V1 - 12 October 2025

Annex 6

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

Project/programme title:	**RACINE/FODECC Initiative: Climate-Resilient Agriculture, Investment, Nature and Equity**
Country	Cameroon
Accredited entity:	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CAFI	*Central African* Forest Initiative
CAA	Autonomous Amortisation Fund
CLMRS	*Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System*
CTD	Decentralised Territorial Authority
CTFC	Communal Forestry Technical Centre
DFP	Permanent Forest Estate
EA	Accredited Entity
EE	Implementing Entity
EMF	Microfinance Institution
E&S	Environmental and Social
FODECC	Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund
FVC	*Green Climate* Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gases
EIG	Economic Interest Grouping
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICI	*International Cocoa Initiative*
IPPF	*Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework*
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MINEPAT	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINCOMMERCE	Ministry of Trade
MINFI	Ministry of Finance
MINRESI	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MGP	Complaints Management Mechanism
MRV	*Measurement, Reporting and Verification*
PA	Indigenous Populations
PAG	Gender Action Plan
PCD	Communal Development Plan
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
PLADDT	Local Plan for Land Use and Sustainable Development
PTA	Agroecological Transition Plan
RACINE	*Resilient agriculture for climate, investment, nature and equity*
SES	Environmental and Social Safeguards
GIS	Geographic Information System
UFA	Forest Management Unit
ZIC	Hunting Area of Interest

1. Introduction

1.1 Context of the RACINE/FODECC initiative

Cameroon is an agricultural country that produces and exports raw materials such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, timber, palm oil, cotton, bananas and pineapples to international and sub-regional markets. The cocoa sector in Cameroon is an important agricultural sector with profound implications for both the economy and the environment, particularly with regard to forests. As the world's fourth largest cocoa producer, Cameroon's cocoa industry plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of thousands of smallholders and contributes substantially to the country's export earnings. This economic importance comes with an environmental cost, particularly in relation to the forest areas where cocoa is produced. As global demand and cocoa prices rise, Cameroonian farmers are often incentivised to expand their cocoa plantations into adjacent forest areas. This expansion involves clearing primary and secondary forests to make way for cocoa crops. Traditional practices in Cameroon often involve a method of clearing land by cutting and burning existing vegetation to create more open fields. While this method increases fertility in the short term thanks to the ashes, it contributes significantly to habitat destruction, soil degradation and the emission of large quantities of carbon dioxide, thereby exacerbating climate change[1] .

Without a radical transformation of land management practices and commodity production models that values natural forest ecosystems at their true worth and integrates sustainability into market mechanisms, deforestation is likely to accelerate, exacerbating biodiversity loss, climate change and socio-economic instability on a global scale. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated international efforts, innovative financial mechanisms, robust governance frameworks and a reorientation of economic incentives towards the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests.

1.2 Objective and rationale of the RACINE/FODECC initiative

The objective of the initiative is to substantially reduce deforestation and GHG emissions linked to cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon, and to improve the resilience of farms to climate variability so that the cocoa and coffee value chains can sustainably meet ever-changing international standards.

The intervention logic is to improve land use governance, deforestation standards and traceability systems, while ensuring that cocoa producers adopt sustainable agricultural practices through strong financial incentives and targeted technical support**.**

This objective will be achieved by scaling up the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC) 'Guichets' system, an innovative and fully digital platform that provides farmers with performance-based payments, technical support and traceability tools.

1.3 The FODECC

FODECC, *the Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund***,** is a public financial institution created by the Government of Cameroon in 2006 to support the development of the cocoa and coffee sectors.

[1] EFI, 2022. Traceability, transparency and sustainability in the cocoa sector in Cameroon, 70 p.

FODECC is financed by a share of the royalties levied on cocoa and coffee exports.[2] This finances the institution's operations, direct support programmes for the development of the sectors by the relevant ministries, and the Producers' Desk by FODECC itself.

Following the adoption of the new agricultural subsidy paradigm by the Government in 2019, FODECC was designated to develop the new system of direct subsidies for priority agricultural sectors based on vouchers (inputs, services) and business plans[3] . At the heart of this initiative is FODECC's "Producers' Window", which provides targeted financial and technical support to farmers in order to green the cocoa and coffee value chain while strengthening resilience. The FODECC Window operates through several strategic mechanisms:

- **Prevention of deforestation**: by making the geolocation of cocoa and coffee plantations mandatory, the initiative ensures that production takes place only on legally recognised agricultural land. This monitoring mechanism prevents the expansion of plantations into forest areas, thereby directly contributing to the reduction of emissions linked to deforestation.
- **Sustainable intensification**: Financial support for climate-smart inputs, improved agricultural techniques and agroforestry enables farmers to increase yields of cash and food crops on existing land, reducing pressure to clear new forest areas.
- **Agroforestry systems**: Integrating shade trees into cocoa and coffee plantations not only sequesters carbon above and below ground, but also provides essential microclimatic benefits that enhance the climate resilience of farms.
- **Monitoring and traceability**: the deployment of a fully digital, georeferenced traceability system enables real-time monitoring of land use. This technology promotes compliance with deforestation commitments and facilitates emissions accounting in accordance with international requirements such as the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The FODECC approach is based on:

- Domestic funding. FODECC is currently funded entirely from domestic resources through a levy on cocoa and coffee exports. This provides it with approximately €12 million per year in 2025, but this amount varies depending on cocoa and coffee prices (cocoa prices are currently high).
- Information exchange with producers is conducted entirely via smartphone applications.
- No cash! FODECC uses an electronic voucher system for the purchase of inputs and services, which avoids cash transfers and thus reduces the risk of corruption.
- Georeferencing of plantations. Farmers are required to map their fields in order to participate, which is a starting point for monitoring production without deforestation.
- Access to banking services (banking). Opening a bank account with a participating bank or microfinance institution is a prerequisite for participation. The FODECC subsidy system provides a solid basis for leveraging micro/national financing.
- Farmers make a financial commitment through co-financing. FODECC covers on average only 30% of the cost of subsidised agricultural inputs over three years, and therefore requires agricultural producers to deposit an average of 70% of the funds needed to purchase inputs into their bank account in order to obtain electronic vouchers. This clever rule significantly reduces the incentive for farmers to misappropriate resources. Indeed, the interests of farmers, who now have a "direct interest", are aligned with FODECC's sustainable

[2] The levy on cocoa exports (225 CFA francs/kg of exported beans and 50 CFA francs/kg delivered to the factory) and coffee exports (75 CFA francs/kg of exported commercial coffee) is currently the main source of funding for FODECC and various related institutions mandated by the government (ONCC, CICC, SODECAO, CAPEF, SOWEDA) to support the development of the cocoa and coffee sectors in the country.

[3] PM decree of August 2019, MINADER agricultural subsidy manual, FODECC G1/G2/G3 subsidy manuals

intensification objectives. There is an exit strategy! Support for farmers is degressive: 5-year subsidy cycle: 40%–20%–10%–0%–0%. Combined with the requirement for farmers to co-finance, this creates a total financial leverage effect of 7:1 for smallholders.

- Deployment is rapid: the pilot phase of the "Guichet Producteurs" (Producers' Counter) in the form of electronic vouchers in the department of Moungo was launched in 2022 and then extended to the whole country in 2023. Since then, this system has made it possible to identify and open bank accounts for 350,000 producers, as well as to geolocate all their coffee and cocoa plots.

The proposed intervention, in support of FODECC, aims to shift Cameroon's cocoa and coffee sectors towards deforestation-free, low-emission and climate-resilient production models by combining enabling policy reforms, direct financial incentives linked to environmental performance and investments in climate-smart practices. This objective will be achieved by scaling up the FODECC system and its Producers' Window, an innovative and fully digital platform that provides farmers with performance-based payments, technical support and traceability tools.

2. The components and activities of the RACINE project

The RACINE project contributes to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the various components of the Producers' Window, with a particular focus on agroecological transition and collective investments at the level of producer organisations and rural municipalities.

The RACINE project is structured around three complementary components:

1. **Component 1**: Strengthening the environment conducive to deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon.
   → This component will be led by MINEPAT, the CAFI focal team/coordination, with support from the implementing agency UNOPS.

2. **Component 2**: Scaling up payment for environmental services for sustainable, climate-resilient and deforestation-free value chains.
   → This component is led by FODECC and includes:
   - A **sub-component C2.1** for direct funding of the Producers Window and its eight specialised technical components, and
   - A **sub-component C2.2** for capacity building of the various field partners and/or beneficiaries of the Producers Window to support them in achieving the expected results.

   →

3. **Component 3**: Monitoring, verification, management and knowledge production.
   → This technical component, jointly led by FODECC and UNOPS, will enable the continuous production of the information required for results-based payment processes and prepare for the annual independent audits mandated by the Government of Cameroon, the GCF and CAFI to document the release of successive payment tranches.

2.1 Component 1. Strengthening the environment conducive to deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production in Cameroon

Component 1 focuses on aligning policies and systems with international market requirements, including the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), while strengthening inter-ministerial coordination and land use governance. This component aims to ensure that environmental commitments are integrated into (agricultural) development frameworks and that decentralised actors (local authorities and producers) have the tools and authority necessary to comply with deforestation-free production standards.

Outcome 1.1: Align policy and institutional coordination for deforestation-free value chains. *Outcome 1.1* focuses on improving interministerial coordination under the leadership of MINEPAT to ensure coherence between agriculture, environment, forestry, land use, trade and finance.
The following activities fall under this outcome: - **Activity 1.1.1**. Support the implementation of key agriculture-related milestones under the CAFI Letter of Intent, including measures to control agricultural expansion, strengthen forest monitoring, and integrate zero deforestation requirements into national agricultural policies. - **Activity 1.1.2**. Strengthen inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms under the leadership of MINEPAT, ensuring policy coherence across agriculture, trade, environment, forestry, land use and finance sectors.
Outcome 1.2. Deploy operational tools and land use governance for compliance and monitoring. Outcome 1.2 focuses on the development and institutionalisation of the operational tools and governance mechanisms necessary for traceability and compliance with land use. This includes the establishment of a national traceability system for cocoa and coffee, ensuring full geolocation and verification of the legality of supply chains.[4] In addition, this result also supports the finalisation and implementation of land use plans (PLADDT) at the level of rural municipalities that do not yet have them, which serve as the basis for all activities in the field and require careful and participatory planning of the territories. This activity directly complements the FODECC Community Desk, on which it will rely for the implementation of CTD co-financing.
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 1.2.1**. Develop, improve and institutionalise a national traceability system for cocoa and coffee production, fully compliant with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and the national roadmap for deforestation-free cocoa. - **Activity 1.2.2**. Prepare and implement local land use plans (PLADDT) at the level of rural municipalities not yet equipped to do so in order to operationalise agreements for the preservation of permanent forest areas in general, and specific agreements concluded at the local level for forests and agricultural land in non-permanent forest areas.

[4] This work requires active consultation leading to close collaboration between the various public institutions (ONCC, FODECC, SODECAO, SOWEDA) and private institutions (CICC, GEX, major export companies, main processing operators, and other local and regional professional organisations).

2.2 Component 2. Develop payment for environmental services for sustainable, climate-resilient and deforestation-free value chains

Component 2 focuses on the direct deployment of financial and technical incentives aimed at changing large-scale production practices. The main innovation lies in the use of FODECC's "Guichet" system, an integrated, digital, performance-based subsidy mechanism that enables farmers and local actors to transition to sustainable, deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production.

Through three complementary channels – the Producers Window, the Agroecological Window and the Communities Window – this component provides tailored support to individual producers, promotes agroecological adaptation practices and enables local governments and cooperatives to invest in value addition and forest conservation.

Sub-component 2.1: Matching funds for the "Producers Window" and its eight co-financing components for sustainable intensification and deforestation-free production.

Sub-component 2.1 aims to expand the scope and impact of the "Producers' Window" and its eight co-financing components, designed to support sustainable intensification and ensure compliance with deforestation-free production standards. This digital platform delivers targeted, performance-based subsidies to small-scale cocoa and coffee producers in the form of electronic vouchers that are exchanged for certified inputs such as organic fertilisers, agroforestry plants, small equipment and pest control products, for example. The procedures for accessing subsidies through electronic vouchers are very simple and straightforward, eliminating intermediaries and significantly reducing transaction costs and the risk of leakage.

The Producers' Window also co-finances business plans, local development plans and agroecological transition plans for producers, municipalities, cooperatives or economic interest groups, including advisory support services, based on a transparent process of evaluating applications that are reviewed at the regional level by an ad hoc committee chaired by the Regional Council with key local actors from the public and private sectors, and then processed at the central level by FODECC.

This model operates with average co-financing by beneficiaries of around 70% (variable depending on the sub-windows and components, and based on a principle of degressive subsidies over three years), ensuring ownership and alignment of incentives, while incorporating traceability and geolocation requirements that link financial support to verifiable environmental results.

Result 2.1.1. Intensify and increase sustainable production in cocoa and coffee orchards
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.1.1.1.** Annual contribution to the Production sub-window, component G1/a-ebon: subsidy for certified plants and quality inputs, and very small production equipment - **Activity 2.1.1.2.** Annual contribution to the Production Sub-Window, G1/b-PA component: co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives
Result 2.1.2. Improve the overall quality of cocoa and coffee products placed on the market

The following activities fall under this result:

- **Activity 2.1.2.1.** Annual contribution from the Communities Sub-Window, component G2/a-CTD: co-financing of real estate investments in the investment plans of post-harvest processing centres in rural cocoa and/or coffee-producing municipalities
- **Activity 2.1.2.2.** Annual contribution to the Local Authorities Sub-Window, G2/b/Coop component: co-financing of movable equipment for the business plans of cooperatives or partner economic interest groups in municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres.

Result 2.1.3. Strengthen the sustainable management of municipal territories and forest cover

The following activities fall under this result:

- **Activity 2.1.3.1.** Annual contribution from the Local Authority sub-fund, G2/c-PLADDT component: co-financing of the preparation of Local Plans for the Development and Sustainable Management of Municipal Land, setting out the allocation of land between different agricultural, forestry, urban and infrastructure uses, etc.
- **Activity 2.1.3.2**. Annual contribution to the Local Authority sub-fund, section G2/d-Green Investments: co-financing of green investments provided for in the PLADDT and PCD (or other local planning documents) such as reforestation, revegetation, forest cover protection and conservation measures, assisted natural regeneration actions, forest landscape restoration actions and restoration of degraded watersheds, etc.

Result 2.1.4. Supporting the agroecological transition of cocoa and coffee farms

The following activities fall under this result:

- **Activity 2.1.4.1.** Annual contribution from the Sustainability sub-window, G3/a-Agroecological Transition component: co-financing over three years of agroecological transition plans for cocoa and/or coffee producers at the level of their farms (orchards, food crops, fallow land) to make them more climate-resilient, by subsidising plant material for renewal/re-densification of orchards and enrichment with fertiliser and cover trees, the production of biofertilisers and biopesticides, the adoption of soil fertility conservation practices, etc., based on the principle of intensification and sustainable adaptation of existing agricultural land and refraining from expanding land area at the expense of natural or naturally regenerated forests (mitigation).
- **Activity 2.1.4.2.** Annual contribution to the Sustainability sub-window, G3/b-Agricultural advice/agroecological transition component. Co-financing of agricultural advice to accompany each producer individually throughout the three-year transition process, from mapping the farm and preparing its agroecological transition plan (PTA) to implementing activities, monitoring them and then evaluating them periodically. The agricultural technical advisor reports regularly on achievements to the FODECC via the digital platform using georeferenced reports.

Sub-component 2.2: Strengthening the structure and capacities of FODECC's partner actors.

Result 2.2.1. Support the strengthening and structuring of professional organisations (cooperatives, umbrella organisations, inter-professional organisations)

The following activities fall under this outcome:

- **Activity 2.2.1.1.** Support and advice on organisational development
- **Activity 2.2.1.2.** Capacity building on agroecological transition, RDUE standards, financing systems, etc.

Result 2.2.2. Support the development of the national private agricultural advisory network on agroecological transition
The following activities fall under this result: - **Activity 2.2.2.1.** Manage and develop the national network of agroecological transition advisors via the FODECC digital platform - **Activity 2.2.2.2.** Produce and disseminate technical training tools via the digital platform - **Activity 2.2.2.3.** Support the accreditation process for agricultural advisers in the regions
Result 2.2.3. Strengthen the capacities of CTDs and their local partners
- Activity 2.2.3.1. Support CTDs in the preparation of their PLADDTs - Activity 2.2.3.2. Support CTDs in the planning and implementation of their investments co-financed by the FODECC - Activity 2.2.3.3. Support partner organisations in municipalities in their planning and implementation processes for investments co-financed by FODECC

2.3 Component 3. Monitoring, verification, management and knowledge production

Component 3 focuses on strengthening the monitoring, verification and learning systems that underpin the Sustainability Linked Loan (SLL) mechanism and its alignment with CAFI, GCF and EU requirements. It builds on the existing digital architecture of the FODECC Guichet system to establish a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework capable of tracking deforestation compliance, environmental performance and the adoption of climate-smart practices by farmers.

***Outcome 3.1. Strengthened data and MRV systems for results-based management*.** Outcome 3.1 focuses on improving the existing FODECC digital platform, which manages farmer registration, plot geolocation, input distribution via e-vouchers and fund traceability. By strengthening this system with advanced data integration and analysis capabilities, the project will enable real-time monitoring of financial flows and environmental outcomes, including compliance with deforestation-free production requirements. Outcome 3.1 also introduces a robust monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework aligned with CAFI, GCF and EU standards.
The planned activities are as follows: - **Activity 3.1.1**. Strengthening the information and voucher management system of the Window - **Activity 3.1.2.** Robust MRV (monitoring, reporting and verification) framework for SLL operations, aligned with CAFI, GCF and EU requirements - **Activity 3.1.3.** Annual independent verification of project results using methods adapted to the ISO 14000 standard
Outcome 3.2 is dedicated to collecting, consolidating and sharing knowledge generated by the implementation of Cameroon's first sustainability-linked loan (SLL) for deforestation-free and climate-resilient cocoa and coffee production.
The following activity will be implemented: - **Activity 3.2.1.** Facilitation of South-South knowledge exchanges with a view to replicating the SLL model by leveraging CAFI's partnerships with six countries in the region.

3. Main actors

3.1 Main institutional actors

The Accredited Entity

The institutional anchor point for the project is the Accredited Entity (AE), the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)**. MINEPAT provides strategic oversight, interministerial coordination, compliance with national commitments (CAFI letter of intent) and ensures the proper application of the conditions for access to sustainability-linked loan resources. As the AA, MINEPAT signs the loan/grant agreement with the GCF and undertakes to comply with the donor's fiduciary, environmental and social requirements, to produce financial and performance reports, and to coordinate annual external audits.

MINEPAT's central role in coordination and implementation is in line with its national mandate to steer investment and land use policies.

As the EA for the GCF and the national coordinating entity for the CAFI Fund in Cameroon, MINEPAT is responsible for organising the project's steering committee (COPIL). MINEPAT will work closely with the CAA (for loan disbursement/servicing aspects) and will coordinate closely with FODECC to ensure full integration of project governance within FODECC's governance bodies. To this end, the project's COPIL will meet twice a year on the same date as the FODECC Management Committee meeting.
In financial and procedural terms, and in particular for sovereign loans/public financing, all disbursements relating to borrowed resources are centralised in the national debt and payment management systems: The **Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement (CAA)** is the public body responsible for receiving, holding and servicing loans and managing project accounts in accordance with Cameroonian law. In practice, withdrawal requests or disbursement requests initiated by the EE (e.g. FODECC for Component 2) are forwarded to MINEPAT (EA) for instruction, then to the CAA for the opening or funding of the project account, and finally executed according to the agreed modality (designated account, direct payment from the lender, reimbursement upon justification, or instruments such as letters of credit). This centralisation via the CAA ensures traceability, consolidation of debt information and compliance with debt servicing obligations.

Implementing Entities (EE): MINEPAT and FODECC

The **Implementing Entities (IE)** are divided by component:

- MINEPAT will act as the EE for Component 1 (institutional strengthening, traceability, PLADDT) and Component 3 (MRV, knowledge, independent verification), while
- The **Cocoa and Coffee Sector Development Fund (FODECC)** is the operational EE for Component 2 (the three windows — Production, Agroecology, Communities).

Legally, the link between the EA and each EA is formalised in the loan agreement with the GCF, known as the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA), which designates the FODECC as the project owner, assigning it responsibilities, fiduciary procedures, disbursement terms, audit and compliance clauses. This loan agreement (or FAA) provides, in particular, for: a description of the activities and expected results, the disbursement schedule (linked to milestones or expenditure supporting documents), procurement requirements, financial and technical reporting obligations, and mechanisms for suspending or recovering funds in the event of non-compliance.

Financial flows from the CFF are contractually channelled through the main EA-CFF agreement; the EA then delegates, by agreement, financing lines or disbursement vouchers to the EEs, which will be responsible for operational management and transfer to the final beneficiaries.

International co-financier

CAFI (Central African Forest Initiative) – provides a complementary grant and supports the implementation of sustainability-linked loans.

FODECC supervisory ministries

- **MINADER** (Agriculture and Rural Development)
- **MINCOMMERCE** (Trade)
- **MINRESI** (Scientific Research and Innovation)
- **MINFI** (Finance)

These ministries guide sectoral policies, applied research and the management of export royalties.

3.2 National public and private actors

Government co-financier

MINCOMMERCE via FODECC, through the cocoa export levy (225 CFA francs/kg, of which 126.5 CFA francs/kg are paid to FODECC).

Cocoa and coffee producers

Direct beneficiaries of the project, co-investing 60–80% of the cost of subsidised inputs via the Guichet system. Their active participation is conditional on the geolocation of plots and a commitment to "zero deforestation".

Cooperatives and professional organisations

Access co-financing by submitting business plans that meet FODECC criteria (productivity, sustainability, governance).

Decentralised local authorities (rural municipalities)

Key players for collective investments (post-harvest infrastructure, land use planning, reforestation, etc.). The Local Authorities Window can cover up to 80% of projected costs.

Financial institutions (banks and microfinance institutions)

FODECC technical partners: open producer accounts, manage subsidy flows, pre-finance quotas, and ensure financial traceability.

Agrodealers, nursery operators and equipment suppliers

Approved actors in the subsidy system; responsible for supplying certified inputs and ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

3.3 Other key stakeholders

International buyers and private partners

Indirectly involved through compliance with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and sustainable value chains.

Rural communities and local organisations

Participate in territorial implementation and environmental governance.

4. Potential environmental and social risks of the project and their management measures

4.1 Details of environmental and social risks and relevant management measures

Risk 1: Access restrictions/economic displacement

One of the main objectives of the project is to improve land use governance and encourage cocoa producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices**.** One contextual factor that the project seeks to address is the gradual expansion of plantations due to shifting cultivation (described above). This practice involves the gradual clearing of forested areas, which may be located on municipal land, among other places.

The project is working on several levels to improve the sustainability of land use, including through support for planning. Two activities in particular support the finalisation and implementation of local land use plans (PLADDT) at the rural municipal level, namely:

- **Activity 1.2.2.** Preparing and implementing local land use plans (PLADDT)
- **Activity 2.1.3.1.** Co-financing the preparation of Local Plans for Sustainable Development and Land Use in Municipalities, setting out land allocations for different uses

The preparation of local land use plans (PLADDT) requires mapping of current land use. This process could identify land users who cultivate cocoa and/or coffee (among other crops) by encroaching on community land for various reasons, including:

- Lack of precise definition of areas of use
- Opportunism due to the absence of sanctions/enforcement of mapped boundaries
- Encroachment supported by local corruption (financial and/or relational)

Regardless of the legality (or illegality) of the encroachment, the project's funding of PLADDTs could, if no specific measures are taken, lead to the eviction of certain farmers, resulting in their 'economic displacement'.

Risk management measure:

Territorial planning at different scales is governed by the 2011 Framework Law on Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development (No. 2011/008), including local plans (PLADDT)[5] . The procedure is codified in the Methodological Guide for the Development of PLADDTs, drawn up by MINEPAT in 2021.[6] This procedure comprises several phases and stages of consultation with the stakeholders concerned, in particular land users:

1. Organisation and preparation of the process / official launch
   - o Establishment of steering structures (steering committee, technical team, etc.).
   - o Launch workshop, communication/awareness-raising among the populations and stakeholders concerned.
   - o Mobilisation of basic data, institutional and financial framework.
2. Municipal diagnosis
   - o Collection and analysis of data at the municipal level (population, infrastructure, current land use, natural constraints, land tenure, etc.).
3. Terroir/villager assessment
   - o In-depth assessment at the level of regions, villages or groups of villages: participatory surveys, collection of local information, mapping, land use conflicts, etc.
4. Reporting, project development (provisional preliminary project)
   - o Development of land use options, infrastructure projects, development projects, future zoning.
   - o Feedback to local stakeholders to gather their comments.
5. Consideration of comments/adjustments
   - o Integration of feedback, cartographic or regulatory adjustments to the preliminary project.
6. Finalisation, official approval and public dissemination
   - o Finalisation of the formal document (maps, regulatory texts, technical documents).
   - o Submission for approval according to the procedures determined (by the competent authorities).
   - o Publication/dissemination to the public and local stakeholders.
7. Implementation & monitoring and evaluation
   - o Execution of selected projects, monitoring of compliance with PLADDT requirements, periodic reviews (often every five years) for adjustment.

The guide also specifies the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders (State, municipality, decentralised services, research companies, population, traditional leaders, etc.). Given the local authority's mandate for zoning within the local area, when encroachments are identified during the local/village assessment, the supervised consultation process would enable

[5] https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/Cmr192524.pdf

[6] https://euredd.efi.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/220322_GUIDE-DELABORATION-DES-PLADDT-FINAL-22-Mars-2022.pdf

solutions to be found collectively with users in order to avoid conflicts and economic displacement.

MINEPAT will ensure that this methodological guide is applied during the preparation of PLADDTs and will be able to insist that the PLADDT development process be a means of resolving conflicts of use diplomatically between municipalities and users.

Risk 2: Local pollution risks

One of the aims of the RACINE project is to help scale up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the Producers' Desk. This desk aims to support producers in intensifying their production, in particular through:

- (Electronic) subsidies for the purchase of plants and inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) activity 2.1.1.1 and
- Co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives activity 2.1.1.2

These two activities could therefore lead to an increase in the use of solid and liquid foliar fertilisers and insecticide and fungicide treatments applied by sprayer or nebuliser, increasing the risks of local pollution (soil and water) and waste mismanagement (packaging, wrapping, etc.).

Risk management measure:

In general, due to the significant cost of inputs, it is estimated that product waste (overuse) will be naturally limited. However, several measures to mitigate this risk are planned:

- Suppliers' technical specifications (characteristics of suppliers and inputs defined in agreements signed with approved suppliers) will encourage:
    - The promotion of products approved by MINADER, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
    - The recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers

- In terms of product supply, electronic vouchers will enable the procurement of:
    - Biopesticides/insecticides
    - Small equipment for better use of inputs

In addition to these measures taken in relation to the supply of the producer window, FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Raise awareness among farmers about the responsible use of fertilisers and pesticides, in particular by conducting practical demonstrations on the correct types and applications.
- Train producers in hazardous waste management
- Communicate environmental quality standards and specifications for export ly to limit the use of pesticides, including residue limits below the detection threshold.
- Quality control of eligible inputs, equipment, machinery, services, materials and other items (random sampling control).[7]

In a second phase, the project aims to support producers in making the transition to agroecology at the level of their farms. Activity 2.1.4.2 will enable producers participating in the Sustainability Window (component G3/a-Agroecological Transition) to benefit from individual support throughout the three-year transition process, including:

- Mapping the farm
- Preparation of their agroecological transition plan (PTA)
- Implementation of activities
- Monitoring and periodic evaluation.

The agricultural technical advisor will report regularly on achievements to the FODECC via the digital platform using georeferenced reports.

Risk 3: Working without appropriate equipment during spraying operations on plantations

This risk is complementary to risk 2 and is linked to the same activities supporting the intensification of cocoa and coffee production, in particular:

- (Electronic) subsidies for the purchase of seedlings and inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) **activity 2.1.1.1** and
- Co-financing of productive equipment, business plans for small producers and small production cooperatives **activity 2.1.1.2**

In the same way that these two activities could lead to local pollution due to increased use of solid and liquid foliar fertilisers and insecticide and fungicide treatments using sprayers or nebulisers, the use of these products without appropriate equipment could lead to illness or even injury among producers.

Risk management measure:

To mitigate this risk, the project will rely on several of the same measures as for the previous risk:

- Supplier technical specifications will encourage:
  - The promotion of MINADER-approved products, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
- Electronic vouchers will provide:
  - Biopesticides/insecticides
  - Small equipment for better use of inputs

[7] The FODECC establishes framework partnership agreements with technical authorising officers and other specialised bodies competent in the sectors, enabling the mobilisation of their main internal and subordinate specialised bodies. They will thus be able to contribute to quality control, in particular by periodically checking a representative sample of each type of subsidised product. Operational manual for the producers' window (Jan 2025)

FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Will offer training and awareness sessions for farmers on occupational risks and preventive measures related to the spraying of chemicals, in particular by conducting practical demonstrations on the correct types and applications.
- Train producers in hazardous waste management

Risk 4: Child labour on plantations

The Cameroonian legal framework regulates working hours and tasks that are acceptable for children.[8] According to the Cameroonian Labour Code, children are allowed to work from the age of 15, and those under the age of 14 working on cocoa farms may do so in a family setting characterised by socialisation and learning.[9]

The government, through the National Institute of Statistics (INS), conducted a modular survey on child labour in 2007 with the aim of carrying out a more comprehensive, nationwide survey. The results of this survey reveal that, in 2007, 41 per cent of children aged 5 to 17, or 2,441,181, were working in Cameroon. Among economically active children aged 5 to 17, 85.2 per cent were engaged in agriculture, fishing, forestry and gathering, while 79.3 per cent of economically active children were engaged in unpaid work as family workers.[10]

All project activities aimed at intensifying production, particularly activities **2.1.1.1** and **2.1.1.2,** could obviously encourage producers to call on their children to provide labour. Although more recent statistics are lacking, the INS study confirms that the majority of children under the age of 14 working in the cocoa sector do so as family workers, which is permitted under national legislation.

Risk management measure:

The project will implement a Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) developed by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI). This is a structured approach designed to identify, prevent and remedy child labour in cocoa supply chains. The CLMRS operates through a network of community facilitators who regularly visit households to raise awareness of the risks and consequences of child labour.

These facilitators actively identify children engaged in hazardous work or at risk of child labour, register their cases and put in place support measures tailored to the child, their family or the wider community. Support may include access to education, school kits, remedial classes, assistance in obtaining a birth certificate and improvements to school infrastructure.

The system is structured around four main functions:

- Raising awareness among farmers, children and communities about child labour and its harmful effects.

[8] Decree No. 17 of 27 May 1969 on child labour (Official Journal of the Federal Republic of Cameroon, 1 June 1969, No. 10, p. 939)

[9] LAW No. 92/007 OF 14 August 1992 ON THE LABOUR CODE. Article 86

[10] COMMISSION OF EXPERTS ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (CEACR) 2010 Observation, Convention No. 182https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/2014%20Compendium%20of%20hazardous%20child%20labour%20lists%20-%20Cameroon.pdf

- Identifying cases of child labour through active monitoring and standardised data collection tools.
- Providing support for remediation and prevention, including through diversification of agricultural household income and women's empowerment programmes.
- Conducting follow-up visits to monitor the child's situation and ensure their sustainable removal from child labour.

Data on the effectiveness of ICI implementation in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire show that 44 per cent of children previously engaged in child labour were no longer involved after two consecutive follow-up visits. This highlights the importance of continuous monitoring and community engagement.

To mitigate this risk, the project will emphasise the conditions to be included in the agreements signed with participating producers, a commitment that child labour should not take place at times when it could interfere with their schooling.

FODECC, through its partners (including the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC)):

- Organise awareness-raising sessions for producers on the prohibition of child labour in cocoa and coffee plantations that would interfere with their schooling
- Verify a representative sample of plots through on-site inspections

<u>**Risk 5**</u>: Potential registration of beneficiaries whose plots are located in permanent forest areas/protected areas

As global demand and cocoa prices rise, Cameroonian farmers are often encouraged to expand their cocoa plantations into adjacent forest areas. This expansion involves clearing primary and secondary forests to make way for cocoa crops. Traditional practices in Cameroon often involve a method of clearing land by cutting and burning existing vegetation to create more open fields.

Given this contextual trend, the producer window could end up supporting the intensification of plantations located in permanent forest/protected areas, particularly through activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.

Risk management measure:

The producer registration system allows this risk to be managed. FODECC has set up a cartographic data control system that verifies whether georeferenced plots are well outside the permanent forest domain (DFP). As detailed in the **Producer Window Operational Manual**, the producer's georeferencing via the FODECC smartphone application (AGRI4FARMER) is then superimposed on the permanent forest domain map. If a plot, according to its GPS survey, is located within the permanent forest domain of the State of Cameroon (protected area, forest management unit, communal forest, ZIC, forest reserve), it will automatically be marked in red and the subsidy process for that plot will be permanently blocked for all windows and sections of the Producer Window.[11]

[11] The boundaries of the Permanent Forest Domain (DFP), which is private property of the State (national parks, forest reserves, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, forest concessions (UFAs), hunting areas (ZICs), botanical gardens, etc.) and of municipalities (municipal forests), are inviolable. No agricultural activity is permitted within the DFP.

MINADER staff in the regions, as well as local associations, will also be available to assist producers with their registration and declarations to avoid exclusions based on procedural errors.

In addition, FODECC, with the support of the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC), plans to deploy teams to verify the data in the geographic information system by conducting random checks in the field.

Risk 6: Failure to comply with work rules and safety standards during the construction of buildings

The project will provide financial support to municipalities to facilitate real estate investments and the construction/renovation of post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.1), as well as co-financing for the equipment of cooperatives or partner economic interest groups (EIGs) of municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.2).

It is possible that during the implementation of these activities, some service providers may engage in practices that do not comply with labour law (contractualisation), including in terms of health and safety conditions on construction sites.

Risk management measure:

The construction of buildings, particularly post-harvest processing centres in municipalities, will follow the Cameroonian public procurement procedure[12] , as well as the relevant legislation concerning environmental impact studies[13] , building permits[14] , technical and safety requirements, and the execution of works and control. These procedures include the provisions of the Labour Code[15] and health and safety (HSE) at work.

The Communal Forest Technical Centre (CTFC), through funding from the FODECC, will be responsible for providing support, advice and monitoring to municipalities, from assistance with planning, programming, budgeting and preparing funding applications, etc., to monitoring implementation.

The FODECC Environmental and Social Safeguarding Specialist will be responsible for:

- verifying that technical and safety requirements and provisions of the Labour Code and Health and Safety at Work (HSE) are complied with during the contracting process (collection of documentation).
- Ensuring that the obligation to report incidents/accidents at work is communicated to FODECC

[12] Decree No. 2018/366 of 20 June 2018 on the Public Procurement Code (and related texts). Studies, works and supplies financed by the state budget, a municipality or public funds are subject to the Public Procurement Code: preparation (PI, DAO), advertising, competitive bidding, awarding, control and payment.

[13] Decree No. 2013/0171/PM of 14 February 2013 (EIA procedure)

[14] Law No. 2004/003 of 21 April 2004 on urban planning (a permit is required before any construction)

[15] Labour Code (Law No. 92/007 of 14 August 1992)

- Ensuring communication on the complaint management mechanism to the municipalities benefiting from the FODECC and that they communicate its existence to the workers employed.

<u>Risk 7</u>: Potential impact of coffee and cocoa production on biodiversity

Similar to the pollution that could be caused by the intensification of coffee and cocoa cultivation, cocoa monocultures are replacing older varieties and wild species with a few commercial varieties. This genetic uniformity reduces the crop's ability to adapt, and the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides could accelerate soil depletion.

As with the previous risks, the activities concerned are those that contribute to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities via the Producers' Window. In particular:

- **Activity 2.1.1.1** subsidies (electronic) for the purchase of seedlings, inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) and
- **Activity 2.1.1.2** Co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives

Risk management measure:

The project aims to reduce the impact of cocoa and coffee production on deforestation and, more generally, the impoverishment of ecosystems. On the one hand, the intensification of existing plantations will combat biodiversity degradation by limiting the area required by each producer thanks to productivity gains achieved through the producer window. As mentioned above:

- The technical specifications of suppliers (characteristics of suppliers and inputs defined in agreements signed with approved suppliers) will encourage:
    - The promotion of MINADER-approved products, minimising the use of hazardous substances and the production of hazardous emissions
    - The recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers
- Electronic vouchers will be used to procure:
    - Biopesticides/insecticides
    - Small equipment for better use of inputs

The project will also support producers (who opt for the sustainability window) in making an agroecological transition at the farm level through individual support throughout the transition process (described above)

In addition to these measures taken in relation to the producer window, FODECC, through its partners, will:

- Raise awareness among producers about the use of organic fertilisers
- Raise awareness and support beneficiaries of the Producer Window towards the Agroecological Window

- Verify a representative sample of plots through on-site inspections and GIS

Risk 8: Impact of climate variations on crop productivity

This risk is not strictly related to the project activities themselves, but rather a contextual factor (climate change) that could impact the sustainability of the project itself. The activities most directly affected are those that contribute to scaling up FODECC's direct subsidy capacities through the Producer Window. In particular:

- **Activity 2.1.1.1** (electronic) subsidies for the purchase of seedlings, inputs (pesticides and fertilisers) and
- **Activity 2.1.1.2** co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives

Risk management measure:

The FODECC sustainability window aims to improve the resilience of plantations to the impacts of climate change. Supporting farmers in accessing the sustainability window is therefore the main strategy for mitigating this risk, in particular:

- Supporting beneficiaries of developments in environmental preservation and climate change resilience through the agroecological transition plan (PTA)
- Training producers in sustainable production techniques and climate-smart agricultural practices
- By supplying plant material for the development of agroforestry

Risk 9: Unequal access for women to the producer window

Women play a leading role in agricultural production and the domestic economy. They are numerous in the agricultural sector: 71.6 per cent in the informal agricultural sector[16] and 56.3 per cent of the agricultural workforce. In cash crop sectors (cocoa, coffee, cotton, etc.), which were once reserved for men, women are increasingly numerous but generally face enormous difficulties, particularly in terms of access to land ownership, agricultural inputs, financial resources (credit, subsidies, grants, etc.), skilled labour and poor mastery of modern agricultural techniques"[17] which reduce their production capacity and the competitiveness of their farms.

[16] MINPROFF Statistical Yearbook, p.59

[17] "Cameroon, country gender profile, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Family Affairs/UN Women, 2020"

Only 10% of them own land, compared to 90% of men[18][19]. Although the existing legal framework facilitates access to land for women and men[20], traditional considerations and the low economic power of rural women make it difficult for them to access and control land.

When it comes to participation in decision-making, women are largely under-represented in all spheres of decision-making (for example, only 8% of mayors are women)[21]. They remain severely disadvantaged in the management of farm resources and have very little involvement in dialogue on sector development policies (and therefore very few opportunities to make their voices heard). Men have privileged access to public community meetings and often make decisions affecting the community on their own.

Given this reality, it is highly likely that fewer women will apply for grants. However, this is due to contextual inequalities in terms of access to land, rather than discriminatory measures related to the way the project is designed.

Risk management measure:

The project has developed a gender action plan. Its implementation will aim to combat contextual inequalities in the coffee and cocoa sector. Its finalisation and implementation will be the responsibility of FODECC's gender and inclusion unit.

Risk 10: Risk 10: Indigenous peoples : labour conditions and access to the producer window

The indigenous peoples recognised in Cameroon fall into two main categories:[22]

- the Baka, the Bagyéli and the Bakola, also known as the "forest peoples" or, pejoratively, "pygmies".
- The report also refers to the Mbororo peoples, who are transhumant herders.

It is estimated that 0.4% of Cameroon's total population is made up of Bagyeli or Bakola, whose numbers are estimated at around 4,000, and Baka, estimated at around 40,000. The Baka live mainly in the eastern and southern regions of Cameroon. The Bakola and Bagyeli live in an area of approximately 12,000 km² in southern Cameroon, particularly in the districts of Akom II, Bipindi, Kribi and Lolodorf.[23]

Originally, the forest peoples of Cameroon were pure hunter-gatherers, who cultivated virtually nothing. Several sedentarisation campaigns carried out during and after the colonial period resulted in most of the Baka, Bagyeli and Bakola having a permanent plot of land where they lived for most of

[18] International Coffee Organisation (ICO) and National Cocoa and Coffee Board (ONCC), 2019, *Cameroon Coffee Profile*, p. 16.

[19] Women have access to plots of land that they cultivate. However, this access to land does not give them control over it. They do not enjoy the land inheritance rights of their parents and husbands. When land is at stake, women have little opportunity to assert their rights (OCHA, 2019, Data on Gender Equality in Cameroon, p. 2).

[20] The Cameroonian legal framework promotes access to land for its citizens through three (03) main texts, including (i) Ordinance 74/1 of 6 June 1974 establishing the land tenure system (ii) Decree No. 76/165 of 27 April 1976 establishing the conditions for obtaining land titles and (iii) Decree No. 2005/481 of 16 December 2005 amending and supplementing certain provisions of the previous decree, allowing women and men to acquire land ownership.

[21] SND 30, op. cit. p. 99.

[22] REPORT OF THE EXPERT WORKING GROUP OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/COMMUNITIES (2005) Adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights at its 28th Ordinary Session

[23] https://iwgia.org/en/cameroon.html

the year by the 1960s. During the process of sedentarisation, the Baka, Bagyeli and Bakola adopted the subsistence farming practices of other ethnic groups living in the region. Most of the time, they live in semi-permanent camps near farming villages and maintain economic and ritual relationships with these villagers, but during the long dry season (November to March), they move to their hunting camps in the forest.[24]

There are also cases where members of these peoples work as labourers on Bantu-owned plantations under conditions that have often been described as "abusive".[25] However, there are no detailed studies documenting the presence and working conditions of indigenous peoples in the cocoa and coffee sectors.

Given this context, it is unlikely that many of the farmers who register at the counters will be from Indigenous Peoples, and there is no reason to believe that, if this were the case, FODECC would engage in discriminatory practices when deciding on the allocation of grants. However, it is impossible to completely rule out this possibility. It is also possible that farmers benefiting from the project may have workers from the IP groups identified above and that these workers may be employed in poor conditions (low pay, etc.). A 2026 study by CED and Fern conducted across ten localities in the Centre, South and East regions provides updated evidence that Baka women are specifically confined to low-paid labour on Bantu-owned plantations, with limited income control and high exposure to exploitative conditions. On this basis, and consistent with the assessment in the IPPF (Annex 8), the labour dimension of this risk is assessed as Moderate in terms of severity, notwithstanding the low probability of IP producers being directly registered in the FODECC system given their current marginal participation in the formal sector.

Risk management measure:
An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been prepared as a companion document to this ESMP (see Annex 8). The IPPF establishes the framework for managing all project interactions with indigenous peoples throughout implementation, and should be read alongside the measures below.

Measures applicable from project start:

- FODECC will commission a baseline study (Year 1) to document the participation of indigenous peoples as owners or labourers on cocoa and coffee plantations, the barriers they face in accessing FODECC subsidies, their working conditions, and their presence and customary land use in beneficiary municipalities. The study will include structured consultations with IP communities and will be submitted to MINEPAT and the GCF by Month 12.
- All producer agreements under the FODECC Guichet system will include a clause prohibiting exploitative labour practices affecting IP workers. Agricultural advisors will be trained to identify and report cases of IP labour exploitation through the digital monitoring platform.
- FODECC, in partnership with IP representative organisations (CED, OKANI, RACOPY), will conduct outreach sessions in IP communities to explain eligibility criteria and provide

[24] Schmidt-Soltau, K., Dr (2003) Development plan for indigenous peoples ("pygmies") for the sectoral programme on forests and the environment

[25] The Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Cameroon Supplementary report submitted following Cameroon's third periodic report 54th Ordinary Session, October 2013 Presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, jointly submitted by: Centre for Environment and Development (CED) Okani Network for Concerted Action on Pygmies (RACOPY) [Research Network for Concerted Action in Favour of Pygmies] Association for the Social and Cultural Development of the Mbororo (MBOSCUDA) International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)

facilitated support for plot georeferencing and bank account opening.

- FODECC's registration system does not require formal land title as a condition of eligibility, which is critical for IP producers who typically hold customary but not formal title.
- In municipalities with known IP presence, MINEPAT will ensure that PLADDT processes explicitly map customary land use, including forest areas used for hunting, gathering and seasonal activities. No land allocations will be formalised without prior consultation with affected IP communities.

When the IPPF provisions are activated:

Site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) will be prepared under the IPPF whenever any of the following circumstances arise during implementation:

- A PLADDT process in a municipality with significant IP presence proposes to formalise land allocations that would restrict or extinguish IP customary access to forest areas;
- A post-harvest processing centre or other civil works activity is proposed in or immediately adjacent to a recognised sacred forest or site of known IP cultural significance;
- Any project activity would have a significant adverse impact on IP cultural heritage or would restrict IP access to natural resources on land subject to traditional ownership or customary use.

In these circumstances, FODECC or MINEPAT will suspend the relevant activity and initiate the FPIC procedure set out in the IPPF (Annex A of the IPPF) before proceeding.

4.2 Summary of environmental and social risks and management measures for the project

The main potential environmental and social risks of the project described in the previous section are summarised in the following table.

Main risks	**Relevant activities**	**Risk level**	**Environmental and social risk management measures** (see details in the previous section)	**Responsible for implementation/monitoring**
Risk 1: Access/economic movement restrictions	● Activity 1.2.2. Prepare and implement local land use plans (PLADDT) ● Activity 2.1.3.1. Co-finance the preparation of Local Plans for Sustainable Land Use and Development in the municipality, setting out land use allocations between different uses	P:3 I:2 Importance: **Moderate**	→ Implementation of the participatory procedure for developing PLADDTs as codified in **the Methodological Guide for Developing PLADDTs** prepared by MINEPAT in 2021.[26]	MINEPAT
Risk 2: Use of solid fertilisers, foliar fertilisers and insecticide/fungicide sprays with risks of local pollution.	● Activity 2.1.1.1. Annual contribution to the Production sub-window, component G1/a-ebon: subsidy for certified plants and quality inputs, and very small production equipment ● Activity 2.1.1.2. Annual contribution to the Production Sub-Window,	P:4 I:2 Importance: **Moderate**	→ General measures to limit waste and misuse of inputs ● The high cost of inputs naturally limits waste. ● Specific mitigation measures are planned to reinforce this control. --- → Measures related to suppliers and inputs ● Agreements with approved suppliers will include technical specifications:	Producers Approved suppliers

[26] https://euredd.efi.int/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/220322_GUIDE-DELABORATION-DES-PLADDT-FINAL-22-Mars-2022.pdf

	component G1/b-PA: co-financing of productive equipment for the business plans of small producers and small production cooperatives		o Promotion of products approved by MINADER, in order to reduce the use of hazardous substances and harmful emissions. o Recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers. --- → Measures related to product supply (via electronic vouchers) ● Provision of: o Biopesticides/insecticides. o Small equipment promoting more efficient use of inputs. --- → Actions by FODECC and its partners ● Raising awareness among farmers about the responsible use of fertilisers and pesticides, with practical demonstrations. ● Training producers in hazardous waste management. ● Communication of environmental standards and specifications related to exports to limit the use of pesticides. --- → Measures for agroecological transition (activity 2.1.4.2) ● Individual support for producers participating in the Sustainability Desks over a period of three years: o Mapping of the farm. o Preparation of the Agroecological Transition Plan (ATP). o Implementation of planned activities. o Periodic monitoring and evaluations.	Approved suppliers FODECC - training unit Approved agricultural advisers

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Technical monitoring provided by an agricultural advisor, with georeferenced reports sent to FODECC via the digital platform.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk 3: Working without appropriate equipment during spraying operations in plantations</td><td>Activity 2.1.1.1.
Activity 2.1.1.2.</td><td>P:4
I:3

Moderate</td><td>→ Technical specifications for suppliers:
Promotion of products approved by MINADER, in order to reduce the use and production of hazardous substances and emissions.
--
→ Electronic vouchers:
Purchase of biopesticides/insecticides.
Acquisition of small equipment to improve the use of inputs.
--
→ Actions by FODECC and its partners:
Training and awareness-raising for farmers on occupational risks and preventive measures related to the spraying of chemicals, with practical demonstrations.
Training on hazardous waste management for producers.</td><td>Approved suppliers

FODECC</td></tr>
<tr><td>Risk 4: Child labour on plantations</td><td>All project activities aimed at intensifying production, in particular activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2</td><td>P:3
I:3
Significance: Moderate</td><td>→ Implementation of the Child Labour Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS) developed by the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) to identify, prevent and remedy child labour in the cocoa sector.
How the CLMRS works:
Network of community facilitators conducting regular home visits to raise awareness of the risks of</td><td>FODECC - Gender and Social Inclusion Unit

Certified agricultural advisers</td></tr>
</table>

			child labour. o Active identification of children engaged in hazardous or risky work. o Implementation of appropriate support measures (access to education, school kits, remedial classes, birth certificates, school infrastructure). ● Four main functions of the system: o Raising awareness among farmers, children and communities about the harmful effects of child labour. o Active monitoring and collection of standardised data to identify cases. o Remediation and prevention, including income diversification and women's empowerment programmes. o Follow-up visits to ensure the sustainable removal of children from work. -- → Producer commitment: ● Inclusion in contractual agreements of a ban on child labour during school terms. -- → Actions by FODECC and its partners (including CTFC): ● Awareness-raising sessions for producers on the prohibition of child labour on plantations. ● On-site inspections of a representative sample of plots for verification purposes.	Producers and FODECC FODECC and CTFC
Risk 5: Potential registration of beneficiaries whose plots are located in	Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.	P:3 I:3 Significance: Moderate	→ Producer registration system: ● Manages risk through control of cartographic data.	FODECC

permanent forest areas/protected areas			● Verifies that georeferenced plots are located outside the Permanent Forest Domain (DFP). -- → Georeferencing procedure: ● Carried out by producers using the FODECC's AGRI4FARMER application. ● GPS data is superimposed on the PFD map. ● If a plot is located within the PFD (protected areas, UFAs, communal forests, ZICs, forest reserves), it is marked in red and permanently excluded from any subsidies. -- → Support for registration: ● MINADER staff and local associations assist producers to avoid procedural errors. -- → Field checks: ● FODECC, with the support of the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC), sets up random inspection teams to verify the reliability of GIS data.	FODECC Monitoring and Evaluation Unit Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC),
Risk 6: Failure to comply with work rules and safety standards during the construction of buildings	The project will provide financial support to municipalities to facilitate real estate investments and the construction/renovation of post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.1), as well as co-financing for the purchase of equipment for cooperatives or partner economic interest	P:3 I: 3 **Importance: Moderate**	→ Construction procedures: ● Application of Cameroon's public procurement procedures. ● Compliance with national legislation on environmental impact assessments, building permits, technical and safety requirements, and execution/control of works. ● Compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code and	Municipal public procurement units

	groups (EIGs) of municipalities for the management of their post-harvest processing centres (activity 2.1.2.2).		occupational health, safety and environment (HSE) standards. -- → Role of the CTFC (funded by FODECC): ● Support, advice and monitoring of municipalities for planning, programming, budgeting, preparing financing dossiers and monitoring the implementation of infrastructure. -- → Responsibilities of the FODECC Environmental and Social Safeguarding Specialist: ● Verifying compliance with technical, safety and HSE requirements during the contracting process (collection of documentation). ● Ensure communication and follow-up of incidents or accidents at work reported to FODECC. ● Inform beneficiary municipalities about the complaint management mechanism and ensure that workers are informed.	CTFC FODECC (safeguarding unit)
Risk 7: Potential impact of coffee and cocoa production on biodiversity	Activities 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2.	P:3 I:3 Significance: Moderate	→ Overall project objective: ● Reduce the impact of cocoa and coffee production on deforestation and ecosystem degradation. ● Intensify existing plantations to limit the expansion of cultivated areas through productivity gains from the Producer Window. -- → Technical specifications for suppliers: ● Promotion of products approved by MINADER to reduce	FODECC Suppliers

			hazardous substances and emissions. ● Recovery of empty chemical containers by input suppliers. --- → Electronic vouchers: ● Supply of biopesticides/insecticides. ● Purchase of small equipment to improve input use. --- → Support for producers: ● Support for producers involved in the Sustainability Window for an agroecological transition at the farm level. --- → Actions by FODECC and its partners: ● Raising awareness of the use of organic fertilisers. ● Support for beneficiaries of the Producer Scheme to transition to the Agroecological Scheme. ● On-site and GIS checks on a representative sample of plots for verification.	Certified agricultural advisers
Risk 8: Impact of climate variations on crop productivity		P:2 I:3 Significance: Moderate	→ Sustainability objective: ● Strengthen the resilience of plantations to the impacts of climate change. ● Supporting farmers in accessing the sustainability window is the main risk mitigation measure. --- → Specific measures:	FODECC - training unit, monitoring and evaluation unit, and Certified agricultural advisers

			● Implementation of the Agroecological Transition Plan (PTA) to promote environmental preservation and climate resilience. ● Training producers in sustainable production techniques and climate-smart agricultural practices. ● Supply of plant material for the development of agroforestry.	
Risk 9: Unequal access for women to the producers' counter		P:2 I:2 Significance: Low	→ Development and implementation of a Gender Action Plan (GAP) by the project. ● Objective: to combat existing gender inequalities in the coffee and cocoa sectors. ● Responsibility: FODECC's Gender and Inclusion Unit will be responsible for finalising and implementing the plan.	FODECC – Gender and Inclusion Unit
Risk 10: Potential discrimination and/or violation of the rights of indigenous peoples with regard to access to the window		P:2 I:3 Significance: Moderate	→ An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) has been prepared as Annex 8 of the project safeguards package. It establishes the framework for managing all project interactions with indigenous peoples and specifies when site-specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) and FPIC processes will be required. → Commission an IP baseline study (Year 1) documenting IP participation in the cocoa/coffee sector, working conditions, access barriers and customary land use in beneficiary municipalities. → All producer agreements to include a clause prohibiting exploitative labour practices affecting IP labourers. Monitored through agricultural advisor reports and the GRM. → Targeted outreach and facilitated FODECC registration support for IP producers through partnerships with CED,	FODECC - Safeguards Unit

			OKANI and RACOPY. → PLADDT processes in areas with IP presence to include explicit mapping of customary land use. No land allocations formalised without prior consultation. → IPPs and FPIC triggered when: PLADDT activities restrict IP forest access; civil works affect IP cultural heritage sites; or any activity significantly impacts IP natural resource access. Full procedure in IPPF Annex A.	

5. Implementation and monitoring of the ESMP

5.1 Institutional organisation for implementation

The implementation of the ESMP is based on the institutional structures already involved in the execution of the technical components of the project. These structures will ensure the systematic integration of environmental and social measures into the planning, programming, financing and monitoring of project activities.

MINEPAT, as the Accredited Entity (AE), provides strategic oversight of the ESMP. It ensures compliance with national policies and the environmental and social requirements of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI). MINEPAT also coordinates with the relevant sectoral ministries (MINADER, MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINCOMMERCE, MINFI, MINRESI) and provides overall monitoring of environmental and social performance indicators.

FODECC, as the Implementing Entity (IE) responsible for Component 2, is responsible for the operational implementation of environmental and social measures relating to the windows (Producers, Communities and Sustainability). FODECC, through its Environmental and Social Safeguards Unit (SES), ensures:

- verification of the environmental and social compliance of activities;
- supervision of awareness-raising, training and communication activities;
- regular monitoring of the implementation of mitigation measures by producers, agrodealers, municipalities and cooperatives.

Decentralised local authorities (CTDs), particularly beneficiary rural municipalities, are responsible for integrating environmental and social management measures into the implementation of their Local Plans for Land Use and Sustainable Development (PLADDTs) and into the supervision of community infrastructure construction or rehabilitation projects.

Certified agricultural advisers and technical partners (CTFC, agrodealers, EMF, etc.) will support the implementation of the PGES measures through:

- direct advice and support to producers;
- monitoring good agricultural and safety practices;
- information gathering and reporting in the field.

A technical commission for environmental and social monitoring of the project will be set up, attached to the project's Steering Committee (COPIL), to ensure coordination and periodic review of E&S performance. It will meet twice a year.

5.2 Capacity building

Capacity building is an essential condition for the effective implementation of the PGES. The project will finance training, information and awareness-raising activities targeting the various project stakeholders:

Stakeholders	**Training/support topics**	**Frequency/Modality**
FODECC and MINEPAT staff	Environmental and social management, monitoring of E&S management measures, communication and complaint handling	Initial training + annual refresher courses
Certified agricultural advisers	Good agricultural practices, health and safety, input management, gender approach and inclusion	Half-yearly regional sessions
Producers and cooperatives	Responsible use of inputs, health and safety, combating child labour, agroecological practices	Ongoing awareness-raising via the Guichet and advisory visits
Municipalities and CTDs	Integration of the PGES into procurement, site monitoring, complaint management	Annual workshops

Educational materials and training modules will be produced in partnership with the Communal Forestry Technical Centre (CTFC) and made available via the FODECC digital platform.

5.3 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Environmental and social monitoring aims to verify the effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement measures and to ensure compliance with legal obligations and the safeguard policies of the FVC and CAFI.

Monitoring will be carried out at three levels:

1. Field monitoring by agricultural advisers and forestry units in the beneficiary municipalities, through periodic environmental and social compliance reports (including georeferenced photos via the FODECC platform);
2. Consolidated monitoring by the FODECC's SES unit, which will analyse the data collected, verify the indicators and carry out support/control missions;
3. Strategic monitoring by MINEPAT, through consolidated quarterly and annual reports submitted to the GCF and CAFI.

Half-yearly E&S monitoring report will be produced by FODECC and submitted to MINEPAT . It will include:

- the progress of mitigation measures;
- cases of non-compliance and corrective measures;
- complaints received and their resolution;
- additional training or technical assistance needs.

An annual independent verification will be carried out in accordance with the project's MRV system (Activity 3.1.3).

5.4 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

FODECC will establish a transparent, accessible and inclusive mechanism enabling stakeholders (producers, workers, local residents, etc.) to submit their complaints, concerns or suggestions.

Any affected individual, community, service provider or stakeholder may file a complaint. Complaints may be anonymous or filed by an authorised representative. Complaints not related to FODECC-funded activities or outside the scope of the project are ineligible.

The GRM will have four levels:

1. Local level: complaints submitted to the agricultural advisor or the municipality;
2. Regional FODECC level: registration in the Guichet database and initial verification;
3. Central level (FODECC SES Unit): in-depth analysis, follow-up on corrective measures;
4. MINEPAT/COPIL level: handling of complex or unresolved cases.

Each complaint will be recorded in an electronic register with an acknowledgement of receipt. Responses will be provided within a maximum of 30 working days. Channels will include: paper forms, mobile application, telephone line, or submission at the town hall. A procedure for handling complaints will be detailed.

These four levels constitute the internal escalation of the project-level mechanism, which is the first of three levels of recourse available to any affected person. The second level is the institutional Grievance Redress Mechanism of MINEPAT, the Accredited Entity, grounded in its signed SEAH instruments, with investigations by the General Inspectorate (IGEFS) and sanctions through the CELCOR/SEAH Unit. The third level is the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) of the Green Climate Fund. Any affected person may bring a grievance to the Accredited Entity level or directly to the GCF IRM, without exhausting the lower levels; acknowledgement of receipt is provided within 24 hours and, for SEAH complaints, response is triggered within 72 hours. The Complaints Management Mechanism described in this section constitutes the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), the term used across the Funding Proposal and its annexes.

The complaints management mechanism will be accessible and inclusive survivor-centred and gender-responsive, with specific procedures for SEAH including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of such cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and modalities to provide timely services and redress to survivors, including as appropriate, medical care, psychosocial support, legal support, community driven protection measures, and reintegration.

The E&S Specialist will maintain a register of complaints including:

- the number and nature of complaints received,
- processing times,
- results and satisfaction levels.

The FODECC's GRM is an essential tool for transparency, accountability and dialogue with stakeholders. It ensures structured, accessible and fair management of concerns, thereby promoting the social and environmental sustainability of the projects supported.

The detailed operation of this mechanism is set out in the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism and in the consolidated MINEPAT SEAH grievance mechanism, which are annexed to this ESMP. At executing-entity level, it derives from the FODECC grievance framework set out in the FODECC Environmental and Social Management System (Annex 5), which requires each financed activity to operate its own grievance redress mechanism.

5.5 Implementation schedule

The ESMP will be implemented throughout the duration of the RACINE project (6 years). Monitoring, training and awareness-raising measures will be continued, with half-yearly reviews and an annual update of the ESMP based on the results of the monitoring and the recommendations of the audits.