

National Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (BES) Assessment in Cameroon

About Us:

In a concerted action to strengthen the interrelation between science and policies that are defined on biodiversity and ecosystem services, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) was established in 2012. It provides policy makers with objective scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity, ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people, as well as the tools and methods to protect and sustainably use these vital natural assets.

The central task of this global platform which groups Governments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) is geared towards synthesizing and evaluating available knowledge as regards biodiversity and ecosystem services, owing to requests from concerned Governments and other decision makers. The work of IPBES can be broadly grouped into four complementary areas:

Assessments: *On specific themes (e.g. "pollinators pollination and food production"); methodological issues (e.g. "scenarios and modelling); and at both the regional and global levels (e.g. "Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services")*

Policy Support: *identifying policy relevant tools and methodologies, facilitating their use, and catalyzing their further development.*

Building Capacity & knowledge: *identifying and meeting the priority capacity, knowledge and data needs of member states, experts and stakeholders.*

Communication & outreach: *Ensuring the widest reach and impact of their mission.*

Specifically speaking, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) Support Project component for Cameroon aims at strengthening the interface between scientific research and policy on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services by carrying out policy-relevant biodiversity and ecosystem assessments and integrating their findings into decision-making at national, sector and local levels through the development and use of associated policy support tools.

This project constitutes a major

opportunity for Cameroon through the coordination of MINEPDED to work towards attaining its defined national targets. The BES Support Project to be executed by NESDA-CA as a National Governance NGO working in partnership with WCMC-UNEP is thus expected to accompany MINEPDED to ensure an SPBES is established in Cameroon and made to be fully operationalized collaborating with key government actors, research and academia and NGOs in carrying on BES assessments within the next 4 years.

Our Mission:

It is to strengthen knowledge foundations for better policy through science, for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human wellbeing and sustainable development.

Our Key Deliverables:

To attain this objective of the project, the following key deliverables have been defined:

- ⇒ **Deliverable 1:** *Organize a National Inception and Scoping Assessment Workshop*
- ⇒ **Deliverable 2:** *Carryout a National Assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services*
- ⇒ **Deliverable 3:** *Carry out Communication and Outreach geared at sensitizing and disseminating information on the BES Assessment*
- ⇒ **Deliverable 4:** *Building Capacity for the national assessment and communication of its findings*

Our Conceptual Framework:

The first public product of IPBES is its conceptual framework (CF). To guide the design and completion of IPBES assessments, experts have led the development of a Conceptual Framework (CF) for IPBES through a transparent and highly engaged process. The IPBES CF was adopted in December 2013.

The IPBES CF is a graphic expression of the inter-relationships that help us understand how biodiversity and ecosystem services are expressed among scales (both spatial and temporal) and world views (both western science, and indigenous and local knowledge approaches). It is highly simplified to allow

us to express many things in one figure. It is widely accepted that such simplification cannot capture all relevant meaning. It is intended to provide common ground for discussion and growth.

The IPBES CF includes six inter-linked elements constituting a social ecological system that operates at various scales in time and space: **nature; nature's contributions to people; anthropogenic assets, institutions and governance systems and other indirect drivers; direct drivers and good quality of life.**

Project title: Supporting Decision Making and Building Capacity through National Ecosystem Assessments

Project Country: Cameroon

Proposed Timeframe: July 2017-December 2020

Funding: IKI Climate Finance

Supervisory Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

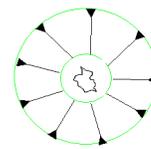
Management: NESDA-CA

Project partners:

- World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)

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