Call for Information

Investable Green Economy Opportunities

Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkebe (TRIDOM) landscape

August 2026

WWF

Funded by the EU

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1.0 BACKGROUND

NaturAfrica is a Global Gateway flagship initiative launched by the European Union (EU) in 2021 that addresses the major challenges related to biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources and socio-economic development in key landscapes for Conservation and Development in sub-Saharan Africa.

In the Tri-National Dja-Odzala-Minkébé (TRIDOM) landscape, spanning Cameroon, Republic of Congo (RoC), and Gabon, WWF is working with the EU to identify green economy opportunities and inform the future design of support aligned with the NaturAfrica approach. This work focuses on NaturAfrica's green economy pillar: socio-economic development reinforced by increased private sector investment.

The findings will be used to reinforce NaturAfrica’s green economy pillar at a landscape-level, so nature-positive, livelihood-generating activities can be identified, financed and scaled.

1.1. Objective of the Call

The objective of this call for information is to identify investable green economy opportunities in the TRIDOM landscape that are, or can become, structured and investable businesses, and that:

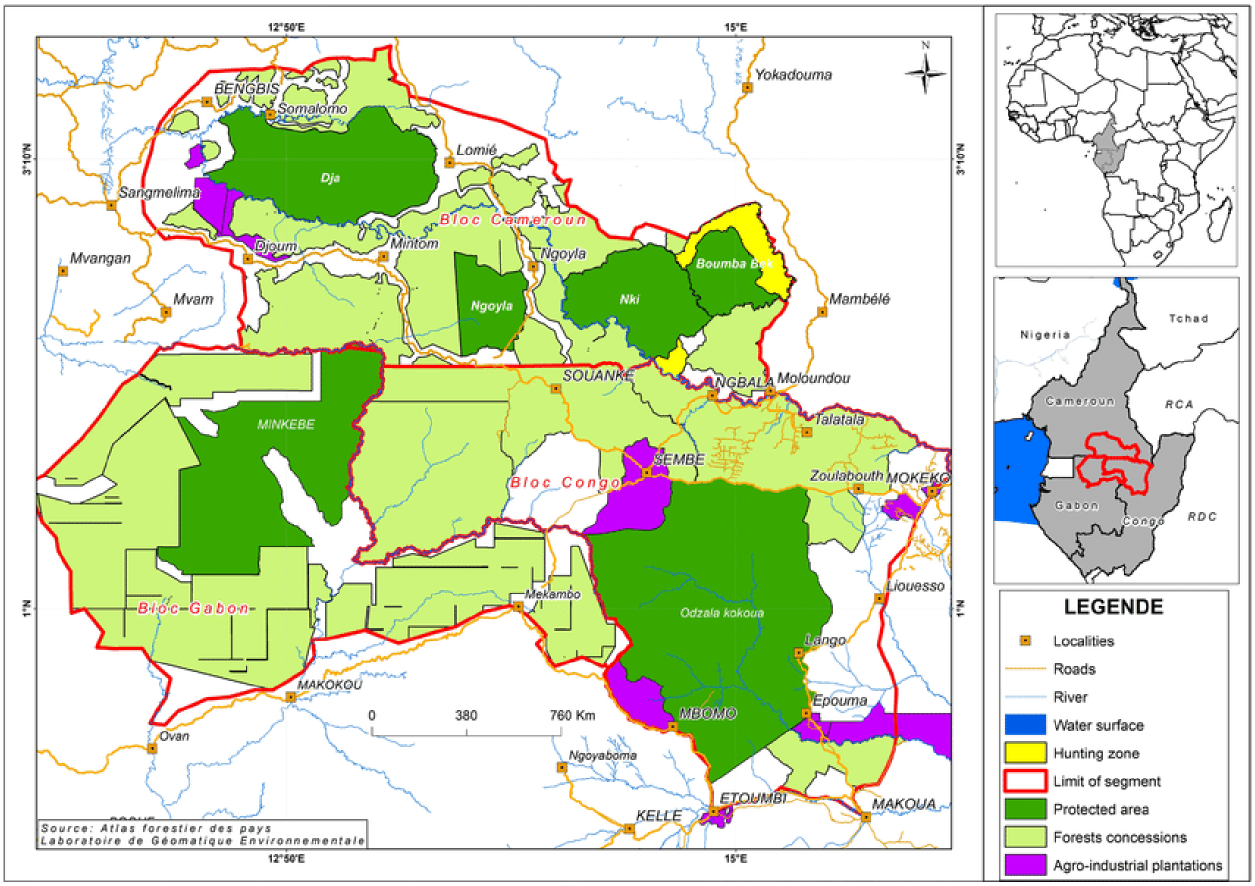
- operate commercially and generate profits or surpluses,
- create employment opportunities (with attention to women and youth),
- create non-employment livelihood benefits, e.g. access to markets, improved incomes
- attract follow-on investment, i.e. requires capital to expand operations and invest in growth,
- deliver measurable conservation outcomes.

For the purpose of this call, *green economy opportunities* are commercially oriented enterprises and value chains in TRIDOM that generate positive biodiversity, social, or climate outcomes. Such enterprises must generate measurable environmental or social benefits that extend beyond the private interests of the implementing entity.

1.2. Geographic Scope

Through this initiative, a select number of investable green economy opportunities within, or closely connected to, the TRIDOM landscape (Figure 1) will be offered technical assistance and support to engage investors, in order to demonstrate viable business models, test financing mechanisms capable of attracting private capital, and strengthen enterprises that generate commercial returns while advancing conservation and livelihood outcomes across the landscape.

Figure 1: Map of the TRIDOM landscape (Tadoum et al. 2019)



Preference will be given to green economy opportunities that contribute to the objectives of the TRIDOM Conservation Strategy 2026–2036. Opportunities of particular interest are those that:

- diversify and strengthen livelihoods for local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including through community-managed forest and wildlife resources, agricultural and forest value chains, and improved market access;
- support legal, transparent and sustainably managed forestry, including certification, and reduce the ecological footprint of extractive and agro-industrial operations;
- reduce deforestation and forest degradation driven by uncontrolled agricultural expansion, through sustainable and climate-resilient land use;
- generate value from ecosystem services, including community carbon and biodiversity projects and equitable benefit-sharing; or
- invest in natural capital, including sustainable tourism and sustainable energy services for isolated communities.

Submissions may include activities located outside the immediate landscape boundaries where these are essential to the viability of the business model, provided that:

- there is a **clear and demonstrable linkage to TRIDOM communities or ecosystems**, and
- the primary economic, livelihood, and conservation benefits accrue within the TRIDOM landscape.

Examples include:

- enterprises sourcing products from TRIDOM communities
- aggregation or processing hubs linked to TRIDOM supply chains
- market access or distribution functions supporting TRIDOM-based production

2.0 PRIORITY INVESTMENT PATHWAYS

Submissions should align with one or more of the following green economy pathways. Two pathways are of particular interest for this call.

Responsible forestry. Well-managed forest enterprises that maintain or expand credible legality and sustainability standards and add value beyond raw log production. Areas of interest include:

- maintenance and expansion of forest certification,
- value addition and processing of certified timber,
- conversion of timber processing waste (offcuts, sawdust) into sustainable or improved-efficiency charcoal,
- arrangements between certified concession holders and adjacent protected areas that strengthen buffer functions, generate joint conservation and commercial outcomes,
- revenue layering through carbon or biodiversity finance alongside timber.

Shaded cacao. Cacao and associated value chains that retain forest canopy and support low-deforestation, traceable supply chains. Areas of interest include:

- canopy-retaining agroforestry systems (e.g. cacao grown under a retained or managed native tree canopy, rather than cleared for full-sun monoculture),
- smallholder aggregation and quality improvement,
- supply chains aiming to meet emerging market-access requirements (e.g. EUDR).

The following pathways are also welcome where they demonstrate a credible commercial and conservation rationale:

Non-timber forest products. Sustainable harvesting, aggregation and value addition of forest products supporting local livelihoods. Areas of interest include community-based harvesting and processing, quality improvement and certification, and supply chains linking producers to regional or export markets.

Aquaculture. Sustainably managed fish production that reduces pressure on wild fisheries and provides an alternative protein and income source for communities. Areas of interest include small-scale and community-based production, feed and input supply, and links to local and regional markets.

Off-grid energy. Clean energy solutions (100% renewable) that reduce pressure on forest resources and support enterprise or community needs. Areas of interest include productive-use energy for enterprises and value chains, community mini-grids, and clean cooking alternatives to fuelwood and charcoal.

Nature-based tourism. Tourism services linked to conservation outcomes and community benefit. Areas of interest include community-owned or community-partnered tourism enterprises, and services and supply chains that support tourism operations in the landscape.

Rubber. Improvement of existing rubber production and value chains, with no conversion of natural forest. Areas of interest include rehabilitation of ageing plantations, smallholder aggregation, and agroforestry systems that integrate rubber with tree or food crops.

Responsible artisanal mining. Small-scale mining opportunities that demonstrably reduce environmental harm and formalise operations, with no activity in protected areas or areas of high conservation value. Areas of interest include mercury-free processing, watercourse and site rehabilitation, and traceable, formalised supply chains.

Oil palm. Sustainability upgrading of existing oil palm operations, with no conversion of natural forest. Areas of interest include rehabilitation or intensification of already-planted areas, smallholder inclusion and certification to a credible no-deforestation, no-peat standard.

Complementary revenue streams, including carbon finance, ecosystem services or biodiversity credits, will be considered where relevant to any pathway.

3.0 ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

This call is open to private companies, as well as public and community actors, with a green economy opportunity in the TRIDOM landscape. If your business operates in or is connected to TRIDOM and combines a commercial opportunity with conservation or livelihood benefit, this call is for you. We would be particularly interested in hearing from:

- √ Private sector operators, including forestry, agri-business, processing, trading, aggregation and other commercially-oriented companies,
- √ Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs),
- √ Producer cooperatives and farmer organisations,
- √ Community-based organisations, and Indigenous Peoples and local community groups,
- √ Community forest management entities,
- √ Aggregators, traders and other value chain intermediaries,
- √ Financial intermediaries, such as local banks and microfinance institutions, able to act as investment channels,
- √ Social enterprises, including community-owned businesses, cooperatives and enterprises that reinvest profits in social or environmental objectives, and
- √ NGOs operating revenue-generating enterprises.

Private sector respondents should indicate how the opportunity contributes to conservation, ecosystem or community outcomes in the TRIDOM landscape, beyond direct commercial benefit to the respondent. Opportunities that link community organisations with private operators are of particular interest.

Respondents do not need to be legally registered to respond to this call. Legal registration and related documentation will be relevant only if an opportunity progresses to later stages of support. An existing operating track record is welcomed but is not a requirement; earlier-stage opportunities with a credible route to commercial viability may also respond. A business plans and/or cash projections should be provided to illustrate their route to commercial viability.

4.0 SUPPORT OFFERED

This call does not provide grants or direct funding. Instead, a limited number of selected opportunities will receive technical assistance to strengthen their business case and improve their readiness to attract investment, including direct introductions to investors and donors and a planned investment event. The support offered in follow-up to this call may include:

- **Business case support**, helping to assemble financial and commercial information into a clear, investable format,
- **Safeguards review**, an assessment against WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) to support the opportunity's credibility with investors – this will include advice on risk mitigation activities to make the business more investable,
- **Pitch development**, support to prepare investor-facing materials such as a pitch deck,
- **Advisory support and tools**, access to expert advice and practical tools to develop the opportunity, and
- **Investor engagement**, introductions to potential investors and donors, including through a planned investment event.

Businesses in the TRIDOM landscape often have a workable commercial idea but lack the financial documentation, risk assessment or investor contacts needed to take it further. Putting this together, and identifying and reaching the right investors, typically takes time and expertise that most small and growing enterprises do not have in-house. This support is intended to help close this gap.

This process will draw upon WWF's experience of developing "Bankable Nature Solutions"; these are companies that reduce pressure on ecosystems, drive resilience and sustainability for both people and nature, and generate financial return. WWF has experience in supporting such businesses in landscapes across the world and successful applicants will be able to avail of WWF's existing relationships with conservation-aligned investors and donors, combined with tailored technical assistance to prepare opportunities for that audience.

Selection for support is not a commitment of funding and does not guarantee that an opportunity will secure investment. The purpose is to help promising opportunities become investment-ready and to connect them with the finance and partners needed to grow.

5.0 HOW TO RESPOND

Step 1 — Submit a response form. Respondents complete the short response form which accompanies this call and submit it by the submission deadline indicated below. The form asks for a concise description of the opportunity, its revenue logic, its conservation and livelihood benefits. Supporting material may be attached but is not required.

Step 2 — Review and selection. Responses will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are received. Final selection is made after the submission deadline, so that all responses are considered together. For a small number of opportunities, we may request a short follow-up conversation to clarify or develop the submission before selection is confirmed.

Selected respondents will be offered the support set out in Section 4. As noted, selection does not constitute a commitment of funding or specific technical support.

Indicative timeline

Step	Indicative timing
Call open for responses	Tuesday 18 August
Submission deadline	Wednesday 16 September (end of day)
Review and selection	Rolling review
Notification of outcome	Friday 18 September (latest)

Timings are indicative and subject to change.

6.0 SELECTION CRITERIA

Responses will be assessed on the strength of the opportunity across the following areas. No single area is decisive, and we do not expect every opportunity to be strong on all of them. Earlier-stage opportunities with clear potential are welcome.

- **Commercial logic.** A credible revenue model and evidence, or a realistic prospect, of market demand and buyers.
- **Conservation value.** A clear biodiversity, ecosystem or climate benefit, and a reduction in pressure on forests or natural resources.
- **Livelihood impact.** Benefits to local communities in TRIDOM, including jobs, income, and the involvement of women, youth or vulnerable groups.
- **Investment potential.** Scope to attract follow-on investment and a route towards financial sustainability, with particular interest in opportunities capable of scaling to landscape or corridor level, rather than isolated, localised activity.
- **Deliverability.** Relevant experience, partnerships, or other means to take the opportunity forward, and an awareness of the main risks.
- **Landscape fit.** A clear connection to the TRIDOM landscape and alignment with NaturAfrica's green economy objectives.

Preference will be given to opportunities with potential to scale to the landscape or corridor-level.

7.0 SUBMISSION

To access the response form please use the following link: link

Response forms should be submitted by **Wednesday 16 September**.

Responses may be submitted in **English or French**.

Supporting materials can be sent as attachments to finance@wwfint.org. Sharing of supporting materials is optional, except for *earlier-stage opportunities*. Opportunities without a commercial track record should be supported by a business plan and/or cash projections to illustrate their route to commercial viability.

There is no limit on the number of opportunities a single respondent may submit; please complete a separate response form for each.

Questions about this call may be sent to the above email address before the deadline.