



## CAMEROON BIOSECURITY PROJECT

*Development and Institution of a National Monitoring and Control System (Framework) for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and Invasive Alien Species (IAS)*

# Black and white lists of priority invasive species and management approaches for Cameroon

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**Under the Supervision of:**

Project Component Four Taskforce (MINRESI)

&

The Biosecurity Project Coordination Unit (MINEPDED)



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# Contents

Contents .....	i
Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	iii
List of tables .....	iv
List of Annexes .....	v
Prefered way to cite this publication.....	vi
Contact details of those who participated.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	ix
Disclaimer.....	x
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1. Introduction.....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. Context and justification .....	3
1.1.1. The Cameroon Biosecurity Project & Component 4 – Information and Awareness..	3
1.2. Species lists for pre-border biosecurity.....	4
1.3. Objective of the activity .....	6
<b>2. Methods .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Production of a Black List for Cameroon.....	7
2.2. Production of a White List for Cameroon.....	7
<b>3. Results .....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1. Black List .....	9
3.2. White List.....	24
<b>4. Discussion &amp; Next Steps .....</b>	<b>29</b>
4.1. Application of black, white and grey lists for invasive species prevention in Cameroon	29
4.1.1. Legal status .....	29
4.1.2. Capacity building .....	29
4.1.3. Transparency .....	30
4.1.4. Awareness raising.....	30
4.1.5. Lists complement but do not substitute for quarantine measures .....	30
4.1.6. Movements of species within Cameroon.....	30
4.1.7. Unintentional introductions.....	31
4.2. Next steps.....	31
<b>References.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Annex 1. Listing, database and monitoring workshop programme .....	34

Annex 2. Lists of participants in the workshop ..... 37  
Annex 3. Scope of work ..... 39

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

CDC	Cameroon Development Corporation
CBP	Cameroon Biosecurity Project
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
IAS	Invasive alien species
IRAD	Institute de recherché agricole pour le développement
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LMO	Living modified organism
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MINEPIA	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Fauna
MINEPDED	Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development
MINRESI	Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
ToT	Training of trainers
UNEP/GEF	United Nations Environment Programme / Global Environmental Facility

## List of tables

Table 1	Black list of Vertebrates and Plants for Cameroon (2014-06)	13
Table 2	White list of Plants for Cameroon (2014-06)	27

## List of Annexes

Annex 1. Listing, database and monitoring workshop programme .....	34
Annex 2. Lists of participants in the workshop .....	37
Annex 3. Scope of work .....	39

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the product of a consultancy under the GEF funded Cameroon Biosecurity Project (CBP), with the aim of producing black and white lists of priority invasive species and the formulation of management approaches. The lists are based upon information available from Cameroon and globally and have been validated by national experts through a consultative process culminating in a two day (*CBP listing, database and monitoring*) workshop in June 2014.

Species Lists are frequently used to assess whether a particular plant, animal or other organism can be imported. These lists are used to prevent intentional introductions at the pre-border stage. They consist of black, white and grey lists.

**Black Lists:** There are several types of invasive species black lists or ‘dirty lists.’ Some approaches seek to list all potentially invasive species not known to be present in a country or territory. Others also include invasive species present in a country and known to be damaging. A third type of black list consists of species whose deliberate introduction is prohibited due to their potential adverse effects on the environment or human, animal or plant health. The black list produced for Cameroon is of the latter type. The reason for this choice was simple: so that the black list could serve as a practical tool for Cameroonian authorities to use as a basis for the management of proposed species introductions – if approval is sought for the importation of a species on the black list then this permission will not be granted.

An initial list of 58 species (14 vertebrate species and 44 plant species) was produced by the consultants based on species known to be invasive in ecosystems similar to those present in Cameroon but not known by the consultants to be present in in the country. This list was circulated to national experts for evaluation. Based on their feedback the list was reduced to 46 species. The list of plants was reduced to 32 with species eliminated because they were known to be present in Cameroon, considered to be native to Cameroon or considered to be more likely to be accidental imports than deliberate introductions. The vertebrate list of 12 species was left unchanged.

**White Lists:** White lists or ‘clean lists’ consist of a list of species that pose a low-risk of becoming invasive in a country or territory, and are thereby authorised for importation. A preliminary list of species was produced based on those species known to be regularly imported into Cameroon and that pose minimal risk of becoming invasive. The list was drawn up from the results of a survey of species imports into Cameroon undertaken as part of the CBP consultancy to produce a national biosecurity profile from trade and other activities of Cameroon (A.2.3.2.).

This initial list of 117 plant species and genera was evaluated by national experts. Based on their feedback, the list was reduced to 112 with some species eliminated because they were suspected as being invasive in Cameroon and others because they were based on generic groups which contained some species whose behaviour was not well known enough to state with near certainty that they would not pose an invasive species risk to Cameroon.

All species not featured on either the black or white list by default belong to an unwritten 'grey list.' Any deliberate importation of such species that do not feature on either the black or white list should be subject to a systematic risk assessment. Depending upon the result of the risk assessment, permission for import would be granted or refused. Those species accepted for import would then be added to the white list while those for which importation was refused would be placed on the black list.

The black and white lists produced under the consultative process do not constitute an official list but will be an extremely useful input into any official lists to be agreed upon under the legal and policy work which is being undertaken under Project Component 1. It is recommended that the following is undertaken in this regard:

- The process of black and white listing is taken into account in biosecurity legislation.
- Capacity building in risk assessment is conducted.
- The black and white lists are circulated to key stakeholders, notably importers and phytosanitary authorities.
- Communication products are produced that allow front line staff (e.g. quarantine and customs officers) to recognise listed species and understand the practical implications of the black, white and grey lists on their day to day work.
- The black and white lists are periodically reviewed and updated and are updated as dictated by demand from importers and circumstances (e.g. pest and disease outbreaks).