

INNOVATION FUND

Projet de déploiement des technologies et innovations environnementales pour le développement durable et la réduction de la pauvreté (PDTIE)

PROJECT CONSORTIUM



PROJECT COORDINATOR

Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable (IFDD), Canada



PARTNERS

Ingénieurs Sans Frontières (ISF), Cameroun

Entrepreneurship Development Educational Network in Africa (EDEN), Cameroun

Université Kongo, République démocratique du Congo

LOCATION



Central Africa :
Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo

PERIOD



January 2021 –
January 2025

TOTAL BUDGET



EUR 5.000.000

EU FUNDING



EUR 4.200.000

PROJECT CONTACT



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CHALLENGE

Characterised by limited environmental protection, particularly for agriculture and the preservation of ecosystems, but also by abundant natural resources (soil, water sources, biodiversity), Cameroon and DRC are faced with the conflicting interests of both exploitation and sustainable management of natural assets, as well as of a poorly performing scientific and technical research sector.

FOCUS

Scientific and technical capacities of scientists, technicians and engineers in research and innovation (R&I) applied on ecosystem and natural resource management will be strengthened to develop innovations - in favour of sustainable development - that are adapted to local contexts, needs and knowledge.

Combined with promoting social and financial accessibility to green technologies generated by societal groups and the private sector, the local solutions will pave the way for sustainable environmental conservation in Cameroon and DRC.

RATIONALE

Cameroon and DRC have experienced a slowdown in national research over the last few decades, a degradation of research infrastructures and scientific and technical potential, a lack of investment in R&I that focuses on sustainable development, and a limited production of scientific innovations. There is also a lack of correlation between research topics and societal and market needs, a weak integration of indigenous knowledge into R&I, and a weak dissemination of research results to the public.



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These shortcomings have led to only an embryonic adaptation of scientific and technical innovations to local contexts, needs and knowledge.

As a result, appropriate solutions for environmental conservation are poorly developed and the relevant groups in society, the private sector, the research community, civil society organisations (CSOs), local authorities and policy-makers rarely use them.

Achieving sustainable development in relation to the management of ecosystems and natural resources should go hand in hand with a strong promotion of environmental technologies that reduce human impacts on the environment.

The development and adaptation of scientific and technical innovations to local contexts, needs and knowledge requires the commitment of public and private sector actors with a holistic approach.





METHOD

PDTIE fosters the engagement of a wide range of groups from society - at institutional, private, cooperative and community levels - who are actively involved or concerned with the development and application of innovative environmental technologies.

PDTIE provides financial and technical support to organisations that will carry out various projects, selected through calls for proposals (see website for details):

- Universities and research centres to establish and equip two fabrication laboratories (FabLabs) where inventors, innovators and developers collaboratively produce environmental technologies (products and services), and where training workshops are organised.
- Research organisations to run competitions for innovators to promote promising environmental technologies.
- Research and consulting organisations to conduct studies to improve the understanding of: local and indigenous knowledge that focus on sustainable development; private sector needs, capacities and limitations; and marketability of innovations.
- CSOs and media to widely disseminate information to the public about innovative environmental technologies, especially to community-based organisations (schools, health centres, farmers' groups, etc.) in the form of popularisation of innovative solutions and exploration of innovations.

PDTIE offers training to:

- Young scientists, technicians and engineers on research methodologies, stages in the development of innovations, environmental technologies and innovations, and marketing.
- Young people from different backgrounds on digital culture (online) and on environmental job opportunities and technologies.

PDTIE provides promotional support to:

- General public by demonstrating them on science and technology fairs how to access technical knowledge and practical solutions at an affordable cost.
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by connecting them to innovators to market their innovations.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Impacts

An inclusive and supportive R&I environment for sustainable development in Cameroon and DRC.

Outcomes

Increased application of environmentally sound technologies by relevant groups from society, the private sector, the research community, CSOs, local authorities and policy-makers.

Outputs

- Improved R&I capacities of youth, researchers and innovators.
- Scientific and technical innovations developed for sustainable development that are adapted to local contexts, needs and knowledge.
- The public and the private sector have access to technical knowledge and innovations at an affordable cost.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

Access to digital literacy, knowledge and use of emerging technologies.

Synergies in the R&I ecosystem (private sector, technology transfer, R&I uptake).

SECTOR

Sustainable development, Environment

KEYWORDS

green technologies, MOOC, innovation, FabLab, local knowledge, training



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