

STONEFARMS & ABOYERD: A Transformative Conservation Partnership in Campo Ma'an National Park

The Campo Ma'an National Park (CMNP), located in southern Cameroon, is one of Africa's richest reservoirs of biodiversity. Home to over 1,500 plant species (114 endemic), 302 bird species, 80 mammals, 112 reptiles, 80 amphibians, and 390 invertebrates, this ecological treasure has been recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International (Fotso et al., 2001). Protecting such a biodiverse ecosystem is a global responsibility—and one that demands shared commitment, expertise, and community engagement.

In this spirit of collective stewardship, STONEFARMS is proud to join forces with ABOYERD, a conservation leader with deep roots in Dschang and a long-standing legacy of biodiversity preservation. This collaboration marks a pivotal milestone for STONEFARMS as it steps into broader conservation action under the guidance, mentorship, and support of a trusted and seasoned partner.

➤ A Shared Vision for Habitat Restoration and Conservation Capacity Building

The core of this collaboration is the joint establishment of a 5,000-fruit tree nursery within ABOYERD's ongoing conservation project in CMNP. This nursery will support the ecological restoration of degraded wildlife habitats, improve food availability for native fauna, and reinforce biodiversity resilience in one of the continent's most sensitive ecosystems.

Beyond its environmental benefits, the initiative is also a powerful capacity-building platform for STONEFARMS—strengthening its operational knowledge and conservation techniques through close collaboration with ABOYERD's experienced

team.

➤ **Key Objectives and Activities**

The project is guided by the following shared objectives:

- Restore critical wildlife habitats through the creation of a fruit tree nursery
- Build STONEFARMS' organizational and technical capacity in conservation
- Promote ecological balance and sustainable food sources for fauna
- Actively engage local communities in nursery creation and management

➤ **Main Activities Include:**

- Nursery Establishment
- Seed Germination
- Soil Enrichment and Pest Management
- Nursery Management and Follow-Up
- Community Training and Participation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Reporting and Knowledge Sharing

➤ **Methodology: A Community-Driven, Science-Based Approach**

The project's implementation strategy follows a clear and participatory methodology:

1. Site Selection & Infrastructure Setup (ABOYERD):

- Identifying and preparing nursery sites based on proximity to wildlife zones, water access, and soil quality. Infrastructure will include shaded beds, irrigation systems, and tool storage units.

2. Seed Procurement and Nursing (STONEFARMS + ABOYERD):

- STONEFARMS will lead the procurement of high-quality seeds from certified suppliers, ensuring only the most resilient and ecologically appropriate species are used.

Species and Quantities:

| Species Name | Scientific Name | Quantity |
|--------------|--------------------|----------|
| ✓ Mango | ✓ Mangifera indica | ✓ 1,200 |
| ✓ Pawpaw | ✓ Carica papaya | ✓ 600 |
| ✓ Safou | ✓ Dacryodes edulis | ✓ 1,400 |
| ✓ Guava | ✓ Psidium guajava | ✓ 600 |
| ✓ Avocado | ✓ Persea americana | ✓ 1,200 |

3. Soil Enrichment & Pest Management (STONEFARMS + ABOYERD):

- In collaboration with ABOYERD and its beneficiaries, STONEFARMS will ensure effective pest control and nutrient optimization, using environmentally responsible methods.

4. Nursery Management & Community Participation:

- Community members, guided by STONEFARMS and ABOYERD, will be trained and actively involved in daily nursery tasks—ensuring ownership, sustainability, and knowledge transfer.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting:

- STONEFARMS will conduct monthly seedling health assessments, ensuring



optimal growth conditions and timely interventions.

- ABOYERD will conduct weekly evaluations, providing close technical supervision.
- STONEFARMS will also be responsible for compiling and submitting detailed progress and final reports to ABOYERD throughout the collaboration period, ensuring transparency and shared learning.

➤ **More Than Trees: A Partnership Rooted in Growth and Gratitude**

This initiative is more than trees it is a living symbol of partnership, mentorship, and mutual transformation.

STONEFARMS is immensely grateful to ABOYERD for engaging her in this collaboration and for generously sharing their deep expertise in conservation science and organizational development. Their openness to partnership reflects a spirit of solidarity that empowers emerging institutions like STONEFARMS to grow, learn, and lead with purpose.

Through this engagement, STONEFARMS is not only contributing to habitat restoration but is also gaining invaluable experience in both the operational and strategic dimensions of conservation—skills that are vital for advancing the organization's mission and supporting its community transformation goals.

➤ **Conclusion: Planting the Future, Together**

In uniting under this shared vision, STONEFARMS and ABOYERD are sowing the seeds of lasting ecological impact and institutional growth. This project embodies what conservation in the 21st century should be—collaborative, community-led, science-driven, and intergenerational.

STONEFARMS remains committed to delivering on this partnership with integrity,



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innovation, and deep respect for the knowledge and experience of ABOYERD. With the groundwork laid for impactful collaboration, both organizations are poised to achieve transformative change—not only for the Campo Ma'an ecosystem, but for conservation practice across Cameroon and beyond.

TOGETHER, WE GROW

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