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PROTECTION DE LA NATURE ET DU  
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## **SECOND NATIONAL TRIALOGUE ON SCIENCE POLICY FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

**Mbankomo, 25 – 27 February 2019**

### **Objectives of the National Trialogue**

The Cameroon Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) Assessment is currently at the stage of finalizing the First Order Draft (FOD) assessment report and initiating peer-review. Although the drafting process is not yet at the stage for identifying key findings from which key messages will be drawn for the Summary for Policymakers (SPM), this is a key moment for the National Trialogue to bring together the authors, experts and policy makers to:

- Explore the early trends emerging in the assessment vis-à-vis the original policy questions;
- Review across and between FOD chapters whether relevant policy questions are being addressed, where the gaps are and how to improve where necessary;
- Understand the expectations of policymakers regarding the usefulness of the key findings for specific policy areas;
- Fine-tune policy questions where relevant, and add new ones if appropriate; and
- Agree the purpose of SPM and how it will draw on key policy-relevant findings.

### **Background**

The Cameroon Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in collaboration with the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Central Africa (NESDA-CA) has been facilitating the National BES Assessment since 2017. This initiative is conducted under the framework of the [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network \(BES-Net\)](#) project, which is hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The BES Assessment is an on-going process that has brought about significant progress in institutionalizing the conduct of assessments. Major outcomes of the BES Assessment process in Cameroon include the institutionalisation of a National Platform for Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (NP-SPBES), which serve as a national advisory body for all assessments carried out on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The NP-SPBES is charged with ensuring the viability of data sources, validating all national assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services amongst others.

Furthermore, it is a major scientific and policy organ set up in this process and is made up of the BES Assessment team of authors. This organ has brought together over 18 renowned authors who have so far internalised the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) conceptual model for carrying out assessments and so far developed the following key documents:

- i) *A Scoping Report*: A Report, that defines the geographic scope for the on-going assessment and key policy-relevant questions for which responses are required to guide decision making. These questions are to be addressed during the assessment. The scoping document provides for the following chapters:
  - Chapter one: The introductory chapter that sets the scene for the assessment;
  - Chapter two: On the conceptual framework used for the BES Assessment;
  - Chapter three: The current Status of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  - Chapter four: The drivers of change;
  - Chapter five: On scenarios to be developed; and
  - Chapter six: Governance issues.
- ii) *Zero Order Draft (ZOD)*: A framework or outline of the structure of the document and the priority elements to be addressed with regard to each policy question as to be addressed in each chapter.
- iii) *First Order Draft (FOD)*: An assessment of the first series of data collected and its collation within the agreed framework or outline.

Although this progress has been achieved, there are new authors brought on board who were not involved in the setting of the policy-relevant questions that are expected to frame the analysis of the findings and make the assessment relevant to key policymakers. Work thus far has largely progressed in chapters with authors working on their individual chapters. A consolidated document is yet to be produced. The review of the first draft of each chapter has just been initiated based on an established list of reviewers per chapter. The review of the data being collected to ensure FOD responds to the original policy questions is thus critical.

It is within this context that the Second National Dialogue on BES Assessment has been planned to strengthen the ongoing assessment work. The planned National Dialogue is the second in the series to be co-organised by MINEPDED and NESDA-CA with expert input from BES-Net. This Dialogue will greatly build on the [first \(Mini-\)National Dialogue](#) that was organized in May 2018 at the Yaounde-Hilton Hotel and brought together over 60 science-policy experts from among members of the National Biodiversity Committee and NP-SPBES, and authors of the BES Assessment. A major outcome of the Mini-National Dialogue was the building of capacity of an expanded number of experts on the assessment approach and this resulted in more experts becoming authors for the assessment.

This Second National Dialogue within the assessment is timely as it will again provide a great opportunity for a global overview of the consolidated FOD and provide the opportunity to explore the early trends emerging from the data vis-à-vis the original policy questions and engage with policymakers and key stakeholders to understand their expectations regarding thematic areas of relevance:

- Pollination
- Invasive Species
- Land-Use
- Forest Trade (timber and non-timber)

The thematic areas of food security and land degradation were also highlighted in the Mini-National Dialogue as relevant areas for consideration and the Second Dialogue provides the opportunity to fine-tune the policy questions where appropriate.

Considering the role of the NP-SPBES, as the oversight organ for the National BES Assessment, and all assessments relevant to BES, an NP-SPBES meeting has also been convened on the heels of the Trialogue. Organising the NP-SPBES meeting provides a strategic opportunity to present the outcomes of the National Trialogue as well as the updates and perspectives for the ongoing BES Assessment.

The Second National Trialogue on BES will be organized on 25–27 February 2019 in Mbankomo and will bring together all the 18 authors of the BES Assessment and about 10 major contributors to this process. On the 27<sup>th</sup> February, members of NP-SPBES will join the authors and contributors in order to enhance the understanding of policy maker expectations for the key findings, particularly around specific key thematic areas for policy. There will also be a formal meeting of the NP-SPBES in the afternoon of the 27<sup>th</sup> February. The NP-SPBES meeting will bring together about 50 statutory members of the platform, co-opted authors and partners.