



Decision on SECU Case. No. SECU0008

UNDP takes note of the compliance review conducted on Case No. SECU0008 and wishes to thank the Social and Environmental Compliance Unit for the final report.

In my capacity as Administrator of UNDP, I have carefully reviewed SECU's findings and recommendations and our responsibility to comply fully with our Social and Environmental Standards (SES). It is important that the voices of the individuals and communities with whom we work are heard, and that UNDP has an opportunity to respond to and address the issues that they raise.

The final SECU report dated 24 September 2020 on the *Integrated and Transboundary Conservation of Biodiversity in the Basins of the Republic of Cameroon*, project, known as *TRIDOM 2*, has been thoroughly analyzed by the Regional Bureau for Africa, the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and the UNDP Country Office in the Republic of Cameroon.

SECU has acknowledged the positive elements of this project, including plans to protect endangered biodiversity and ecosystems in the TRIDOM region, and combat illegal wildlife trade while promoting community-based natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods. However, SECU has indicated that this project did not take UNDP's social and environment safeguards policy (SES) fully into account during project development.

UNDP has discussed the findings and recommendations of the report with our government and NGO partners and the report has been shared with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat and GEF Council members.

Following these discussions, UNDP, in close consultation with the Government of Cameroon and GEF, has decided to reformulate this project. The reformulation process will address the findings and recommendations of the SECU report in full.

In moving ahead, no project activities will recommence until the project has been reformulated and shared with the GEF Secretariat and the Council for approval. As part of this process:

- Social and environmental risks in the revised project will be fully screened and measures to mitigate identified risks will be put in place;



- The project will establish a grievance redress system and ensure that it is easily accessible to those affected;
- Consultations with the indigenous Baka people and other local communities will proceed according to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent;
- The action plans required by the SES, including an Indigenous Peoples Plan, will be developed to integrate measures to mitigate identified risks;
- The capacity of UNDP Cameroon will be strengthened to ensure effective implementation and oversight of the reformulated project.

UNDP remains committed to continue providing support for community-led conservation and livelihood development activities in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

While UNDP's SES are recognized as being of very high quality, it is critical that we put these standards into practice thoroughly and consistently. To support this, UNDP approved a 2020 corporate Social and Environmental Safeguards Plan with immediate steps to improve SES implementation, accountability, oversight and support functions across UNDP.

I would like to reiterate my strong personal commitment to ensuring that indigenous peoples' rights and sound environmental standards underpin all that we do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Achim Steiner'.

Achim Steiner
8 February 2021