

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: 10269	Umoja WBS: SB-017710
SMA IPMR ID: 84614	Grant ID: S1-32GFL-000709
Project Short Title: Congo Basin Impact Programme	
Project Title: Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin	
Duration months planned:	60
Duration months age:	36
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	10208
Project Scope:	Regional
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Regional
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 8,192,366.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 49,935,044.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2021-06-08
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2021-08-27
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2021-08-27
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2022-06-02
Date of First Disbursement:	2021-09-29
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 2,880,031.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 1,854,684.00
Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	

Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2024-06-30
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2026-07-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2026-07-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2026-12-31
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-06-30

1.2 Project Description

The Congo Basin Impact Programme (Congo IP) comprises seven child projects: one regional and six national projects. Overall coordination is with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as the implementing agency, which also executes the regional project, and national projects in RoC and DRC, while the World Bank executes the national project in CAR, UNDP in Gabon, IUCN in Equatorial Guinea and WWF-US in Cameroon.

The regional component of the CONGO IP is built on the rationale that several interrelated factors drive deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin, and that, without collaborative action among neighbouring countries to tackle common threats and take advantage of regional opportunities, it would be challenging to maintain forest cover and the flow of ecosystems services over the long term. In particular, the Regional Project (RP) serves as a platform for coordination and exchange of knowledge and best practices. The regional and national projects will coordinate their efforts to provide integrated solutions, support innovative and scalable activities to the challenges faced by this region. The project objective is to catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest-dependent people and through partnerships with the private sector. The RP fosters collaboration, strengthens knowledge exchange and best practices sharing among the countries, which is critical for deepening transboundary collaboration. It also provides support to innovative and scalable activities across countries to effect transformational change in key economic sectors such as to enhance biodiversity conservation and improve livelihood. It provides technical assistance and services and capacity building to national project on areas that are relevant to their actions on the ground: areas such as natural capital valuation, development of methodology for the cross sectorial land use planning to protect biodiversity, engaging with global and national value chains to promote deforestation-free commodities. The Congo Basin countries recognize the urgent need to step up regional cooperation to secure conservation and enhancement of forests, biodiversity and carbon stocks, and make a shift from the current unsustainable land use policies and practices to sustainable land and forest management that can be enforced overtime and adopted at a landscape level. There is a need to anticipate land-use change dynamics within land-use planning and the local governance of natural resources to protect intact dense rainforests.

The project has identified five barriers that impede coordinated regional action:

- (1) Lack of national and transboundary land use planning and use of available technology and processes to scale land use planning and implementation practices;
- (2) Weak enforcement and lack of a uniform, harmonized regional approach in dealing with wildlife crime and the conservation of endangered species;

(3) The involvement of local communities, indigenous people and forest-dependent communities, as well as the involvement of the private sector, is not optimal in order to scale interventions;

(4) Lack of knowledge of the importance of the Congo Basin in terms of global environmental benefits and the threats that could adversely impact the provision of these benefits and services; and

(5) Insufficient coordination and communication of best practices among the Congo Basin countries, donors, and executing agencies.

The regional project addresses these barriers through five components:

Component 1: Integrated Transboundary Land Use Planning. The key outcome sought by Component 1 is that land use planning decisions in transboundary landscapes in the Congo Basin are based on enhanced integrated land use management plans (ILUMPs) developed in a consultative manner and based on natural capital accounting and systems thinking.

Component 2: Targeted management interventions to provide safe and extensive habitat for stable and/or increasing populations of endangered species. The main outcomes sought by Component 2 are (1) enhanced regional capacity for addressing wildlife crime; and (2) conservation of great apes and forest elephants is integrated into regional development processes.

Component 3: Empowerment of IPLCs and forest-dependent people and greater private sector engagement. The key outcome of Component 3 is that local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector implement and scale up SFM investments in the Congo Basin.

Component 4: Knowledge Management: There are two key outcomes under this component, (1) National and transboundary stakeholders use enhanced knowledge for the Congo IP SFM on-the-ground actions; (2) Enhanced knowledge on current and potential impact of climate change on Congo Basin applied for policy planning and analysis.

Component 5: Program Coordination and Communication, which aim is to improve coordination among program stakeholders and other donors and increase awareness of the Congo IP program and lessons among national decision-makers and the global audience.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	UNEP
names of Other Project Partners	UNODC, UNEP-WCMC, Re:Wild, WCS, Rainforest Alliance, USFS, CAFI, CITES-MIKE, REPALEAC, CEFDHAC, COMIFAC, ECCAS, CBFP

UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Ersin Esen
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Paul Vrontamitis
UNEP Support Assistants	Eric Mugo
Manager/Representative	Juan Carlos Vasquez
Project Manager	George Neba Akwah
Finance Manager	Martin Okun
Communications Lead, if relevant	Under Recruitment

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	The Congo IP project is contributing to SDG Goals - Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; 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.; Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their

	<p>services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
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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- Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use		1215014 hectares	1215014 hectares	
4- Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)		213940 hectares	213940 hectares	2 713 ha in the TRIDOM transboundary landscape including 2404.8 ha in Ouessou (Republic of Congo) and 309.17 ha in Mintom (Cameroon)
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated		17805882 metric tons of CO	17805882 metric tons of CO	5 426 mtCO ₂ linked to improved agricultural production practices on 2 713 ha with an average of 2 mtCO ₂ /ha
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments		415380	415380	2 263 people reached
11.1- Male		208755	208755	1810
11.2- Female		206625	206625	453

Implementation Status 2023: 3rd PIR

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	3rd PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2023	2nd PIR	MS	MS	M
FY 2022	1st PIR	MS	MS	M

FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Summary of status

Under **Outcome 1.1: Land use planning decisions in transboundary landscapes in the Congo Basin are based on enhanced integrated land use management plans (ILUMPs) developed in a consultative manner and based on natural capital accounting and systems thinking :**

- Data collection and a comprehensive review of existing Land Use Management Plans (LUMP) in target countries and transboundary landscapes were conducted. The draft methodology for ILUMP has been developed and is undergoing review and validation process with COMIFAC’s support.
- The draft guidelines for integrating Natural Capital Accounting and Climate Change considerations into ILUMPs processes has been produced and is undergoing review and validation with COMIFAC support, and has been discussed with regional stakeholders during a regional consultation workshop that took place in Douala on 17 May 2024, organized by USFS and WCMC under the institutional support of COMIFAC. Remaining steps in this process are i) the organization of a regional validation workshop, ii) the editing and submission of the validated methodology to COMIFAC Ministerial Council for endorsement; iii) training of trainers and practitioners; implementation of the methodology and tools in four pilot landscapes.
- The identification of key stakeholders involved in LUMP efforts at the national and transboundary levels is completed.
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of current LUMP initiatives in addressing issues such as deforestation, habitat loss, and sustainable resource management was conducted.
- Assessment of the integration of multi-sectoral planning in existing LUMP efforts completed.
- The identification of gaps and overlaps in current LUMP efforts that may hinder effective land use management is conducted.
- Liverpool John Moores University/IUCN Palm Oil Task Force has completed an analysis of the expansion of the vegetable oil sector in Central Africa and its impact on deforestation. Also, the results of the analysis “Apes and Agriculture”, have been published.
- Rewild conducted training for eight primatologists on industrial development projects and mitigation measures.

Under **Outcome 2.1: Enhanced regional capacity for addressing wildlife crime**

- UNODC is liaising with ECCAS regarding the organization of a conference on the development of the ECCAS eco-security policy and strategy. UNODC is developing a three-phase train-the-trainer programme for specialized prosecutors on wildlife crime to raise awareness of wildlife trafficking trends among law enforcement officials and, more generally, actors involved in the investigative process.

- CITES-Mike has carried first training series on elephant mortality benefiting 11 rangers from Lope National Park, 7 rangers from the Minkebe National Park and 2 officers from the Ministry of Water and Forests. Participants were trained on how to use RBM, how to define the threats and data to be collected and how to make RBM effective.
- Additionally, an Agreement was signed with Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon to provide training on data collection for Elephant mortality. The first training will be held in Q4/2024. Also, an agreement has been signed with UNODC to provide training in the region.

Under **Outcome 2.2: Conservation of great apes and forest elephants is integrated into regional development processes:**

- WCS 1) organised three awareness-raising missions on zoonotic diseases, including Ebola, also together with the local music group, WCS developed songs with an awareness-raising context, which enabled the convey of important educational outreach messages to the communities through a very interactive and joyful awareness-raising activity. A total of 1,179 people in 16 villages were reached. 2) organised a mission to Bayanga (CAR) to exchange with the One Health (OH) team of the WWF in order to strengthen the collaboration of OH actors in the TNS zone. 3) made considerable progress with the establishment of a laboratory in Bomassa, including the recruitment of a laboratory assistant. They plan to have the laboratory equipped by the end of next semester so that they can start basic laboratory analysis.
- The project supported the inclusion of new disease detection methodologies in the Nouabélé-Ndoki disease surveillance system. It was agreed with WCS that they will cover one of the segments as mentioned above. Technical discussions ongoing on how to cover the other two segments.
- CITES-MIKE already received data submissions from 11 sites out of 15 sites. It is worth noting that Equatorial Guinea submitted their data for the first time since the inception of the MIKE programme. However, this is still pending approval from their authorities
- National experts of the six Congo Basin project countries have been trained in and acquired EIA capacity in relation IFC Biodiversity Standards. This enables Congo Basin to meet IFC requirements

Under **Outcome 3.1: Local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector implement and scale up SFM investments in the Congo Basin**

Significant progress towards enabling Public-Private-Partnership arrangements to strengthened sustainable value chains. Following the identification of TRIDOM Landscape based on a multi-criteria approach for another private sector certificate holder - Scam/Olam at Mayombe Landscape.:

- Four private companies have been identified and available in the selected landscapes of TRIDOM
- One MOU signed with Diamond SA and one under negotiation with the COFAO/Atlantic Cocoa/Theobroma in the Republic of Congo, Scoop PROCAM/Telcar/Cargill part of Cameroon Tridom Landscape, SIC Cacao/Barry Callebaut, in the TNS/TRIDOM in Republic of Cameroon.
- Three private-sector cocoa certificate holders have given their consent in the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes, which paves the way for an MoU.
- Terraso platform core (<https://techmatters.org> – software for financial exchanges), story maps and other features developed in 2023. Preparation ongoing the training for facilitators and translation of the Terraso platform core into French to enable its ease of use by targeted local stakeholders.

Under **Outcome 4.1: National and transboundary stakeholders use gained enhanced knowledge for Congo IP SFM on-the-ground actions**

The Regional Project has launched the Annual Learning and Coordination workshops series, with first workshop that took place in March 2024. The Knowledge journey for the Congo IP has been produced and under consultation for endorsement by national child project teams and Regional Coordination Project partners. The monitoring and learning expert is already hired and is working to roll out the M&E system tools.

Under **Outcome 4.2: Enhanced knowledge on current and potential impact of climate change on Congo Basin applied for policy planning and analysis**

- The framing of the downscaled climate model is now being finalized with Woodwell, and an agreement being prepared to roll the study out by Q4 2024.
- Components 4 & A PhD research has been identified and agreeable being finalized to carry out the species habitat suitability analysis. The project has adopted a plan with COMIFAC to enable the COMIFAC Thematic Working Groups to function as Community of Practice to generate and share knowledge on very project thematic issues, and to translate project emerging results and products into technical and policy recommendations that COMIFAC will take to COMIFAC's Ministerial Council for endorsement and support of regional decision making.

Under **Outcome 5.1: Improved coordination among program stakeholders and other donors, and increased awareness of Congo IP program and lessons among national decision-makers and the global audience**

- All project stakeholder coordination mechanisms are now in place and functioning, including:
- The quarterly coordination meetings involving the Regional project partners, the national child project teams, and COMIFAC
- The Programme Steering Committee is now functioning and has held its first two meetings in July 2023 and March 2024.
- The project has worked and reached agreement with COMIFAC on the plan to enable COMIFAC's Regional Thematic Working Groups to function as Community of Practice that consolidates and share project knowledge, and support the integration of results and lessons from the project into regional decision making processes.
- The Congo IP website version 1.0 was launched. <https://www.gefcongobasin.org>
- In May 2024 UNEP published a short story about UNEP's July 2023 field visit to the forest of the Bamougon Chiefdom in Cameroon. (<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/in-the-field/women-in-cobalam-project/>) - This initiative will serve 3,000 people, including 1,500 women.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 49,935,044
Actual to date:	
Progress	Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges: Updated co-financing figures will be provided in the next PIR of the project

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2024-03-22
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	<p>The Regional Project has engaged significantly with and strengthened collaboration with regional institutions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engagement with COMIFAC intensified through out 2023, which has enabled UNEP and COMIFAC to agree on a framework for a more structured collaboration to ensure i) the institutional anchoring and ownership and integration of the Congo IP results, lessons and knowledge into regional decision-making processes. This engagement has specifically clarified the framework for COMIFAC’s support to the organization and facilitation of transboundary landscapes dialogue and the development of cross-border synergies to enable the adoption and integration of ILUMPs in national and cross-border intersectoral mechanisms for four (04) transboundary landscapes: Tri-national de la Sangha (TNS), Monte Allen Mon de Crystal (MAMC), Lac Télé – Lac Tumba (LTLT) and Campo Ma'an Rio Campo (CMRC). This process will build on the work carried out by US Forest and WCMC to test, in these four transboundary landscapes, the ILUMP methodology developed as part of Component 1 of the project and to which COMIFAC will contribute as described above. COMIFAC will also work with UNEP to establish and operate a regional learning and leadership group for the Congo Basin Forest countries, as planned in the project. UNEP will also work with COMIFAC to strengthen the already existing Thematic Working Groups to function as regional community of practice platforms that work to consolidate and emerging project results and knowledge into technical and policy briefs and recommendations intended to COMIFAC Ministerial Councils. 2. Engagement with ECCAS also intensified during 2023, leading to a more constructive and supportive participation of ECCAS’ designated representative into the Programme Steering Committee. 3. During 2023, engagement with UN Resident Coordinator Offices and UNCTs (United Nations Country Teams) in DRC and the Republic of Congo is increasing facilitating the understanding of the contribution of the Congo IP to UN Cooperative Framework with those countries 4. Engagement with GIBEC (DRC’s Donor Roundtable). The Regional Coordinator is participating in the DRC’s donor roundtable and providing updates of the project and discussing synergies with various initiatives in the country. 5. Engagement with the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The Regional Project has intensified communication and exchange with the CBFP, including the French and Gabonese governments co-facilitation team, this in order to strengthen synergies. The exchanges have enabled the CBFP to express increased support for the ongoing GEF-7 objectives and their interest to participate in the upcoming GEF-8 Congo Basin. UNEP and CBFP identified areas of synergies and joint action during GEF-8 and within ongoing GEF-7 to promote transboundary landscapes dialogues, support private sector engagement as well as high-level policy engagement in the region. During the CBFP Meeting of Parties that took place in Kinshasa in June 2024, the project organized a series of events around Transformational Change in the management of transboundary landscapes of the Congo Basin. The five events in the series were attended by diverse stakeholders from the region and other parts of the world.

	<p>6. Increased engagement with the government of the Republic of Congo, via the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin, has improved understanding of collaboration within the overall Congo IP dynamic and synergies with the country's child project.</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>The project pursues the engagement of women and youth in decision-making, training, and participatory mapping and ensures that there are both direct and indirect women project beneficiaries. The following gender-sensitive actions and indicators are being tracked for the regional child project to date the participation of women has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhanced methodology for ILUMPs developed through a consultative process includes explicit requirements to engage women. – Six women’s CSOs participated in the consultation process. • A requirement was established to ensure that at least 30% of local participants in ILUMP design processes/consultations are women and/or gender-equity NGOs –15% of participants were women, and 15% were gender-equity NGOs. • Specific requirements to ensure women's participation in land use planning teams and each landscape's high-level, cross-sectoral mechanism. The capacity-building workshop on the enhanced methodology with key stakeholders from the already existing task force is planned for Sept 2024 —the participation of women is one of the points that will be followed closely. • Training on the methodological process includes a module on empowering women to participate in the land use planning process. • Women and/or gender-equity NGOs are included in ILUMP processes/ consultations and make up 30% of the participant pool— In the consultation process 15% of participants were women, and the 15% were gender-equity NGOs. • Two women were part of the eight conservation professionals (primatologists) from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, DRC, and Gabon that benefited from training to further enhance their skill sets, knowledge and experience, which will culminate in a final workshop planned in September 2024. • 566 women out of 1,179 people from 16 villages were reached out to and engaged during the three awareness-raising missions on zoonotic diseases including Ebola, this involving a local music group (Sangha musique), two agents from the Ministry of Health and a community officer from the logging company CIB Olam.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	<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?</p>
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	<p>SS 1: Biodiversity, natural habitat and Sustainable Management of Living Resources – low SS 2: Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management of Chemicals and Wastes – low SS 3: Safety of Dams – low SS 4: Involuntary resettlement – low SS 5: Indigenous peoples - low SS 6: Labor and working conditions - low SS 7: Cultural Heritage - low SS 8: Gender equity - low SS 9: Economic Sustainability - low The project will advocates for and raises awareness of decision-makers of the importance of strengthening the land and resource rights of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples. The project will seeks to comply with and apply relevant international guidelines and best practices regarding equal participation and inclusion of all stakeholders, such as women, youth, disabled and indigenous peoples, in decision-making concerning natural resources. Such instruments include the Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines and various declarations, resolutions and conventions. The regional project activities will be are aligned with COMIFAC’s “Sub-regional Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Congo Basin”, as well as with UNEP’s guide on “Gender Equality and the Environment”. A project-specific gender mainstreaming action plan will also be implemented. Any relevant guidance from REPALEAC will also be consider during inception.</p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No 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? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? none</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>The promotion and/or integration of forest-dependent people and other minority groups in all activities, decision-making processes and management institutions through the FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) principle is central to the regional child project’s actions. The analysis of gender issues is being planned, which aims to guide the design of ILUMPs and the implementation and management of activities within the overall Congo IP. The planned gender analysis will also enable the project to develop specific gender safeguards to strengthen gender roles, responsibilities, and rights. Regarding Indigenous People plans according to the ESS guidelines, a partner cooperative agreement has been signed been COMIFAC and UNEP, for the benefit of REPALEAC (the Central Africa Indigenous Peoples Network) to support the project, to provide financial and technical resources for the implementation of Indigenous People and Local Communities aspects of the project, specifically the following set of activities:3.1.1.1 Supervising the planning and monitoring of the activities of national projects to ensure their coordination and coherence with REPALEAC's strategic framework and the broad lines of the regional programme on IPLCs.3.1.1.2 Lead an assessment of land tenure systems applied by IPLCs in target landscapes to contribute</p>

	<p>to the regional processes of ILUMP and guarantee the active participation as well as the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous people to the activities of the regional programme.3.1.1.3 Conduct a midpoint assessment of the REPALEAC strategic framework for the 2018-2025 period to optimize/amend the instrument if needed and use this as a learning experience regarding the contribution of IPLCs to the sustainable management of forests in the sub-region.3.1.1.4 Co-prepare/co-organize the fourth iteration of the International Forum on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of Central Africa (FIPAC 4) as a forum for advocacy, experience sharing and strategic orientation on the role of IPLCs and forest-reliant populations in the sustainable management of forests and the conservation of biodiversity.3.1.1.5 Build the capacity of IPLCs to apply to, and benefit from, micro-subsidy opportunities offered by national projects.3.1.1.6 Lead information exchange visits in the field to share and promote lessons learned and experiences on the contribution of IPLCs to the sustainable management of forests and the conservation of biodiversity.</p>
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2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	<p>The results of the analysis “Apes and Agriculture”, have been published in: <i>Frontiers in Conservation Science</i>, https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/conservation-science/articles/10.3389/fcosc.2023.1225911/full Liverpool John Moores University, https://researchonline.ljmu.ac.uk/id/eprint/21848/ Republished in: Research Gate, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375557801_Apes_and_Agriculture Green Policy Platform, https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/news/preprint-apes-and-agriculture-launched Wageningen University & Research https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/apes-and-agriculture EcoEvoRxiv https://ecoevorxiv.org/repository/view/5406/</p> <p>In Cameroon, community-led restoration efforts are paying off https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/cameroon-community-led-restoration-efforts-are-paying</p>
Main learning during the period	<p>The structure and functioning of the Regional Programme Steering Committee would gain much in being revised and upgraded from being a steering committee of the Regional Coordination Project to become a Steering Committee of the entire Congo Basin Integrated Programme.</p> <p>Enabling and strengthening the cross-cutting convening and institutional role of regional institutions such as COMIFAC and ECCAS is key to ensure the institutional anchoring of the project and the integration of its results, learning and knowledge to support regional decision-making. The transformational input of the project depends on ensure that this works.</p> <p>Governments and stakeholders of the Congo Basin place high value and expectations on this project. This provides a promising pathway for mainstreaming the project's results, lessons, and good practices to contribute to driving positive policy change. This require more resources and intensified efforts in support of mechanisms that enable and sustain the highest-level engagement of government and regional institutions.</p>

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2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	<p>The annual learning meeting of the "Transformational change in sustainable forest management in transboundary landscapes of the Congo Basin" (GEF7) was held in Kinshasa from March 22 to 24, 2024. It brought together representatives of national projects, conservation experts, and political decision-makers at the national and regional levels and highlighted the significant advances progress made by the national and regional projects, the challenges they face, and the synergies to be established between national projects on the one hand, and with the regional project on the other.</p> <p>At the end of the meeting, the vital role played by the regional project in the cohesion and success of the program was recognized, its coordinating function and support for national projects were identified as essential to maximizing conservation impacts across the region, its ability to facilitate synergies between different projects was raised, and the collective determination to achieve ambitious conservation and sustainable development goals in the Congo Basin was reaffirmed. The meeting's recommendations stressed the need for an integrated approach that considers the importance of working closely with local authorities to ensure national appropriation and the safety of teams in the field, clarifying roles and responsibilities within the Steering Committee, speeding up recruitment processes, and improving communication and coordination between projects.</p>
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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
Outcome 1.1: Land use planning decisions in transboundary landscapes in the Congo Basin are based on enhanced integrated land use management plans (ILUMPs) developed in a consultative manner and based on natural capital accounting and systems thinking	Number of Congo Basin countries that adopt the enhanced methodology and related tools provided by the regional project in their national land use planning processes	0 (national methodologies currently lack cross-sectoral approach and natural capital accounting)	3	6 (enhanced methodology agreed on by all land use planning teams under the Congo IP child projects)	70%	The final draft of the enhanced methodology for ILUMP has been discussed with regional stakeholders during a regional consultation workshop that took place in Douala on 17 May 2024, organized by USFS and WCMC under the institutional support of COMIFAC. Remaining steps in this process are i) the organization of a regional validation workshop, ii) the editing and submission of the validated methodology to COMIFAC Ministerial Council for endorsement; iii) training of trainers and practitioners; implementation of the methodology and tools in four pilot landscapes.	MS
	Number of transboundary ILUMPs endorsed by regional inter-sectoral mechanisms or other relevant bodies	0	4 (national and cross-border ILUMP exercises underway in LTLT, TNS, MAMC and CMRC landscapes)	4 (transboundary ILUMPs receive the political support of regional bodies COMIFAC/ECCAS)	0 (transboundary ILUMPs receive the political support of regional bodies COMIFAC/ECCAS)	60% progress, including the following completed: 1. Data collection and a comprehensive review of existing Land Use Management Plans (LUMP) in target countries and transboundary landscapes were conducted. 2. The draft methodology for ILUMP has been developed and is undergoing review and validation process with COMIFAC's support. 3. The draft guidelines for integrating Natural Capital Accounting and Climate Change considerations into ILUMPs	MS

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
						<p>processes has been produced and is undergoing review and validation with COMIFAC support 42. The identification of key stakeholders involved in LUMP efforts at the national and transboundary levels is completed. 53. An evaluation of the effectiveness of current LUMP initiatives in addressing issues such as deforestation, habitat loss, and sustainable resource management was conducted. 64. Assessment of the integration of multi-sectoral planning in existing LUMP efforts completed. 75. The identification of gaps and overlaps in current LUMP efforts that may hinder effective land use management is conducted. 6. Stakeholder consultation workshop to gather input and feedback on assessment findings . 7. Development of a report summarizing the findings and recommendations for improving LUMP efforts at national and transboundary levels.</p>	
Outcome 2.1: Enhanced regional capacity for addressing wildlife crime	Relevant law enforcement officials adopt management actions to address wildlife crime	0% (Share of training participants who demonstrate uptake and application of	15%	30%	17%	Liaising with CITES MIKES, UNODC is conducting training on informant network management, surveillance techniques, and the judicial treatment of wildlife crime scenes.	MS

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
		new skills to address wildlife crime)					
Outcome 2.2: Conservation of great apes and forest elephants is integrated into regional development processes	Zoonotic disease surveillance system applied by relevant national stakeholders in all 3 segments of the TNS landscape	1 segment (system only being applied in Congo, piloted in Nouabale Ndoki NP)	3 segments (roll out of system adoption begins in Lobeke (CAM) and Dzanga-Sangha complex (CAR))	3 segments (system fully operational in all PAs in TNS landscape)	1 segments (system fully operational in all PAs in TNS landscape)	1) The project supported the inclusion of new disease detection methodologies in the Nouabélé-Ndoki disease surveillance system. It was agreed with WCS that they will cover one of the segments as mentioned above. Technical discussions ongoing on assessing who will cover the other two segments.2) three awareness-raising missions on zoonotic diseases, including Ebola took place, conjointly with a local music group (Sangha musique), two agents from the Ministry of Health and a community officer from the logging company CIB Olam. With the local music group, WCS developed songs with an awareness-raising context. 3) WCS conducted a mission to Bayanga (CAR) to exchange with the One Health (OH) team of the WWF to strengthen the collaboration of OH actors in the TNS zone. 4) WCS made considerable progress with the establishment of a laboratory in Bomassa, including the recruitment of a laboratory assistant. They plan to have the laboratory equipped by the end of next semester so that they can start basic laboratory analysis.	S

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
	Percentage of MIKE sites in the Congo-Basin that provide elephant mortality-related data to the MIKE CCU	60%	80%	100%	90%	MIKE submitted data that was received from 11 sites of the 15. Eq. Guinea submitted their data for the first time since the inception of the MIKE programme. However, this is still pending approval from their authorities. The next meeting is planned for October 2024. These meetings are held every two years, and the last one was in 2022.	MS
	Number of regional development policies, action plans and/or frameworks that include great ape and elephant conservation	0	1	2	0	National experts of the six Congo Basin project countries have been trained in and acquired EIA capacity in relation IFC Biodiversity Standards. This enables Congo Basin to meet IFC requirements	S
Outcome 3.1: Local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector implement and scale up SFM investments in the Congo Basin	Increase in share (%) of sustainably produced/sourced palm oil and cocoa by the companies that receive technical support from the regional project	0	10% increase	20% increase	0% increase	Three private-sector cocoa certificate holders have given their consent in the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes. TRIDOM has been identified as one of the priority landscapes based on a multi-criteria approach for another private sector certificate holder - Scam/Olam at Mayombe Landscape. Four private companies have been identified and available in the selected landscapes of TRIDOM with One MOU signed with Diamond SA and one under negotiation with the COFCOA/Atlantic Cocoa/Theobroma in the Republic of Congo, Scoop PROCAM/Telcar/Cargill part of Cameroon Tridom Landscape, SIC Cacao/Barry Callebaut, in the TNS/TRIDOM in Republic	MS

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
						of Cameroon. These private actors are either RA cocoa certificate holders or those willing to engage to have a certificate in adopting sustainable agriculture practices associated with the RA certification Standard.	
	Number of priority landscapes that establish multi-stakeholder partnerships	0	2	4	0	Following discussions with the Cameroon Child Project, three private-sector cocoa certificate holders have given their consent in the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes. Following the identification of TRIDOM Landscape based on a multi-criteria approach for another private sector certificate holder - Scam/Olam at Mayombe Landscape. Four private companies have been identified and available in the selected landscapes of TRIDOM with One MOU signed with Diamond SA and one under negotiation with the COFAO/Atlantic Cocoa/Theobroma in the Republic of Congo, Scoop PROCAM/Telcar/Cargill part of Cameroon Tridom Landscape, SIC Cacao/Barry Callebaut, in the TNS/TRIDOM in Republic of Cameroon. These private actors are either RA cocoa certificate holders or those willing to engage to have a certificate in adopting sustainable agriculture practices associated with the RA certification Standard.	MS
	Total amount of private sector financing leveraged through	0	USD 250,000	USD 500,000	USD 0	The activities for this outcome have started: Terraso platform core	MS

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
	the digital platform					(https://techmatters.org – software for financial exchanges), story maps and other features developed in 2023. At the moment, we are preparing the training for facilitators and translation of the Terraso platform core into French.	
Outcome 4.1: National and transboundary stakeholders use gained enhanced knowledge for Congo IP SFM on-the-ground actions	Share (%) of platform users who confirm benefiting from the platform in advancing their respective work actions	0	40%	100%	30%	A Knowledge management expert's recruitment process is almost complete and should be operational in the coming month. The Learning Journey roadmap of the Congo IP is under final consultation of country teams and project partners, and expected to be launched by August 2024The prototype of the online knowledge -sharing platform and the Community of Practice Forum have been created and will be launched by Sept 2024.	MS
Outcome 4.2: Enhanced knowledge on current and potential impact of climate change on Congo Basin applied for policy planning and analysis	Number of local level policy analysis and planning documents that integrate landscape specific climate predictions	0 (currently lacking)	2 (policy analysis and planning documents with climate predictions produced)	4 (policy analysis and planning documents with climate predictions produced)	0 (policy analysis and planning documents with climate predictions produced)	A study was published by other partners (not financed by this project) on the impact of climate change on great apes but only using the global modeals, but only using the global models. The project team is discussing how to use this information for work under this project. The results of this study can be used to inform conservation action planning and land use planning. Downscaled climate models are often a precondition for species vulnerability assessments and habitat suitability	MS

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
						analyses as under output 4.2.2. This is a very complex undertaking, especially at the scale of Central Africa. Under a different project, the project team has been involved in the development of a finetuned climate model for the Virunga landscape in East Africa, and is currently discussing how this experience can be used for the GEF project. The challenge is the scale ; the downscaled model was developed for a single landscape while the GEF IP is operating in many different landscapes across the Congo Basin.	
	Number of landscape interventions that apply the species and habitat suitability analysis in modelling	0 (currently lacking)	3 (modeling work in progress in 3 landscapes)	3 (final modeling results available for decision-makers)	0 (final modeling results available for decision-makers)	A study was published by other partners (not financed by this project) on the impact of climate change on great apes but only using the global modeals, but only using the global models. The project team is discussing how to use this information for work under this project. The results of this study can be used to inform conservation action planning and land use planning. Downscaled climate models are often a precondition for species vulnerability assessments and habitat suitability analyses as under output 4.2.2. This is a very complex undertaking, especially at the scale of Central Africa. Under a different project, the project team has been involved in the development of a	MS

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
						finetuned climate model for the Virunga landscape in East Africa, and is currently discussing how this experience can be used for the GEF project. The challenge is the scale ; the downscaled model was developed for a single landscape while the GEF IP is operating in many different landscapes across the Congo Basin.	
Outcome 5.1: Improved coordination among program stakeholders and other donors, and increased awareness of Congo IP program and lessons among national decision-makers and the global audience	Regular program-wide reporting against a common results framework produced	0	1 (a regular reporting system in place)	1	1	The project coordination groups have been established and will start functioning. Coordination meeting reports will be provided from the next reporting cycle. A results framework has been put in place, calls with each Executing Partner have taken place to exchange about the new tool. The latest reporting has been done by using the new results framework tool.	S
	Number of CBSL IP followers on Twitter	0	200	500	0	To be reported during next cycle when website and online platforms fully launched account X will be created.	MS
	Number of CBSL IP friends on Facebook	0	300	600	0	To be reported during next cycle when website and online platforms fully launched account FB will be created.	MS

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

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 Integrated Transboundary Land Use Planning	Output 1.1.1: Enhanced land use planning methodology developed through a consultative process and other land use planning tools made available to support national child projects	2024-10-31	50	70	USFS and WCMC have made continuous progress toward achieving this first output of the project. During this period, the following milestones have been achieved: The regional consultations and engagement with key stakeholders and COMIFAC have been completed. The draft of the enhanced Land use planning methodology has been developed. The formation of the technical working group to review the methodology has been completed. The next step will be the review and validation of the methodology and the land use planning tools. Remaining steps in this process are i) the organization of a regional validation workshop, ii) the editing and submission of the validated methodology to COMIFAC Ministerial Council for endorsement; iii) training of trainers and practitioners; implementation of the methodology and tools in four pilot landscapes.	HS
	Output 1.1.2: National stakeholders of the six basin countries trained on the land use planning methodology developed under Output 1.1.1 , ensuring equal gender representation	2026-08-31	50	50	The final draft of the enhanced methodology for ILUMP has been discussed with regional stakeholders during a regional consultation workshop that took place in Douala on 17 May 2024, organized by USFS and WCMC under the institutional support of COMIFAC. Remaining steps in this process are i)	HS

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
					the organization of a regional validation workshop, ii) the editing and submission of the validated methodology to COMIFAC Ministerial Council for endorsement; iii) training of trainers and practitioners; implementation of the methodology and tools in four pilot landscapes.	
	Output 1.1.3. ILUMPs developed in consultation with stakeholders for three segments of two transboundary landscapes that are not covered by national child projects	2024-12-31	0	0	This output is dependent on the finalization of the integrated methodology, as well as on the delivery of the training	
	Output 1.1.4: Four transboundary ILUMPs are consulted, elaborated and their endorsement by appropriate national inter sectorial mechanisms and/or by other relevant bodies within landscape transborder agreements advocated	2025-09-31	0	0	For this output, UNEP-WCMC is supporting USFS with workshops. Also, it has been agreed with COMIFAC (REPELEAC) that they will cover it, and for that purpose, a new work plan and revision of the budgetbudget revision are in process. They should start work on this output by the beginning of next month.	
	Output 1.1.5: A knowledge-base for sustainable vegetable oils in the Congo Basin developed and disseminated (with a special focus on palm oil)	2024-07-30	30	50	Liverpool John Moores University/IUCN Palm Oil Task Force The task force looked at the expansion of the vegetable oil sector in Central Africa and its impact on deforestation. Also, the results of the analysis “Apes and Agriculture”, have been published in: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/conservation-science/articles/10.3389/conservation-science/2023.1225911/full Liverpool John Moores University,	S

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
					https://researchonline.ljmu.ac.uk/id/eprint/21848/ Republished in: Research Gate, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/375557801_Apes_and_Agriculture Green Policy Platform, https://www.greenpolicyplatform.org/news/preprint-apes-and-agriculture-launched Wageningen University & Research https://research.wur.nl/en/publications/apes-and-agriculture EcoEvoRxiv https://ecoevorxiv.org/repository/view/5406/ At the moment, the scientific paper on oil palm and great apes is under review, and a revised version will be submitted within two months.	
2 Targeted management interventions to provide safe and extensive habitat for stable and/or increasing populations of endangered species	Output 2.1.1: Support and technical assistance provided to revise ECCAS Eco Security Policy and Strategy as a tool to fight wildlife crime.	2024-03-31	10	40	For this output, UNODC is liaising with ECCAS regarding the organization of a conference on the development of the ECCAS eco-security policy and strategy to be held in Brazzaville in late May 2024.	S
	Output 2.1.2: Awareness in relevant law enforcement organizations about wildlife trafficking is raised	2025-09-31	10	36	For this output, UNODC is developing a three-phase train-the-trainer programme for specialized prosecutors on wildlife crime to raise awareness of wildlife trafficking trends among law enforcement officials and, more generally, actors involved in the investigative process. Also UNODC is organizing and hosting an awareness-raising workshop on mock trials and a human rights-based	S

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
					<p>approach to addressing wildlife crime. The workshop will consist of two separate activities. Liaising with CITES MIKES, UNODC is conducting training on informant network management, surveillance techniques, and the judicial treatment of wildlife crime scenes, which is transversal with Output 2.2.2.</p>	
	<p>Output 2.2.1: Long-term zoonotic disease surveillance systems strengthened in the TNS landscape to minimize the risks of disease transmission between humans and wildlife and vice versa with a specific focus on great apes and elephants</p>	2025-10-31	40	50	<p>During the period of reporting the milestones achieved for this output are:</p> <p>1) Three awareness-raising missions on zoonotic diseases, including Ebola took place, conjointly with a local music group (Sangha musique), two agents from the Ministry of Health and a community officer from the logging company CIB Olam. Together with the local music group, WCS developed songs with an awareness-raising context, which enabled the convey of important educational outreach messages to the communities through a very interactive and joyful awareness-raising activity. A total of 1,179 people in 16 villages were reached. 2) WCS conducted a mission to Bayanga (CAR) to exchange with the One Health (OH) team of the WWF in order to strengthen the collaboration of OH actors in the TNS zone. The next step will be the organisation of a workshop with all OH actors of the TNS zone to be</p>	MS

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
					held at Bomassa during the next semester. These are important steps towards the establishment of a long-term zoonotic disease surveillance system that takes into account surveillance of human and wildlife diseases alike. 3) WCS made considerable progress with the establishment of a laboratory in Bomassa, including the recruitment of a laboratory assistant. They plan to have the laboratory equipped by the end of next semester so that they can start basic laboratory analysis.	
	Output 2.2.2: Monitoring of illegal killing of elephants to support decision making relating to elephant conservation and law enforcement in the sub-region strengthened.	2024-12-31	30	73	CITES-Mike is making progress with the training on elephant mortality (20 participants): From 5th -7th March 2024, 11 rangers from Lope National Park, 7 rangers from the Minkebe National Park and 2 officers from the Ministry of Water and Forests were trained on elephant mortality data collection: including information such as date, location, detection method, cause of death, decomposition state, age, sex, and ivory condition. They also learned the methodology applied to CITES-MIKE data collection. An important aspect also discussed during this training course was the collection of data on deaths linked to human-elephant conflicts. The training continued 8th March 2024 using ranger-based monitoring	HS

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
					(RMB) and real-time operations. Participants were trained on how to use RBM, how to define the threats and data to be collected and how to make RBM effective. An introduction was also given to the use of control rooms. Additionally, an Agreement was signed with Garoua Wildlife College in Cameroon to provide training on data collection for Elephant mortality. The first training will be held in Q4/2024. As for the aspect of CITES-MIKE data submission, to date, data has been received from 11 sites out of 15 sites in Equatorial Guinea. This data has been submitted for the first time since the programme's inception; however, it is still pending approval from their authorities. Also, an agreement has been signed with UNODC to provide training in the region. The Agreement is confounded with the EU and the GEF programme. The preparation phase for this new training is ongoing and is expected to start in Q3/2024.	
3 Empowerment of IPLCs and Forest-Dependent People, and Greater Private	Output 3.1.1: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are empowered to actively participate and defend their rights in land use planning and private sector engagement processes, and to gain institutional recognition of their land tenure rights and role in conservation and SFM	2025-09-30	10	25	To advance the empowerment of indigenous people and local communities, REPALEAC's regional coordinator's visit to Gabon and Central African Republic raised awareness of IPLC in these countries, encouraging them to participate and defend their rights in land use planning	MS

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
Sector Engagement					actively and contribute to the implementation of the Child Project in their countries.	
	Output 3.1.2: Mechanisms are created and enhanced to scale up market access of and private sector investments in cocoa that is sustainably produced by local communities in the Congo Basin	2026-06-30	34	51	For this output the following milestones have been achieved: Following discussions with the Cameroon Child Project, three private-sector cocoa certificate holders have given their consent in the TRIDOM and TNS landscapes. Following the identification of TRIDOM Landscape based on a multi-criteria approach for another private sector certificate holder - Scam/Olam at Mayombe Landscape. Four private companies have been identified and available in the selected landscapes of TRIDOM with One MOU signed with Diamond SA and one under negotiation with the COFCAO/Atlantic Cocoa/Theobroma in the Republic of Congo, Scoop PROCAM/Telcar/Cargill part of Cameroon Tridom Landscape, SIC Cacao/Barry Callebaut, in the TNS/TRIDOM in Republic of Cameroon. These private actors are either RA cocoa certificate holders or those willing to engage to have a certificate in adopting sustainable agriculture practices associated with the RA certification Standard. The points that are still on work are: Liaise with UNEP-WCMC and the Trade-Hub project to benefit from their	S

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
					up-to-date data analysis and scoping exercises related to trade aspects in cocoa. This step is just starting, as the previous milestones needed to be reached first. Engage with and provide technical support to private sector partners requiring guidance on sustainable cocoa sourcing, from making a deforestation-free commitment and taking concrete action at the landscape level to monitoring and reporting on progress - The implementation of the activities is progressing with the engagement of private sector companies towards the adoption of sustainable practices; the discussions are ongoing with the others preselected companies for the commitment.	
	Output 3.1.3: Multi-stakeholder partnerships are scaled up for effective implementation of sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin	2026-06-30	21	30	This output has had some slow progress but will speed up, in this next year: The operational workplans available for the Cameroon and DRC Child projects. - The TNS and TRIDOM landscapes with their existing or potential multi-partnership landscape have been targeted to foster partnerships during the implementation in 2024 of the regional child project Cameroon and Republic of Congo Child projects. As the activity of identification of pilot landscape has progressed: After the planning for this activity was completed	S

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
					in 2023, the identification of CSOs is ongoing, with 2 CSOs/training institutions in the two child project sites TRIDOM and TNS. Achievements for the planning for this activity are completed and ongoing, with the identification of a group of 15-20 people/ stakeholders per landscape to develop the capacities of multi-stakeholder Landscape Management bodies in financial mechanisms. Market study made by Rainforest Alliance about the ‘market analysis to understand value chains of the main targeted products’ – Bomboutos area, West Cameroon. (Document uploaded as attached.)	
	Output 3.1.4: Digital platform is enhanced for data management and improved community access to financing	2025-12-31	9	19.5	For this output the moderate progress is exemplified by (i) the identification of the landscape financial including 1000 Landscape and its partners such as Regenerative Development Group and Terraso/Tech Matters; (ii) the operational planning of the implementation is being finalized and (iii) the ToRs of the contractualization with the partners are on progress to take forward new Finance Accelerator Landscapes.	S
4 Knowledge Management	Output 4.1.1: Existing and new tools and knowledge resources relevant to Congo IP child projects are harvested, captured and/or created and made available	2025-12-31	25	25	A Knowledge management expert's recruitment process is almost complete and should be operational soon. The	MS

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
					online knowledge-sharing platform and the Community of Practice Forum are being created and will be launched just after finalizing the recruitment mentioned above.	
	Output 4.1.2: A Congo Basin IP knowledge management platform (KM Platform) is created and operational	2025-09-30	0	100	The website was developed and launched, it is in the process of reevaluation, and it will be revamped for better performance and use. https://www.gefcongobasin.org	HS
	Output 4.1.3: Congo IP online Community of Practice (CoP) is developed and enhanced through increased membership and diversity of users	2025-09-30	20	80	Community of Practice was created, and we plan to link it with COMIFAC.	S
	Output 4.1.4: Regional capacity development through training and knowledge sharing workshops, field visits and study tours, and online training events	2025-09-30	25	35	Field visits: In May 2024 UNEP published a short story about UNEP's July 2023 field visit to the forest of the Bamougon Chiefdom in Cameroon. This area benefits from GEF's financing through the implementation of the Rainforest Alliance project of advancing women's rights through community-led landscape management (https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/in-the-field/women-in-cobalam-project/) - This initiative will serve 3,000 people, including 1,500 women.	S
	Output 4.1.5: Knowledge management governance structure established	2021-09-30	0	50	GEF CEO endorsement was not received until June 2021, therefore there have been delays in implementation and as such the planned completion date for this output in the project document was not feasible. The new anticipated	S

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
					completion date is the end of 2025.	
	Output 4.2.1: Downscaled climate models including scenario planning developed for and applied to the priority landscapes selected in component 1 and recommendations for policy makers on how ILUMPs can incorporate climate change considerations	2022-01-30	0	5	GEF CEO endorsement was not received until June 2021, therefore there have been delays in implementation and as such the planned completion date for this output in the project document was not feasible. New anticipated completion date is end 20254.	S
	Output 4.2.2: Species and habitat suitability analysis modelling prepared and made available with the objective to ascertain how climate change impact infer future habitat suitability maps for a selection of priority species of conservation significance and derived livelihoods	2022-12-31	0	5	GEF CEO endorsement was not received until June 2021, therefore there have been delays in implementation and as such the planned completion date for this output in the project document was not feasible. New anticipated completion date is end 20254.	S
5 Program Coordination and Communication	Output 5.1.1: Congo IP Coordination Unit and Program Steering Committee are established and operational	2020-12-31	50	80	Project team recruitment is almost completed. Four full-time staff members recruited two positions one for Communication and another for M/E and Knowledge management is in process and should be fully operational in July 2024 and September 2024 accordantly. A second Programme Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Kinshasa on 22 March 2024, co-chaired by UNEP and ECCAS and attended by country project representatives, GEF Operational Focal Points and other stakeholders.	S
	Output 5.1.2: M&E system is established, tracking measurable progress, and feeding back into adaptive management of the CONGO IP program strategy	2025-12-31	20	30	To track progress, ensure coordination across the program and maintain oversight, the regional project team holds quarterly coordination meetings	S

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
					<p>with all child project leads. Additionally, Thematic Coordination Groups (TCGs) have been established to ensure synergies and integration of activities across the regional and national child projects. The TCGs are composed of representatives of the regional project team, executing agencies of national child projects and implementing partners. Representatives of the GEF Secretariat or regional political bodies may also be invited to participate in meetings. The project coordination groups have been established and functioning. Coordination meeting reports are provided. A results framework has been put in place, calls with each Executing Partner have taken place to exchange information about the new tool. The latest reporting has been done by using the new results framework tool.</p>	
	Output 5.1.3: Congo IP Communication and Outreach Strategy are developed and implemented	2025-12-31	40	45	The consultant produced the communication strategy and toolkits in 2022 and have been approved. A communication consultant has been hired to work on GEF's visual identity. The next step is for the project stakeholders to validate it. The recruitment for a communication consultant is almost done. Some of the communication results of the	S

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
					<p>communication strategy have been:</p> <p>Direct: In May 2024 UNEP published a short story about UNEP’s July 2023 field visit to the forest of the Bamougon Chiefdom in Cameroon. This area benefits from GEF’s financing through the implementation of the Rainforest Alliance project of advancing women’s rights through community-led landscape management (https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/in-the-field/women-in-cobalam-project/) - This initiative will serve 3,000 people, including 1,500 women. Indirect: A documentary video was made by the head of Rainforest Alliance communication unit of Africa, presenting the activities and the beneficiaries’ participation and commitments in the project in 2022 https://www.dropbox.com/s/5dahfl28tq7a0ax/FINAL%20V4%20111022%20COBALAM%20%20HD.mp4?dl=0b.</p>	

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	Low	Low
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Moderate	Moderate
4 Budget	Moderate	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
Risk 1: Risks regarding marginalized communities and gender include IPLCs and forest dependent communities lacking government support to strengthen their land and resource rights. Their participation in project activities may not be welcomed by other communities. Gender mainstreaming	outcome 3.1	L	L	L	L					

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
in project implementation may be inadequate and women's participation in training sessions, workshops, consultations etc. not supported by governments and regional bodies.										
Risk 2: Technological risks concern the implementation and coordination of project activities through internet tools and remote technologies, which may be inadequate due to poor technological capacity in the countries. Adult literacy may also be an issue in some areas.	All outcomes	M	M	M	M					
Risk 3: High staff turnover in local and regional institutions can undermine capacity building and knowledge management activities and hence compromise the long-term impact and effectiveness of the project.	All outcomes	L	L	L	L					
Risk 4: Limited financial and technical capacity in partner organizations can seriously compromise timely and cost-effective implementation of the project and the sustainability of project results.	All outcomes	L	L	L	L					
Risk 5: Limited availability of data and lack of access to reliable information, such as social dimensions of land and resource use, and wildlife crimes	Outcomes 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2	M	M	M	M					
Risk 6: Political risks include insufficient political, institutional, and financial support from the national governments (ministries, politicians) and the various regional sectoral	Outcome 1.1	L	L	L	L					

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
and cross-sectoral bodies. These risks would hamper any effective transboundary/cross-border activities. Internal/political barriers can prevent different sectors (planning, environment, forests, tourism, agribusiness, etc.) from working together to achieve integrated and sustainable forest management and land use planning. This would prohibit institutional alliances from forming and lower the political weight of the project										
Risk 7: Insecurity and instability in the region may delay or prevent project activities and prohibit people from fully participating in regional project activities and overall compromise the project.	All outcomes	L	L	M	M					
Risk 8: Lack of data concerning climate change threats to Congo Basin forests and communities impacting land use planning, and low national capacity to respond to these threats.	Outcomes 1.1 and 3.1	M	M	M	M					
Risk 9: The uncertain development of the COVID-19 global pandemic may have significant consequences to the project given the restrictions on travel, social gatherings and meetings and tourism operations, as well as shifting donor priorities and larger scale socio-economic impacts.	All outcomes	M	M	L	L					
		M	M	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
Risk 2: Technological risks concern the implementation and coordination of project activities through internet tools and remote technologies. which may be inadequate due to poor technological capacity in the countries. Adult literacy may also be an issue in some areas.	Risk 2: Technological risks concern the implementation and coordination of project activities through internet tools and remote technologies. which may be inadequate due to poor technological capacity in the countries. Adult literacy may also be an issue in some areas.	Combined in-person/field and virtual coordination and supervision meetings and meetings will be implemented frequently each year to reduce the potential negative effect of technological challenges on the running of the project.	Scheduling and implementation of a balanced combination of in-person and virtual coordination and learning meetings and field supervision and experience sharing missions in regular frequency.	Quarterly	PMU with EAs
Risk 5: Limited availability of data and lack of access to reliable information. such as social dimensions of land and resource use. and wildlife crimes.	The project will nurture a culture of data creation and collection respecting local customs and norms. and information sharing amongst all project partners by capacity building exercises and demonstrating the crucial role of data in integrated land use planning. This is an important aspect in building trust amongst the partners and to sustain long-term results.	USFS. WCMC have been subcontracted and are now developing a land use methodology that include data collection on the social dimensions of land and resource use. Furthermore. UNODC has been subcontracted and has initiated studies aiming at establishing knowledge base and data on wildlife crime to inform policy and action	Generate and make relevant knowledge and data available and accessible	Y1 and Y2	Subcontractors and Project team

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 8: Lack of data concerning climate change threats to Congo Basin forests and communities impacting land use planning, and low national capacity to respond to these threats.	Incorporation of climate change considerations will be part of the work under Components 1 and 4 of the regional projects. Climate change vulnerability assessment and downscaled climate models including scenario planning will be developed for and applied to the priority landscapes and recommendations will be made for policy makers on how ILUMPs can incorporate climate change considerations. The Congo IP will also benefit from the related knowledge created by other projects in the region, notably the UNEP-FAO joint IKI project on Congo Basin Peatlands, results of which can be shared and replicated in other countries.	USFS, WCMC have been subcontracted and are now developing a land use methodology that include data collection on climate change threats to Congo Basin Forests.	Data collection on climate change threats to Congo Basin Forests.	Y1 and Y2	Subcontractors and Project team
Risk 9: The uncertain development of the COVID-19 global pandemic may have significant consequences to the	All appropriate risk mitigation measures will be applied during the implementation of the regional project, such as	WHO has recently declared that COVID-19 is longer a global health thread. Consequently, most governments in the Congo	Keep monitoring the evolution of global and regional COVID-19 and other disease control measures that may impact	Permanently	Subcontractors and Project team

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
<p>project given the restrictions on travel. social gatherings and meetings and tourism operations. as well as shifting donor priorities and larger scale socio-economic impacts.</p>	<p>physical distancing and remote working arrangements as required. A zoonotic disease surveillance mechanism is already included among the Component 2 activities. whereas the learning platform in Component 4 will offer an opportunity to explore integration of animal-human health issues as countries emerge from current crisis. Building resilience in populations particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in the region may become mainstreamed in the regional project. The regional project will include a focus on strengthening forest-dependent communities. including through targeted small grants. The sub-components related to livelihoods. especially of local communities and forest dependent communities. as well as</p>	<p>Basin and across have lifted most or all Covid-19 restriction. which enable the ease of circulation of people and goods and facilitate field of project.</p>	<p>the implementation of the project</p>		

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
	those creating jobs with the private sector. become particularly important. Close coordination with other donors and partners on post-COVID-19 response will be pursued and partnerships with social and humanitarian stakeholders considered.				
Management structure - Roles and responsibilities			The executing and the implementing agency sides need to know their respective roles for a successful delivery. A workshop will be organized to clarify the roles and responsibilities	When: Sept 2023	Executing and Implementing Agency sides of the Project at UNEP.
Governance structure - Oversight			The implementing agency side is not represented at the steering committee. This is putting a challenge on project oversight. The executing agency organized a steering committee meeting but forgot to invite the implementing agency. The presence of Implementing agency at the steering committee will be	When: before the next steering committee meeting	IA: Task Manager in coordination with the Program Manager

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
			formalized		
Management responsibility - Pending reports			All pending reports (including co-finance reports) will be completed	before Dec 2024	Project management team

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
Dzanga-Sangha and Dzanga-Ndoki	2.89033	16.217798			
Monts de Cristal	0.721063	10.308157			
Nouabalé-Ndoki	2.497669	16.604985			
Lobéké	2.300843	15.849274			

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]