

# PROCESSING AND MARKETING FOREST FRUITS INTO NATURAL AND ORGANIC PRODUCTS WITH HIGH ECOLOGICAL VALUE

Full cost : **71,000 euros**  
Duration : **3 years**  
Start : **april 2020**



CAMEROON

The establishment of a transformation platform of non-wood forest products and cocoa into vegetal butters increases added value of the products, and significantly improves the producer's revenue. The creation of a social business for commercialisation, ensure a sustainable production, traceable and fair.



A project implemented by :



And supported by :





People living near protected areas (PAs) are often isolated in remote rural areas without economic opportunities.

The lack of added value of forest and agroforestry products accelerates the degradation of natural resources, deforestation and the instability of the populations living around these PAs.

## Major issues

After the DRC, Cameroon is the country with the highest biodiversity and the highest number of endemic species among the Central Africa countries.

They are threatened by unsustainable land-clearing and slash-and-burn agricultural systems, over-exploitation of species (poaching, gathering), and industrial mining and logging projects.

In addition, Cameroon is one of the countries identified as being at risk of deforestation for the world cocoa market, even though nearly 2 million Cameroonians (10% of the population) live in production systems linked with forests that cover 40% of the national territory as a whole.

However, there is an emerging demand in Cameroon for organic products (cosmetics and food) that is not yet covered in cities. But confidence in national products remains to be built as there are not yet sufficient guarantees of quality.

## Committed partners

**Tropical Forest Food and Cosmetics (TF-FC)** is a social enterprise created by TF-RD in 2017 to process raw forest products into oils, powders and butters and to market them.

It has a processing platform in Yaoundé, and sources its raw materials directly from local communities.

TF-FC's objective is to add value to products from the forest by ensuring good remuneration for local communities, sustainable exploitation of resources, traceability and high product quality.

## The project and the prospects for change

The project aims to promote the development of organic value chains in Cameroon as a lever for conservation around two PAs: the Dja Biosphere Reserve (in the South) and the Bénoué National Park (in the North), where local farmers' trajectories are identified as organic practices.

Initially, the aim will be to accompany the upgrading in quality of processed products from forests (existing and new), according to the specifications of the identified markets.

A range of cosmetic products will be developed in particular through partnerships with private companies (for inputs, skills sponsorship, etc.).

The project will also aim at a change of scale for the marketing of the products, through the implementation of innovative marketing approaches: iterative prototyping of cosmetics for urban consumers, support to emerging social enterprises for the processing and marketing of products with high ecological value, etc.

The processing of these NTFPs into innovative products (such as moabi butter, mbalaka oil, cocoa juice) will increase community incomes who will then have an economic interest in conserving their forest.

