200
Missions	4 500	1 200
Consumable Goods	2 000	150
Sub-total	50 200	8 550
Grand Total	58 750 (2023/2024)	

Annex 1 b: Profile of the Collaborating Agency (DGEFC)

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

Postal address: BP: 393 COTONOU (Rep. of BENIN) ;

Tel: (229) 21-33-06-62, E-mail: foretsbenin@yahoo.fr

Established by Decree No 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 7 September 2006 establishing 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 No 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 develop the forest sector into a source of increased social benefit and added value to the national economy. From an institutional point of view, the DGEFC is responsible for planning and implementing the national forest policy based on the Water, Forests and Hunting Program (PEFC), which is one of the five key programs of the Ministry in charge of forests, the Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development (MCVDD). As such, its mandate includes both exclusive and non-exclusive missions.

Exclusive missions include:

- development and monitoring of the implementation of policies, strategies and programs for the development of the forest sector;
- coordination, planning and monitoring & evaluation of the forestry sector;
- developing law and regulation instruments relating to forests and wildlife and implementation monitoring;
- development of development plans for state-owned gazetted areas;
- validation of development plans and other management tools for protected areas;
- administration and monitoring of the development plan implementation in state-owned gazetted areas;
- orientation, definition, monitoring and control of public and private stakeholders involved in the management of natural resources as well as their roles;
- monitoring of ratified international and regional conventions and agreements on forests and wildlife;
- facilitation of an intersectoral consultation framework involving all stakeholders in the forest sector;
- organizing and implementation of forest-law enforcement forces;
- development and monitoring of sustainable financing strategy implementation in the forest sector;
- collection of taxes and royalties related to natural resources in accordance with the provisions of the finance law and other legal and regulatory instruments in force;
- execution of all missions related to the specificity of the Water, Forestry and Hunting personnel as a component of the Public Security and Related Enforcement Forces.

Non-exclusive missions include:

- implementation of policies, strategies and programs for the development of the forest sector;
- constitution, monitoring, preservation and restoration of the state-owned protected estate;
- promotion of value chains for timber and non-timber forest products;
- assistance to individuals and local authorities for the development and implementation of development plans in the fields of flora and wildlife;
- participation in the execution of work relating to the conservation and management of water and soils;
- implementation of the communication strategy for the promotion of behavior change in relation to all other authorized structures;
- implementation of ratified international conventions and agreements pertaining to forests and wildlife;
- implementation of the sustainable financing strategy for the forest sector;
- promotion of reforestation, and support and guidance to local authorities and private stakeholders in the fields of sustainable forest management, wildlife and natural resources.

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, namely:

- ✚ Directorate of Stewardship, Material and Equipment Services (DSIME);
- ✚ Directorate of personnel organizing and training (DOFP);
- ✚ Directorate of reforestation and forest management (DRAF);
- ✚ Directorate of Natural Resource Conservation and Promotion (DCPRN);
- ✚ Directorate of policies, Forest Logging Control and Litigation (DPCEFC); and
- ✚ Directorate of Programming and Monitoring & Evaluation (DPSE).

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

CV of Project Coordinator

Personal details

- Dr. Ir. Méryas Dègbémabou KOUTON
- Agricultural and Forestry Engineer. Expert in Project Management and Geographic Information Systems.
- BP 471 Abomey-Calavi, BENIN. Tel: +229 97 588 768 koutonmeryas@gmail.com
- Forestry Agronomist with a PhD in Natural Resource Management (Water, Forestry, Hunting and Rural Engineering). Proven expertise in the field of natural resource management (Water, Forestry, Hunting and Rural Engineering), with 20 years' cumulative experience in project coordination, Protected Area management, administrative and financial management, consulting and trade management.

University Diplomas

- **2020:** PhD in Agronomic Science, Major in Natural Resources Planning and Management, Specialty: Wildlife and Protected Areas. University of Abomey-Calavi, Faculty of Agronomic Science. BENIN.
- **2007:** Diploma of Advanced Specialized Studies (DESS, eq. Master 2) in Natural Resource Development and Management (Major: Wildlife management and rangelands) University of Abomey-Calavi, Faculty of Agronomic Science. BENIN.
- **2004:** Agronomic Engineer Diploma specializing in Natural Resource Planning and Management (Major: Water, Forests, Hunting, Rural Engineering) University of Abomey-Calavi, Faculty of Agronomic Science. BENIN.

Fields of expertise

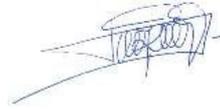
- Wildlife management
- Management of Protected Areas
- Development and management of rangelands
- GIS and remote sensing
- Inventories and forest development
- Wildlife counts and management
- Assessment of Protected area management efficiency
- Communication – Training

Professional experience

- **2024:** Final evaluation of the Agriculture-Climate-Environment and Children's Rights Project in the Ouémé Valley, Ben (PACED–Vallée). Sponsor: *Cercle International pour la Promotion de la Création* (CIPCRE-BENIN).
- **2023:** Associate consultant for the mid-term evaluation of the Gazetted Forests Project in Benin. Proponent: UIGP/WACA, World Bank funding.
- **2022:** Forest inventory in the municipalities of Djougou, N'Dali and Pêrê, Benin. Energy Sector Support Program, Ministry of Energy and Water.
- **2022:** Consultant for the development of the project document “Strengthening the Resilience of Human and Natural Systems to Climate Change through the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Ecosystems in Southern Benin”. Proponent: FAO Benin.
- **2022-2023:** Technical studies related to the establishment of water supply points, grazing areas and transhumance corridors in the communes bordering the W National Park. OSS funding, Project ADAPT-WAP/CENAGREF.
- **2021:** Forest inventory and wildlife census in the community forest islands of southern Togo's forest complexes (Avévé and Kodjo-Gati Complex), WACA ReCif TOGO, Execution by APECIDI Consulting Firm. 2024: Study of the dynamics of mangrove ecosystems and associated ecosystem services in the Mono Biosphere Res (Benin-Togo). IUCN funding.
- **2020:** Production of final report on Management of Forests and Adjacent Land Project (PGFTR). General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC). World Bank funding.

- **2020-2021:** Consultant on Land Use Plan development for the Controlled Occupation Zone in the Pendjari Biosphere Reserve and electronic monitoring system implementation. African Parks Network, FSOA funding.
- **2019:** Consultant on assessment of Protected Areas Management Support Project (PAGAP), National Wildlife Reserve Management Cent (CENAGREF). World Bank funding (GEF and IDA).

Cotonou, 17 February 2024



Dr KOUTON Méryas

Annex 3: Tasks and responsibilities of key experts and consultants funded by ITTO

Experts in charge	Tasks and responsibilities/ToR
Project Assistant responsible for monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Coordinator with project management tasks, • Develop detailed project plan; • Monitor and evaluate project implementation; • Draw up draft ToRs and monitor awarding of contracts; • Monitor implementation of studies; • In charge of communication and awareness raising among stakeholders; • Produce project progress reports, technical reports and final report; • Update the ITTO POLMS (Project Online Monitoring System).
Accounting Secretary	<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 work schedule; • Edit the minutes of meetings chaired by the Coordinator; • Design 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.
Consultant for study on conservation status of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct study on the status of natural populations of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia Africana</i>, and threat assessment; • Conduct analysis of the institutional, legislative and regulatory framework and conservation measures for <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>; • Review scientific literature on <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>; • Collect information on ethnobotanical knowledge and uses of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i> in Benin; • Suggest solutions for improved management and sustainable harvesting and trade of <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i>.
Consultant in charge of socio-economic and trade studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify stakeholders (operators, traders, local communities, etc.); • Evaluate income generated by <i>Pterocarpus erinaceus</i> and <i>Azelia africana</i> for local communities; • Review logging and sustainability practices; • Conduct analysis of operations impact on local ecosystems and biodiversity; • Submit recommendations for sustainable and equitable management.
Technical and Scientific Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate the findings of studies carried out by consultants; • Develop NDF documents.