

Support for operators in conducting the socio-economic surveys required to measure NaturAfrica indicators (SCA, IBE, NRG T)

Duration of the mission: December 2025 to August 2026

Context

1. The NaturAfrica initiative

Through its NaturAfrica initiative, the European Union supports a network of key landscapes for conservation and development in Africa, with the aim of protecting wildlife and stimulating economic growth by supporting ecosystems and ensuring impact in the face of growing external pressure.

This initiative is organised around three main pillars: Conservation, Green Economy and Governance, all of which are closely interlinked.

In West Africa, the NaturAfrica programme covers eleven Key Landscapes for Conservation and Development (KLCDs). Each KLCD has specific characteristics and faces particular challenges in achieving the triple objective of biodiversity conservation, sustainable economic development and territorial governance.

Since May 2024, the Centre of Excellence of the Central African Forest Observatory (OFAC-CE) has been implementing, with the support of the European Union, a project aimed at strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of the NaturAfrica programme. In this context, expected result No. 4 of the project provides for the development of a NaturAfrica information system, designed to centralise and structure the monitoring data transmitted by operators, presenting it in a readable format by landscape. This system will ultimately make it possible to identify the main drivers of change at the level of each KLCD. The Regional Coordination plays a role as a transmission belt between operators and OFAC-EC, supporting the production of reliable, harmonised data that can be directly integrated into this platform currently under development.

2. Monitoring and evaluation framework for measuring NaturAfrica indicators

As part of the B4Life 2.0 Facility, the European Union has defined guidelines for monitoring and evaluation to be applied across all KLCDs in the NaturAfrica programme. The aim is to harmonise methodological approaches, facilitate comparative analysis of results and consolidate reporting at continental level. These guidelines are formalised in the note to European Union Delegations entitled *Guidance on the harmonisation of logical frameworks and the contractual reporting of NaturAfrica projects*.

A limited set of common, results-focused indicators has been defined based on:

- Lessons learned from similar programmes;
- Existing data collection and reporting tools;
- The Global Europe Result Framework (GERF);
- Their relevance to each programme pillar and their operational feasibility.

Some of these indicators, labelled "sentinel", can be populated using satellite data provided by regional observatories. Others, however, require specific field data collection, independent of the activities included in the logical framework of NaturAfrica operators.

Specificity of field surveys

Unlike indicators generated directly by the activities of implementing operators (e.g. ecological monitoring, green job creation or sustainable natural resource management), some indicators require the implementation of dedicated surveys, organised specifically in the target landscapes.

These indicators are as follows:

- **Food Consumption Score (FCS):** percentage of households achieving an acceptable level of food consumption, measured according to the World Food Programme's *Food Consumption Score* methodology. The survey targets both beneficiaries and a sample of the control population (non-beneficiaries) to enable comparative analysis.
- **Well-Being Index (WBI):** percentage of households achieving a satisfactory level of well-being, based on the methodology developed by WCS. This survey also includes a control group in order to measure the differences between supported and unsupported households.
- **Natural Resources Governance Tool (NRGT) score:** measures the involvement of local communities in resource governance, assessed according to the WCS methodology. This survey is conducted exclusively among directly involved stakeholders, without the use of a control group.

Methodological harmonisation at the landscape level

Methodological harmonisation is required at the landscape level, *especially* when there are several operators working in different or complementary areas. In this case, close coordination is essential to:

- Ensure the use of common protocols (questionnaires, sampling, dimensions measured);
- Avoid overlap in survey areas;
- Ensure adequate coverage of the different geographical or socio-economic units of the landscape;
- Coordinate collection schedules, particularly for seasonally sensitive indicators (e.g. SCA), in order to enhance data comparability.

However, certain methodological variations may be justified within the same landscape, depending on local specificities (national characteristics, socio-cultural differences between ethnic groups, etc.). In such cases, an aggregation methodology will need to be developed to combine the collected data in a consistent manner, while retaining the ability to analyse internal disparities.

The aim is not to artificially standardise the results, but to make these differences visible: they are key elements in identifying differences in impact, adjusting interventions and redirecting resources in a targeted manner, if necessary, by both operators and donors.

Components of field surveys

The implementation of these surveys is based on:

- The development of a rigorous methodology;
- Training field teams to ensure consistent application of the tools;
- The mobilisation of the populations surveyed on the basis of representativeness criteria;
- Data processing and analysis;
- Aggregation and interpretation of results at the landscape level, with attention paid to internal variations and their operational significance.

Inter-operator coordination and logistical challenges

In some landscapes, several operators are involved (e.g. the Greater WAP). Effective coordination is therefore essential in order to:

- Ensure consistency and comparability of results;
- Avoid duplication;
- Optimise human and logistical resources;
- Plan campaigns according to the agricultural or climatic calendar (some indicators, such as SCA, are sensitive to seasonal variations).

A map of roles and responsibilities must be drawn up to clearly identify who will collect what, where and when.

3. Support mission as part of the NaturAfrica Central Africa regional programme

A short-term expert mission was mobilised by the NaturAfrica Central Africa Regional Technical Assistance, with the following objectives:

- The development of a harmonised methodology (phase 1 of the mission carried out from July to September 2025)
- Supporting operators in conducting surveys (phase 2 of the mission, carried out from October 2025 to April 2026)

Based on their various exchanges with operators during phase 1, the two experts mobilised concluded that harmonisation of survey protocols/methodologies between the different sites is not possible at this stage of the NaturAfrica programme, for various reasons (detailed in the Phase 1 mission report), including the level of variability between sites, both in terms of socio-economic context and indicators to be measured (leading to the need to develop site-specific sampling plans) and in terms of the timetable for implementing grant contracts and the capacities and resources available to operators.

It was also noted that all operators are requesting more in-depth support and training for the development of their respective sampling plans and the conduct of field surveys. It will also be essential to set up an online platform for the semi-automated entry and analysis of the data collected, without which some operators will also need support to carry out the analyses manually and interpret the results.

Based on these observations, the experts made several technical recommendations to optimise the implementation of these three surveys by operators, while ensuring the quality of the data collected from communities. For example:

1. BNS-SCA-NRGT sequencing: collect data for the three indicators in a coordinated manner, so that only two visits to villages are required instead of four or five;
2. Pool/combine training: Conduct theoretical and practical training in groups of operators.
3. Support the development of individualised protocols for each operator, following a common framework developed by experts during phase 1.
4. Pool certain parts of the methods between operators, thereby creating a framework conducive to the development of a method for aggregating results.

Phase 2 focuses on supporting operators in implementing IBE-SCA-NRGT surveys. Specifically, this involves (i) supporting them in developing their survey protocols, (ii) training them in implementing these surveys in the field, and (iii) ensuring that the results are presented on an online platform.

Technical training workshops will be organised for operators in the field at the end of January 2026. This is a good opportunity for experts from both TAs (Central Africa and West Africa) to collaborate in preparing and running these workshops, in order to ensure a common methodology in both regions and for each team to benefit from the other's experience.

4. NaturAfrica contracts in West Africa

The NaturAfrica West programme faces the same challenges as NaturAfrica Central Africa in terms of methodological harmonisation, operator training, and data analysis and representation, including:

- Eight operators working in nine landscapes, each with different environmental, social, and economic contexts;
- Some operators have been working in the intervention landscape for a long time and have their own established methodologies for data collection and analysis, while others have only recently become established in their landscape;
- In 4 landscapes, contracts have been signed and operators have already begun implementation. The remaining 5 are still in the process of being identified, signed or awaiting the start of the implementation contract (see Table 1);

- The integration of mandatory NaturAfrica indicators into the logical frameworks is uneven, and the three indicators targeted by this support mission are not present for all operators (see Table 1).

PPCD (intervention area)	Operator	Contract start date	Contract end date	SCA indicator (GE 4)	IBE indicator (GOV 5)	NRGT indicator (GOV 1)
Niokolo Koba-Badiar-Boé	IUCN	03/2025	02/2028	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gola – Foya – Kpo	RSPB	Jan. 2026	Start 2029	TBD	TBD	TBD
Nimba Mountains	IUCN	12/2025	11/2028	TBD	TBD	TBD
Tai-Grebo-Khran-Sapo	WCF	01/2025	12/2028	No	Yes	Yes
Fazao-Kayabobo	TBD	Early 2026	Early 2029	TBD	TBD	TBD
PoNaSi	AGN	Beg. 2026	Early 2029	TBD	TBD	TBD
W & Pendjari	APN	10/2023	09/2026	No	No	No
W & Pendjari	APN	Beg. 2026	Start 2029	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gadabedji	SCF	Beg. 2026	Start 2029	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cross River	WCS	01/2025	12/2028	No	Yes	Yes

Table 1: NaturAfrica WestAfrica contracts (indicative/temporary)

Short-term technical assistance objectives

The overall objective of the mission is to contribute to the operationalisation of a harmonised monitoring and evaluation system for the NaturAfrica initiative in West Africa, by supporting the development of common and robust methodologies for data collection and analysis in the field within priority transboundary landscapes, drawing on the experience of NaturAfrica Central Africa TA.

The specific objectives of this mission are:

1. To support operators in developing their sampling plan by advising them on the choices and compromises to be made between accuracy and available budget.
2. To assist operators in creating a data collection form based on a standard, common form provided,
3. To train operator teams in conducting surveys among local communities,
4. Identify, in collaboration with OBAPAO and the ATRs of the NaturAfrica Central and/or West Africa programmes, a system for managing data and reporting survey results at the regional level, and support its implementation.

Organisation of the service

This support mission requires the mobilisation of two experts:

- 1 specialist in SCA-IBE-NRGT survey training (senior)
- 1 specialist in conducting socio-economic surveys in sub-Saharan Africa (junior)

In addition to the remote support that the experts will provide to each operator, particularly for the development of their sampling plan and survey protocol, two types of specific training will be organised by the experts:

- Online training in the form of webinars to present the format of the survey protocols (based on the framework developed by the experts during the NAAC mission), including the definition of a sampling plan and the statistical concepts to be taken into account;

- Two technical training workshops, to be conducted in the field with groups of operators. An initial proposal for the composition of these groups, set out below, will need to be confirmed with the operators. These training courses will consist of several theoretical modules (one per indicator) and a practical exercise consisting of conducting surveys with a selection of households in a village near the training location. The Technical Assistance teams based in Ouagadougou and Monrovia will support the experts in the logistical and administrative organisation of these workshops.

	Operators	Location
Group 1 (English)	RSPB, WCF, WCS	Liberia
Group 2 (French)	IUCN, APN, AGN, SCF	To be determined (Senegal / Benin / Ivory Coast)

Table 2: Training groups

Field surveys are the responsibility of the operators. Experts will be available to answer any questions/requests for clarification following the training sessions.

In parallel with these training courses and remote support for operators, the experts will collaborate with OBAPAO/CdE to set up an IT system enabling operators to upload raw data to an online platform, semi-automatically calculate indicators and integrate the results into the OFAC platform. Operators will be supported by this expert in uploading their data to the OBAPAO Centre of Excellence (CoE) platform in order to reduce the risk of errors/failures. This expert will assist the OBAPAO/CoE IT team responsible for developing this platform, particularly in structuring data entry and validating analyses with operators.

The experts will conclude the mission by producing a report of no more than ten pages, summarising the results of the mission, the difficulties encountered, and recommendations for further activities in relation to the indicators concerned.

Table 3: Indicative breakdown of expert days by activity

Description of tasks	Expert 1 Senior	Junior Expert 2	Indicative timetable
1. Presentation of basic concepts, identification of needs			
1.1. Introduction of the mission to operators: presentation of the mission's objectives and timetable, basic concepts of BNS-SCA-NRGT indicators (definitions and methodologies), summary of recommendations from the mission carried out in Central Africa, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of a PowerPoint presentation - Holding a 2-hour webinar 			February 2026
1.2. Consultation with operators to identify their experience in socio-economic surveys, the personnel and equipment available for surveys (computers and software, tablets, etc.), indicative timetable, logical framework, NAAO project population and beneficiary data, etc. These elements will enable the experts to fully understand the contexts and needs of each operator, and thus be able to adapt the training and technical support to be put in place and define the appropriate approach for data management (steps 2 to 4 below). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation and sharing of a form to be completed by operators - Analysis of responses, bilateral discussions with operators if clarification is needed - Discussions with OBAPAO and AT NAAC with a view to standardising the data management system and reporting of NaturAfrica indicators 	3	3	February-March 2026
2. Creation of survey protocols			
2.1. Creation/adaptation and presentation of survey tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating, improving and sharing survey materials/tools developed by AT NAAC: sampling plan development, decision-making aid, protocol template, data collection form, etc. - Preparation of a PowerPoint presentation - Holding a 2-hour webinar 			February-March 2026
2.2. Support for operators in developing their protocols (<i>Assumes that operators will use the protocol template and sampling recommendations to develop their own protocols</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and comments on each operator's protocols - Bilateral discussions with each operator 			March 2026
3. Technical training			
3.1. Preparation of training content (PPT, Word) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with NAAC experts: participation in the first training workshop organised in Central Africa (Yaoundé and Djoum, Cameroon) - Organisation of workshops in West Africa: adaptation of training content, preparation of exercises, etc. 	- 1	9 1	March 2026
3.2. Training of two groups of operators in West Africa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two workshops: one for English-speaking operators, one for French-speaking operators (1 expert per workshop) - One workshop = 5 days of training + 2 days of travel (return) to the training location (ideally in the field, close to communities, in order to carry out practical exercises) 	7	7	March-April 2026
4. Data management (collection, processing & analysis)			

<p>This task will be refined at the end of task 2.1 based on the tools used by operators (see task 1.2 above: Kobo, Survey123, paper, etc.), the platforms developed/used by OBAPAO for reporting Naf indicators, and the experience of AT NAAC and its replicability.</p> <p>The estimated 8 days for this task 4 will allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Either "extend" and/or strengthen the system developed by the NAAC TA to West African landscapes (online platform for semi-automatic data entry and analysis and graphical representation of results) - Either develop Excel file templates with automatic formulas for entering and analysing survey data, with quality control of the finalised files. 	4	4	April-June 2026
5. Drafting of mission deliverables			
5.1. General report (10 pages), summary of work	1	3	June-July 2026
5.2. Recommendations for a possible update of existing technical guides (WCS, BNS, etc.)			
Total number of expert*days:	22	33	55

Deliverables

The experts will conclude the assignment by producing the following deliverables:

1. Training materials and tools (PowerPoint presentations, webinar recordings)
2. Comments/recommendations made by the experts on each operator's protocols.
3. A report of no more than ten pages summarising the results of the mission, difficulties encountered, and recommendations for future activities related to the indicators concerned.

Location

The mission will be carried out remotely and during three field missions:

- One in Central Africa (Cameroon) to prepare technical training workshops in collaboration with NAAC Regional Technical Assistance experts;
- Two to conduct training workshops in West Africa.