

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024
Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 10298	Umoja WBS: SB-021447
SMA IPMR ID: 132401	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000717
Project Short Title: Congo PELATEL	
Project Title: Integrated Community -Based Conservation of Peatlands Ecosystems and Promotion of Ecotourism in Lac T��le Landscape of Republic of Congo – ICOBACPE /PELATEL	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	12
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	10208
Project Scope:	National
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Congo, Republic of the
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity,Climate Change Mitigation,Land Degradation
GEF financing amount:	\$ 6,111,055.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 42,306,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2021-07-14
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2022-11-22
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2022-01-12
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2023-07-05
Date of First Disbursement:	2023-03-02
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 400,000.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 294,271.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2025-07-05
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2025-07-05
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2026-10-30
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2027-03-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-10-31

1.2 Project Description

The goal of this project is to enhance sustainable peatland management and avoid potential risk of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from peatlands in the Republic of Congo, while enhancing the health of biological diversity by taking measures against Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). The project objective is to promote a model for integrated community-based conservation and protected area management applied to the peatland area and its forest ecosystem of the Republic of Congo's Lac Télé Landscape.

The project is divided into five main components:

1. Supporting development and implementation of Land Use Plans (LUPs) for the Republic of Congo (RoC) Lac Tele Landscape protected areas and surrounding landscape with a focus on ensuring and formalizing community involvement.
2. Community management of natural resources.
3. Diversifying communities' income sources e.g. through promotion of ecotourism.
4. Engaging the private sector in conservation.
5. Communication, knowledge management and project monitoring and evaluation.

Component 1: Supporting development and implementation of Land Use Plans (LUPs) for the Republic of Congo (RoC) Lac Tele Landscape protected areas and surrounding landscape with a focus on ensuring and formalizing community involvement. Activities include validating hotspots and improving fire detection, developing and refining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for reporting and response to fire danger, and developing guidelines and training materials on integrated fire management.

Component 2: Community management of natural resources. Activities include conducting action-based research to collect data on natural resource use patterns, identifying key stakeholders and engaging them in community conservation and management, developing community-based conservation models, and providing training and tools for sustainable natural resource use.

Component 3: Diversifying communities' income sources e.g. through promotion of ecotourism. Activities include developing a tourism market analysis and strategy, creating and promoting ecotourism products and experiences, and providing training and support for tourism enterprise development.

Component 4: Engaging the private sector in conservation. Activities include developing and implementing a voluntary sustainability standard for forestry and extractive

industries, identifying and mobilizing private sector actors for sustainable production and conservation, and promoting private investment in conservation and sustainable development.

Component 5: Communication, knowledge management and project monitoring and evaluation. Activities include developing and disseminating communication and awareness materials, organizing stakeholder consultations and forums, strengthening the Ministry of Tourism and Environment website as a platform for project information and progress, and developing and implementing a monitoring and evaluation system with a focus on gender and indigenous people issues.

The Ministry of Environment, Sustainable development and Congo Basin is the executing agency. Other partners include: WCS, WWF, REPALEAC, UNDP, Ministry of forest economy, University Marien Ngouabi

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo
names of Other Project Partners	WWF, REPALEAC, UNDP, WCS, Université Marien Ngouabi, Ministère de l'economie Forestière
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Andre Toham
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Paul Vrontamitis
UNEP Support Assistants	Eric Mugo
Manager/Representative	Mrs. Arlette Soudan-Nonault
Project Manager	Oumarou Daouda
Finance Manager	Mrs. Arlette Soudan-Nonault
Communications Lead, if relevant	

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Climate action subprogramme,Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate: (iii) Number of national, subnational and private-sector actors reporting under the enhanced transparency arrangements of the Paris Agreement with UNEP support. • Nature: (iv) Increase in territory of land- and seascapes that is under improved ecosystem conservation and restoration
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	This project is consistent with the commitments of the Government of the Republic of the RoC within the context of the UNDAF. This framework outlines the strategic direction and results expected from cooperation between the RoC and the UN Country Team (UNCT) for the period 2017-2021. This cooperation is underpinned by the principles of “leaving no one behind” and on “sustainable development & resilience” while meeting the central objective of poverty reduction
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls • Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all • Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts • Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day • 2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round • 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births • 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
1.2- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	1,322,315 hectares (Lac Tele community reserve area)	2,644,630 hectares (Lac Tele community reserve area)	2,644,630 hectares (including Lac Tele community reserve, Odzala -Kokoua National Park, Nouabalé – Ndoki National Park, and Ntokou-Pikounda National Park	This project does not aim to create new protected areas, but rather to improve the management of existing PA (mainly the LTR) for conservation and sustainable use. Quantified results are not yet available as the project activities in the field have not yet begun
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)	124,028 hectares	248,057 hectares	248,057 hectares of landscapes are expected to be under improved management practices.	Quantified results are not yet available as the project activities in the field have not yet begun
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated	10,199,041 metric tons of CO2e	20,398,082 metric tons of CO2e	20,398,082 metric tons of CO2e emissions are expected to be avoided over a time horizon of 20 years.	Quantified results are not yet available as the project activities in the field have not yet begun
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments	10,250 direct beneficiaries (7,125 female and 3,125 male)	20,500 direct beneficiaries (14,250 female and 6,250 male)	20,500 direct beneficiaries, with 14,250 female and 6,250 male beneficiaries	Quantified results are not yet available as the project activities in the field have not yet begun

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	1st PIR	U	U	M
FY 2023				
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Summary of status

The ratings for both project outcomes and outputs are unsatisfactory (U).

The project is currently behind schedule and unable to progress towards its intended outcomes. This delay is due to unresolved administrative and operational issues.

Administrative issues include delays in finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with project partners and securing approval for the Terms of Reference (TOR) required for consultant recruitment.

Operational constraints include delays in recruiting additional staff, acquiring essential office equipment (such as computers and supplies), and finalizing the selection of permanent and suitable premises for the project.

The overall risk remains medium (M), consistent with the rating at the time of the project's CEO endorsement, as there have been no significant changes since that period. In fact, the rating of certain risks identified at the CEO endorsement, such as those related to the coronavirus, has even decreased.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 42,306,000
Actual to date:	71,400
Progress	<p>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</p> <p>The EA allocated temporary premises for the project, estimated at \$20,000 per year.</p> <p>Also, the EA finance officer supports the project for aspects related to finance. Such support is estimated at \$19800, as per the project's budget line.</p> <p>The price of the project pick-up, all taxes included, is \$86300 (about 52000000 FCFA). The pickup was bought without tax for 55011\$ (33000000 FCFA).</p> <p>The tax deduction is therefore considered part of the executing agency's co-financing, i.e., \$31600 (19000000 FCFA).</p> <p>As field activities are still yet to start, co-financing from other partners (Repaleac, WWF, WCS, UNDP, etc.) is not yet accounted for.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2023-07-05
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	<p>Consultations (in the form of formal meetings and informal meetings, correspondence by telephone calls, email, text, WhatsApp, workshops, and one-on-one interviews) were held with the project's various implementing partners, notably WCS, WWF, UNDP, Université Marien Ngouabi, REPALÉAC, Ministère de l'Economie Forestière, Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo, and representatives of civil society and indigenous populations in the project area. These consultations led to the development of an annual work plan and budget for the project's 2023–2024 financial year. The project's documents were shared with these stakeholders in order to disseminate project information and build relationships with them.</p> <p>In addition, the Ministère de l'Économie forestière, Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo sent out a note inviting all project partners to nominate their representatives to sit on the steering committee. The steering committee was formally created by a memo from the Minister. The first meeting of the steering committee took place on July 5, 2023.</p> <p>The Project Management Unit carried out a mission in the Likouala Department. The aim of the mission was to ensure ownership of the project by the department's political and administrative authorities, as well as by local administrative structures, associative groups, and other structures operating in the Lac-Télé Community Reserve landscape, particularly in the districts of Impfondo, Epéna, and Dongou.</p>

	<p>During the mission, the project team presented the project to stakeholders in the project area, including political and administrative authorities (Prefect, Sub-Prefects, Departmental Directors, etc.), leaders of community-based organizations operating in the project area and others (private companies);</p> <p>The project team also includes:</p> <p>raised awareness among the above-mentioned stakeholders operating in the project area;</p> <p>established relationships of trust with key project stakeholders;</p> <p>took particular care to understand the needs and concerns of the project's stakeholders in order to get them fully involved in the project's implementation;</p> <p>The ultimate aim of the visit was to ensure ownership of the project by the above-mentioned stakeholders in the project area.</p>
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2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>Yes, the project does have a gender action plan. The project document outlines specific measures to ensure gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women within the project activities. Here are the key points related to the gender action plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gender Mainstreaming in Land Use Plans (LUPs): The development of land-use management plans includes considerations for gender, ensuring formalized community involvement, and promoting ecotourism. 2. Capacity Building and Governance: The project aims to build the capacity of local community groups, including women, to implement environmental projects such as the reforestation of gallery forests, which are crucial for ecosystem services and fisheries production . 3. Inclusive Conservation: The project works closely with local communities and indigenous populations to enhance sustainable livelihoods and support co-management of conservation areas, ensuring that biodiversity considerations are mainstreamed into production landscapes (agriculture and forestry). 4. Economic Incentives for Women:

	<p>The project promotes sustainable income-generating activities and economic diversification, such as certified cacao production, with a focus on peatlands, protected areas, and wildlife conservation. This includes providing economic incentives for the participation of local communities, particularly women, in conservation efforts.</p> <p>5. Empowerment and Participation: Women are empowered in decision-making processes related to integrated natural resources management (INRM) and co-management of protected areas to achieve sustainable outcomes. The project ensures that women have a real voice in project governance and implementation, participating equally with men in dialogue and decision-making.</p> <p>6. Specific Gender-Related Activities: During the inception workshop, a Women's Forum will be organized to examine the challenges women face in natural resources management, access to information and training, and issues of land and other natural resources rights. The forum will explore how the project can address these gender imbalances.</p> <p>The gender action plan is integrated into the overall project strategy to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to the project's success and sustainability.</p>
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2.7. ESSM

<p>Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)</p>	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? Yes</p> <p>If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN? Yes, the project was classified as moderate/high risk at the CEO endorsement/approval stage. The specific safeguard risks identified in the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) and Environmental and Social Risk Evaluation and Risk Management (ESERN) include: Environmental Risks: Deforestation and Land Degradation: The project area is susceptible to deforestation and land degradation due to agricultural expansion, logging, and infrastructure development. These activities can lead to significant environmental damage, including the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Peatland Degradation: Peatlands are particularly vulnerable to drainage, fires, and other forms of degradation. The project aims to prevent these risks by promoting sustainable peatland management practices. Climate Change: The project area is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, which can exacerbate existing environmental challenges. Increased temperatures and changing precipitation patterns can affect the health and stability of peatlands. Social Risks: Community Involvement and Land Tenure: The project involves significant interaction with local communities and indigenous populations. Ensuring</p>
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	<p>their involvement in decision-making and securing their land tenure rights are critical to the project's success. However, these processes can be complex and contentious. Economic Displacement: The promotion of sustainable practices and restrictions on certain land uses may affect the livelihoods of local communities, leading to economic displacement if not managed properly. Institutional Risks: Coordination Challenges: The project requires coordination among various government ministries, NGOs, and private sector entities. Effective collaboration is essential to achieve the project's objectives, but institutional fragmentation and weak governance can pose significant risks. Capacity Building: Building the capacity of local governance structures and community groups is crucial for the sustainable management of natural resources. However, limited local capacity and education can hinder these efforts. Economic Risks: Market Dependencies: The project's success in promoting income-generating activities like ecotourism and certified cacao production depends on market conditions. Fluctuations in market prices and demand can pose economic risks to the project's sustainability. Operational Risks: Monitoring and Evaluation: Implementing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan is essential to track progress and ensure adaptive management. However, inadequate data and limited capacity for monitoring can pose operational risks. Overall, these safeguard risks highlight the need for careful planning, robust stakeholder engagement, and effective risk management strategies to ensure the project's success and sustainability.</p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, describe the new risks or changes?</p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period?</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>During 2023, the Project Management Unit (PMU) carried out a mission in the Likouala Department, specifically in the districts of Impfondo, Epéna, and Dongou. The mission focused on several key environmental and social safeguards management activities: Stakeholder Engagement and Awareness - Raising: Engaged with political and administrative authorities, local administrative structures, associative groups, and other stakeholders to ensure ownership of the project. Conducted community meetings with civil society representatives, including indigenous peoples, to discuss the project's objectives, community roles in biodiversity conservation, and alternative income-generating activities. Community Meetings: Addressed concerns related to overfishing, poaching, and illegal wildlife trade, highlighting the impact of these activities on local biodiversity and the broader ecosystem. Discussed deforestation caused by shifting slash-and-burn agriculture and firewood collection, emphasizing the threat of bushfires, especially in the context of climate change. Key Environmental Issues Addressed: Overfishing and Poaching: educated participants about unsustainable practices and the growing demand for bushmeat in urban areas, which exacerbate these issues. Deforestation: highlighted the impact of slash-and-burn agriculture and firewood collection on forest health and the increased risk of bushfires threatening peat reserves. Role of Local</p>

	Communities and Indigenous Peoples: Emphasized the critical role of local communities and indigenous peoples in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Lac Télé landscape. Encouraged community involvement in conservation efforts and the development of sustainable livelihoods to reduce pressure on natural resources.
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2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	<p>The Project Management Unit conducted a mission in the Likouala Department of the Republic of Congo, focusing on knowledge management and advocacy activities. Key Knowledge Management and Learning Products include:</p> <p>Community meeting held with representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples in the Epéna district to discuss the project's objectives, activities, and the role of communities in biodiversity conservation</p> <p>Advocacy Activities:</p> <p>Raised awareness among stakeholders in the project area, including political and administrative authorities, local structures, and associative groups</p> <p>Discussed the development of alternative income-generating activities for sustainable natural resource use</p> <p>Addressed concerns related to overfishing, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, and deforestation caused by shifting agriculture and firewood collection</p> <p>Emphasized the role of local communities and indigenous peoples in preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Lac Télé landscape, particularly in light of challenges such as increasing bush fires and potential threats to peat reserves</p>
Main learning during the period	Nearly all the communities in the project area were not fully aware of the role of peat lands. And yet they all expressed concern about the extreme weather conditions of recent decades (heavy flooding, extreme heat, seasonal shifts, loss of biodiversity, etc.).

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
To promote a model for integrated community-based conservation and protected area management applied to the peatland area and its forest ecosystem of the RoC Lac Télé Landscape	Population of Western lowland gorillas living in the swamp forests of the sprawling Lac Télé Community Reserve	Protected areas are under severe management threats that contribute to land degradation, decline in biodiversity, and degradation in the value of ecosystem services	At least 440,000 hectares of forest brought under improved protection and enhanced conservation.	Population of Western lowland gorillas living in the swamp forests of the sprawling Lac Télé Community Reserve increase to 125,000 as a result of project activities	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
	Interest of local businesses and investors in green productive value chains (organic cocoa; ecotourism; sustainable NTFPs extraction, etc.)	There are no initiatives for investments in green productive value chains in the Lac Tele Landscape	At least 5 businesses invested in the green productive value chains	At least 8 local businesses engaged in the green productive value chains	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
	Number of indigenous people who are beneficiaries of alternative	There are very few alternative income	At least 4 representatives of different	Representatives of the 7 largest indigenous	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	income generating activity projects funded by the project	generating activities outside smallholder subsistence production in the project area	indigenous community groups are represented in all key meetings and decisionmaking bodies of the project at the Lac Tele Landscape level	community groups are represented in all key meetings and decision-making bodies of the project at the Lac Tele landscape level			
Outcome 1.1: The government of the RoC adopts a national legal framework in support of local land tenure rights, community governance and management of forest and natural resources, and supports local enforcement in the Lac Tele Landscape	Number of sectors with revised regulatory frameworks on community governance and management of forest and natural resources adopted by the government of the RoC	Policies/incentives promoting sustainable forest resource and peatland management, as well as addressing illegal wildlife trade suffer from implementation deficits at the local level	At least 3 regulatory frameworks promoting forest resource and sustainable peatland management, as well as addressing illegal wildlife trade are applied in all districts of the Lac Tele Landscape	At least 6 regulatory frameworks promoting forest resource and peatland management, as well as addressing illegal wildlife trade are applied in all districts of the Lac Tele Landscape	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
	Percent of participating stakeholders at all levels	Data availability on the state and	At least 40% of project	All project participating	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	contributing credible data to feed the database to monitor the peatlands resources.	changes in key environmental resources is very poor, making informed decision-making difficult	participating stakeholders are contributing data to feed the database to monitor peatland resources	stakeholders (100%) are contributing data to feed the database to monitor peatland resources		not yet available for this indicators	
	Percent of District Councils of the Lac Tele Landscape implementing Landscape Management plans with clear attention to gender and representation of indigenous populations	Protected areas are under severe management threats as they lack comprehensive plans for management – contributing land degradation, decline in biodiversity, and degradation in the value of ecosystem services.	At least 50% of District Councils of the Lac Tele Landscape implementing Landscape Management plans with clear attention to gender and representation of indigenous populations	All District Councils of the Lac Tele Landscape implementing Landscape Management plans with clear attention to gender and representation of indigenous populations	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
	Investment leveraged financing to support implementation of land-use management plans.	Existing integrated land use plans to support planning	At least 600,000 \$US is invested to support	At least 1,500,000 \$US is invested to support	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		and decisionmaking on productive forests and peatlands in the Lac Tele Landscape have not been legally approved and incorporated into existing policy processes	implementation of land-use management plans	implementation of land-use management plans			
Outcome 2.1: Local communities in the Lac Télé Landscape adopt integrated participatory conservation models for the sustainable use and management of peatland ecosystems	Percent (%) of land users that undertake sustainable land management on peatlands in the project area	None	At least 50% of land users are practicing sustainable land management on peatlands in the project area	At least 85% of land users are practicing sustainable land management on peatlands in the project area	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
	Number of peer-reviewed publications published in relevant internationally recognized journals on threats to peatlands in the Congo Basin (with a specific focus on the Lac Tele Landscape).	Information and data on threats to the peatlands of the Lac Tele Landscape are inexistent	At least 2 peer reviewed papers published on climatic and management threats	At least 4 peer reviewed papers published on climatic, natural resources use, management, IWT, and threats with	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
				transnational characteristics.			
	Number of transboundary community based structures to manage peatlands with women in decision making positions	<p>■ Capacity for management of sustainable forest landscape; biodiversity; and peatland management is limited in the project area. ■ There is a gender disparity (not in favour of women) in accessing information and opportunities for capacity-building in the country as a whole, and in the project area</p>	Capacity for the sustainable management of peatlands provided to at least 150 members of local governmental and non-governmental environmental interest groups in the project area	At least 350 persons trained in implementing management of forest landscape; biodiversity; and peatland management (with a special attention to gender diversity and the representation of indigenous groups)	0%	As field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators	U
Outcome 3.1: Local communities in the Lac Tele landscape implement alternative income generating activities to increase productivity and protect the environment	Number of small producer organizations undertaking sustainable nature-based income-generating activities	Agricultural activities in the area are still carried out with methods and tools that are not optimised for high productivity and	At least one (1) producer organizations in each district of the project area has benefited from project financing	At least eight (8) producer organizations in the Lac Tele Landscape benefit from project financing	0%	Field activities are still yet to start	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
		environmental protection	through the small grants program and is practicing sustainable production of cocoa	through the small grants program and is practicing sustainable production of cocoa			
Outcome 4.1: The private sector adopts sustainable peatland management practices and enter into public-private partnerships to contribute to the integrity of peatland ecosystems	Percent (%) of organic cocoa producers and ecotourism operators in the project area meeting the requirements of internationally recognized green Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The number of companies using certification standards to leverage green investments are very few. ■ Support for proactive engagement with the private sector to invest in and leverage the benefits of green certification standards is limited 	At least 50% of businesses in at least two sectors are implementing production standards compatible with at least one internationally recognized certification standard	At least 75% of organic cocoa producers and 85% of ecotourism operators are registered with international certification bodies	0%	Field activities are still yet to start	U
	Percent (%) of companies operating concessions in the Tele Lac Landscape signing commitments to adhere more strictly to	Operational modalities of logging and mineral extraction companies fail to	Operational modalities of logging and mineral extraction	All companies operating concessions in the Lac Tele Landscape sign	0%	Field activities are still yet to start	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	prevailing legal and institutional frameworks	adequately address challenges of biodiversity loss and sustainable peatland management	companies are revised to address key sustainable development challenges	a commitments to adhere more strictly to prevailing legal and institutional frameworks, as well as to submit to better monitoring of adherence			
Outcome 5.1: Stakeholders at the local, national, and regional levels adopt an agreed communication strategy for mainstream peatland adaptive management and IWT.	Percent (%) of key actors in the Lac Tele Landscape contributing with knowledge products to the project Portal. Percent (%) of participants in project trainings that state in the training evaluation form that the information provided by the project through the different channels reached them and is appropriate.	None	At least 40% of key actors in the Lac Tele Landscape contributing with knowledge products to the project Portal. At least 55% of participants indicate that the information provided by the project through the different channels reached them	All key actors in the Lac Tele Landscape (100%) are contributing with knowledge products to the project Portal. At least 95% of participants indicate that the information provided by the project through the different channels reached them	0%	Field activities are still yet to start	U

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
			and is appropriate.	and is appropriate			

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Supporting development and implementation of LUPs for RoC	1.1.1. National administrative and political stakeholders supported to analyze national policy and legal framework for community engagement in peatlands and biodiversity management and submit recommendations for amendments to relevant political structures for adoption	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start because there is delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
Lac Tele landscape protected areas and surrounding landscape with a focus on ensuring and formalizing community involvement	1.1.2. Government and local/district and regional hubs trained on the governance and management of participatory decision-making structures, including their formalization as registered entities and on community and transboundary engagements and conservation of peatlands, fighting Illegal Wildlife Trafficking, etc	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	1.1.3. Natural Capital Assessment targeting peatlands, protected areas and surrounding landscape conducted to collect data for land-use management plans for selected districts with due gender consideration and formalized community involvement protected areas and surrounding landscape with a focus on peatlands,	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	ecotourism, gender consideration, fighting illegal wildlife trade and transboundary cooperation and made available in the project website				recruiting consultants	
	1.1.4. Land–use management plans developed for selected districts in Lac Tele landscape with due consideration of gender, formalized community involvement, peatlands conservation and promotion of ecotourism and made available for adoption.	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
2 Community management of natural resources	2.1.1. Local community management structures and related bylaws allowing for sustainable management of hunting and fire, are established based on the successful experience of community-based fisheries regulations in the last 3 years	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	2.1.2. Local community governance groups and forest-dependent peoples trained to develop and implement environmental projects including the reforestation of gallery forests that are crucial for ecosystem services and fisheries production	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	2.1.3. Action-based research and monitoring allowing for adaptive management by communities and the government (including research on threats to peatlands from a changing climate) are conducted, results documented and made available to key decision makers at local and national level	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	2.1.4. Community based south-south cooperation activities and transboundary collaboration on peatlands management, illegal	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	wildlife trade, etc. are conducted, 2.1.4. Community based south-south cooperation activities and transboundary collaboration on peatlands management, illegal wildlife trade, etc. are conducted results documented and made available in the project site.				yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	
3 Diversifying communities' income sources e.g. through promotion of ecotourism and certified cacao	3.1.1. Institutional and technical support (leveraging expertise to develop tourism products and a business model, training community guides, working with departmental tourism actors in Impfondo and establishing basic infrastructures) are provided to communities to develop a foundation for community-based tourism enterprises, results documented and made available in the project site.	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	3.1.2. Sustainable income-generating activities and economic diversification such as certified cacao production, are promoted with focus on peatlands, Protected areas and wildlife conservation), results documented and made available in the project site	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	3.1.3. Local community organized structures trained on the promotion of ecotourism and gender equality with a focus on women empowerment and local community representation	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
4 Engaging the private sector in conservation	4.1.1. Training and technical assistance provided to existing concessions on resource exploitation that ensure integrity of peatland ecosystem	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	4.1.2. Study to assess legislative, administrative and operational	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start,	U

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
	modalities for the allocation of concessions completed, recommendations made and submitted to key decision makers for adoption				and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	
	4.1.3. A model of private sector involvement in sustainable peatland management and solutions to IWT in the project area developed and pilot tested, results documented and made available through the project site	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
5 Communication, Knowledge Management and project monitoring and Evaluation	5.1.1. Communication and knowledge products are generated by the project uploaded in a dedicated Portal on the project host website and disseminated at local, national and regional levels through different channels, including the Congo IP to create awareness for community – based peatlands and natural resources conservation.	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U
	5.1.2. RoC key actors including those involved in peatlands and natural resources management are actively engaged and exposed to experiences from peers in other locations.	2026-10-31	0%	0%	Field activities are still yet to start, and specific quantified results are not yet available for this indicators because of delays in signing protocols with implementing partners and TORs for recruiting consultants	U

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Substantial	Moderate
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Moderate	Moderate
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	Low	Low

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
The Government of RoC is not sufficiently interested in policies that favor improvements in environmental quality	All of outcomes	L	L						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Alternative initiatives that reduce pressures on peatlands and the forests they harbour may not be economically viable enough –	Outcom 2.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
leading local communities to question the rationale for long-term benefits from environmental conservation										
The model for integrated community-based conservation and protected area management applied to the peatland area and its forest ecosystem does not provide sufficient income streams and alternatives to convince communities to continue conserving their protected areas	Outcomes 2.1 and 3.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Conflict between and within social groups prevents agreement on development strategies and resource management plans	Outcome 2.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Conflict between transboundary stakeholders impedes the achievement of project goals	All of outcomes	L	L						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Capacities within decentralised government structures are insufficient to effectively deliver the project strategy	Outcome 1.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Climate change and variability negatively impact protected areas. peatlands or revenue generation models being put in place by the project	All of outcomes	L	L						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
The private sector is not interested in being involved in project activities	Outcome 4.1	L	L						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Existing programmes and projects may be duplicated	All of outcomes	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Continuous granting of mining permits and licenses	Outcome 4.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Expansion of commercial agriculture and logging activity	Outcomes: 4.1. 5.1	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
Corona virus interrupts the smooth implementation of project activities	All of outcomes	M	L						↓	The Corona virus is no longer a major health issue. In May 2023. the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern.
Corruption may derail confidence in the project and reduce beneficiaries' ability to reap full benefits of the project	All of outcomes	M	M						=	No change from the risk identified at the time of CEO endorsement
National capacity may be lacking to ensure that the project has qualified staff	All of outcomes	M	L						↓	The project has recruited a qualified and experienced international senior technical advisor to manage the project. He will supervise local staff in the implementation of the project and the achievement of results.
		M	M							

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Alternative initiatives that reduce pressures on peatlands and the forests they harbour may not be economically viable enough – leading local communities to question the rationale for long-term benefits from environmental conservation	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented. as field activities have not yet commenced during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA
The model for integrated community-based conservation and protected area management applied to the peatland area and its forest ecosystem does not provide sufficient income streams and alternatives to convince communities to continue conserving their protected areas	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented. as field activities have not yet commenced during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA
Conflict between and within social groups prevents agreement on development strategies and resource management plans	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented. as field activities have not yet commenced during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Capacities within decentralised government structures are insufficient to effectively deliver the project strategy	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA
Existing programmes and projects may be duplicated	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	Efforts are made to share the project document and objectives with key national, multi-lateral, and local stakeholders operating in the peatlands, forests, and livelihoods sectors of the project area and find synergies with existing and/or planned project	Meeting with key national and international stakeholders operating in the peatlands, forests, and livelihoods sectors of the project area	Continuous	PMU
Continuous granting of mining permits and licenses	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	The ToR for the recruitment of a consultant to draft the implementing regulations for the law on sustainable environmental management, which contains Title VII devoted entirely to the protection of peatlands, has been drawn up. Once adopted, these application texts will provide a solid legal framework to support	drafting the implementing regulations for the law on sustainable environmental management	2024-2025	PMU, EA

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		decision-making on the granting of licensing and mining permits.			
Expansion of commercial agriculture and logging activity	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA
Corruption may derail confidence in the project and reduce beneficiaries' ability to reap full benefits of the project	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	No specific measures have been implemented during this reporting period.	NA	NA	NA
Management structure: roles and responsibilities	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	The recruitment committee met in May 2024 to analyze applications for the various positions. An initial selection of candidates was made. The minutes of this meeting are currently being validated by the competent authority.	Analyzing applications for the various positions and making a shortlist	May 2024	Recruitment committee. including the project Lead technical advisor and designated ministry members
Implementation schedule	This is the first PIR. there is no previous reporting on the project	The project management unit continues to regularly monitor the MoU both within the Ministry and with the technical implementing partners (UNDP. Marien Nguabi University. WWF) to speed up the signing of	Continue monitoring to speed up the signing of the MoU Regular follow-up to validate and publish the ToR for the recruitment of consultants to implement the activities.	All year round	PMU (Lead technical adviser)

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
		the MoU. Regular follow-up is also carried out with the Ministry's cabinet to validate and publish the ToR for the recruitment of consultants to implement the activities.			

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	No
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Impfondo	1.6259	18.0539			Meeting with the political-administrative authorities (Prefect. Sub-prefects. Departmental Directors. etc.) with the aim of understanding their needs and concerns in order to encourage them to become fully involved in the implementation of the project
Dongou	2.0480	18.0547			Meeting with the political-administrative authorities (Prefect. Sub-prefects. Departmental Directors. etc.) with the aim of

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
					understanding their needs and concerns in order to encourage them to become fully involved in the implementation of the project
Epena	1.3562	17.4546			Meeting with the political-administrative authorities (Prefect. Sub-prefects. Departmental Directors. etc.) with the aim of understanding their needs and concerns in order to encourage them to become fully involved in the implementation of the project. Awareness-raising meeting with representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples on topics related to the main challenges related to the sustainable management of natural resources in the Lac Télé landscape in general (overfishing. poaching. illegal trade in wildlife. deforestation)

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
RAPPORT DE DÉMARRAGE_PROJET TOURBIÈRES LAC TÉLÉ.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-20 19:06:36	<u>Download</u>