REPUBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganaderia, Bosques y Medio Ambiente

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea

Country: Equatorial Guinea

SIGNATURE PAGE

Upon request from the Government of Equatorial Guinea, Represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment (MAGBMA);

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will provide technical assistance for the project entitled *"Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea"*

Upon signature of this Project Document by the duly authorized representatives of both parties, the project will be implemented in accordance with the background, rationale and management arrangements described herein.

On behalf of the Government: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment	On behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Name: **Francisca ENEME EFUA**	Name: **Sheila Aggarwal-Khan**
Title: Deputy Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment & Political Focal Point of the GEF	Title: IUCN Representative for Equatorial Guinea
Date:	Date:

The proposed GEF funded project “Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea”, will be implemented by the IUCN, in collaboration with a range of national stakeholders. The project’s goal is to “conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and forest ecosystems in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea through an inclusive landscape approach, effective land use planning, enhanced management of protected areas and sustainable livelihood options”. The project will be implemented in these two landscapes of Equatorial Guinea.

In achieving this goal, the degradation of terrestrial ecosystems will be reduced and there will be a multiplication of co-benefits. The project interventions will lead to improved community livelihoods through the diversification of income-generating sources, increased direct economic value and benefits from natural resources, and increased resilience to the effects associated with climate change. At the national level, baseline information gathered on natural resources and other variables as well as capacity building will contribute to sound and efficient decision making in Equatorial Guinea with regards to land use and natural resources. The project interventions will also contribute to informing meta-analyses at the regional level, thereby supporting the sustainable management of natural resources in the Congo Basin as a whole. In addition, the project will promote and support conservation activities, including transboundary collaboration, and improved governance of protected areas. This will include addressing current knowledge gaps and insufficient capacities of relevant stakeholders.

The design of the project is fully aligned with Equatorial Guinea’s national priorities and will be implemented within the framework of the relevant national policies and regulations. The strong political will of participating ministries will be an important factor in sustaining the longevity of the projects outputs. Creating a strong relationship between government institutions and the executing agency, as well as supporting organizations, will also contribute to sustaining project interventions and outputs.

List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank
ANDEGE	Friends of Nature and Development of Equatorial Guinea
BBPP	Bioko Biodiversity Protection
BI	Biodiversity Initiative
BIOPAMA	Programme for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management
BZS	Bristol Zoological Society
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CARPE	Central African Regional Program for the Environment
CBFF	Congo Basin Forest Fund
CBSL IP	Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme
CBSP	Congo Basin Strategic Programme
CEFDHAC	Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems
CI	Conservation International
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COBAM	Climate Change and Forests in the Congo Basin
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CUREF	Conservation and Rational Use of Forest Ecosystems in Equatorial Guinea
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOFAC	Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
EDSGE	Equatorial Guinea Demographic and Health Survey
EG	Equatorial Guinea
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FDC	Forest Dependent Communities
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FONADEFO	National Forest Development Fund
GAPA	Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emission
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
IMET	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
INCOMA	National Institute for the Conservation of the Environment
INDEFOR-AP	National Institute of Forest Development and Management of the National Protected Areas System
INEGE	National Institute of Statistics of Equatorial Guinea

INPAGE	National Institute for Agricultural Promotion
IPLC	Indigenous People and Local Communities
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LUP	Land Use Plan
MAGBMA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPAS	National Protected Areas System
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OFAC	Central African Forest Observatory
OSFAC	Central African Satellite Forest Observatory
PA	Protected Area
PACEBCo	Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme
PFBC	Congo Basin Forest Partnership
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RAPAC	Central African Protected Areas Network
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REFADD	African Women in Sustainable Development Network
REPALEAC	Regional Network of Local and Indigenous Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
SMART	Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology
TOMAGE	Marine Turtles of Equatorial Guinea
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGE	National University of Equatorial Guinea
UWE	University of the West of England
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WHO	World Health Organisation
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

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1 PROJECT PROFILE

Project title	Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea
Project Number (GEF ID / IUCN ID)	10293
Project type (FSP or MSP)	FSP
Trust Fund	GEF TF
GEF strategic objectives and focal areas	
IUCN programme priority	**Programme Area 1:** Valuing and conserving nature **Programme Area 2:** Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources **Programme Area 3:** Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development
Geographical scope	Equatorial Guinea (Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes)
Project executing agency/ies	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Duration of project (including expected start and end dates)	48 months – 2021 to 2024

1.1 Project cost (Summary)

Item	USD
A. GEF financing	5 354 580
B. Co-financing	
- Government of Equatorial Guinea	32 000 000
- BZS	100 000
- IUCN	350 000
C. Sub-total co-financing	32 450 000
D. Total (A+C)	37 804 480

2 PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Objectives: To conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and forest ecosystems in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea through an inclusive landscape approach, effective land use planning, enhanced management of protected areas and the promotion of local governance and sustainable livelihood options					
Outputs	**Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of verification**	**Assumption (A) / Risk (R)**
Component 1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management					
1.1. Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes					
1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)	Cross-border agreement signed Number of cross-border policy maker tours	0 0	1 3	Agreement signed Mission reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: Low level of stakeholder engagement ; low political will
1.2. Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependent people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels					
1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies	Number of studies undertaken	0	2	Studies published and available	A: Appropriate capacity to implement assessments and priority studies identified R: Inappropriate priorities; Delays for the preparation of designation and/or registration documentation
1.2.2. Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources	Capacity diagnosis carried out Number of training modules developped Number of training sessions Number of people trained	0 0 0 0	1 7 31 312	Diagnosis Training material (modules) Training session reports	A: Identification of needs and availability of staff to follow trainings R: Inappropriate priorities
1.3. Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes					
1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Roadmap to develop multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels Number of local land use plans developed Number of peer to peer capacity building sessions	0 0	1 5	Reports Achieved stages Training session reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: Discrepancy between the interventions undertaken at the national and at the landscape/local levels

	Number of local land use plans implemented	0 0	10 5		
1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures	Statutes Number of meetings	0 0	1 8	Statutes of the platform Meeting minutes Mid-term and final evaluation reports	A: Relevant stakeholders involved R: No stakeholder interest in the platform
Component 2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services					
2.1. Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities					
2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds	Financial audit of INDEFOR-AP Financial audit of INCOMA Number of implementation reports of financial audit recommendations	0 0 0	1 0 2	Audit and reports	A: Transparency of all procedures in place R: Limited access to non-formal procedures
2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Number of governance assessment reports Number of PA management plans updated and technically approved Number of PA management plans updated and politically approved Number of PA management effectiveness assessments carried out METT score Monte Alen METT score Rio Campo METT score Altos de Nsork METT score Piedra Nzas METT score Rio Muni Number of training sessions Number of people trained	0 0 0 0 40 41 35 40 37 0 0	3 (1 SAPA + 2 SAGE) 4 4 15 (3 in each of the 5 PA: inception, mid-term, end term) 65 65 65 65 65 3 15	Governance reports PA management plans Official validation documents METT assessment reports METT assessment reports Training session reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: Delay for the political validation ; no political interest

2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)	Number of INDEFOR-AP field missions supported by the project Number of months of eco-guard activity supported by the project Number of fully functional PA management centers Number of new eco-museums Control points established	0 0 0 0 0	200 800 3 2 4	INDEFOR-AP and eco-guard activity reports Mid-term and final evaluation reports	A: Involvement of INDEFOR-AP R: Bureaucracy in order to validate field missions
2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes	Number of training sessions Number of people trained Number of days of community patrols supported by the project	0 0 0	48 300 2000	Training sessions reports Mid-term and final evaluation reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders, willingness to be trained R:Low level of stakeholder engagement
Component 3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes					
3.1. Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes					
3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model	Number of micro projects for livelihood activities Value invested in micro-projects Number of NGO contracts Share (%) of individual beneficiaries that are women or young people Number of capacity building sessions UNDP Small grants program	0 0 0 0% 0 0	100 979 100 USD 4 At least, 30% of young people and 40% of women 60 1	Field visits - Activity reports Training sessions reports Mid-term and final evaluations reports	A: Relevant beneficiaries identified and committed R: Conflicts between different user groups over competition for access and rights to resources
3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)	Number of studies undertaken Months of Post-Doctoral researcher	0 0	2 36	Studies published and available Mid-term and final evaluations reports	A: Appropriate capacity to implement assessments and studies identified R: Inappropriate priorities; Delays for the preparation of designation and/or registration documentation
3.2. Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes					
3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests	Cross-border policy maker tour Training module developed Number of training sessions Workshop held	0 0 0 0	1 1 5 1	Mission report Training session reports Minutes of workshop	A: Relevant stakeholders involved R: No stakeholder interest

Component 4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment					
4.1. Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation					
4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity	Number of production and broadcasting of radio shows Number of production and broadcasting of TV documentaries Number of environmental education activities Number of communication tool kits developed Number of educational trails developed Number of INDEFOR-AP websites developed Number of months of TOMAGE eco-guard activity supported by the project Number of days of TOMAGE community patrol supported by the project	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	5 3 75 10 1 1 240 400	Radio and TV shows Reports of environmental education activities Communication tool kits INDEFOR-AP website Educational trail Mid-term and final evaluations reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: No interest of stakeholders
4.2. Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed					
4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin	Number of regional CBSL meetings and workshops attended Number of briefs published	0 0	4 8	Meeting minutes Published briefs	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: No risk
4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)	Number of monitoring and evaluation strategies and tools Number of communications to CBSL regional initiative	0 0	1 8	Mid-term and final evaluations reports	A: Involvement of stakeholders R: No risk
4.1.3 Project evaluation and audit missions carried out	Number of project evaluations carried out Number of evaluations carried out Number of audits carried out	0 0 0	2 2 4	Annual project audit reports Mid-term and final evaluations	A: Efficiency of the PMU R: Delays in work plan and procurement plans validation and disbursements
5. Project management & monitoring					
5.1 Project is effectively and efficiently managed					

5.1.1 Project management team established and functional	Number of project staff hired	0	4	Annual project audit reports Mid-term and final evaluations	A: Efficiency of the PMU R: Delays in work plan and procurement plans validation and disbursements

3 BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS (BASELINE COURSE OF ACTION)

3.1 Background and context

3.1.1 Regional context

Stakes of the Congo Basin forests

The forests of the Congo Basin are the second largest tropical forest area in the world, after the Amazon. With an estimated total area of 200 million hectares, or almost 91% of Africa's dense humid forests, these forests represent the main forest resources of the continent. They harbour an extraordinary biodiversity that constitutes an invaluable potential for the region. Their conservation is therefore essential for the air quality and the stability of the climate. The fauna and flora are exceptional for socio-economic development. The most important challenges in line with this project are:

a) What diversity is hidden in the heart of these forests? The limited human and financial resources hinder detailed knowledge of the biological diversity and therefore limit the forests' value and contribution to the economy of the sub-region.

b) How can forest preservation and economic development of the populations living in these forests be reconciled? The lack of national land-use plans and management plans for protected areas in the countries of the Congo Basin makes it difficult to reconcile the well-being and development of the peoples who inhabit and depend on these forests.

c) How can forests be managed sustainably? Obsolete legal frameworks, few of which are applicable, with fragile institutions, make it difficult to monitor and control forests. The poor implementation of forest governance (only three countries have adopted the FLEGT system), the very slow REDD+ process, the lack of implementation of management plans in all production forests, which makes it difficult to apply forest certification, contributes to the fact that the Congo Basin does not have large tax revenues and that deforestation and degradation is increasing.

d) How can the impact of the informal sector on the region's forests be restricted? The increase of the informal sector in the demand for forest resources is due to the growth of the population of the region, poverty and lack of appropriate, adaptive and feasible regulatory framework that will act as incentives for the informal sector to formalise and regulate their businesses and structures. The informal or illegal sector increases the loss of biodiversity and CO_2 emissions in the atmosphere. This is due to the limited application of forest governance in the sub-region.

e) How can transboundary cooperation be enhanced? Transboundary cooperation is weak because it depends on multilateral cooperation and development partners. Few transboundary agreements are operational in the 12 cross-border landscapes of the Congo Basin (Lac tele - Lac tumba, Tridom and Trinational Sangha). States should strengthen their south-south cooperation to assess the importance of transboundary corridors, key biodiversity areas and the exchange of experiences.

Regional political bodies

Several regional political bodies who are attempting to address the important challenges of the Congo basin forests exist. Below is a brief description of the main organisations working at the regional level:

ECCAS: The Economic Community of Central African States was created in 1983 and comprises ten countries of the Congo Basin (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad). Agriculture and the environment, including the management of the ecosystems of the Congo Basin, are part of its domains of intervention. ECCAS also has an Action Plan for the Reduction of Catastrophic Risks (PARRC) 2015-2030 which is part of its general policy on the environment and management of natural resources. It includes Axis 1 on Combating land degradation, drought and desertification; Axis 4 on Conservation and sustainable management of forest resources in Central Africa; and Axis 5 on Combating climate change in Central Africa.

COMIFAC: The Central African Forests Commission, which brings together ten member countries of the Congo Basin (Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad), was set up to implement the commitments made by Central African Heads of State in March 1999 in the "Yaoundé Declaration". They met again during a second summit held in Brazzaville on the 5th of February 2005, where they adopted the Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Central

African Forest Ecosystems, thus establishing the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) on the 30th of October 2007 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. The Summit of Central African Heads of State granted COMIFAC the status of Specialized Agency of ECCAS. At the same Summit, the Heads of State also adopted the Convergence Plan, which defines the intervention strategies of the countries of the sub-region and other stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa.

In this regard, COMIFAC is the sub-regional institution that promotes the conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin's forest ecosystems. It is in charge of forest and environmental policy development, coordination, decision-making and harmonisation in Central Africa. COMIFAC supports the conservation and sustainable management of forest in the Congo Basin through its regional Convergence Plan that includes the following 10 axes: Harmonizing forest policy and taxation; Resource knowledge and inventory; Ecosystem management; Biodiversity conservation; Sustainable use of forest resources; Alternative income generation; Capacity development and training; Research; Innovative financing mechanisms and Regional cooperation and partnerships. It has also been developing research and development projects on issues related to climate change and its impacts on forest ecosystems.

The COMIFAC treaty institutions are CEFDHAC, OFAC, OSFAC, RAPAC, OCFSA, ADIE and OAB, but currently the operational ones are:

- **CEFDHAC**: The Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems, recognized by Heads of State under Article 18 of the Treaty establishing COMIFAC in 2005. Its mission is to "raise awareness and encourage stakeholders to conserve the forest ecosystems of the sub-region and use the resources they contain in a sustainable and equitable manner". In Equatorial Guinea there is a National Chapter of this organization to raise awareness and encourage different actors in the conservation of forest ecosystems.

- **OFAC**: The Central African Forest Observatory was created in 2007 as a specialized unit of COMIFAC, to provide updated and relevant data on the region's forests and ecosystems, mainly to inform political decision-making and promote good governance and sustainable management of natural resources in the region. In Equatorial Guinea, there is an OFAC coordination to collect and validate information.

- **OSFAC**: The Central African Satellite Forest Observatory is a regional forum dedicated to the use of satellite data to detect and monitor changes in the environment in the Congo Basin. Its objective is to contribute to the COMIFAC Convergence Plan by producing reliable and useful vegetation cover maps and other products. The capacities of technicians of INDEFOR-AP have been enhanced to monitor the forests of Equatorial Guinea.

- **RAPAC**: Central African Protected Areas Network, is a membership-based organization; its objectives are to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Central Africa, through the harmonization of policies and management tools, and to provide a platform for exchange and support between protected area managers and other stakeholders who wish to develop or use natural resources in protected areas. Currently RAPAC does not function due to lack of financial means. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea has benefited from the support of the network for the management of its protected areas.

Congo Basin forest initiatives

Various initiatives have contributed to the conservation and enhancement of natural resources in the Congo Basin, but we will focus on the following who are supporting or have supported the Republic of Equatorial Guinea technically, politically, financially or logistically:

- **PFBC**: The Congo Basin Forest Partnership is a type 2 partnership that primarily supports the implementation of COMIFAC's regional Convergence Plan. It was launched at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 54/214, which called on the international community to support the conservation and sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin, as reflected in the Declaration of the Heads of State in Yaoundé in 1999.
  PFBC is a member of the associations of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and currently includes 10 Central African countries and many partners concerned by the Congo Basin forest ecosystems: ECCAS, COMIFAC, financial partners, Congo Basin civil society, international NGOs and organizations, multilateral organizations, research and training institutions, and private sector operators. Cooperation within PFBC aims to support the shared vision of Central African Heads of State, in particular by improving the effectiveness of measures taken, including technical and financial support, for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable management of forest ecosystems, and the fight against climate change and poverty reduction in Central African countries, in accordance with COMIFAC's Convergence Plan. Equatorial Guinea has benefited from PFBC-funded projects.

- **CARPE** is the Central African Regional Programme for the Environment. It is a long-term initiative of the United States Government to promote sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation in the Congo Basin. CARPE's strategic objective is to reduce the rate of forest degradation and

biodiversity loss in 9 Congo Basin countries, thereby promoting local, national and regional capacities in natural resource management. CARPE has been implemented in three phases from 1995 to 2020 as follows:

- Phase I (1995-2002) developed a natural resource information database for the region, and developed local capacities, through a small grants programme focusing on three themes: forestry, protected area management and environmental governance.
- Phase II (IIa and IIb, 2003-2013) implemented systematic land-use planning to support the conservation of forests and biodiversity as well as the needs of established partnerships and activities to create management systems for sustainable conservation and climate change mitigation.
- Phase III (2013-2020) aims to "institutionalize" conservation with focuses on monitoring and management approaches developed in CARPE II, by strengthening individual, organizational and systems capacities necessary for ensuring that the ecological integrity of the Congo Basin rainforest ecosystem can be maintained without USAID support.

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea has benefited from all phases of CARPE.

- **CAFI** is the Central African Forest Initiative. It supports the implementation of the UNFCCC REDD+ process. The beneficiary countries of this initiative in Central Africa are the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. CAFI's objective is to recognize and preserve the value of the region's forests to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development. Its main donors are Norway, France, England, Germany, the EU and the USA. CAFI's key principles are:

  (a) alignment with national and international strategic objectives and frameworks, which define priorities not only for CAFI, but also for other initiatives like FLEGT, CBFF, COMIFAC, FAO etc,

  (b) the expected impact is the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation as well as increased carbon sequestration and sustainable development co-benefits, which implies investing in activities developed in forests, with the involvement and participation of the different stakeholders to reach a high-level political commitment.

  The CAFI initiative only supports measures and actions that provide social and economic benefits, especially to the rural population, and in particular to the most vulnerable groups such as women, youth, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled. In the countries concerned, the initiative must be led by an institution with a broad inter-sectoral mandate that can manage sector coordination, transparency and communication between institutions and actors.

  The main priorities of the CAFI initiative are: 1) agriculture, 2) wood fuel, 3) forest governance and management, 4) infrastructure, mining and energy, 5) land use and tenure, 6) demographic pressure, 7) inter-sectoral coordination.

  In Equatorial Guinea, the process began in August 2015, to date the main elements have been developed: (1) Study of the Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation, (2) The National REDD+ Strategy and (3) The National REDD+ Investment Plan that still requires a high level commitment from the government in order to obtain financial support from CAFI.

- **PACEBCo**: The Support Program for the Conservation of Ecosystems of the Congo Basin is an initiative of the African Development Bank that was implemented between 2009 and 2014 and to support the implementation of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan. Equatorial Guinea benefited from this program in the Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal Landscape.

- **ECOFAC**: The Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa is a European Union programme launched in 1992, with the aim of strengthening the conservation and sustainable management of forest and savannah ecosystems in six Central African countries, and contributing to the sustainability of ecosystem services. It is currently in its fifth phase (with funding of around 30 million euros). The fourth phase had a funding of 38 million euros, and the first three phases, in which RAPAC (Central African Protected Areas Network) was created, received more than 70 million euros. Equatorial Guinea benefited from the first four phases of the programme for Monte Alén National Park.

Forest landscapes of the Congo basin

The CARPE programme identified 12 landscapes in the Congo Basin of great biological diversity, multipurpose in view of the different ecosystems they include and facilitating genetic flow for conservation through biological corridors. These 12 landscapes are a vision for the sustainable and harmonious management of ecosystems.

The objectives formulated for the creation and management of the 12 landscapes are:
1. To plan the conception and implementation of territorial management in the 12 landscapes, in the protected areas, forest concessions and community areas within them.

2. To promote the governance of natural resources by formulating environmental policies and legal reforms, and a micro-grant programme for civil society organizations for the conservation in these landscapes.
3. To track and control natural resources using the Geographic Information System (GIS) and satellite mapping of forest cover, and the monitoring of forest concessions and wildlife.

The 12 landscapes are presented in the map and the table below.

Figure 1: The 12 CARPE landscapes of the Congo basin

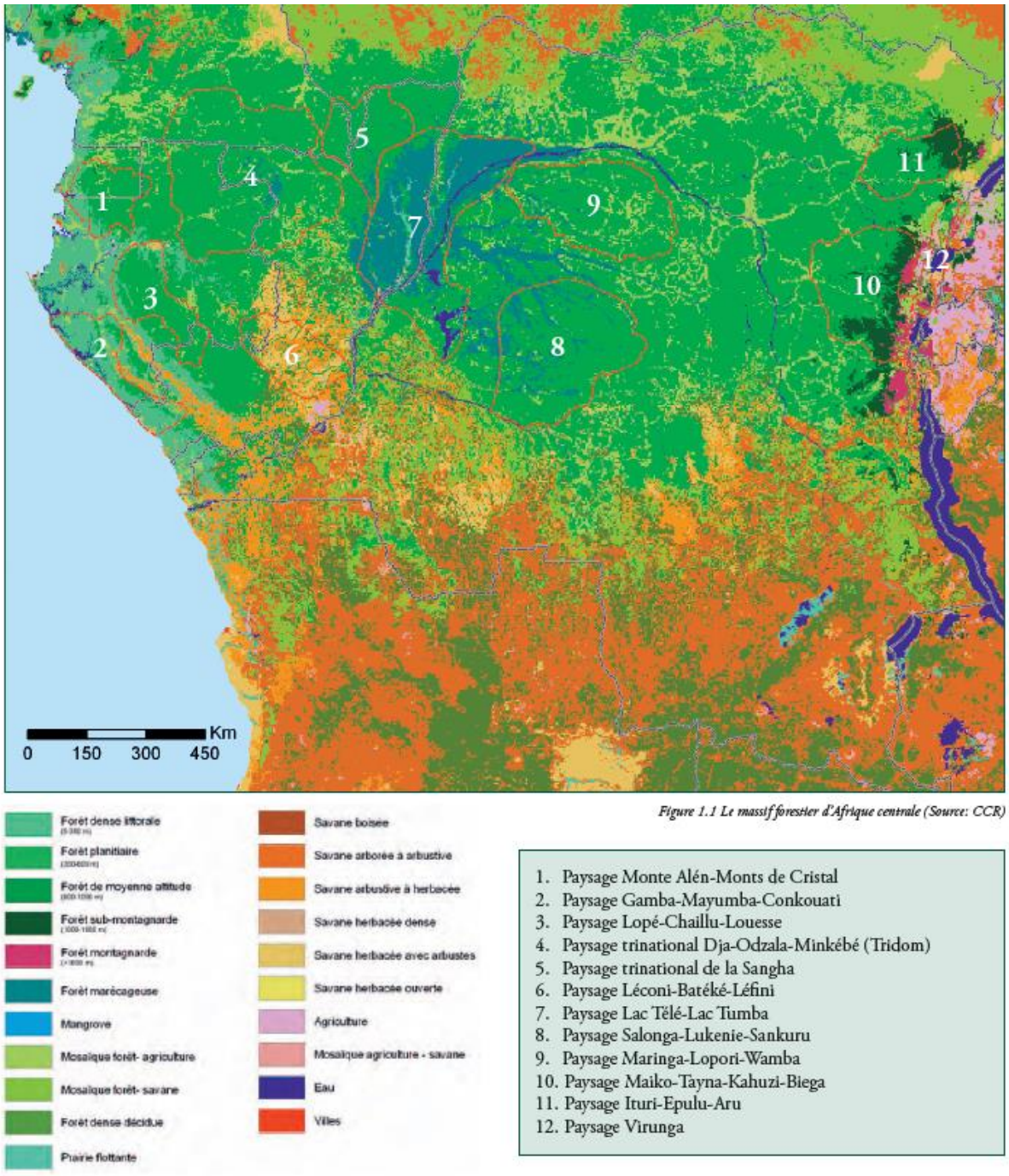


Figure 1.1 Le massif forestier d'Afrique centrale (Source: CCR)

Source: *Etat des forêts 2006*

Table 1: The 12 CARPE landscapes of the Congo Basin

Landscape	Countries
Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal	Equatorial Guinea / Gabon
Gamba - Mayumba – Conkouati	Gabon / Republic of Congo
Lopé – Chaillu – Louesse	Gabon / Republic of Congo
Dja – Odzala - Minkébé (TRIDOM)	Gabon / Republic of Congo / Cameroon
Tri - National de la Sangha (TNS)	Republic of Congo / Cameroon / CAR
Léconi – Batéké – Léfini	Gabon / Republic of Congo
Lac Télé - Lac Tumba	Republic of Congo / DRC

Salonga – Lukenie – Sankuru	DRC
Maringa – Lopori – Wamba	DRC
Maiko – Tayna - Kahuzi Biega	DRC
Ituri – Epulu – Aru	DRC
Virunga	DRC

According to CARPE, a landscape approach offers opportunities to foster connectivity and to promote positive interactions, increase species richness and habitat suitability, as well as to address some of the drivers of deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to maintain large areas of forests intact within the landscape and ensure the conservation of biodiversity while also promoting human well-being. The current GEF funded project will focus on Equatorial Guinea landscapes that are transboundary to Cameroon and Gabon: the Monte Alen – Monts de Cristal landscape (defined by CARPE), and the Rio Campo – Campo Ma'an landscape, which is not part of the 12 landscapes defined by CARPE. In this sense the GEF project will be complementary to the CARPE programme. The Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes are the two most forested areas of the continental region of Equatorial Guinea and that form part of the Congo Basin forests. It is urgent to protect them from rising threats.

3.1.2 Country description, environment and geographical organisation

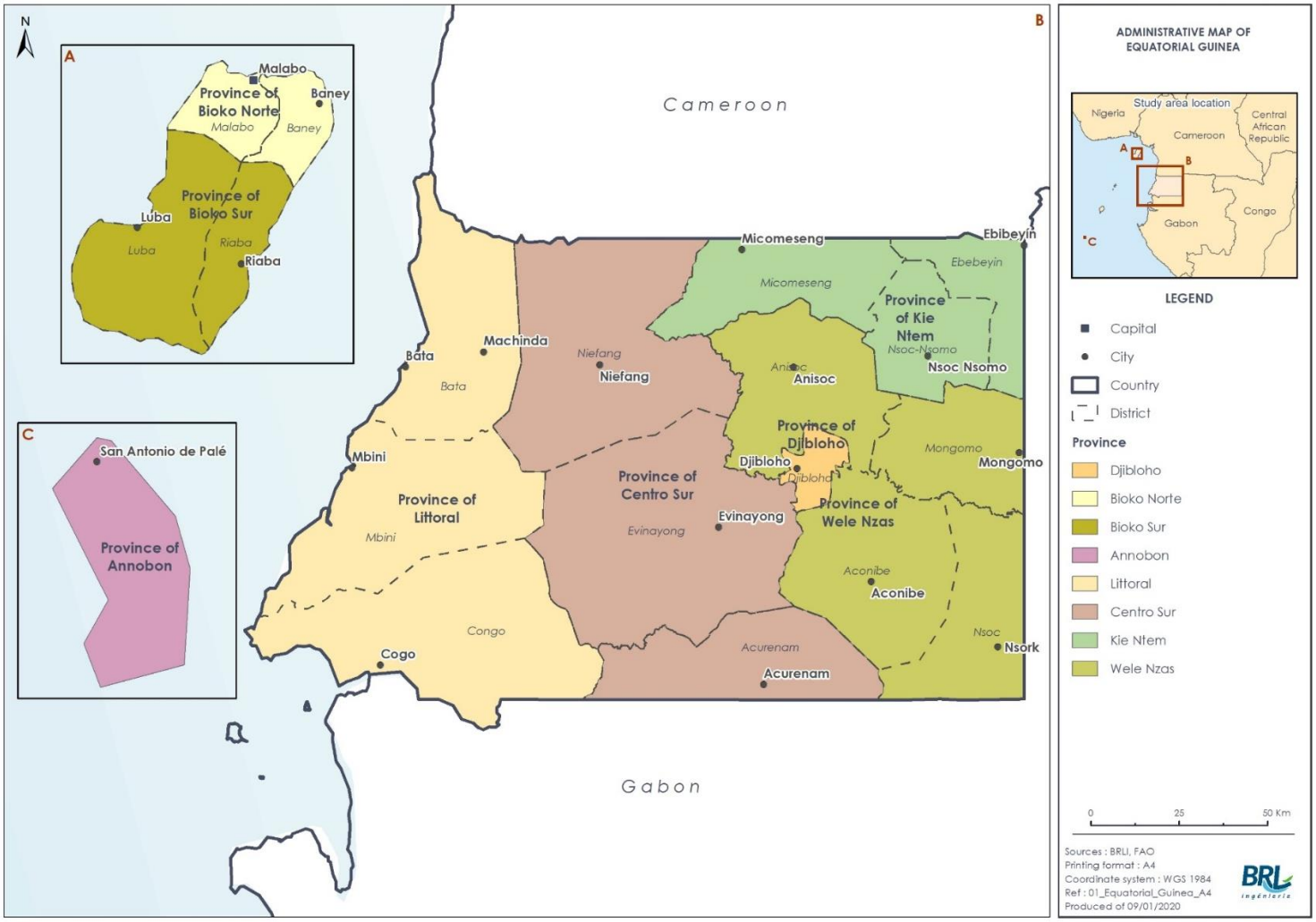
3.1.2.1 Country description

Geography

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is located close to the equator in the Gulf of Guinea. The country is made up of two regions, one continental and the other insular. The continental part is bordered to the north by the Ntem River and Cameroon, to the south and east by Gabon and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It shares maritime borders with Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon and Cameroon. The country covers an area of 28,051.46 km² (26,017.5 km² for the continental region and 2,017 km² for the insular region). It also has 314,000 km² of territorial waters, 11 times larger than the mainland area, and more than 300 km of maritime coasts.

Equatorial Guinea's climate is of the "rainforest" type with features of "tropical savannah" at its easternmost end. The average annual temperature is around 25ºC. Rainfall is abundant and regular, and usually exceeds 1,500 to 2,000 mm per year. Equatorial Guinea has a natural wealth of arable land, forests and mineral resources, including gold, oil, uranium, diamond and columbita-tantalite.

Figure 2: Map of Equatorial Guinea



Population

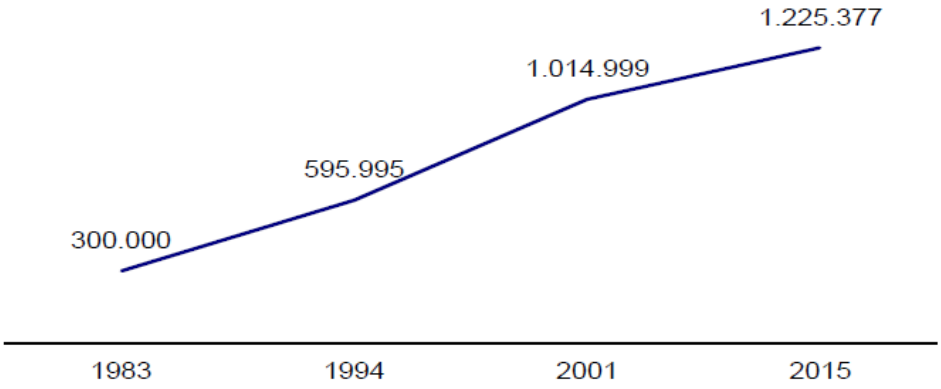
Equatorial Guinea has a population of 1,225,377 inhabitants. The continental region has 885,015 inhabitants, representing 72.2% of the total population, whilst the insular region has 340,362 inhabitants, representing 27.8%. The population is young, with children between 0 and 14 years of age representing 47.3% of the population (MAGBMA, 2019).

Spanish is the official language and French and Portuguese are co-official languages. There are several local languages spoken: Fang, Bubi, Combe, Bisió, Fadambo and "pichi" or Fernandino. The ethnic groups of the country are Fang, Bubis, Ndowes, Bisios, Annoboneses and Criyoles. The majority of the population is Christian.

Despite the country's high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, human development and poverty reduction remains the greatest challenge facing Equatorial Guinea. A large part of the population has not benefited from the oil boom and there is an unequal distribution of wealth. Indeed, 77% of the country's population lives in poverty (2006 data); 57% do not have access to safe drinking water and 16% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition. (MAGBMA, 2019). 66 % of households have electric lighting (93% in urban areas and 43% in rural areas) and 56% have some form of access to clean drinking water (82% in urban areas and 33% in rural areas). Most households do not have toilets or latrines, especially in rural areas (EDSGE, 2011). In 2015, the country ranked 135 (out of 197) according to the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). In addition, high dependence on imports of both food and manufactured goods significantly increases the price of products and reduces the purchasing power of households.

The country's population has been increasing over the last decades (see figure below). This increase is due to the birth rate (average of 5.1 children per woman), the influx of immigrants and the return of exiled Equatoguineans seeking employment in the oil sector. Immigrants represent 12.4% of the total population. That said, the population density remains relatively low, at 45 inhabitants/km^2 (in the continental region the density is 35 inhabitants/km^2).

Figure 3: Evolution of the population of Equatorial Guinea between 1983 and 2015



Source: INEGE 2018

According to the last census, carried out in 2015, 76.1 % of the population lives in urban areas and 23.9 % lives in rural areas, in contrast with the past, when 60% to 70% of the population lived in rural areas. (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

Gender

Legal framework

Equatorial Guinea has signed or ratified most of the international human rights conventions of the United Nations and the African Union which prohibit discrimination based on gender.

At national level, the country has several legal frameworks that relate to gender equality:

- Article 5 of the Constitution establishes equality between women and men in all areas of social and family life, whilst article 15 makes gender discrimination an offence. Article 13.2 also requires the public authorities to put in place legislative measures and mechanisms to promote the adequate representation of women in State institutions and their participation in public offices;
- Article 3 of the Framework Act on Education states that early childhood education, primary education and vocational training must be free and compulsory for all Equato-Guineans and foreigners residing in the country, regardless of gender;
- Decree No. 167/2013 on the classification of civil servants guarantees the principle of equality and prohibits gender-based wage discrimination;
- The decree governing minimum wage also establishes equality in terms of salary;

- The National Employment Policy instituted in 2015 is designed to ensure, in collaboration with local agencies, the implementation of gender equality policies.
- The National Gender Policy (NGP), validated on 20 January 2011, is a response to the real disparities that exist between women and men in Equatorial Guinea. The NGP is articulated around five strategic axes:
    - Access to basic social services;
    - Respect for human rights and the elimination of violence;
    - Access/control of resources and equitable revenue sharing ;
    - Improved governance and equitable access to decision-making spheres;
    - Gender mainstreaming in macroeconomic policy

Institutional framework

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality is responsible for promoting and implementing public policies in the field of social affairs and gender. The Ministry's competencies in this domain are:

- To promote policies, programmes, projects and plans of action for the promotion of women;
- To encourage cooperation with national and international bodies and with NGOs for the promotion of women;
- To promote and encourage actions in favour of gender equality and the effective participation of women in public, cultural, economic and social life;
- To promote the establishment of family care institutions and the functions that fall within the central administration of the State in this regard;
- To strengthen measures to raise public awareness of the need for comprehensive prevention and protection against violence against women and girls;
- To promote women's rights in accordance with national, regional and international legal instruments;
- To monitor the implementation of conventions and other international, regional and sub-regional legal instruments for the promotion of women.

The Ministry is represented at all administrative levels: national, regional, provincial and district delegations, and autonomous supervisory bodies. There are advisers for social affairs and the promotion of women in all village councils. These positions are reserved exclusively for women.

Existing gender programmes

The technical and financial partners of the United Nations support the Government in the implementation of a number of programmes and projects aimed at promoting gender equality:

- The Multi-sectoral Plan of Action for the Promotion of Women and Gender Equality;
- The National Economic and Social Development Plan Horizon 2020 includes a number of strategies to promote women's rights, gender equality, economic empowerment of women and children, and access of women and children to basic social services;
- The Programme for the Promotion of Self-Employment of Rural Women;
- The National Programme for the Education of Adult Women, Young Women and Adolescents;
- The Educational project for women, illiterate adults and young women in a situation of failure or dropping out of school

Gender inequalities

According to the World Bank 2015, Equatorial Guinea has made considerable progress in the area of gender equality, particularly in education, health and literacy for 15-24 year olds. Despite this progress however, gender inequality in the political sphere, participation in decision making processes, access to land, inheritance and access to sources of financing still persists.

Access to education: Girls' access to early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling is equivalent to boys. However, this is not the case for university education, where men are more present than women. Furthermore, in 2016 the proportion of women in the workforce (77%) was lower than that of men (92%). In politics, out of a total of 170 Members of Parliament, only 32 were women. Similarly, there were only 9 women in ministerial positions, compared to with 71 men (UN, 2017).

Access to health: In rural areas, women do not have access to prenatal visits. They must travel to the nearest urban or peri-urban centre to receive pregnancy monitoring. Those with low income are limited to the care provided by the village health worker. According to the EDSGE 2011, the neonatal and infant mortality rates are 33.1 and 65 per 1,000 live births respectively. Estimates for 2013 show a maternal mortality rate of 292 per 100,000 live births. Furthermore, women are more likely to contract HIV then men (7,4% of women, against 5,1% of men in 2016).

Violence against women: According to the EDSGE 2011, violence against women persists in significant proportions. Indeed, 63% of women surveyed (aged 15 to 49) have been physically abused, mainly by their

husband or partner, but also by their father/father-in-law and/or mother/mother-in-law. 32% of women report having been victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives. Among women who reported physical violence in the last 12 months, 46% were injured as a result of the violence.

Involvement in decision-making: Men are generally responsible for decision-making both at household and community levels. Women have limited participation in community meetings. Their participation is limited to the presence of a councillor for the promotion of women in the village council.

Access to land: In the continental region the land ownership system is patrilineal. In this system, men are the landowners and decide on the use of the land and associated natural resources. Land ownership rights are transferred from father to son. In 2016, only 12% of women owned land, as opposed to 88% of men (EG country profile 2016, UN). Women are given access to land by their husbands for agricultural activities (to produce food for the household), but they have no rights over it.

Role in the (rural) household: Women are generally responsible for all the tasks related to maintaining their household. They are responsible for collecting water, firewood, most agricultural activities, cleaning, cooking and taking care of the children. Men are responsible for physical work like land clearing for agriculture, hunting, construction work and fishing. Men also participate in certain processing activities and in craft making. Women are often responsible for selling agriculture and fish products at the market. Gender roles in the project landscapes are described in more detail in section 4.3.2.

Women play a major role in communities and in the rural economy of Equatorial Guinea, particularly in relation to agricultural activities. Women represent around 80% of the country's agricultural labour force and they take charge of the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as taking care of domestic activities (MAB and FAO, 2012).

In general, rural women have less access than men to productive resources, services and opportunities, such as land, financial services and training. Social and economic inequalities between men and women undermine household food security and impede the growth of the social economy.

Economy

Until the mid-1990s, the country's economy was based on the agricultural and forestry sectors, where cocoa, coffee and timber production represented the main sources of income. The discovery and exploitation of oil in the 1990s represented significant economic growth, with oil accounting for 85% of GDP, 95% of tax revenues and almost all exports (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). Oil extraction between 1995 and 2005 went from 6000 to 360 000 barrels per day, multiplying the production by 60 in just 10 years. This productive leap situated the country as the third largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, after Nigeria and Angola. Oil and gas became the driving force of the country's economy, leaving the old coffee and cocoa productions behind. From 2000 to 2011, the economy grew with an annual average of 23.2% (MAGBMA, 2019).

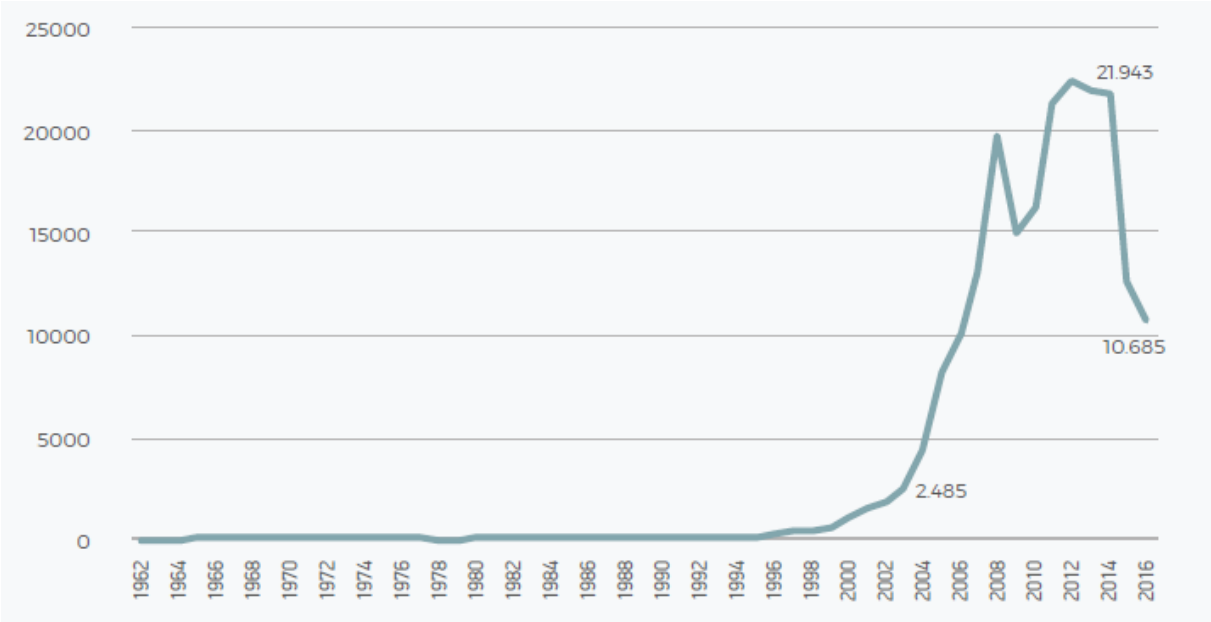
The oil boom, along with the agricultural decline experienced in the last decade, has caused a massive rural exodus to urban centres and the desertion of agricultural activities despite the efforts of the State to curb this trend, in particular by massively subsidizing export crops. The country has experienced a rapid and often uncontrolled urbanization, leaving rural areas with a shortage of labour for agricultural activities. Self-subsistence agriculture exists, but it does not meet urban demand, which is now met by imports. Food production focuses on bananas, cassava, cocoyam, yams, potatoes, plantains, nuts, palm oil and vegetables. Despite efforts made, the agricultural sector does not currently guarantee the country's food security. With more than 22,000 registered farms and 18,800 ha under cultivation, production is still extensive, rudimentary and not very diversified (MAGBMA, 2019). As most of the food consumed by the mostly urban population is imported, the country remains vulnerable in terms of food security. In the rural areas, the forest is still the main source of food today. Livestock development has been hindered by the abundance of epidemics and pests, the lack of equipment in the sector and the low rate of livestock reproduction. Most of the meat consumed is imported. However, in order to reduce its dependence on imports, the government, with technical assistance from the FAO, developed, validated and adopted a National Plan for Food Security in 2012.

Equatorial Guinea has a marine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of more than 314 000 km^2, ten times larger than the total area of its land territory. Hence, fishing activities are planned to increase in the future and satisfy the needs of the population for marine products. The catch in 2017 (1 273 t) was more than three times higher than in 2016 (386 t). The prospects are encouraging for the sector in the short and medium term, following the signing of a project for the construction of cold stores in the provincial capitals, and the purchase of twenty-five fishing boats, among others (MAGBMA, 2019).

According to the 2015 Population Census, the agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries sector is the economic sector that employs most of the active population (25.6%), followed by trade (15.1%) and construction (10%) (INEGE, 2019).

Since 2013, the country has been experiencing an economic recession (see figure below), and the contribution of oil to GDP has decreased due to the decrease in production and in the price of oil in the world market. In 2016, oil represented 59% of GDP (INEGE, 2018). The production and export of crude oil has fallen significantly but the production of its derivatives (mainly gas) has been increasing. Considering the abundant potential gas reserves of the country, it can be assumed that these reserves will be an important source of income in the near future. As a result of the fall in oil prices, the forestry sector is gaining more weight in the economy and the production and export of wood has increased in recent years.

Figure 4: Evolution of the Equatorial Guinea GDP at current rates (in million USD)



Source: MAGBMA and FAO, 2018. Study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014

3.1.2.2 The state of Equatorial Guinea's forests

Equatorial Guinea's forests are characterized by their great plant and animal biodiversity, with diverse ecosystems including tropical rainforests, swamp and floodplain forests, mangroves, subalpine formations and high-altitude prairies. The richness and extent of the country's forests make them an important natural capital for the population and the national economy (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). In addition, the islands of Bioko and Annobón present a great variety of endemic plant and animal species due to their insular character (MAGBMA, 2019).

The country's forests are part of the Congo Basin, the second largest extension of tropical forest in the world after the Amazon. The dense tropical rainforest harbours natural resources of fundamental importance for the development of the country and provides vital ecosystem services and livelihoods to the population. The interaction between forests and the atmosphere helps to stabilize climate patterns in the Congo Basin and throughout the world.

The forests vary between 35 and 40 m of height with three layers of well-defined vegetation. The first are primary formations composed of dense rainforests or forests of medium and low altitude, with species of great timber value, swamp forests and mangroves. The second stratum is composed of a secondary formation resulting from forest regeneration after timber exploitation, and finally tertiary formations where heliophytes and crops dominate. (MAGBMA, 2019).

Despite maintaining a relatively high forest cover, the country's forest area is reducing every year and forests are being progressively degraded, losing their biological wealth and reducing their ability to provide environmental services and socioeconomic benefits. The biodiversity is threatened and lives under enormous anthropogenic pressure (industrial and artisanal logging of trees, illegal hunting, shifting cultivation, construction: new cities, roads, electrical networks...). According to a recent FAO study, the forest cover in 2014 was estimated at 2 500 000 ha (±101 000 ha), which represents 93% (±4%) of the total surface area of the country. Deforestation between 2004 and 2014 was estimated at 87 000 ha (±9 000 ha), which represents an annual rate of 0.3% (or 8 700 ha per year). During the same period, forest degradation affected 230 000 ha (±46 000 ha), equivalent to an annual rate of degradation of 0.9%, (or 23 000 ha per year). The data reflects that, during the 2004-2014 period, forest degradation was approximately three times greater than deforestation in the country. Furthermore, deforestation was more pronounced on the island of Bioko, while forest degradation was greater in the continental region and in Annobon Island. (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

Importance of the country's biodiversity

The country's diverse ecosystems present a large variety of biodiversity. There are almost 200 species of mammals, 17 of primates, 133 of ungulates as well as forest elephants. Although there is no data on the number of reptile species, the continental region of Equatorial Guinea has 6 chameleon species, the highest diversity in Africa. There are 314 species of birds belonging to 47 families, there are more than 167 species of fish, of which at least 8 are endemic. More than 60 species of terrestrial mammals have been identified in the insular region, of which 28 % are endemic, and in particular primates. The presence of natural ecological corridors in the continental region and the absence of barriers with neighbouring countries facilitate the migration of species. (MAGBMA, 2019).

A widespread public consultation carried out by the FAO shows that the majority of the population perceives the forest as an integral part of their lives, a source of food (fruits, snails, worms, oil, game meat), medicines (seeds and bark), building materials (walls and ceilings of houses, boats or canoes from the ceiba tree), household goods (furniture, baskets, plates, ropes, climbing bows for palm trees) and income, as well as an element of protection for their houses and crops against the winds. The population uses multiple non-timber forest products. In Equatorial Guinea, at least 154 species are used for medicinal purposes, 17 of which are commonly traded (MBPMA, 2000). It is estimated that non-timber forest products could represent up to 42% of rural incomes (Obama, 1998). Some of these products are even exported to international markets. In addition, the population considers the itinerant crops as an integral element of the forest, and therefore vital for their food security. Forests also have a cultural and spiritual significance: some trees are considered sacred; forest products are used in ancestral ceremonies (paintings, traditional costumes, etc.). There are spirits of the forests, and sacred places in their interior where ceremonies and rituals are celebrated (FAO 2018). Other than goods, the forest also provides services to the population, for example sedimentation and flooding control, microclimate regulation, and carbon capture.

The country's forest ecosystems and biodiversity provide a wide range of goods and services to the population. Unfortunately, this biodiversity is currently under threat. A loss of these ecosystems would result in a loss of good and services: reduced agricultural productivity, changes in the climate (temperatures and rain patterns), soil degradation, the emergence of plant and animal pests and even human diseases, changes in water quality and quantity (flow)…

3.1.2.3 National Protected Areas System

The National Protected Areas System, made up of 13 protected areas covering 591,000 hectares (21.1% of the national territory) was created by Law 4/2000. The 13 protected areas embody the representative ecosystems of the country's natural heritage, distributed throughout the provinces. 18.4% of the surface area of the protected areas is terrestrial and 2.7% is maritime.

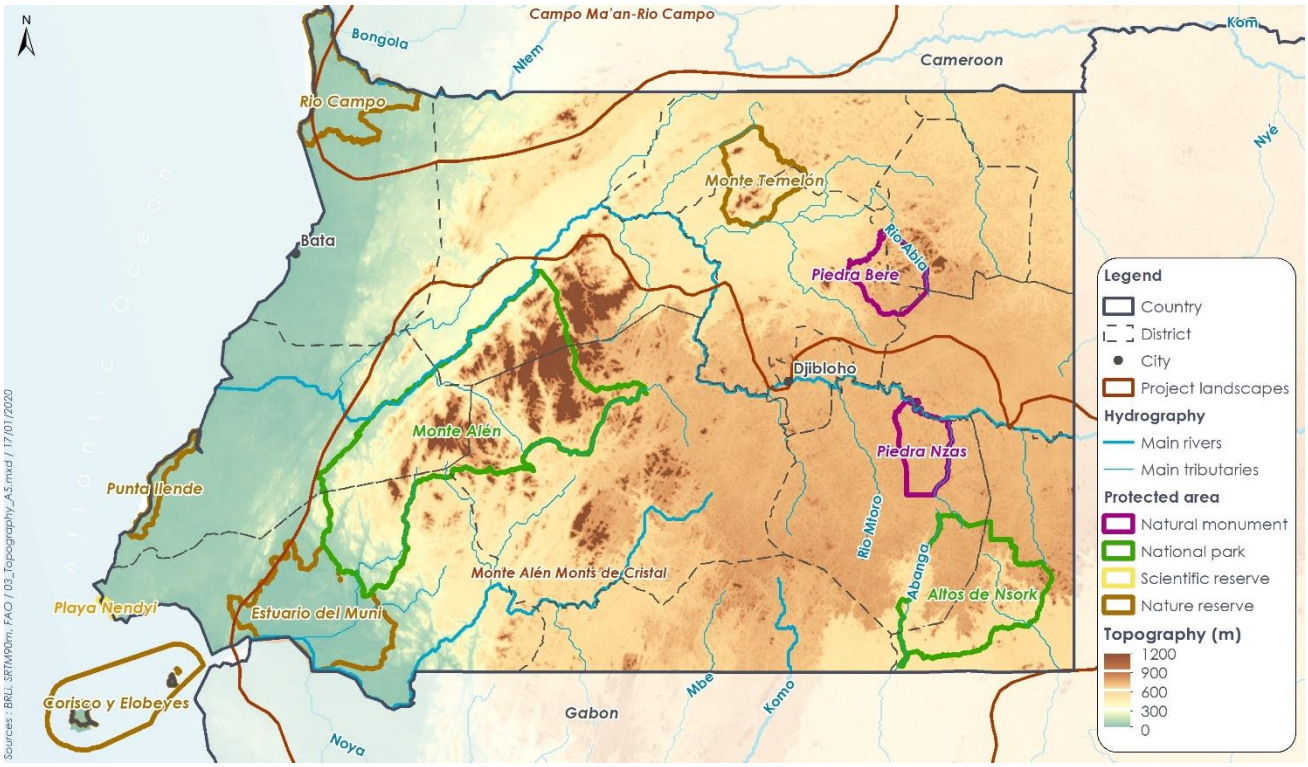
Equatorial Guinea has 12.65% of its area covered by IUCN Categories I and II protected areas, compared to 3.24% for Sub-Saharan Africa or 3.29% in the world. This indicates a strong commitment by the government in the conservation of its natural resources and biodiversity. The Protected Areas National System is managed by INDEFOR-AP.

The National Protected Areas System was repealed by Law No. 7/2003 regulating the environment in Equatorial Guinea, and no other system was created. This means that the system functions and is operational but isn't legally recognised.

Table 2: Overview of the 13 protected areas of Equatorial Guinea

Protected Area	Terrestrial area (ha)	Maritime area (ha)	Total area (ha)	IUCN category
Reserva Científica de la Caldera de Luba	51,000	0	51,000	I
Reserva Científica de Playa Nendji	275	225	500	I
Parque Nacional de Pico Basile	33,000	0	33,000	II
Parque Nacional de Monte Alén	200,000	0	200,000	II
Parque Nacional de los Altos de Nsork	70,000	0	70,000	II
Monumento Natural de Piedra Bere	20,000	0	20,000	III
Monumento Natural de Piedra Nzas	19,000	0	19,000	III
Reserva Natural de Rio Campo	33,000	0	33,000	III
Reserva Natural de Montes Temelón	23,000	0	23,000	IV
Reserva Natural de Punta Llende	5,500	0	5500	IV
Reserva Natural del Estuario de Muni	50,500	9,500	60,000	IV
Reserva Natural de Corisco y Elobeyes	1795	46,205	53,000	IV
Reserva Natural de Annobón	2088	21,022	23,000	IV
Total	**514,048**	**76,952**	**591,000**	
% of the country's total area	**18.4**	**2.7**	**21.1**	

Figure 5: The protected areas of continental Equatorial Guinea



3.1.3 Political and institutional context

3.1.3.1 General political and administrative structure of Equatorial Guinea

According to article 1 of the country's Basic Law, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is a sovereign, independent, republican, social and democratic State, in which the supreme values are Unity, Peace, Justice and Freedom, with a system of political pluralism.

According to the Constitution (Articles 31 and 32), the State exercises its sovereignty through the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch, and exercises its functions through the President of the Republic, the Vice-President, the Council of Ministers, the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, the Judicial Branch, the Constitutional Court, the Council of the Republic, the National Council for Economic and Social Development, the Court of Accounts, the Ombudsman and the other bodies created under the Basic Law and other laws.

Executive branch

Executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers, which is the body that executes the general policy of the nation, ensures the application of laws and permanently assists the president in political and administrative matters. The President of the Republic is the Head of State and exercises Executive Power as Head of Government presiding the Council of Ministers. He is elected for a term of seven years, renewable for two consecutive terms. He appoints and separates the other members of the executive. In the event of a vacancy, the Vice-President assumes the functions of the President. The members of the executive are the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Ministers, the Ministers, the Ministers Delegates, the Vice-Ministers and the Secretaries of State.

Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea, has been President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea since the 3rd of August 1979.

Legislative branch

Parliament exercises the legislative power of the State. It is composed of two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. They are elected for a five-year term. The Chamber of Deputies, is the legislative body of the State and the people's representation of the nation. It is the highest legislative body and is made up of one hundred deputies, headed by a president, who represent the different ideas and political tendencies that exist in the country. These representatives are elected for a period of five years by universal, direct and secret suffrage. The Senate, is the body of territorial representation and local corporations, as determined by law. It is composed of 70 senators, headed by a President.

In the event of a simultaneous vacancy of the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Republic, the President of the Senate shall temporarily hold the office of President of the Republic and shall call new presidential elections within 90 days.

Judicial branch

The judicial branch exercises the jurisdictional functions of the State. Justice emanates from the people and is administered in the name of the Head of State, because the Head of State is the First Magistrate of the Nation and guarantees the independence of his functions. The judiciary is composed of the Superior Council of the Judiciary, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic.

Constitutional Court

The Constitutional Court is composed of a president and four members appointed by the President of the Republic, two of them on the proposal of the Chamber of Deputies and two on proposal of the Senate. Their term of office is seven years. Members of the Constitutional Court cannot be members of the Government, the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, the Judiciary or the Attorney General, nor may they hold any elective public office.

Council of the Republic

The Council of the Republic is a political consultative body of the State, responsible for advising the President of the Republic during his term of office as well as other branches of the State. It is composed of nine members elected among the former Presidents of the Republic, former Presidents of the Chamber of Deputies, former Presidents of the Senate, former Presidents of the Supreme Court of Justice and former Presidents of the Constitutional Court, who have held their posts with recognized honesty and dignity, as well as other personalities whose proven honesty and dignity merit such designation. They are appointed by the President of the Republic and have a five-year renewable term.

National Council for Economic and Social Development

It is the technical advisory body on economic and social plans and programmes, as well as on any legislative or regulatory provisions of fiscal nature. It analyses the development problems of the country on the basis of a market economy.

Court of Accounts

The Court of Accounts is a technical entity with administrative and budgetary autonomy. It exercises fiscal control to ensure transparency of the fiscal management of the administration and individuals or entities that manage funds or assets of the nation.

Ombudsman

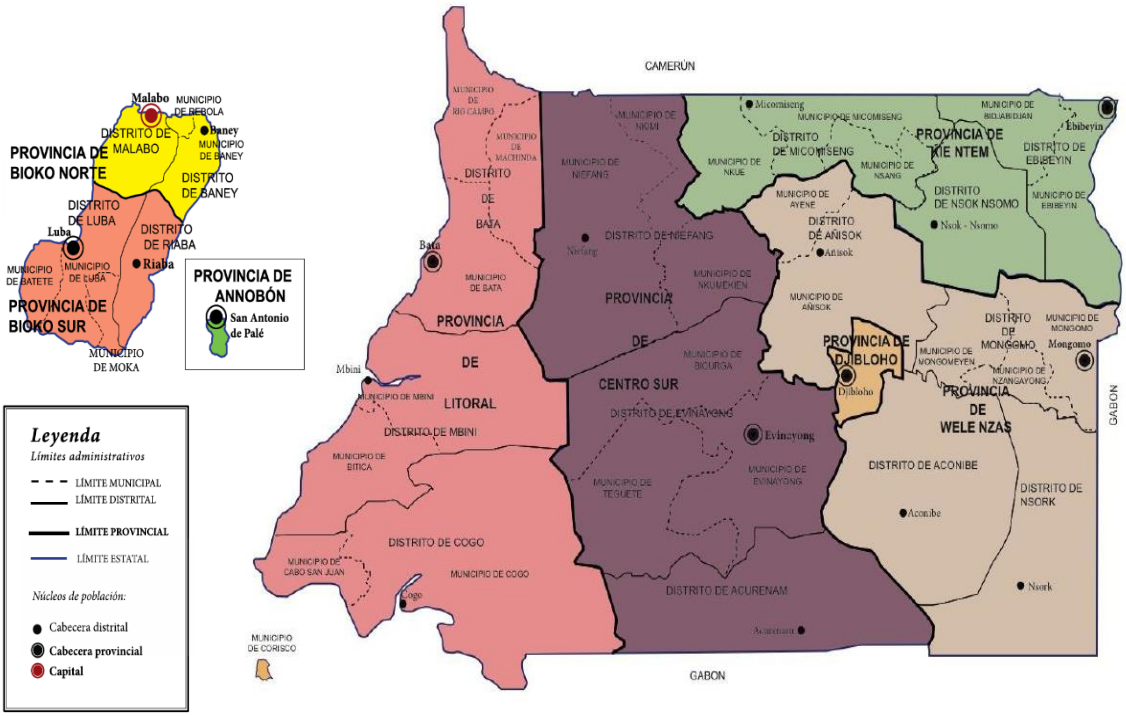
The ombudsman is the high commissioner of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, appointed by these (with ratification by the president) for a period of five years to defend the rights of citizens covered by the Basic Law. He supervises the activity of the administration, reporting to the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate.

3.1.3.2 Organization of the territory

Administratively, Equatorial Guinea is divided into 2 regions, 8 provinces, 18 districts, 37 municipalities, 65 urban districts, 344 neighbourhood communities and 651 village councils. The Insular Region has 3 provinces: Bioko North, Bioko South and Annobon. The corresponding districts for the Insular Region are Malabo, Baney, Luba and Riaba. The Continental Region has 5 provinces: Litoral, Centro Sur, Kie Ntem, Wele Nzas and Djibloho. The corresponding districts are: Bata, Mbini, Cogo, Evinayong, Niefang, Akurenam, Ebibeyin, Micomiseng, Nsork Nzomo, Mongomo, Añisok, Aconibe, Nsork, Djibloho.

For this project, the affected districts in the landscapes are: Niefang, Evinayong, Akurenam, Cogo, Aconibe, Nsork, Mongomo and Bata.

Figure 6: Administrative map of Equatorial Guinea



Source: INEGE 2019

3.1.3.3 Land governance framework

General land tenure

Article 30 of Equatorial Guinea's Basic Law (2012) states that:

1. The State recognizes public and private property.
2. The right to property is guaranteed and protected without any limitations other than those established by law.
3. Property is inviolable; no person may be deprived of his or her property and rights, except for reasons of public utility and appropriate compensation.
4. The State guarantees farmers the traditional ownership of the land they possess.
5. The law lays down the legal regime for property in the public domain.

Furthermore, land tenure in Equatorial Guinea is governed by the Land Ownership Regime Act 4/2009. This law determines:

I. The types of land ownership: (i) lands of the State, composed of land in the public domain and private state-owned land; (ii) land belonging to individuals or entities, including the traditional heritage of villages, tribes or indigenous family groups, the lands granted to municipalities, and the lands granted to individuals.

II. Ways to acquire ownership of land in Equatorial Guinea: "By concession of the Presidency of the Government, through an auction or direct award [...] without prejudice to occupations from time immemorial by nationals, even if they are not delimited or registered in the Land Registry, with such that they still belong to the same or their heirs."

III. Concessions of land for cultivation, building, forestry, grazing and other uses, which will be granted for a fee, with the exception of free concessions [...] collectively owned by nationals and those of traditional agricultural heritage of each Equatoguinean.

IV. The procedure for processing land application files.

V. Competencies

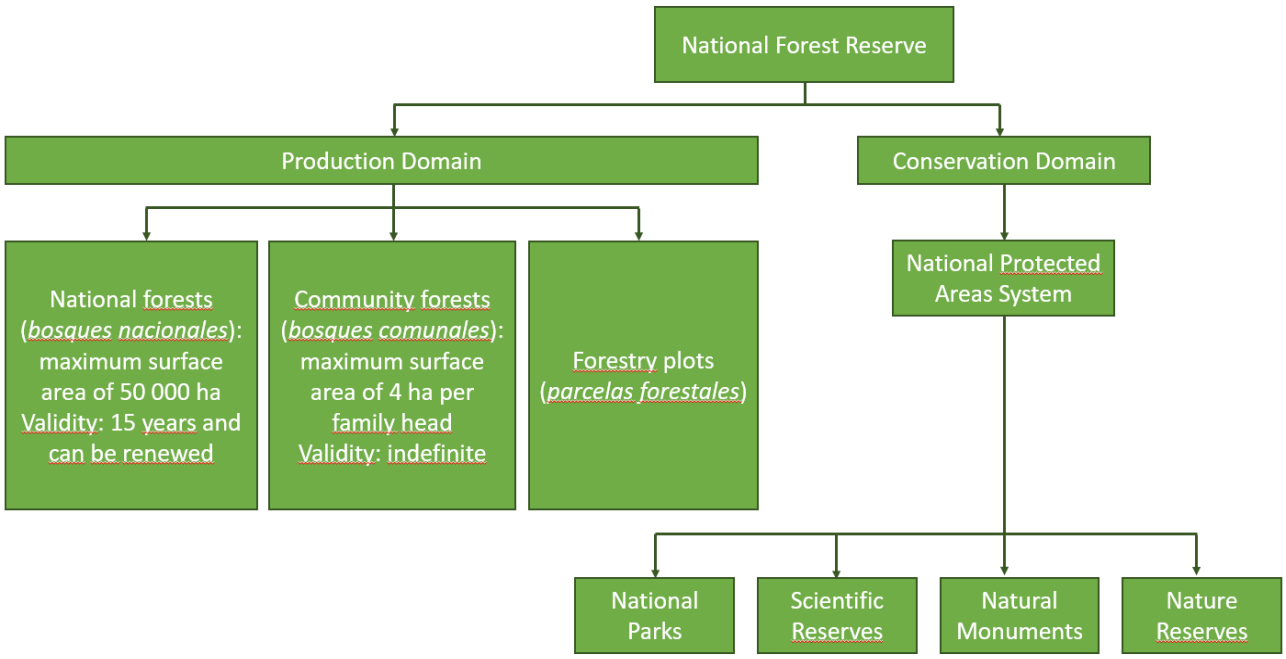
Forest land tenure

The Forestry Law 1/1997 establishes the legal regime of the forest lands, which are those lands covered or not by natural forest, wild vegetation or reforested, and which are part of the National Forest Reserve (NFR). "The NFR is of a permanent, non-transferable character and is in the public domain; there can be no private ownership of part or the

whole of it. The State reserves the right to transfer of use, or sale to third parties, of the products of the flora. The lands whose main use value is forestry may not be sold and their transfer can only be done with State approval."

Law 1/1997 subdivides the NFR into the production domain (PD) and the conservation or protection domain (CPD). The PD consists of national forests (concessions), communal forests (areas of forest recognized by the State and given to rural communities for traditional uses) and forest plots (small areas of forest, located in an agricultural and forestry farm or a rural area and whose use requires an authorization).

Figure 7: Organisation of the National Forest Reserve



Source: Translated from MAGBMA and FAO, 2018. Study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014

Customary or traditional land tenure

Customary or traditional rights are recognized in the Basic Law of 2012 (article 30) and in the Land Ownership Regime Act 4/2009, which defines and guarantees traditional property.

According to the customary laws recognized by all village councils, the right of access to the forest can be acquired either by clearing an area of primary forest never used by another member of the community (individual property), or from the reserve / communal forest (collective property). In the continental region of the country the system of usufruct is applied, with a patrilineal regime. Access to land is subject to the disposition of family heads (men) who grant women part of their land to produce food crops for household consumption and partly for commercialisation. Each family (head) controls the boundaries of its land. The transmission of land from the head of the family to a third party is done by donation, sharing or heritage. Land is transmitted by inheritance from father to son, from mother to daughter or daughter-in-law. It is the village chief who exercises control over the use of land and forests. Each village exploits a more or less limited territory within which it carries out its activities and exercises a certain authority.

In accordance with the legislative framework and the traditional law described, in Equatorial Guinea, the land formally belongs to the State, but the State recognizes (and may assign) the land rights of communities or individuals. The ownership of land in Equatorial Guinea could be summarized as: a) land owned by the State (b) land public property of municipalities/city councils; (c) land owned by villages; (d) land owned by family ownership; and (e) privately owned land.

The specific case of communal forests (*bosques comunales*)

The government formally recognizes forests traditionally associated with communities, and there is legislation to grant official rights. In reality, however, very few communal forests have land titles as this requires heavy procedures for the legalization of titles and the elaboration of a simple management plan that constitute too many obstacles for communities. In addition, the communities have neither experience nor community forest management expertise. As a result, communities don't really exploit their forests for their own benefit, and often give up their forest resources to companies, legal or illegal, without the proper environmental considerations, generating short-term income but not profits sustained in time, nor greater control over their territories

In response to this, the State has periodically cancelled, permanently or temporarily, the rights and authorizations of the communities. In 1997, the legislation replaced property rights (village reserves) with user and transfer rights of the forests (communal forests). In 2017, given the proliferation of illegal logging in the forests, all the logging authorizations in communal forests were cancelled and their renewal conditioned to the signing of new contracts with the Forestry administration (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

Process for obtaining legal title to communal forests

Any community can apply for a legal title to their communal forest following these steps:

- A population census is to be carried out to obtain a list of heads of household in the applicant community. A "head of household" is a person who has reached the age of 18 and has a family responsibility, i.e. a spouse and dependent children. The census list will include a photocopy of the National Personal Identity Card and will be endorsed by the Mayor of the Municipality to which the community belongs and accompanied by an official document from the Government Delegate confirming that the persons on the list are indeed members of the community.

- The surface of the communal forest to be granted to the community is calculated based on the number of families that make up that community, at a rate of maximum 4 ha for each head of household.

- The communal forest should be adjacent to the beneficiary community and its definitive limits will be reconsidered by the Forest Administration.

- Sketches of the area applied for are prepared, on a scale of 1:200,000, as well as the corresponding certificate of delimitation.

- The application form is drawn up on stamped paper signed by the President of the Village Council and addressed to the Minister of Forestry. The application shall state the number of hectares to be certified.

- The Ministry in charge of forestry will grant the applicant community a "Certificate of Recognition of Communal Forest", which will be signed by the Presidency of the Government, following a favourable report issued by the competent Forestry General Directorate. This certificate will be updated every 10 years in accordance with the demographic evolution of the community and will be expressly renewable at the request of the community.

Most communities do not have knowledge of this process to obtain titles, and lack the economic means to carry out the delimitation of their forests (which is why the majority that already have legal rights to their communal forests were helped by forest companies wanting to exploit those forests, in particular on the coast of the continental region).

3.1.3.4 National institutional context

Changes in the institutional structure (ministries, departments), as well as the frequent rotation of public officials and responsibilities, have limited the development and strengthening of the country's institutions and the continuity of processes (MAGBMA 2019).There are various institutions that compose the government, the following are the relevant ones in the context of this project:

Ministry of agriculture, livestock, forests and the environment

The ministry is composed of 3 institutes (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP, INPAGE), and of 3 General Directorates, among other departments:

- The General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation

This department is responsible for the control, surveillance and safeguard of the national forest heritage, ensuring the materialization and compliance with all legal provisions of the forest sub-sector. It is presided over by a Director General, who is appointed by presidential decree.

The control concerns the following areas:

- compliance with the implementation of management plans;
- timber harvesting activities;
- transport and marketing activities;
- conservation units; and
- all other cases where the law, regulations or other provisions empower the forest administration (Law No. 1/1997 on the Use and Management of Forests).

In 1994, a total of 50 forest guards were trained and appointed; since that date, no other guards have been trained or appointed (although a training of 75 new guards is currently under way). Furthermore, the management does not have the logistical or technical means to carry out such control.

The General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation works or should work with INDEFOR-AP regarding control in the protected areas and in the sustainable use of the productive forests (application of management plans). In reality, due to the absence of trained personnel and essential technical and logistical means, this collaboration is relatively poor.

There are currently no reforestation activities organised by the General Directorate.

- The General Directorate of Forest Exploitation and Industrialization

It is the body responsible for the implementation of development policies and strategies established by the government in the areas of management, administration, production control and industrialization of forestry. It includes forest inspectors and forest rangers, who are assigned to forest enterprises (forest concessions and industries). Funds are provided by the government but are very limited. The logistic means are few and there is little capacity of the personnel. The management does not have a work plan to follow.

- The Director General of Environmental Conservation

INDEFOR-AP

In 2002, the government, through Decree No 60/2002, created the National Institute of Forest Development and Management of the National Protected Areas System (INDEFOR-AP), as an autonomous national entity, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment, responsible for the management of protected areas and the sustainable use of forests and their resources.

INDEFOR-AP aims to develop and control the implementation of management plans, carry out reforestation activities, manage the national herbarium and contribute to the safeguard of biodiversity, as well as ensure the proper conservation and management of protected areas. It has a national dimension, managing production forests for their sustainable exploitation, through the monitoring of forest concessions.

The institute is directed by a Board of Directors, chaired by the Minister in charge of forests and assisted by several members and a General Directorate, headed by a Director appointed by the Head of State on the proposal of the Minister in charge of forests. It is constituted of 6 departments:

- Department of Administration and Finance
- Department of Sustainable Forest Development
- Department of the National Herbarium
- Department of Conservation and Protected Areas, and
- Department of Training, Awareness, Dissemination and Image
- Department of IT and Mapping
- Department of Computer and Cartography

The management strategy is to elaborate, disseminate and apply the forest sector and environmental regulations in the field, reducing overexploitation of natural resources through information from field research, capitalized by the government, from the technicians of the different departments of the institute to the different partners supporting the sustainable management of Guinean biodiversity.

INDEFOR-AP includes the following areas of intervention:

- Biodiversity management and adaptation to climate change
- Sustainable management of production forests
- Capacity building for forest sector staff and local forest communities
- Management and coordination of partnerships with the institution

The current annual budget of INDEFOR-AP is 504 million FCFA (funds from the government). In terms of human resources it has 1 doctor, 3 masters, 11 graduates, 8 engineers, 15 technicians, 1 accountant, 12 administrative employees, 6 forest guards, 51 eco-guards and 16 support personnel (drivers, security guards, cleaners). The offices are located in Bata and the institute has 6 vehicles available.

INCOMA

The National Institute for the Conservation of the Environment (INCOMA) was created by Law No. 7/2003, regulating the environment in Equatorial Guinea, but it has only been operational for the past two years. INCOMA is defined as an autonomous entity, under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of the Environment, whose mission is to study, analyse and evaluate the environmental problems existing in the national territory, and to try to solve them according to international standards.

Some of INCOMA's functions are:

- to follow up and monitor the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biological Diversity, as well as the Strategy for Sustainable Soil Management;
- to propose regulations and techniques that contribute to compliance with the legal standards regulating environmental activity in the country, including issues related to fishing, water, coasts, atmosphere, agriculture, soil, flora and fauna, for pollution prevention, among others; and
- to propose the execution of projects related to the activity of the Ministry in charge of the Environment, especially those related to protected areas, fishing, water, atmosphere, soil, wild flora and fauna, agriculture, for the pollution prevention in general.

INCOMA is more transversal and generalist than INDEFOR-AP, which is more specialized and whose essential management resource is the forest. In this sense, INDEFOR-AP manages part of the resources within INCOMA's scope.

FONADEFO

FONADEFO, the National Forest Development Fund was created to finance the management, promotion, control, conservation, training and research services and activities of the forestry sector. The funds come from sanctions imposed under the forestry law (20% is paid into FONADEFO) and 30% of timber exports, and other forest products. The funds are meant to finance studies, programs and projects aimed at developing reforestation activities, maintenance of national roads where timber trucks transit, agro-forestry, strengthening of forest administration and sustainable management of forest resources.

GE-Proyectos

The official entity called "national office of planning and monitoring of projects in Equatorial Guinea" was created by presidential decree number 37/2003, dated April 28 2003. It was then redefined as an autonomous public entity by decree number 69/2007.

GE-Proyectos is a public entity that operates in autonomy, with its own legal personality, and has a technical-consultative and supervisory nature in matters of projects, investments and public works, under the supervision and direct hierarchical dependence of the presidency and the head of state.

The objectives of GE-Proyectos are:

- The planning, design, review, execution, supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the various public infrastructure, engineering and construction projects that arise from the government programme, its own initiative or the various sectors or entities, national and international natural or legal persons or departments of the public administration.
- The preparation, technical and specialized management, regulation, monitoring and evaluation of tenders and awarding of works contracts by the state administration and/or autonomous agencies, with natural or legal persons, in accordance with the legislation in force.

The corporate purpose of GE-Proyectos is articulated through its 7 departments:

- General secretary
- Legal and administrative department
- Department of study and evaluation
- Control and supervision department
- Department of statistics and publications
- Economic and financial department
- Personnel department

GE-Proyectos was created to select and collect projects from other entities to carry them out. Given the multitude of projects requested by both national and foreign companies, and as GE-Proyectos was the last authorization step for approval of projects, many companies no longer submitted their projects in the beneficiary ministerial departments (as they should have), they submitted projects directly to GE-Proyectos to obtain authorization. This is why many infrastructural projects do not have Environmental and Social Impact Assessments.

3.1.3.5 Local and provincial context

The Governor is the head of the Province. He is at the head of the deconcentrated administration which is a local representation of the central administration. The Governor is assisted by the District Delegate of the capital of the province. The District Delegate is assisted by a Secretary General of the Prefecture. The District Delegate works in close collaboration with the heads of departmental services. He reports to the Governor. The administrative authority is

relayed at the population level by the President of the Village Council and the Village Chiefs, who are assistants to the authority.

Currently, the forest administration is represented up to the district level; the smallest administrative entity in the country in terms of forest administration is the District Delegate. The District Delegate works with the Government Delegate of the corresponding district and reports to the Regional Delegation of the Forest Administration (Ministry of Agriculture; Livestock, Forests and the Environment). At local level, the District Delegate works with the representatives of the Village Councils on issues concerning exploitation of the communal forests, where they exist.

Village structure

The social organization of the village involves the administrative power and the customary power. The administrative power is exercised by the President of the Village Council. The organization of the structure is as follows:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Emissary
- Counsellor in charge of the promotion of women
- Advisor in charge of health care
- Adviser in charge of education and agriculture
- Adviser in charge of art and traditional culture
- Disciplinary Adviser

The council embodies the representation of the local authority. This structure is above all other forms of power that may exist in the village. Its president receives instructions from the District Delegate of the province to whom he is accountable for the activities of the village. The president of the council is elected by the other inhabitants of the village. The post of vice president is held by the person who comes second in the elections. The other members of the council are appointed by the president.

Customary power is exercised by the village chief. Each tribe in the village has a chief elected by the whole tribe.

Landscape multi-stakeholder platform

The Landscape Multi-Stakeholder Platform is a structure created to improve and guarantee the management system of a protected area or landscape. The privileged approach to the management of these spaces is a participatory one, since the aim is to optimize the participation of the actors involved.

The multi-stakeholder platform of the Monte Alén landscape was created within the framework of the PACEBCo, with the facilitation of IUCN, and includes representatives of: the government, representatives of the landscape's protected areas, civil society and the private sector. The functions and structure of the platform were defined in a technical meeting with all stakeholders. A roadmap was defined and established. Unfortunately this platform has never been operational. To make it operational, it requires financial resources and basic operational tools (internal rules of operation).

3.1.4 Policy context

3.1.4.1 International commitments related to management and exploitation of natural resources

The specific international commitments of Equatorial Guinea concerning natural resources include:

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): signed in 2000, its objective is to stabilise greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system and in a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change. The Republic of Equatorial Guinea has participated in many Conferences of the Parties (COP). The commitments made by the country in these COPs have been:

- The elaboration of the National Adaptation Plan (PANA) in 2013,
- The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015,
- The ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2018,
- The First Communication in 2019.

The Convention on Biological Diversity: ratified by Equatorial Guinea in 1994. Its objectives are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It was ratified by Equatorial Guinea in 2003. There are 3 wetlands in the country's National Network of Protected Areas, covering an area of 136,000 hectares: Rio Campo Nature Reserve, Muni Estuary Nature Reserve and Annobon Nature Reserve. This GEF project will be implemented in the 2 RAMSAR sites of Rio Campo and Estuario del Muni.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought: ratified in 1997, its objective is to combat soil erosion and desertification in the affected countries.

3.1.4.2 Policies linked to natural resources management

Environmental policy

In the field of environmental protection, the country's Fundamental Law of 1982 (known as Magna Carta of Akonibe and recently amended) lays the foundations for environmental conservation and management in Equatorial Guinea. Article 6 of the Magna Carta establishes that the State will watch over the conservation of nature, cultural heritage and the artistic and historical wealth of the nation, in such a way that development and conservation of the environment are presented as two inseparable components. In other words, socio-economic development is promoted and conservation of nature by the state is provided for.

Since then, the legal environmental framework has continued to be strengthened. In 1988, Law No. 8 regulating wildlife, hunting and protected areas was passed, addressing issues of protection of endangered species for the first time. It was followed in 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 by two decrees, laws and a ministerial order, which aims to reduce large-scale timber extraction on Bioko Island, and establishes the rules for timber harvesting in the continental region and for the management of the National Forest Development Fund (FONADEFO). In 1997, Law No. 1 on Forest Use and Management was established, regulating the conservation and exploitation of forest resources.

More recently, Law 7/2003 was passed, establishing the environmental regulatory framework for Equatorial Guinea. This law establishes the basic rules for the management, conservation and rehabilitation of the environment in the country, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Subsequently, Decree 173/2005 was promulgated, which regulates environmental inspection on control, monitoring and supervision of compliance with provisions and standards for the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources.

Furthermore, Strategic Objective 18 of the National Plan for Social and Economic Development is "to ensure the protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources". This major programme aims to protect the national heritage. However, the main planned investments are not related to forests, they are for the construction of infrastructures for ecotourism, for works in rivers and water bodies, for the treatment and recycling of solid waste, for works of conditioning for rainwater and for the protection of beaches.

The laws mentioned are a sign of the State's interest in regulating environmental management and incorporating the environmental dimension into the country's economic and social development policies and plans. Nevertheless, there is a coherence problem between the regulations of the different economic sectors, thus creating fragmented environmental regulations (e.g. Law 8/2006 on Hydrocarbons, Law 8/2005 on Urban Planning, Law 3/2007 regulating water and coasts, and Law 2/1987 on Fishing) (FAO 2018).

Forest management policy

Currently the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment (MAGBMA) is the ministry in charge of the forest and biodiversity sector since May 2018. It is headed by a Minister, a Deputy Minister, a Minister Delegate, two Secretaries of State, a General Secretariat and six General Directorates. For the management of the forestry and biodiversity aspects, the Ministry has a Secretary of State responsible for Forests and the Environment, which includes the General Directorate of Environment and the General Directorate of Forest Guard and Reforestation.

The State provides funds to the sector through the responsible ministry. These funds depend on the Ministry's requests to the State Treasury and on the State's own fund availability. Similarly, funds are allocated to INCOMA and INDEFOR-AP to carry out their projects. In other ministries, funds and qualified personnel are allocated for the execution of environmental protection plans. The current economic situation has had an impact on the state's budget, therefore affecting available funds for the forestry and biodiversity sector.

The management of forest resources in Equatorial Guinea is governed by the Forest Use and Management Law 1/1997, dated 18 February 1997. The objective is to maintain a long-term sustainable forest exploitation, compatible with the preservation of the environment whilst increasing revenues from forest concessions. This law organizes the National Forest Reserve (NFR) into two main management categories: the Production Domain (PD), which covers 61% of the NFR and includes forest concessions, and the Conservation or Protection Domain (CPD), which covers 39% and includes the protected areas. The National Forest Development Fund (FONADEFO) was also established under this law. Its objective is to finance forest management, promotion, control, conservation and training, and forest research activities. FONADEFO is operational, but the resources of the fund (it is made up of 20% of timber export taxes) are often used for other unintended purposes (MPBMA, 2000).

The Forest Use and Management Law also states that the control of the forests and the activities that are carried out within them, is done by the forest rangers, through the directorate responsible for the control and monitoring of forestry activity, the General Directorate of Forest Guard and Reforestation.

In 2000, in order to improve the management of biodiversity and forest resources, the government adopted the National Forest Action Programme which covers the rational use of forest resources and their economic potential, the conservation of forest ecosystems, and the social functions of the forest. It was drawn up within the framework of the "Conservation and rational use of forest ecosystems in Equatorial Guinea" (CUREF) project, with the support of the European Union. The main objective of the plan is to identify short, medium and long-term priorities to improve knowledge of the country's forest resources and their rational management, as well as to strengthen their management capacity (MAGBMA, 2019).

In 2005 the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan was developed.

Protected areas policy and regulations

The Law on Protected Areas created different categories of PAs: National Parks, Nature Reserves, Natural Monuments and Scientific Reserves. The uses allowed within these PAs are determined by the different zones defined by the law. The definition of the zones and the associated management rules are to be defined in the management plan of each Protected Area. The following zones are defined by the Law on Protected Areas:

- Restricted Zone: its objective is to preserve unique, fragile, rare or threatened areas or resources. It is therefore excluded from any public use, but access for scientific purposes is allowed in a controlled manner, as well as for the management of the area and for specific educational purposes. This zone generally coincides with the best conserved ecosystems and habitats. The following uses are prohibited in this zone (as indicated in article 19 of the Law on Protected Areas): forest exploitation (opening of tracks, cutting of trees, transport of trunks by water or land) and other non-timber forest products harvesting (fruits, medicinal plants, etc.); all forestry, hunting and fishing (by local inhabitants or third parties); and all agricultural activities.
- Traditional Zone: its objective is to allow traditional practices of sustainable use of natural resources, which may be subject to specific regulation. All human activities that have been carried out since time immemorial and that have been integrated and stabilized in natural environments without causing major deterioration are considered traditional activities. The following activities are permitted:
    - Subsistence and traditional shifting cultivation and marine fishing;
    - Obtaining vines and wood for cultural purposes or for domestic use (construction, canoes);
    - The collection of wild fruits, medicinal plants and other by-products, for subsistence purposes;
    - Hunting, if it is for subsistence purposes and through the use of traditional techniques and methods;
    - The construction of houses, which will conform to the traditional style.

  Article 21 of the Law on Protected Areas of Equatorial Guinea states: "the traditional zone is incompatible with the Scientific Reserve, Natural Monument and National Park categories, if applied, it will be of exceptional character and with a view to disappearance. In such cases, it cannot occupy more than 25% of the total area".
- Special Zone: in this zone are located the facilities for the management of the protected area and public use as well as certain facilities that are of specific interest.
- Open Zone: its purpose is the general conservation of resources in a manner compatible with the free movement and recreation of persons. They are well conserved forests, with evidence of previous forest extraction but an abundance of birds and primates, and signs of other mammals; with colourful landscapes; and with little circulation of the resident population of the area. The traditional collection of seeds and other non-timber forest products is permitted, as long as the survival of the parent plants is not threatened. All activities indicated in Article 19 of the Law on Protected Areas of Equatorial Guinea, are prohibited within this zone: commercial logging of any kind, hunting and fishing, and agricultural practices of any kind.
- Peripheral Zone: it covers a 5 km wide strip around the protected areas. Forest concessions and highways adjacent to the protected area should have management plans for their operations and for future rehabilitation, to be implemented in coordination with INDEFOR-AP and local communities.

Climate change and adaptation policy

Equatorial Guinea first became involved in the climate change topic at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in May 1992 in New York City. Since then, the country has signed and/or ratified all the international agreements on climate change and sustainable development promoted by the UN; from the Kyoto Protocol (adopted in 1997 and in force in 2005), to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) in 2012. The country also ratified the Paris Agreement in 2018.

The country's active international participation in environmental protection and climate change issues contrasts with the fragile implementation of international treaties signed domestically. The regulatory and institutional framework on the above issues is still weak which hinders the implementation of the agreements and commitments made by the government (MAGBMA, 2019).

In 2013, a National Adaptation Action Plan was developed, as described above. Equatorial Guinea published its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution in 2015. The strategy for reducing the country's emissions covers five key sectors: (1) Energy, (2) Agriculture and land-use change, (3) Transport, (4) Forestry and (5) Waste.

The country has also developed its National REDD+ Strategy (2018), outlining the measures needed to reduce the drivers or causes of deforestation and forest degradation, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The National REDD+ Investment Plan (2019), lists the main activities in which the country wishes to invest in the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism.

Equatorial Guinea has developed the Country Programme in order to present an overview of the national context, the country's political framework and its plans and priorities in the fight against climate change. It has been designed as a flexible and constantly updated programming framework, which will be subject to periodic review and adjustment in the light of country planning and programming. The Programme is the result of a consultation process with different national stakeholders, including ministries, local institutions, the private sector and civil society, as well as local accredited entities and the Green Climate Fund focal point.

The Country Programme includes a number of projects and programmes that have been submitted to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and that meet both the criteria of the GCF and national priorities and aim to generate a national paradigm shift. The list of 7 priority project or programme ideas is subject to possible changes and updates, and is as follows:

1) Promotion of urban and interurban collective transport with natural gas buses in Equatorial Guinea
2) Creation of green spaces in the cities of Equatorial Guinea
3) Land Classification and Sustainable Forest Management for the National REDD+ Strategy
4) Improvement of the National System of Urban and Industrial Solid Waste Collection and construction of recycling and reuse plants for efficient treatment
5) Renewable Energy Development in Equatorial Guinea, Phase II
6) Promotion of sustainable and ecological agriculture in Equatorial Guinea
7) Restoration of the mangrove ecosystem susceptible to loss of resilience.

This programme has already been validated nationally and submitted to the Green Climate Fund.

Agriculture and livestock policy

Historically, the country's economy was strongly linked to agriculture. However, following the discovery of oil and natural gas, the contribution of this activity decreased dramatically, from 69% of GDP in 1985 to 2% in 2016 (INEGE, 2018). It is estimated that the area under cultivation has also been reduced, from 300 000 ha in 1991 to 220 000 ha in 2008, as well as the percentage of the active population employed in agriculture, which has gone from 68% in 2005 to 25.5% in 2015 (INEGE, 2018). However, agriculture continues to be an important source of subsistence for the rural population and is the economic activity that employs the largest percentage of the active population.

Although the country does not yet have a land use plan, according to 2008 estimates, 850 000 ha have agricultural potential, of which approximately 220 000 ha are exploited (26% of its potential). Of the latter, 85% is associated with subsistence and shifting cultivation (187 999 ha), and 12% with plantations and permanent crops, mainly cocoa, coffee and palm oil (MAB and FAO, 2012). Despite the agricultural potential, national production is insufficient to meet the needs of the population, and the country imports more than 80% of its food (MPMA, 2013). Studies are currently under way to relaunch agriculture and various programmes, plans and strategies have been adopted, including the National Food Security Plan, the National Medium-Term Investment Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Urgent efforts are needed to improve women's access to land and credit in order to increase their productivity and contribution to the agricultural sector.

<u>The National Medium-Term Investment Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development</u>

As part of the National Medium-Term Investment Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development (2005), the General Programme for the Development of Agriculture in Africa (NEPAD) prepared the programme for the implementation of this investment plan, whose strategic lines have three main components:

- Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (now Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment);
- Support for the marketing of agricultural production; and
- Micro-projects in support of rural women, small livestock and artisanal fisheries.

The insufficient agricultural production at the national level is due to the traditional nature of the techniques used in food production and the lack of incentives, which has led the government to develop new policies to promote agriculture and food security. To this end, during the National Conference on Rural Development and Food Security in 2000, the National Food Security Plan and the National Programme for Rural Development were presented, and the government then conceived the National Institute for Agricultural Promotion (INPAGE), which has focused primarily on the export sectors, mainly cocoa and coffee. International cooperation has accentuated this orientation and more recently, some small international projects of FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) have sought to support staple crops and subsistence agriculture. With FAO's help, the government has also advanced studies for the creation of an Agricultural Development Fund, which would draw on part of the oil royalties to finance productive projects. But unfortunately there have not yet been any satisfactory results.

Livestock farming in Equatorial Guinea is also underdeveloped, although this sub-sector shows good development potential, especially with regard to small-scale livestock. The species with the greatest production potential are poultry, goats and pigs.

National Food Security Plan

The National Food Security Plan was adopted in 2012, as a consequence of the implementation of the "National Medium-Term Investment Plan in Agriculture and Rural Development" and the National Conference on Rural Development and Food Security (in 2000). The plan is an initiative of the government, with the support of the FAO, and aims to modernize the agricultural sector in order to achieve national food security and contribute to poverty reduction through the facilitation of the internalization of food security as a priority area for investment and diversification of the economy. The plan thus responds to the first of the Millennium Development Goals: "combating poverty and malnutrition".

The plan has identified the main problems of the sector, namely: the high price of inputs, the lack of applied research and feasibility studies, the lack or non-regulation of processes, the limited access to credit, the non-existence of product valuation processes, and the lack of production statistics that would allow for sound future growth planning.

The plan consists of four main strategic orientations and seven sub-programmes:

- Strategic orientation 1: Increase in food production and improvement of productivity.
- Strategic orientation 2: Valuation, commercialization of food products and access to credit.
- Strategic orientation 3: Improving the nutritional status of the population, control and monitoring Management of vulnerabilities.
- Strategic orientation 4: Institutional strengthening.

According to the current situation, the objectives of this plan have not been fulfilled, there is still food insecurity in all senses.

Land use planning policy

The occupation and efficient use of the territory, in addition to promoting the rational, sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity, also constitutes the fundamental axis for progress towards economic diversification and sustainable social equity. In Equatorial Guinea, a land use plan that links land use to the process of socio-economic development has not yet been developed, despite the fact that its importance is reflected in national legislation, government policies and the international commitments ratified by the country.

According to the 3rd National Economic Conference, the development of a national land use plan is now a priority in the current context of defining a new approach to the development of Equatorial Guinea.

The accelerated growth of the economy, combined with the weakness of land-use planning, has led to agricultural expansion and unregulated urbanization, and to the development of the mining and energy sectors, which have had negative social and environmental impacts in terms of both loss of forests and pollution of soils and rivers.

As previously mentioned, the importance of land-use planning is reflected in national legislation, government policies, and international commitments ratified by the country. For example:

- Law 1/1997 on the Use and Management of Forests establishes the creation of a National Commission on the Classification and Use of Land, responsible for implementing the elaboration of a national land use plan throughout the country, which defines the current and potential uses of natural resources and social interest (articles, 8 and 9).

- Law 07/2003, which regulates the environment, establishes the formulation of plans for the management of natural resources as a planning instrument, which would include territorial delimitation, biophysical and biological characteristics, delimitation of uses, protection regime and execution of activities.

- Act No. 8/2005 on urban planning stipulates that the country's political and social institutions must lay the foundations for rational and humane planning of the territory and population settlements, and for better conservation of the natural and cultural heritage. The urban planning of the national territory must be developed through a national land use plan, territorial plans, and general municipal plans. The national plan determines the main guidelines for the use of the national territory, in coordination with the economic and social planning for the well-being of the population.

- Resolutions of the Second National Economic Conference, Infrastructure sector: elaboration of a territorial planning plan that establishes the use of the land that best satisfies the needs of the parties and that guarantees a balance between economic, social and environmental values.

Recent sector evolutions and intervention context

Various orders and decrees have been passed in the forestry sector in recent years, having considerable impacts on the sector:

- Ministerial Order No. 1/2011 regulates the use of chainsaws in timber harvesting activities in the forests of Equatorial Guinea: article 1 states that the use of chainsaws in timber extraction activities for commercial purposes is totally prohibited without prior authorization from the forestry administration at the national level.
- Presidential Decree No. 7/2017 prohibits the felling of trees for commercial purposes by chainsaw operators and some forestry companies throughout the country, as well as correctly and convincingly establishing the system for processing applications for Wood Felling Authorization in the country. Article 2 states that the exploitation licenses will be signed by the Presidency of the Republic.
- Decree No. 182/2018 prohibits the export of raw timber from Equatorial Guinea. Article 1 states that the export of raw timber (non-processed) is prohibited in Equatorial Guinea because of the need for the wood to be processed within the national territory to promote industrialisation, within the framework of the mandate contained in Article 72 of Law No. 1/1997 on the Use and Management of Forests.

Article 35 of the Forestry Law requires a commitment to process 60% of total timber production, while Decrees No. 61 and No. 182 require processing of 100% of timber production without repealing Article 35 of the Forestry Law, and prohibit raw timber exports. These decrees were passed without any prior studies. Their impact is negative by reducing revenue to the treasury as well as reducing jobs in the sector. It also reduces the economic power of forestry companies and increases their expenses to fulfil the obligations in acquiring new machinery for timber processing.

Many companies, both legal and illegal, and the rural population, have turned to exploiting prohibited species without any authorization. The sector is currently in a state of decline, following the above mentioned decrees. The industrial processing activity and its export is gradually increasing, with the installation of new wood processing industries.

Furthermore, in 2013, the Forestry-Environmental sector started the process of reviewing its legal frameworks, among them:

- The Forest Use and Management Law,
- The regulations for the application of this law,
- The Protected Areas Law,
- The Environmental Regulatory Law,
- The annexes to the forest fees and timber prices.

This revision was completed in 2016 but has not been enacted so far.

Trans-boundary stakes

- **With Cameroon**

The process of creating the Rio-Campo-Ma'an transboundary complex began in 2010 in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, between the WWF administrator of Campo Ma'an and the Director of INDEFOR-AP, with the following objectives:

- Exchange views on conservation issues;
- Identify steps to achieve a functional communication strategy between the managers of the two protected areas and the administrative authorities;
- Identify the main stakeholders;
- Explore the possibilities of collaboration;
- Decide how to organize the first consultation meeting between the heads of the two protected areas.

The recommendations of this meeting were:

- To appoint a manager for the Rio-Campo nature reserve;

- To organize an extended meeting between the technical teams of the two sites and the main stakeholders in the peripheral area of the two protected areas;
- To raise awareness among the authorities responsible for the management of protected areas and the administrative authorities that supervise the administrative units that house the two protected areas about the issue and the challenges of establishing a bi-national protected area between the two countries.

In July 2010, the two parties met in Kribi, Cameroon, to follow up on the Bata recommendations, with the following specific objectives:

- To take stock of the management of natural resources in the areas concerned;
- To initiate a reflection on the methods and perspectives for the creation of the transboundary complex;
- To propose a realistic roadmap specifying the stages and deadlines for the creation of the transboundary complex;
- To establish an ad hoc committee to monitor the process.

Results obtained in this meeting:

- Presentation of the manager Rio Campo Nature Reserve,
- A road map was elaborated,
- An ad hoc committee was put together.

In October 2010, the two parties met in Bata, Equatorial Guinea to:

- Assess the progress made since the Kribi meeting;
- Share the experience gained from 2 initiatives in the terminal phase (BSB Yamoussa between Cameroon and Chad, the Mayoumba-Conkouati complex between Gabon and Congo);
- Agree on the broad lines of the draft cooperation agreement between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon,
- Identify and plan future priority activities,
- Initiate contacts and raise awareness among national authorities of the challenges of this initiative.

The results were: a meeting with the Minister and a working session with the authorities of Rio Campo.

Between 2011 and 2012, there were negotiations and advocacy to support the process. This resulted in the facilitation by RAPAC. In June 2013 RAPAC brought the two parties together in Kribi, Cameroon, to present a draft of the related agreement that the two parties could discuss and amend. During this meeting the Cameroonian authorities were also sensitized. From 2014 to date, the authorizations of both States were requested to sign the agreement in the COMIFAC Council of Ministers. Equatorial Guinea has already issued its authorization and the authorization of Cameroon is now awaited and expected.

The objective of the cooperation agreement document is to establish a framework for collaboration and partnership to manage and promote the conservation and rational use of the natural resources of the Campo-Ma'an National Park and the Rio Campo Nature Reserve, to promote sustainable development for the benefit of local communities through the creation of a transboundary complex called Binational Rio-Campo-Ma'an (BRCM).

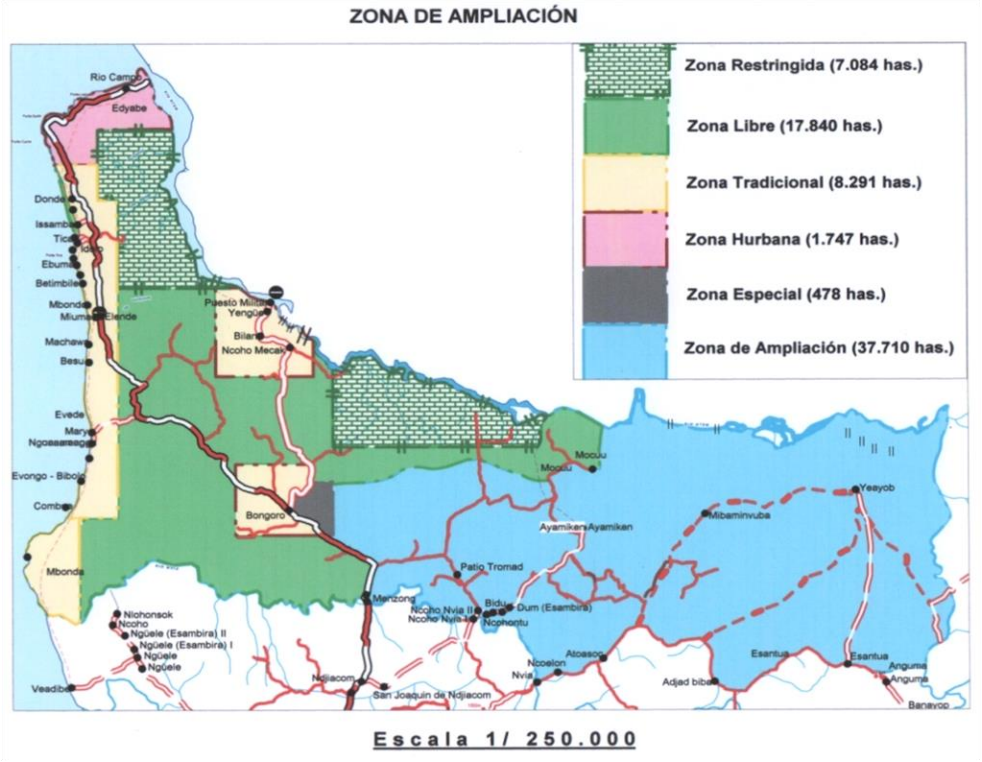
Expansion of Rio Campo Nature Reserve

A proposal of expansion of Rio Campo Nature Reserve to the east, and its designation as a National Park, has been made by INDEFOR-AP. The objective of the expansion is to conserve and increase the habitat for primates, elephants and cats, as the western part of the existing nature reserve has been occupied by the military with camps, military school and shooting ranges.

As of now, without any legal element that protects the area, the transect system for recognizing the current state of the expansion area has been expanded. These transects are characterized by a lot of deforestation as the forestry companies CHILBO and SOFMAL were previously operating in the area.

The expansion proposal has been included in the new and revised Protected Areas law, pending approval. The maps below show the current extension proposal ("*Zona de Ampliación*" in blue).

Figure 8: Rio Campo Nature Reserve extension proposal



- **With Gabon**

From 2006 to 2012, with CARPE funds, a technical collaboration was started in the Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal Landscape. The leader of this collaboration was Conservation International, which had contracts for activities with: INDEFOR-AP, ANDEGE, MBG (Missouri Botanical Garden), WWF and WCS.

In this collaboration there was no objective of formulating a transboundary management agreement as the landscape is of multipurpose type on both sides and there are no protected areas joined between the two countries as in other cases of transboundary management units. Nevertheless, the idea was to start looking for border corridors, but so far this study has not been carried out.

3.1.4.3 National development plans and strategies

National Economic and Social Development Plan, Horizon 2020

During the Second National Economic Conference, the government conceived an ambitious National Economic and Social Development Plan, popularly known as Equatorial Guinea Horizon 2020 and whose goals were to achieve the economic diversification of Equatorial Guinea, reducing the national economy's dependence on the exploitation and export of raw materials; social cohesion through an improvement in the living conditions of the population; and solidarity making Equatorial Guinea an example of prosperity and a lever of promotion of a more just and equitable world for all.

The logic of this plan was that the income from the exploitation and export of hydrocarbons would be destined to the transformation of the country through investments in four strategic axes:

(i) Build world-class infrastructure to increase productivity and accelerate growth;
(ii) Massively strengthen human capital and improve the quality of life of each citizen;
(iii) Build a diversified economy based on the private sector; and
(iv) Establish quality governance at the service of the citizen.

The plan was structured in two clearly differentiated phases:

- A first phase that would run from 2008 to 2012, popularly known as the transformation phase, in which investments in the strategic axes would be used to lay the foundations, with special emphasis on investments, economic and social infrastructure, governance and human development.

- The second phase from 2013 to 2020, popularly known as the emergence phase, subdivided in turn into two periods:

  - A period from 2013 to 2018, focusing on the development of the following sectoral pillars: Agriculture and Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mining and Energy, and Financial and Tourist Services. These sectors were identified for the comparative advantages they presented for the national economy.
  - A second period from 2019 to 2020, which would be the beginning of industrialization and the leap to emergence.

The main challenge for the country's development lies in transforming its oil-producing economy into a more diversified one, as well as restoring macroeconomic stability.

During the implementation of the plan, in 2015, the government adopted and ratified two agendas: Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

National Economic and Social Development Plan, Horizon 2035

The third economic and social conference, Horizon 2035, was held between April and May 2019, structured in four thematic blocks to 'consolidate social equity and economic diversification':

1. Eradication of poverty: focuses on poverty in monetary terms, putting an end to poverty by covering basic needs (hunger, health, education, access to drinking water and the improvement of other living conditions). This block aligns with specific SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 17, and pursues 45 goals.

2. Sustainable social inclusion and peace: it is oriented towards the fight against inequalities, focused on eliminating its causes and not its consequences, through the application of clear and concrete policies that promote equal opportunities and social investment. This block aligns with specific SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17, and pursues 30 goals.

3. Productivity and industrialization: it is mainly oriented towards economic aspects such as investment to promote industrialization. It is assumed that attaining emergence is impossible without a healthy and balanced economy for the creation of decent employment and industrial innovation. This block aligns with specific SDGs 8, 9 and 17, and pursues 19 goals.

4. Environmental sustainability: focuses on environmental sustainability, guaranteed production, urban planning and responsible consumption for future generations. This block aligns with specific SDGs 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17, and pursues 49 goals.

National Adaptation Action Plan

This plan was adopted in 2013, with the aim of strengthening the country's resilience to the negative effects of climate change, which are already being perceived by the population.

The diagnosis for the elaboration of the plan concluded that the whole country is highly vulnerable to climate change, given the magnitude of the expected impacts and the low adaptation capacity of the country related to the high rates of poverty, the unequal allocation of resources and the lack of a sustainable implementation of its development plan Horizon 2020. Vulnerable sectors include water, agriculture and forests, fisheries, the hydropower sector and infrastructure (especially coastal urbanizations and road construction).

The overall objective of the plan is to reduce vulnerability by increasing the resilience of Equatorial Guinea's society to the impacts that climate change may bring. The strategy adopted was to select 6 priority adaptation activities for implementation in the short term:

1. Promotion of adaptation in the energy sector by monitoring rainfall and encouraging the development of other sustainable energies to guarantee energy security.
2. Promoting the development of climate-resilient urban and rural infrastructure in Equatorial Guinea, especially in vulnerable areas.
3. Improving climate change resilience in the fisheries sector towards improved food security and livelihoods.
4. Promotion of sustainable water resources management to improve access to water in poverty-stricken urban and rural areas.
5. Sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea's forests to maintain ecosystem integrity and ensure food security.
6. Catalysing innovative financing in the extractive industries towards long-term investments and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in Equatorial Guinea.

The strategy has prioritized 5 sectors for adaptation measures: infrastructure, water and health, fisheries, agriculture and forestry, and energy.

Equatorial Guinea lacks indicators to measure the extent of its development, and lacks detailed statistical information on activities. In this case, the plan's implementation strategy was not applied, namely the institutional arrangement and communication strategy. However, in reality, many activities have been carried out in the field.

National Forest Action Programme

This programme was adopted in 2000 with the objective of promoting the sustainable use of forests to meet rural and urban needs through the establishment of sectoral policies and strategies that enable the proper management of natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The programme has three main objectives:
1) To ensure the protection and conservation of the national forest heritage, its environment and the preservation of forest ecosystems;
2) To ensure that natural resources contribute in a sustainable manner to the country's socio-economic development, and
3) To promote education, training and research at all levels to ensure the rational and sustainable use of natural resources.

National Programme for Food Security

The NPFS was adopted in 2012 and its objective is to achieve food security in the country and establish it as a priority area for investment and diversification of the economy. The plan identifies the main problems of the sector: the high price of inputs, the lack of applied research and feasibility studies, the lack of or non-application of regulation processes, the limited access to credit, the lack of product valorisation processes, and the lack of production statistics that allow solid future growth planning.

National Action Programme to Combat Deforestation and Land Degradation in Equatorial Guinea

The country prepared and adopted this programme in 2015, to cover the period between 2016 and 2025. It arises from a national consensus process and is in line with the political priorities of the National Economic and Social Development Plan Horizon 2020. This programme has two essential objectives:

1. Promote best practices within ongoing sectoral initiatives or strategies and their links with ecosystem conservation and restoration for the improvement of the living conditions of the population exclusively dependant on natural resources.

2. Establish mechanisms to strengthen national capacities on persistent gaps and the definition of roles of different actors/sectors, in order to achieve neutrality of land degradation.

The programme consists of five Strategic Axes and their corresponding Specific Objectives described in the table below.

Table 3: Strategic axes and specific objectives of the National Action Programme to Combat Deforestation and Land Degradation in Equatorial Guinea

Nb	Strategic Axis	Specific Objective
1	**Sustainable food production**	To significantly improve the living conditions of affected populations, implementing sustainable agroforestry-pastoral production systems in order to increase productivity and production to achieve food security and commercial competitiveness, as well as to increase household incomes.
2	**Management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems**	To improve the conditions of the affected ecosystems, through the implementation of ecosystem conservation and restoration actions, considering the catchment area as a geographical unit of intervention and the water resource as a priority, and applying pertinent land use planning measures.
3	**Promotion, awareness-raising, education and capacity building for sustainable development**	To raise levels of awareness, education and sensitization of the population on the sustainable management and use of natural resources, as well as to determine and meet the needs for capacity building at all levels to prevent and reverse deforestation processes, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.
4	**Land governance**	To contribute to consolidating the governance of natural resources, supporting the creation of enabling environments to promote solutions to combat deforestation and land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.
5	**Deforestation, forest degradation and drought risk management**	To conduct analysis and monitoring for better understanding and predictability of risks from deforestation, forest degradation and the effects of drought, as well as mitigating those risks.

Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Equatorial Guinea

This strategy was adopted in 2005 and aims to save biodiversity, study it and use it in a sustainable and equitable manner. This action plan has 4 major programmes:
1) Institutional strengthening programme,
2) Biodiversity legislation development programme,
3) National biodiversity education programme, and
4) National protected areas programme.

Sustainable Management of Soils and Forests Mainstreaming Strategy

This strategy was prepared and adopted in 2013, and is based on the principle that conservation and sustainable production policies must take into account the socio-economic context and the demands of local populations. The strategy seeks to satisfy the demand for support of national authorities involved in the development of sustainable management of soils and forests, for the adoption of a coherent and systematic approach towards synergistic actions.

National REDD+ Strategy

REDD+ provides incentives for developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation through actions that slow, halt and reverse deforestation and degradation, or increase the absorption of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from the atmosphere through forest conservation, management and expansion. In the case of Equatorial Guinea, REDD+ provides an opportunity to contribute to global efforts to combat climate change, as 93% of its territory is covered by tropical forests. The national REDD+ strategy of Equatorial Guinea was adopted in 2018. This strategy aims to manage the national territory in a sustainable, climate-smart and inclusive manner, improving food security and the living conditions of the population, avoiding deforestation and forest degradation and contributing to the fight against climate change.

REDD+ National Investment Plan

Adopted in 2019, it is an important planning tool resulting from the efforts and commitment of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the REDD+ process. REDD+ represents an opportunity to improve the management of the territory and maximize the value of sustainable forest management and agriculture, for the benefit of all Equatoguineans, and as a contribution to a more diversified economy. In this context, the NIP-REDD+ aims to protect the country's natural heritage and reduce forest loss whilst contributing to economic diversification with a focus on sustainability, competitiveness and equity.

National ABS Strategy and Operational Action Plan 2020-2025

This strategy was prepared in 2019 (and is pending approval), following the ratification in 2018 of the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use, in order to implement the third objective and article 3 of the Convention on Biological Diversity "States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources in accordance with their environmental policy". In this sense, the strategy aims to establish legal, institutional and operational mechanisms to regulate access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of biological and genetic resources in Equatorial Guinea.

National Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Strategy

The strategy is based on the implementation framework of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan, with support of the FAO to the Executive Secretary, to promote the sustainable management of the NTFP sub-sector.

The strategic objective is to enhance the value of NTFPs in contributing to the economic growth of the local population, improving food security and reducing poverty. The specific objectives are:

- To manage resources in a sustainable and participatory manner
- Ensuring access to the resource
- Ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits from NTFPs
- Create employment and added value

To achieve these objectives four components have been defined:

- Strengthening knowledge on NTFPs and sustainable management techniques to exploit and commercialise them,
- Development and implementation of the institutional and regulatory framework specific to the NTFP sub-sector,
- Institutional and human capacity building for the development of the NTFP sub-sector,
- Socio-economic diagnosis and control of the valuation of the affiliates of the NTFP sub-sector,

The strategy is accompanied by an action plan associated with each component, and a timetable of activities identified for a period of three years. Although it was elaborated in 2015, this strategy has not yet been validated at national level or implemented.

Intentional Nationally Determined Contributions

The INDCs were adopted and presented to the UNFCCC in October 2015. The main sectors of greenhouse gas emissions in Equatorial Guinea, in order of highest to lowest emitters are: energy, biomass, extractive industries, land use change and forestry, transport, municipal waste incineration and agriculture. Equatorial Guinea's ambitious goal is to reduce its emissions by 20% by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, and achieve a 50% reduction by 2050.

3.2 Global environment problem

As already mentioned, the forests of the Congo basin are of critical importance at the global level. Indeed, these forests are the second largest expanse of tropical forests in the world, after the Amazon. The Congo Basin is one of the last regions on Earth where vast, interconnected expanses of tropical rainforest permit biological processes to continue undisturbed. They have high levels of flora and fauna biodiversity (forest elephant, western gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo are some of the most emblematic), including an important number of endemic species. These forests also provide critical eco-system services for the local, regional and global populations (such as the provision of freshwater, foods, medicines…). Vast quantities of carbon are stocked and absorbed by these eco-systems, and their degradation would lead to significant releases of carbon into the atmosphere, thus contributing to climate change. It is therefore key that these forest eco-systems are preserved. The Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea are transboundary forest landscapes with Gabon and Cameroon that form part of the Congo Basin forests. The transboundary aspect of these landscapes is critical as it allows certain animal populations to range widely.

The degradation and deforestation of forest eco-systems is a major challenge faced at the global level. In Equatorial Guinea the main causes for this are large-scale economic and infrastructure development, a lack of land use planning, limited alternative livelihoods, the unsustainable use of natural resources, in particular illegal and unsustainable logging and poaching, and small-scale shifting cultivation; and poor governance with regards to managing natural resources.

3.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

According to the 2018 FAO study on deforestation and forest degradation in Equatorial Guinea between 2004 and 2014, 3.21% of the forests were deforested and 9.30% were degraded in the continental region. This amounts to an average of 7711 hectares deforested per year and 22 352 hectares of forests degraded per year during the study period. The current and potential future threats to the country's forests, the causes of this deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the barriers to reducing and eliminating these causes are presented in the table below and described in the following section.

Table 4: Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

Threats	Root causes	Barrier analysis
Large-scale infrastructure development Poaching Unsustainable and illegal logging Shifting cultivation	Economic and infrastructure development planning Territorial decisions at the national level to occupy the territory Limited livelihoods and lack of alternatives Unsustainable demand for natural resources (wood and bush meat) Human-wildlife conflicts Weak governance system	No integrated land use planning Poor inter-government coordination and collaboration Insufficient government capacities on sustainable resource management and land use planning Low cross-border cooperation Poor application and control of the law No community involvement in management of protected areas

3.3.1 Threats

The FAO and MAGBMA study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea between 2004 and 2014 states that the main direct cause of deforestation is the expansion of infrastructure (with a relative weight of 96%), followed by the agricultural sector (with a relative weight of 4%), which includes intensive and subsistence agriculture, the latter being more important. The main direct cause of forest degradation identified is agriculture (with a relative weight of 41%, mainly shifting subsistence agriculture), followed by infrastructure (with a relative weight of 36%, mainly transport routes, including forest tracks and logging routes) and logging (with a relative weight of 23%). Timber harvesting includes large-scale harvesting for export and the small-scale informal sector. Another study, by Tyukavina et al. (2018), estimates with time-series satellite data that small-scale agriculture cause 75.1% of the forest disturbance in the country, whereas infrastructure accounts for 18.7% of forest disturbance over 2000-2014. Although the results of these two studies attribute very different proportions to the impact of these two drivers of forest deforestation and degradation, both identify small-scale agriculture and infrastructure development as the two main forest disturbance drivers.

3.3.1.1 Large-scale infrastructure development

With Equatorial Guinea's recent shift towards an oil economy (since the end of the 1990s), large investments in infrastructure have been and are still being made across the country. In the period between the late 1990s and the middle of the first decade of this century, the majority of public expenditure was directed towards works for the

modernization of the country. The main investments were made in infrastructure, roads, water and electricity supply networks, public buildings, hospitals, social housing, etc. In 2010, public expenditure on infrastructure amounted to 40% of GDP (compared to 29% for the productive sector, 18% for the public administration sector and 12% for the social sector) (MAGBMA, 2019). The impact of such infrastructure development on forest ecosystems dwarfs other threats given their scale and that they involve land clearing and ecosystem fragmentation (this is clearly visible on the figure below).

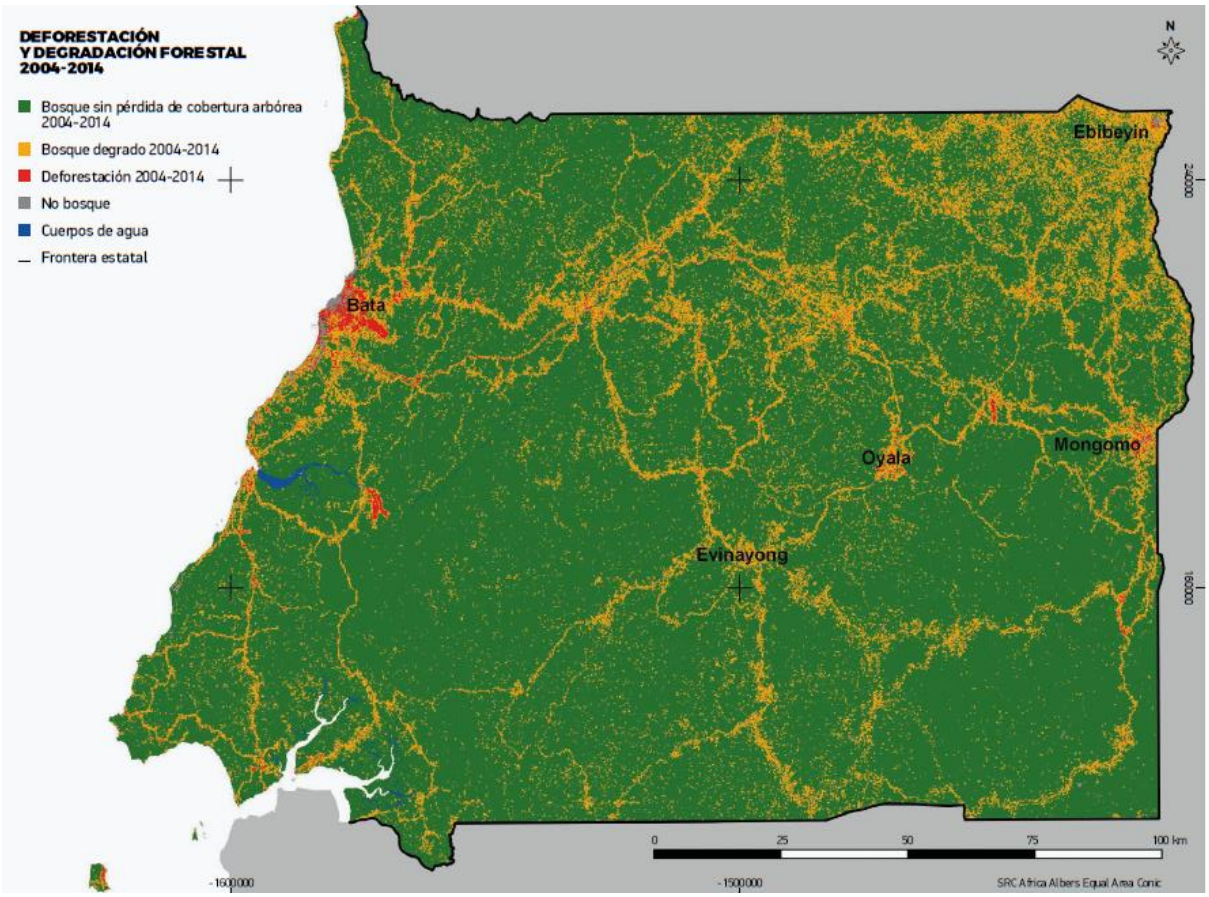
Roads and other infrastructure are essential for development, but without adequate standards, mitigation and remediation efforts, and due enforcement, they fragment the forests, favour the spontaneous and unplanned advance of agriculture and facilitate illegal hunting and trade in bush meat. The state's policy on the road network development has reduced the isolation of forest communities, but it has also contributed to the fragmentation of protected areas.

Roads are being built without prior environmental and social impact studies being carried out, and therefore no mitigation measures being developed and implemented. The relevant government bodies, namely INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, are not always aware and informed of such projects in advance. They are not consulted and therefore cannot give the necessary recommendations to limit the impact of such infrastructure on the environment in general and on the forests in particular. Over the past few years several roads have been built within the protected areas without the consultation of INDEFOR-AP: a new tared road was built in Rio Campo Nature Reserve, from Bongoro to Ayemiken and beyond; a road was built in Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve, crossing the mangroves; the construction of a new bridge between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon is planned at Rio Campo, over the Ntem river, for which construction is to start shortly; and a forest road was built in Piedra Nzas Natural Monument, right through the middle, from east to west.

Additionally, the size and scale of the road network developed in the country is disproportioned compared to the amount of traffic on these roads. Furthermore, in accordance with legislation (Forestry Act 1/1997), separate logging roads are built by the logging industry to transport logged wood from the concessions to the processing units and port in Bata, as logging trucks are not allowed to use national roads. This increases the scale of the road network in the country and therefore its impact on the ecosystems.

The opening and use of forest tracks directly cause deforestation and forest degradation, in addition to changes in the hydrological regime, soil degradation and fragmentation of animal habitats. Above all they have a great indirect impact, as they significantly increase the risk of land use change of the area and new production activities in areas that had previously been inaccessible.

Figure 9: Map of deforestation and forest degradation in the continental region of Equatorial Guinea between 2004 and 2014



Source: MAGBMA and FAO, 2018. Study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014

The new urban districts (65) were created by law in 2017. They stem from a wish to develop the country and increase presence on the national territory, converting small isolated rural villages into administrative and civil centres. An increase in population in those areas will lead to increased pressure on the local natural resources and a potential threat on the forest ecosystems.

The extraction of sand and other aggregates used for construction has affected mangroves, flooded land and the coastline, primarily on Bioko Island. Mangrove areas have also been affected by the construction of infrastructure and to a lesser extent by national tourism. As a consequence, there has been a reduction in the country's mangrove cover (MAGBMA, 2019).

The FAO estimates that infrastructure development will have a lower impact on deforestation and forest degradation from 2014 onwards due to the economic recession and the completion of a large part of the planned investments. However, as already discussed, there remains a significant risk of deforestation and indirect degradation around the infrastructures already built, due to the fact that they facilitate access to the forest and the development of productive activities (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

3.3.1.2 Poaching

Equatorial Guinea has a history and culture of hunting wild animals and eating bush meat. Along with overexploitation of timber, hunting has become one of the biggest conservation problems in Equatorial Guinea. Bush meat is one of the main sources of protein for the population and, at present, there are no obvious alternatives to this vital resource.

In 2007 a law was passed prohibiting the hunting of all primates as well as hunting in protected areas. Nevertheless, the majority of the rural population depend partly on subsistence hunting as a livelihood. Commercial poaching also exists, with poachers hunting in the forest areas, including in protected areas, and selling meat in the town markets. The small size of the protected areas means that the heart of these areas are 10 to 15 km from the borders (and from roads or villages) at most. This, in addition to the network of old logging roads in certain protected areas (remnants of past forest exploitation), make access to these areas relatively easy for poachers. Coupled with a limited and insufficient control and enforcement of the law, this makes poaching a common practice and a significant threat to animal populations.

Hunting activity in the country is not regulated as such, although there are sanctioned decrees that prohibit hunting, consumption and possession of certain species of animals. Existing laws that in one way or another contribute to the reduction of hunting, also fail to be sufficiently enforced and respected.

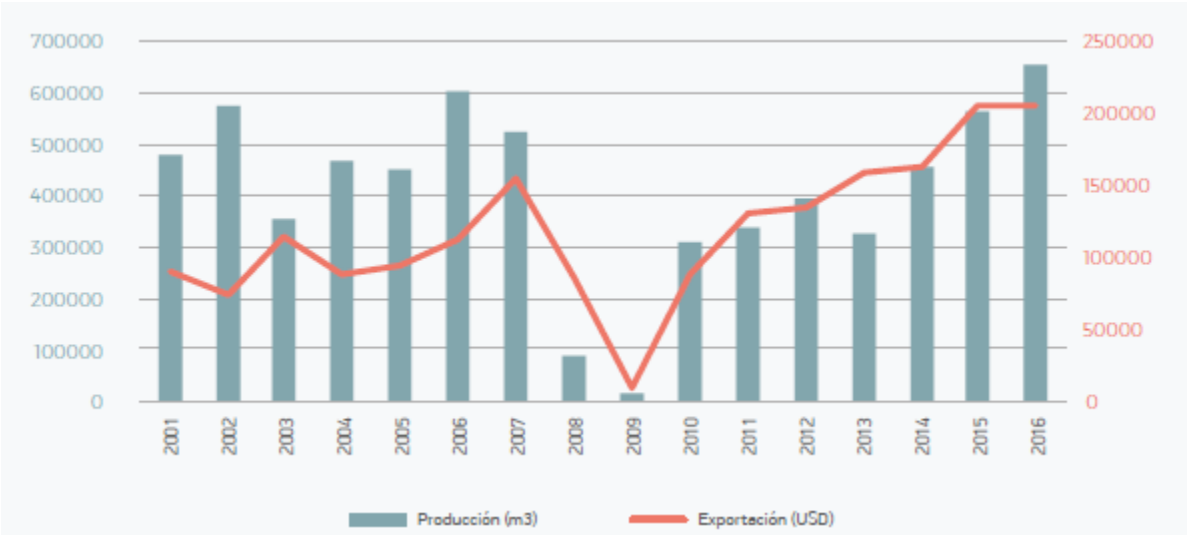
3.3.1.3 Unsustainable and illegal logging

Logging in Equatorial Guinea began in the early 20th century. It was organized by the Spanish colonial authorities who granted logging concessions to Europeans. Logging first started in the easily accessible coastal areas and gradually moved inland as areas became accessible. The end of the colonial era (1968) signalled the peak of timber logging roads with over 1,200 km of forest roads and tracks. During that same period, logging volume increased gradually to reach 330,000 m^3 in 1962, mainly exported to Spain. The years following the country's independence (1969-1979) marked a period of recession for forest operations. The government nationalized industrial logging, which reduced logging to an anecdotal level. In 1979, the State restored a system of free trade and very quickly concessions were re-issued. The concession system was strengthened during the 1990-1997 period and more than 70 titles were granted, for areas ranging from 2,500 to 50,000 ha. All production forests in the country were then allocated in concessions and logging took place across the entire country (State of the Forest 2008).

In 2007, a presidential decree prohibited the export of raw logged wood, leading to the abandonment of concessions by companies. The decree stipulated that 100% of logged wood had to be transformed before being exported, instead of the 60% that was required by the Forestry Law. This decree responded to the concerns raised by national and international observers with respect to deforestation. It also stemmed from the desire to stimulate the industrial processing of wood within the country, and mitigate the decreasing profitability of the logging industry compared to the oil industry. After the publication of the decree, all forest concessions were cancelled and the government decided to grant logging authorizations only. According to official statistics, timber production fell from 524,799 m^3 in 2007 to 13,760 m^3 in 2009. As logging companies needed more time to finance the construction of the required processing facilities and as the decree could not nullify an existing law (in this case, the Forestry Law), one year after its issuance the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry stopped implementing the decree. Timber production restarted, albeit at a slower pace (see figure below). In 2013, 11 companies shared 48 concessions, covering a total of 740,122 ha (Karsenty, 2016).

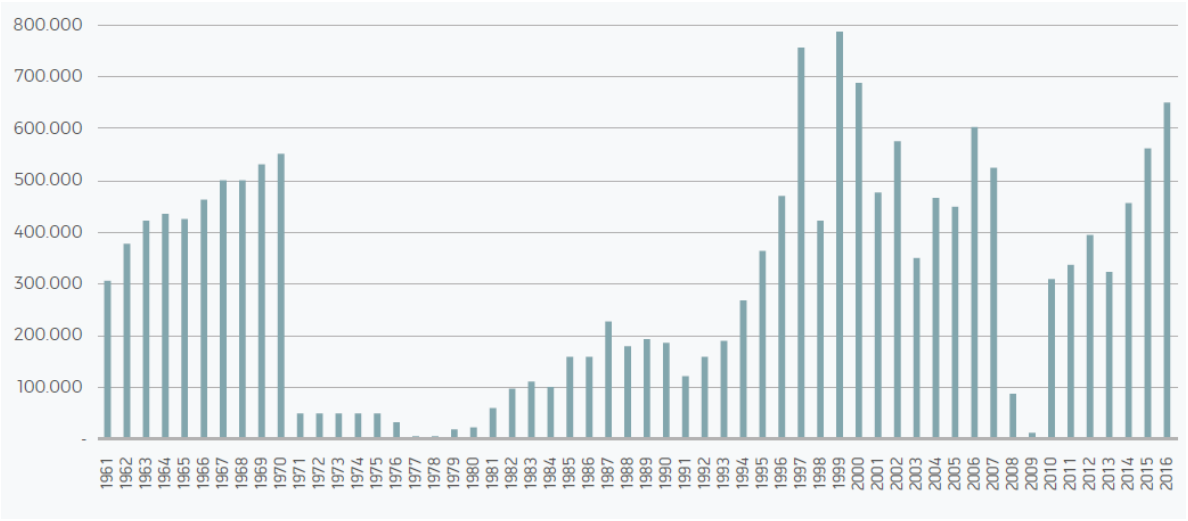
The Forestry Law (Art. 17) limits the production of timber in Equatorial Guinea to 450,000 m^3 per year. This limit was respected for a few years after the 2007 ban but was soon exceeded again from 2014 onwards (see figure below). In recent years, legal changes have been made again. In January 2017, another presidential decree (number 7/2017) prohibited logging for commercial purposes in the whole country. Six months were given for this decree to be applied, and the Ministry in charge of forests was no longer allowed to give out logging authorisations. All existing logging authorisations were cancelled and companies were to apply for new authorisations in the Presidency. As a result, companies carried out intensive logging until the end of the implementation deadline, so as to have wood to export whilst awaiting new logging authorisations. New authorisations were given out in 2018 but only a few companies received them as strict compliance with legal requirements was needed to obtain them. In November 2018 a new presidential decree (number 182/2018) was issued, prohibiting the export of raw logged wood in order, once again, to boost processing of timber in the country. Logging companies complained that they were not given time to prepare for this, so in December 2018 another presidential decree (number 195/2018) gave companies three months to export the raw logged wood they had stockpiled. Companies then started moving timber from the forest concessions to the port, but some wood still remained in the port at the end of the 3 months. In August 2019, the President signed a special authorization to export this remaining wood. This authorization expired in January 2020. The decree is now being adhered to and has significantly slowed down timber production in the country.

Figure 10: Production and exportation of timber in Equatorial Guinea between 2001 and 2016



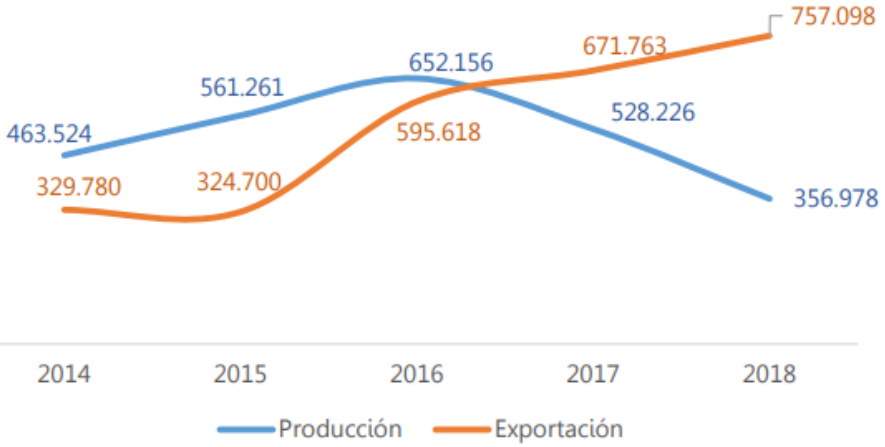
Source: MAGBMA and FAO, 2018. Study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014

Figure 11: Annual raw timber production in Equatorial Guinea between 1961 and 2016



Source: MAGBMA and FAO, 2018. Study of the causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea 2004-2014

Figure 12 Production and export of logged wood in Equatorial Guinea between 2014 and 2018 in m^3



Source: Guinea Ecuatorial en Cifras 2019, INEGE

Although logging activities for export are almost at a standstill in the country today due to the recent decree, infrastructural development and agriculture represented a noticeable driver of forest degradation in the country in recent years, and past experience shows that it may still be a threat in the future if not managed sustainably. Industrial logging for the international market significantly impacts forest structure, leading to forest fragmentation and biodiversity loss. If forest concessions are sustainably managed, they are not under the threat of deforestation but, nevertheless, remain

under the threat of forest degradation. Unfortunately, the bulk of forest exploitation in Equatorial Guinea has not been conducted according to sustainable management rules: none of the concessions operate under management plans. During inspections carried out by INDEFOR-AP in several logging concessions in 2018 it was observed that the companies do not respect the Forestry Law (non-existence of management plans, bad layout of wood extraction routes, bad management of oils and other toxic products and residues…), and this is the case in both of the project landscapes. There is a need to apply and enforce the existing regulatory tools, and strengthen both the quantity and quality of the forest guard to carry out this control.

Outside the industrial sector there are informal, or artisanal, and often illegal forms of logging. These supply local markets with construction timber and fuel wood. These forms of logging can cause some degradation or even deforestation of greater magnitude when compared with legal exploitation. In addition, villagers cook with firewood collected in the surrounding forests. Fuelwood is overexploited, including in areas where logging is prohibited, due to the growing urban demand. This practice is particularly striking in mangroves of the Muni estuary area, where firewood is used for drying of fish despite the ban on collection. A study by the NGO ANDEGE (2010) shows that the informal national wood production represents 86,800 m^3 per year, the first half of which is to supply cities, and the other half to supply rural demand (EdAP 2015).

3.3.1.4 Shifting cultivation

According to the recent FAO study, agriculture is the second most important cause of deforestation and the first cause of forest degradation. Shifting cultivation causes, in most cases, processes of degradation without producing deforestation, given the small surface of the farms and the speed of regeneration of the forests. However, an increase in population density (linked to the return of the population to rural areas) or the loss of traditional practices (for example, reduction in the duration of fallows) could affect the regeneration capacity of the forest and lead to deforestation. Shifting cultivation does not pose a threat to the forest in the long term if forest regeneration is allowed with a sufficiently long fallow and a small farm size. In order to analyse the sustainability of traditional agricultural practices, more detailed studies on their impact and the dynamics of subsequent regeneration of forest clearings (e.g. canopy closure time, biomass and carbon stocks, structure, specific composition) as well as on soil recovery would be necessary (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

3.3.2 Root causes

3.3.2.1 Economic and infrastructure development planning

As already mentioned, the country's heavy reliance on non-renewable natural resources increases its vulnerability to commodity price volatility. In the recent past, poor infrastructure hindered development and rendered some parts of the country difficult to access. However, today, in order to access the vast natural wealth, infrastructure development has been and is being stepped up. Equatorial Guinea views the exploitation of its natural resources as an important driver of diversification, economic resilience, and green growth. If developed in an inclusive and equitable way, these resources present an opportunity for economic and social development and can also benefit the local populations living in the forest, thus reducing poverty. However, current policy programs aiming at economic emergence are based upon the continuation of natural resources exploitation (wood, oil, and minerals), agricultural production for domestic needs and exports, as well as the strengthening of industrial processing activities. In addition, projects for large scale agribusiness are being developed and may become more and more important in the future.

In terms of private sector production activities, there is a lack of policies in support of maintenance of forest ecological connectivity/corridors in productive landscapes. There are no financial incentives to foster production sectors' investment into biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation and commitments to deforestation-free production systems. The absence of a conducive regulatory framework and market incentives means that logging actors do not adopt best practices in forest management.

3.3.2.2 Territorial decisions at the national level to occupy the territory

The population in Equatorial Guinea is mostly urban, with 76.1% of the population living in the city and 23.9% in rural areas. The petroleum boom led the rural population to migrate to urban areas in search of jobs. As already stated, the government wants to establish a presence throughout the country, occupy areas previously not occupied and increase human presence throughout the national territory. To achieve this new roads have been built, as well as new towns and urban districts, sometimes in the middle of the forest (new city of Oyala for example). According to INEGE, with the creation of the new urban districts in 2017, the distribution of the population by zones could present variations in the near future. In addition, the General Census of Population and Housing carried out in 2015, shows that the population of Equatorial Guinea has increased by 21% compared to the previous census of 2001. These two population dynamics have and will most definitely have an impact on forest ecosystems.

Furthermore, according to the FAO study (2018), the economic recession that began in 2013 is triggering a gradual return to rural areas. It can be anticipated that this social change will be a possible cause of deforestation and forest degradation in the near future, due to increased pressure on forest resources.

3.3.2.3 Limited livelihoods and lack of alternatives

There is little economic activity in rural areas, jobs are scarce and the population mainly relies on subsistence farming, hunting and NTFP collection. For forest conservation projects to be effective, viable and sustainable economic alternatives to using forest resources need to be provided, to compensate for losses incurred due to restrictions imposed on the use of the forest (on logging and hunting in particular). At present such alternatives for rural populations are limited and past experiences, in particular in Monte Alen National Park during the implementation of ECOFAC, show that developing alternatives that persist in the long-term is a challenge. Developing agricultural alternatives is often a chosen solution but this can only work if access to markets and processing, where possible, is also developed. The lack of labour due to the recent emigration of a large part of the rural population to the cities (related to the boom in the oil industry combined with the lack of viable rural activities) is a challenge for developing labour intensive agricultural alternatives. Rural communities and forest dependant peoples have difficulties in accessing credit services due to their inability to comply with the formal requirements, the distances to urban centres, and borrowing modalities suited to the conditions of these stakeholders not being available. In addition, women face these challenges to a much greater degree.

Although it is an important source of income for the rural population, the NTFP sector is completely informal and is characterized by a lack of legislation governing the exploitation and use of these resources (MAB & WRI, 2013). The NTFP economic sector represents around 42% of rural household incomes. Many products are concerned by this sector, such as condiment *Piper guineensis*, whose annual export to Nigeria is estimated at 250 tons. Wild fruits, plants and medicinal preparations, bushmeat and other cane and bamboo craft products are widely present in the local markets and exported to neighbouring countries in significant quantities.

Furthermore, the absence of sustainable natural resource-based finance and income-generating opportunities leads to an under-appreciation of existing natural capital values. Revenue generation for local communities from sustainable use could enhance their participation. However, there is a lack of technical, financial, and marketing support for the development of income-generation mechanisms such as ecotourism, agroforestry, and sustainable NTFP value-chains. There are limitations in access to market, credit and incentives to promote deforestation free supply chains and market access for sustainable products, be it from main commodities or NTFP. This is due to lack of organizational and management capacities for sustainable production by local institutions and individuals, insufficient market assessments, including identification of requirements to access markets for sustainable and innovative products. There is a lack of traceability systems (biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, etc.) to help encourage sustainable production, optimize existing value chains or develop new chains. Likewise, there is a lack of communication and marketing efforts, which could connect these products with the international markets.

3.3.2.4 Unsustainable demand for natural resources (wood and bush meat)

Bush meat hunting to provide meat for the family, and as a source of income is a common component of household economies and it is part of the culture. Hunting typically contributes between 30 to 80% of protein consumed by forest-dwelling families in the Congo Basin. The demand for such products in Equatorial Guinea is stronger than in countries with a less dense rural population. This demand is accentuated by the fact that most of the population has benefited very little from the oil boom and remains committed to practices which are only sustainable with a lower population density. These pressures are not only felt in ordinary forest but also within protected areas (EdAP 2015).

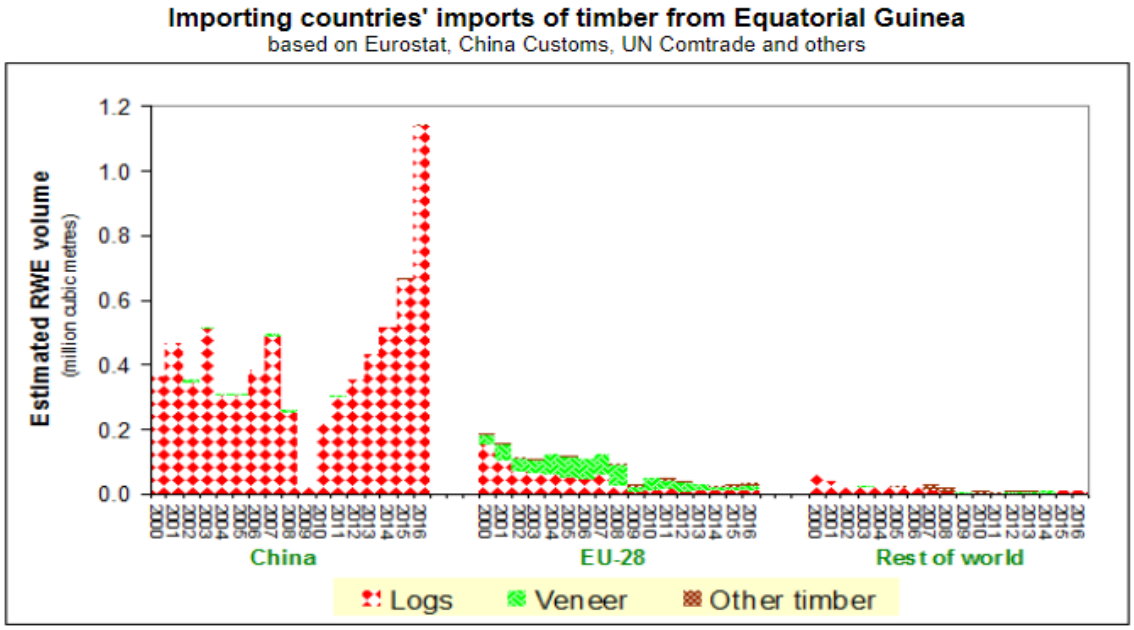
The strong demand for bush meat has created groups of professional hunters whose activity is favoured by the opening of new forest tracks in virgin forests, the asphalting of most national roads and the acquisition of modern shotguns, as well as the use of traps, which is widespread throughout the country. The poor control of hunting by forestry agents and the lack of enforcement of existing laws make hunting an unsustainable activity. Because of this weakness of control and legal enforcement, this unsustainable hunting activity has proliferated even in areas where hunting is prohibited; i.e; in protected areas, and the same can be said for protected species. Illegal and unsustainable hunting thus contributes to the disappearance of both protected and non-protected species.

The lack of alternatives in the rural areas means that the extractive use of forests is of great importance for local communities. Informal timber harvesting is linked to local and national market demand and the increasing difficulty of obtaining low-cost legal timber. The demand for timber stems from local housing construction that is predominantly made from wood.

Commercial timber harvesting is strongly linked to international demand, which has undergone a remarkable change in the composition of the actors and the destination of the exports, with a substitution of the markets. While in 1993 the majority of exports were to Japan, Spain, Turkey and Portugal, in 2015, exports were mainly to China (83% of the total),

Spain (4%) and France (1%) and consisted almost exclusively of raw timber (see figure below). China received 80% of Equatorial Guinea's timber exports between 2004 and 2014 (FAOSTAT data). On the other hand, the annual volume exported to the European Union has decreased due to the fact that Equatorial Guinea does not yet meet the requirements of legality and origin established by this market. In Asian markets, certification of origin is not a condition of access, nor is legality of the product checked. The Asian markets also absorb a greater number of species (FAO 2018). The high demand of wood from the Asian market is therefore an underlying cause of the deforestation in Equatorial Guinea.

Figure 13: Importing countries' imports of timber from Equatorial Guinea between 2000 and 2016



Source: globaltimber.co.uk

3.3.2.5 Human-wildlife conflicts

Some of the protected species (such as elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees) and other non-protected species devastate crops grown within or close to protected areas. This situation creates conflicts between the local population and the wildlife. The forest administration, as the responsible entity for the management of fauna, should act as a mediator for such conflicts. Unfortunately this forest administration does not have the necessary capacities and resources to play its mediating role. This problem affects all the country's forest ecosystems, and the landscapes of Monte Alén and Rio Campo are no exception. The strategies that have been tested to address this issue, many of which are traditional, continue to be unsuccessful and sometimes lead the local people to take matters into their own hands and kill the animals responsible for the destruction of crops. In 2017, 4 elephants, including a pregnant one, were killed by villagers in Rio Campo.

3.3.2.6 Weak governance system

A weak system of governance favours deforestation and forest degradation, and is therefore an important indirect cause and one of the main challenges for the reduction of deforestation and degradation. Some of the characteristic elements of good governance are transparency, accountability, the absence of corruption, participation (both of men and women), equity and efficiency. Equatorial Guinea has introduced the concept of responsible governance in the management of its forests as a result of commitments made to the international community and the ratification of legal instruments; however, a remarkable effort is still required for its articulation. The country has yet to initiate a process to strengthen its governance, although the National Plan for Social and Economic Development includes it among its priorities: axis 4 aims to: "implement quality governance at the service of citizens", which includes ensuring modern administration and the participation of civil society (FAO 2018).

One of the current shortcomings is the lack of transparency. Although progress has been made in recent years, notably in the generation and dissemination of public information (annual statistical data, population census, forest atlas), it is still difficult to access systematised information related to the sector and other land uses (legislation in force, national plans and strategies, model documents to make logging requests, data of forest production and export, concessions present and historical cartography, studies on the sector, financing and public expenditure, etc.). The lack of an up-to-date forest inventory and the frequent administration restructurings also have an impact on the available information. An up-to-date and accessible public information system would facilitate decision-making by the forestry authorities,

concession companies and the population, as well as promote good management of public funds and avoid corruption; it is therefore a determining factor for the reduction of the loss of forests (FAO 2018).

3.3.3 Barrier analysis

3.3.3.1 No integrated land use planning

The main objective of land-use planning is to establish, in a given territory, the combination of land uses that best suits the needs of the parties concerned, to encourage a balance between economic, social and environmental values whilst at the same time safeguarding the environmental resources for the future. Given that most of the causes of deforestation and forest degradation are linked to non-forestry sectors, a land use planning process that integrates different sectors and uses of land is a fundamental element to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Despite multiple efforts and proposals (e.g., FAO projects in 1991 and 1992; CUREF project 1999; ECOFAC projects I and II), the country has not yet implemented a land use planning and management system that would allow it to reconcile conflicting uses and ensure multiple and sustainable land use (FAO 2018). Long-term planning with future scenario development that accounts for future threats such as climate change, industrial agriculture, and infrastructure expansion is currently lacking.

Lack of policies and lack of multi-sectoral partnerships in support of sustainable land and forest management practices in areas outside protected areas lead to forest fragmentation and loss of forest connectivity which in turn jeopardize the long-term viability of species and forests as well as the maintenance of ecosystem services.

3.3.3.2 Poor inter-government coordination and collaboration

Stakeholder dialogue within the region is sectoral in nature and there is a lack of cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination between bodies and institutions that share sectoral developments responsibilities (forests, mining, agriculture, land, etc.). Thus, increasing competition between different land uses accelerates pressures on natural resources, resulting in lack of integrated polices and leading to habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and human-wildlife conflict. The lack of coordination and complementarity between ministries and institutions of different sectors is a limiting factor for avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, especially those linked to causes external to forests. Most of the country's priority policies are developed in non-forest areas and do not prioritize the conservation of the forest, impoverishing as a consequence the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. As an illustration of this point, INDEFOR-AP is not consulted on major infrastructural projects that affect the protected areas (some of which are sometimes within the PAs, not only in the surroundings). It sometimes only becomes aware of such projects when implementation on ground starts.

The National REDD+ Coordination, which integrates multiple actors, as well as the project to develop a national program associated with the Green Climate Fund through a participatory process, provide an opportunity to improve inter-sectoral and inter-institutional coordination, crucial to the REDD+ process (FAO 2018).

3.3.3.3 Insufficient government capacities on sustainable resource management and land use planning

The geographical and climatic context of Equatorial Guinea leads many residents, including authorities, to perceive the country’s natural resources as inexhaustible, regardless of their use. The current system of commercial exploitation of the resources often goes far beyond their reproductive potential. National ministries as well as its decentralized structures at sub-national levels have insufficient capacities for land use planning, the sustainable management of resources, and low understanding of natural capital accounting and its integration in land use planning and management processes.

Despite the economic importance of forests, public investment in the forest sector has historically been low, limiting the sustainable development of the sector. Lack of institutional capacity and resources of the forestry sector is a limiting factor for the performance of its functions, including supervision of the operations of the concessions and the degree of compliance with the conditions of logging. The forestry administration must progressively incorporate facilitation functions including: (i) supporting local communities and the private sector in forest management, for example with technical assistance and information exchange; (ii) support to education, training, research activities and extension. (FAO 2018)

INDEFOR-AP, since its creation in 2002, has had no minimum resources to carry out its functions. Over the years, the institute’s budget has increased from 90 million FCFA, to 450 million FCFA, and today it is 504 million FCFA. However, this is still insufficient and is not correlated to the number of protected areas under INDEFOR-AP’s management. As a result, there is very limited presence of INDEFOR-AP personnel in the field. A protected areas system cannot be operated remotely, the continuous presence of staff is needed for the system to be efficient.

Weak institutional capacities and insufficient technical means for surveillance mean that even though protected areas have been established they are not able to address habitat degradation and loss of wildlife due to poaching and trafficking. PA system managers typically depend on national-level allocations that are both inadequate and inconsistent. For example, there are no effective policies or mechanisms to allow revenues generated from natural resource exploitation within PAs, corridors and buffer zones to be re-invested in management of these resources.

Information, knowledge and expertise on payment for ecosystem services (PES), natural capital valuation and other mechanisms for generating financial returns are not available among protected area system managers. In the case of natural capital valuation, biodiversity offsets and other financing instruments, there is limited institutional and technical capacity (knowledge base, systems, tools, and methods) to establish and implement reliable measurement and monitoring methods, resulting in paucity of financial resources available to the PAs.

3.3.3.4 Low cross-border cooperation

An agreement with Cameroon to collaborate on the conservation of the trans-boundary Rio Campo - Campo Ma'an landscape has been drafted but the final document is yet to be signed and no collaboration activities have started on ground (more detail is presented in 3.1.4.2).

3.3.3.5 Poor application and control of the law

The main difficulty and one of the underlying causes of deforestation and degradation is the ineffective, inconsistent and uneven enforcement of laws. Different studies confirm that, in spite of the efforts made to regularise the sector, the laws usually collide with a problem of implementation on the ground. This problem of the application of laws is explained by, among other things, the lack of financial, human and technical resources that the administration suffers and that prevents it from exercising its mandate effectively, and in particular to monitor and verify forest exploitation activities on the ground. Added to this is a certain disorganization and institutional overlap, as well as the interference of economic interests (FAO 2018).

The non-application of the law in carrying out environmental impact studies for infrastructural projects is a good illustration of this. Companies are required by law (Law nº 7/2003) to carry out such studies and obtain environmental licenses before going ahead with projects. The government does not impose this and allows companies to start projects even when studies have not been done. Many ministries (and GE Proyectos) are not aware of the legal requirements and there is therefore a total lack of environmental impact assessments.

3.3.3.6 Weak community involvement in management of forests and protected areas

The real engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the governance and management of protected areas, and benefit-sharing is weak. Weak governance and a lack of a formal framework for community management of natural resources is a driver for over-exploitation and loss of ecological integrity of protected areas. Community involvement is hampered by a lack of community management structures that have both the capacities, means and mandate to manage their resources sustainably.

Equatorial Guinea recognizes the rights of use of local people on their forests and advocates greater involvement of the population in forest management. However, the concept of community forestry management has yet to be implemented in an effective way (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). To enhance the active participation of the local people in the governance and management of forest resources, the legislative framework must be accompanied by a process of gradual empowerment of communities to actively participate. This process requires institutional support in the medium and long term, as well as technical support for developing organisational capacities, planning, sustainable management of natural resources and small businesses (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018).

Customary institutions are not well developed and their forest management rights are scarce or unknown. This means that community decision-making is weakly integrated into higher-level decision-making processes, mainly because community decision-making processes are often made by different ministerial departments (Forests, Agriculture, Fishery, Territorial Administration, infrastructure, etc), parliamentarians and/or Presidency (Obiang-Mbomio, 2014). There is a lack of consultation with the communities and their authorities in thedecisions taken on land use, both by the government and by the forestry companies. Indeed, forestry companies have no legal obligation to consult communities. However, the Forestry Law 1/1997 empowers the Forestry Department to make sure that the rights of communities surrounding forest concessions are respected and implemented by the companies (e.g.water wells, electrification, school buildings, churches…). Because very few companies comply with this, the government is stepping up its efforts to make sure that these companies respect the law.

Furthermore, the lack of clear land tenure neither allows for development of sustainable NTFP value chains, nor for any other sustainable livelihood activities, nor allows communities to effectively participate in co-management of protected

areas. As rural actors are the second largest cause of deforestation, their participation in forest management is key to ensure better management and reduced impacts on forests.

3.4 Stakeholder mapping

This project will work with stakeholders at multiple levels, including at the national level and at the implementation sites being targeted by this project. Key stakeholders and stakeholder groups have been identified and consulted throughout the project design process. An overview of these stakeholders and stakeholder groups in the project is presented below.

3.4.1 Regional bodies

There are a number of regional bodies that are relevant to the sector of intervention of the project. These have already been described in section 3.1.1 and are listed below:

- COMIFAC: The Central African Forests Commission
    - CEFDHAC: The Conference on Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
    - OFAC: The Observatory for Central African Forest
    - OSFAC: The Central African Satellite Forest Observatory
    - RAPAC: Central African Protected Areas Network
- CAFI: Central African Forest Initiative
- ECCAS: The Economic Community of Central African States
- PFBC: The Congo Basin Forest Partnership

These regional stakeholders will not be directly involved in the implementation of the project in Equatorial Guinea but will contribute to the GEF regional project of the impact programme.

3.4.2 Government stakeholders

The following government stakeholders are relevant to the sector of intervention of the project:

- Ministry of agriculture, livestock, forests and the environment
    - General Directorate of the Environment
    - General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation
    - General Directorate of Forest Exploitation and Industrialization
    - INDEFOR-AP
    - INCOMA
    - INPAGE
- Ministry of public works and infrastructure
- Ministry of finance, economy and planning
- Ministry of mines and hydrocarbons
- Ministry of security
- Ministry of interior and local corporations
- Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Artisanal Crafts Promotion
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality
- Ministry of Education, University Education and Sports
- GE Proyectos
- Governors of provinces affected by the project: Litoral, Centro Sur, Wele Nzas, Djibloho
- Government Delegates
- District Delegates of the districts affected by the project: Niefang, Evinayong, Akurenam, Cogo, Aconibe, Nsork, Mongomo and Bata
- Secretary Generals
- Presidents of village councils

3.4.3 Non-government stakeholders

The following non-government stakeholders were identified as relevant for the design and implementation of the project. It is important to note that the European Union was very present in Equatorial Guinea with the ECOFAC project until 2009. Since then, few international technical and financial partners have been present in the forestry and biodiversity sector in Equatorial Guinea.

3.4.3.1 International and regional non-government stakeholders

United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP aims to be the country's main partner in its economic and social development process, so that it can achieve greater sustainable human development for the benefit of all Equatoguineans, by making available its extensive global network of partners, knowledge, experience and resources. In Equatorial Guinea, the proposed UNDP programme has been developed in close consultation with the government. The Programme aims to achieve greater equity in Equatorial Guinea, with initiatives to ensure that economic growth resulting from oil exploitation is sustainable with respect to the environment and also benefits the poor sectors of the population. To this end, the proposed programme focuses on strengthening national capacities to expand opportunities for Guineans, improve public management and achieve sustainable management of natural resources.

Food and Agriculture Organisation

The FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives. The FAO has been operating in Equatorial Guinea for more than 30 years. According to FAO's Country Programming Framework, for the period January 2019 to December 2023, FAO's technical assistance is aimed at:

- improving productivity in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors in order to enhance food and nutritional security
- improved protection of the environment, forests and sustainable management of natural resources

Equatorial Guinea is in line with international and regional commitments aimed at contributing to the fight against climate change, as well as promoting sustainable management of forests and the environment. FAO's technical assistance accompanies these national efforts through project implementation and mobilization of climate finance.

The priority areas of cooperation between FAO and Equatorial Guinea are:

- increasing production, food diversification and natural resource management;
- rural marketing, processing and finance; and
- institutional capacity building.

African Development Bank

The overarching objective of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries (RMCs), thus contributing to poverty reduction. The Bank Group achieves this objective by mobilizing and allocating resources for investment in RMCs, and providing policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts.

World Resource Institute

WRI's work focuses on the intersection of the environment and socio-economic development. It goes beyond research to put ideas into practice, working globally with governments, business and civil society to develop transformative solutions that protect the earth and improve people's lives. It also works to sustain forests for future generations and aims to curb deforestation worldwide and help to restore and reforest already cleared land. In Equatorial Guinea, WRI developed the Interactive Forest Atlas.

Conservation International

The Conservation International Foundation (CI) is a North American organization founded in 1987 with the goal of protecting nature for the benefit of the people. The basis of the organization's work is "science, society and field demonstrations". The organization has scientists, policy experts, and other conservationists on the ground in more than 30 countries. It also relies heavily on thousands of local partners.

CI's activities in Central Africa focus on landscapes in three countries: DRC, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. In DRC, the organisation's efforts focus on the Maiko-Tayna-Kahuzi-Biega landscape in the east and the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba landscape (in particular, the Kokolopori Bonobos Reserve and the Tshuapa District Forest Concessions) in the west. It also worked in the Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal landscape, between Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

CI was present in Equatorial Guinea from 2003 to 2012, collaborating with the government, especially with the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, and Fisheries and Environment, on issues such as natural resource conservation, environmental protection and climate change. Its lines of intervention were: training of human resources, planning and management of protected areas, technical assistance, analysis of the forest-environment sector laws and institutional support. It had an average annual funding of $200,000.

Below are examples of some of the activities carried out by CI in Equatorial Guinea:

- Training of human resources
    - Twenty graduates in environmental sciences (at the National University of Equatorial Guinea ant the University of Alcalá de Henares in Spain);
    - Six technicians in planning and management of PAs (Colorado State University, USA and Costa Rica);
    - Seminar on the monitoring of the manatee population (held in Accra);
    - Seminar on conservation agreements (conducted by a CI expert)
    - Seminar on Climate Change and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)
- Planning and management of forests and protected areas
    - Elaboration of a management plan for Monte Alén National Park, Altos de Nsork National Park and Río Campo Nature Reserve;
    - Physical delimitation of Monte Alén National Park;
    - Awareness campaign in Monte Alén and Altos de Nsork National Parks;
    - Socio-economic studies in Monte Alén and Altos de Nsork National Parks;
    - Design of the proposed national forest;
    - Support to surveillance and guard services in the southern zone of Monte Alén National Park;
    - Income-generating alternatives to hunting around PAs;
    - Study on the distribution and abundance of large primates and elephants in the continental region of Equatorial Guinea
- Technical Assistance
    - Elaboration of the 'Strengthening of the Protected Areas System in Equatorial Guinea' project, for the effective conservation of representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity (GEF/UNDP project);
    - Project on durable funding mechanisms in Central African Protected Areas;
    - Elaboration of a Catalogue of Protected Forest Species Project (Congo Basin Funds Project)
- Analysis of Laws of the forest-environment sector
- Institutional Support
    - Payment for ANDEGE offices;
    - Supply of various material (computer and field material) to INDEFOR-AP.

The main partners that worked with CI were: UNGE, Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry, and Fisheries and Environment, INDEFOR-AP and ANDEGE.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

WCS, has been present in the Central African region since 1993, in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, DRC and Equatorial Guinea. It supports gorilla research and conservation efforts; contributes to the creation of protected areas; supports long-term wildlife research studies; works closely with timber companies to minimize environmental impacts. WCS was established in 2012 in Equatorial Guinea, and has been working closely with INDEFOR-AP since then, supporting the conservation of coastal protected areas in the continental region. This has allowed the strengthening of communities, with the creation of alternative activities, offering inputs for the promotion of agriculture, fishing and other activities that help them better adapt to the impacts of climate change. The WCS project is financed by the oil company Noble Energy, as part of its efforts to improve the quality of life of the Equatoguinean population. WCS is also working on the creation of marine protected areas.

Biodiversity Initiative (BI)

BI is a North American initiative that works on the protection of biodiversity. Several experts from the organization have come to Equatorial Guinea and work with INDEFOR-AP in the Monte Alén National Park to carry out animal censuses through the placement of trap cameras. The field missions are programmed to download the field data taken by the cameras, which are then analysed. The data collected are much more qualitative (of presence of animals) than quantitative.

Bristol Zoological Society (BZS)

Bristol Zoological Society is a conservation and education charity based in the United Kingdom, where they run two zoos and the Institute of Conservation Science and Learning. BZS runs 14 global field conservation projects in 10 countries, focused on 18 target species. The vast majority of those projects are based in Africa. They have been working in Central Africa since 2003, largely focused on the conservation of large mammals.

University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

UWE Bristol is a British university that provides over 600 courses in a wide range of disciplines and aims to develop research with real world impact to shape higher education and research policy for the benefit students, business and civic partners. Researchers from UWE Bristol are working in collaboration with BZS and INDEFOR-AP in Monte Alén National Park to study and protect Western lowland gorillas and other wildlife. This includes identifying the threats,

particularly hunting and the bushmeat trade, which are affecting wildlife populations, and developing sustainable alternative livelihoods to illegal practices, which can also facilitate human-wildlife coexistence.

Zoological Society of London

It is an international scientific and educational charity working for conservation. It has worked in Central Africa since the 1990s in Cameroon, DRC and Equatorial Guinea. Its programme focuses on sustainable wildlife management, conservation activities for pygmy hippos, and capacity building of stakeholders with a view to restoring ecosystem integrity. The research program on bush meat aims to understand and improve the sustainability of the bush meat trade, and includes projects in Equatorial Guinea (Monte Alén NP, Altos de Nsork NP and Río Campo Nature Reserve) and Cameroon (Takamanda National Park and Dja Biosphere Reserve).

African Women in Sustainable Development Network (REFADD)

REFADD is represented in the 10 member countries of COMIFAC. It exists in Equatorial Guinea since 1998 and is composed of 5 organizations:

- ADMAD (Acción Duradera para el medio ambiente y el desarrollo): Sustainable Action for the Environment and Development
- ARICOR (Acción para el desarrollo integral de las comunidades locales): Action for the integral development of local communities
- GRAIFEM (Grupo de apoyo a la iniciativa femenina): Women's Initiative Support Group
- ASOMUDEA (Asociación de mujeres de arte y decoración): Association of women of art and decoration
- ASOJADE (Asociación de jóvenes actores en el desarrollo): Association of young actors in development

The objective of the organisation is to ensure and promote the participation and consideration of women in decision making concerning the management of natural resources. There are about 100 women members of REFADD in the country. The activities of the organisation are limited due to lack of funds.

REPALEAC

The Regional Network of Local and Indigenous Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa was established in 2003 and represents over 200 FDC (forest dependant communities) organizations from eight Central African countries, including Equatorial Guinea. It acts as a platform for the coordination of eight national-level member networks. REPALEAC represents FDCs' interests at the sub-regional level and promotes the work done by its national networks. It aims to highlight the critical role played by FDCs in sustainable forest management. The network recently validated its 2018-2025 Strategic Framework for an inclusive development of the Indigenous Peoples as a tool to enhance their leadership and control their own development. The strategy is supporting a vision of a comprehensive and inclusive development for the FDCs that is drawn upon sectoral approaches (biodiversity protection, REDD+, sustainable forest management, etc.). The ambition of REPALEAC and its members is to propose common targets, a coordination framework, and reporting tools to all policies and program in the Congo Basin that support FDCs – with the objective to render investments better coordinated, more efficient, and accountable to the strategy. Importantly, REPALEAC is expected to benefit from the leverage of CEFDHAC and COMIFAC to get an endorsement from the various governments through COMIFAC's Council of Ministers, which would pave the way for a broader coordination of Indigenous Peoples' related activities at the national level.

3.4.3.2 National and local non-government stakeholders

ANDEGE

The NGO Friends of Nature and Development of Equatorial Guinea (ANDEGE) is a non-profit civil society organization with no founding heritage, created in 2006. It is composed of agronomists and foresters that have an interest in the environment (19 members). It operates at national level and its intervention domains are:

- Strengthening the civil society's technical capacities in the forest and environment;
- Sustainable management of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change;
- Promotion of the well-being of the most disadvantaged communities; and
- Management and coordination of the institution.

The main actions that have been carried out by ANDEGE are;

- Elaboration of several protected areas management plans;
- Several studies carried out for the benefit of biodiversity conservation (censuses, inventories on hunting, illegal logging, deforestation and forest degradation, awareness);
- Awareness campaigns on the environment and the REDD+ mechanism;
- Management project of the Rio Campo Nature Reserve.

The organisation has collaborated with INDEFOR-AP, IUCN, COMIFAC, FAO, WRI, UNDP, CAFI etc.

Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP)

The Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP), started in 1998, is part of an academic partnership between Drexel University in Philadelphia and the Universidad Nacional de Guinea Ecuatorial (UNGE) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

BBPP's mission is the conservation of Bioko Island's biodiversity, especially its critically endangered primates and nesting marine turtles, through the development of economically self-sustaining programs that demonstrate the value of conserving Equatorial Guinea's unique wildlife and wild spaces.

BBPP's activities encompass:

- Educational programs that engage the faculty and students of UNGE in research and teaching activities with peers from other countries, including the US and neighbouring countries of Central Africa
- Research programs with UNGE that involve training and employing local people
- Conservation activities that demonstrate the economic value of keeping wildlife alive and Equatorial Guinea's ecosystems resilient

BBPP's main source of funds is Exxon Mobil. BBPP hopes to secure funding to extend some of their activities to Monte Alen in 2021 and could be a great partner or co-financing partner, contingent upon external grants.

Fundacion Martinez Hermanos

The Martínez Hermanos Foundation was born in 2014 as an initiative of the Martínez Hermanos Group (GMH), established in Equatorial Guinea since 1927. Its main mission has been, and continues to be, to contribute to making the country a more sustainable place with better living conditions for all Equatoguineans.

One of the priorities of the foundation is to promote humanitarian aid. Similarly, cooperation in the reconstruction of infrastructure for daily use (schools and homes) is another of its important pillars with the aim of increasing the quality of life of the population, promoting values that help to improve society, supporting training and generating employment. The natural environment is a very valuable asset, so supporting rehabilitation and raising awareness among the population of Equatorial Guinea are other actions that are carried out every year.

Local stakeholders

At the national level the presence of NGOs and an active civil society in general is very limited. This is also true at the local/village level: there is an absence of an associative network of associations or groupings. The notion of community-based organization is not integrated in the collective memory of communities. Previous projects that have tried to create community organisations have found it challenging because it is not in the local culture and people are not used to working together.

- Community based organisations

In the villages of Santa Cruz and Engong Cdo (Monte Alen landscape), two farmer groups for pineapple production exist: "Esen Ene" and "Avora Nane". These groups are known to the authorities and have all the required documentation. They have benefited from support from a company called 'ProEmpresa' in terms of equipment and capacity building.

Each group has a community field in which tasks are shared. The men clear the bush and make the trenches while the women plant and maintain the field. In addition, each member has an individual field. Being close to the Monte Alen National Park, these fields are often visited by gorrillas, who eat the pineapples.

The marketing of the production from the community field is done by the president of the group who reports to the treasurer. The products are sold fresh in bulk or retail. According to the communities there are enormous difficulties in storing the products due to increased production and pineapple being a highly perishable food when not stored properly, post-harvest losses are therefore often significant.

These two groups are the only ones that were identified during the project design phase but other informal farmer or fishing groups may exist in the wider landscape. In addition, informal women and youth groups also exist.

3.5 Baseline analysis and gaps

Equatorial Guinea's government is currently focusing on topics such as rural development, natural resource management, decentralization as well as adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. The international community has provided support to national stakeholders to advance this agenda through a series of projects targeting different geographic areas. The section below provides a summary of past and planned projects that focus on addressing major forest ecosystem conservation problems in the country. Taking into consideration previous projects and close

coordination with future projects will be crucial to making sure that the proposed project capitalizes on the results achieved so far and maximizes impacts by taking advantage of synergies with planned projects.

3.5.1 Past and planned regional actions and projects

COBAM

The project aims to conduct research on synergies and trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation in the forestry sector, in order to provide decision makers with the information and knowledge needed to formulate policies and projects that can effectively address climate change in the Congo Basin. COBAM is implemented by CIFOR under the African Development Bank grant to the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for financing the Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Program (PACEBCo). The project lasted for 2 years focusing on capacity building, development of vulnerability scenarios and implementation of pilot activities to reinforce the synergy between adaptation and mitigation, mainly through agroforestry interventions and community-forest-based REDD+ projects.

The INDEFOR-AP COBAM project in Equatorial Guinea, Agroforestry and communal forests for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Monte Alén landscape, was part of a series of five pilot projects initiated by CIFOR as part of COBAM. The project was located in the Monte Alén landscape, in the rural communities of Atom (Evinayong district, Centro Sur Province) and Kukumankok (Akonibe district, Wele Nzas Province).

The first phase of the project was implemented from November 2012 to November 2014 by INDEFOR-AP. In this first phase the following was achieved:

- a study of the vulnerability of the two communities,
- the introduction of agroforestry in the communal forests for the adaptation to climate change and its mitigation in the landscape of Monte Alen,
- an inventory of the trees felled on two farms to find out the stock of carbon lost, and
- the sensitization of the population to climate change.

INDEFOR-AP is currently continuing the activity through government funds, planting and maintaining 2 hectares of food, medicinal and other plants within the agricultural plantations of the two villages of Atom and Kukumankok.

ECOFAC

The Regional Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC) is an EU funded programme implemented in several Central African countries. The Equatorial Guinea component was implemented in the Monte Alen National Park from 1992 to 2010.

The specific objectives of the programme were:

- Institutional support: one-off assistance to INDEFOR-AP as the national institution managing the country's protected areas, including Monte Alén National Park;
- Integrated management of the Monte Alén National Park and fight against illegal hunting: assistance of the managers of the park, implementation of ecological monitoring systems, implementation of measures to fight against illegal hunting and improvement of surveillance capacities for illegal hunting, and elaboration of the management plan of the park;
- Reinforcement of operational capacities: training of managers on policy and management mechanisms of protected areas, training of eco-guards and tourist guides, and sensitization of the population adjacent to the park, among other trainings.
- Economic development and fight against poverty: development of alternative activities for the population in peripheral areas in order to reduce pressure on wildlife resources.

The first phase of the project, which lasted three years (with a budget of close to 1 billion $), was oriented towards the recruitment and training of personnel (eco-guards, tourist guides, technicians), the construction of basic conservation infrastructure (offices, tourist hotel, houses for employees, eco-museums, huts, roads, commissaries), and the acquisition of equipment (cars, motorcycles, bicycles for guards, office equipment, field equipment).

The second phase was oriented towards the implementation of the fundamental actions of the project: conservation measures inside the park (patrolling), awareness campaigns about the project and nature conservation, various basic studies for conservation (fauna, flora, anthropology, socio-economics), ecotourism, and community development (commissaries, schools, health posts, experimental farms).

The third phase was the consolidation of what had been acquired and initiated in both the first and second phases.

The fourth phase was implemented from 2007 to 2010. The general objectives of the ECOFAC IV Programme fall within the framework of the implementation of the Convergence Plan of COMIFAC for a better contribution of natural resources in the fight against poverty, namely:

- A multifunctional and sustainable management of territories, agreed between the different stakeholders (populations, administrations, private sector, NGOs), which responds to the imperatives of the international environmental commitments of the States and to the needs of the interested parties;
- A growing recognition by the executives and the population of Central African States and their development partners of the economic and social potential of the biological richness of the ecosystems of the region, and a concretization of their primordial role in the reduction of poverty by the valorisation of their goods and services;
- A reinforcement of the institutional capacities of the States and of the non-state actors for harmonized regional and national policies on the conservation and use of biodiversity by the local population.

During the 3 years of the fourth phase in Equatorial Guinea, 1,646,342 euros were invested, financed by the European Union (960,366 euros) and by the Government of Equatorial Guinea (685,976 euros). The main implementation partners of the project were INDEFOR-AP and ANDEGE.

CARPE

CARPE is a long-term initiative of the United States Government to promote sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation in the Congo Basin through increased local, national, and regional natural resource management capacity. The CARPE program was first authorized by the U.S. Government in 1995 and represents a multi-year, long-term regional initiative divided into three strategic phases. CARPE is currently in its third phase, which will run through 2020.

Phase I of CARPE (1995-2002) centred on gathering information on the Central African forest ecosystem, while simultaneously building regional human resources and institutional capacity. The program began in four countries: the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. Five additional countries were added to the CARPE program before the end of Phase I: Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Sao Tome & Principe.

In January 2003, CARPE began its second strategic phase (CARPE II) to support the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. CARPE II (2003-2012) was a substantially scaled-up operational phase comprising the nine aforementioned countries. The objective of CARPE II was to reduce the rate of deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss in the Congo Basin through increased regional, national, and local capacity for natural resource management. CARPE II was specifically concerned with supporting sustainable natural resource management in the field, improving environmental governance, and strengthening natural resource monitoring capacity in Central Africa. The program implemented systematic land use planning to support forest and biodiversity conservation needs, and established partnerships and mechanisms to create sustainable conservation management systems.

CARPE began the third phase (CARPE III) in 2013. The objective of CARPE III is to maintain the ecological integrity of the humid forest ecosystem of the Congo Basin and to contribute to the goal of accelerating Central Africa's transition to climate-resilient, low-emissions development through sustainable management of biodiverse forests. Building on the investments, results, and lessons learned from the first two phases, activities under CARPE III place a strong emphasis on institutionalizing the conservation monitoring and management approaches developed in CARPE II through individual, organizational, and systems capacity building to ensure that the ecological integrity of the humid forest ecosystem of the Congo Basin is sustained.

Under CARPE III, USAID's landscape-level activities are focused on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. Regional and cross-cutting activities target the six principal forested countries of Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo; and continue to support the coordination of the Greater Virunga Landscape of DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda.

In Equatorial Guinea CARPE funded Conservation International's (CI) activities as the leader of a consortium in the Monte Alen-Monts de Cristal landscape. The objective was to promote integrated landscape management including protected areas and different types of forest concessions as multipurpose. The main activities carried out were:

- Proposal for a national multipurpose forest which was not approved, as the studies were not completed,
- Capacity building of different beneficiary stakeholders and managers of protected areas,
- Flora and fauna studies (census of elephants and large primates, characterization of the vegetation of Monte Mitra and fauna),
- Sensitization of the population within the landscape,
- Socio-economic studies,
- Purchase of diverse field material and vehicles, and
- Elaboration of management plans of Altos de Nsork National Park and Monte Alén National Park.

The second component of CARPE II was the strengthening of civil society for the management of natural resources and governance:

- ANDEGE
    - Monitoring of hunting in Monte Mitra and the state of conservation of protected fauna species.
    - Introduction of fruit trees and wild medicinal plants around Monte Alen and Estuario del Muni

    - Study of the impact of forest exploitation by illegal loggers with chainsaws, in order to elaborate a presidential decree of mitigation.
    - Elaboration of the management plan of Estuario del Muni Natural Reserve
    - Training of the forest-environment sector NGOs on administrative organization, conception, elaboration and implementation of projects
    - Dissemination and information seminar for rural communities and other stakeholders on REDD+ and its benefits in Equatorial Guinea
- COSA NGO: reducing migrant farming and indiscriminate hunting of wild animals in Engong Village, Evinayong. The project was funded but was not finalised, it had no results.
- ADMAD/REFADD:
    - Census of the exploitation of Non-Timber Forest Products in the coastal zone of the continental region of Equatorial Guinea.
    - Introduction of fruit trees and medicinal plants in the agricultural system of the farmers of Altos de Nsork National Park and Piedra NzasNatural Monument. The project was financed without success.

PACEBCo

The Congo Basin Ecosystems Conservation Support Programme (PACEBCo) focuses on ecosystem conservation and resilience to climate change, as well as resilience of indigenous and local populations to climate change. The first phase of the programme was carried out between 2010 and 2017, and was financed by the African Development Bank (28 billion FCFA). The second phase is currently under discussion.

PACEBCo covers four components:

i. Capacity building of the COMIFAC Treaty institutions;
ii. Sustainable management of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change;
iii. Sustainable promotion of the well-being of populations;
iv. Programme management and coordination.

In Equatorial Guinea this program worked within the Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal landscape, through the following partners: RAPAC, IUCN, CI, ZSL, INDEFOR-AP and ANDEGE. The major activities carried out were:

- Elaboration of the management plan of Piedra Nzás Natural Monument,
- Construction of the management centre of Altos de Nsork National Park,
- Diagnosis and mapping update of the protected areas of the Monte Alen landscape,
- Development/update and validation of the management plans of the four protected areas located in the landscape, in collaboration with ANDEGE,
- Negotiation of local land management agreements for 12 villages, in collaboration with the Zoological Society of London, Conservation International and IUCN,
- Preparation of local development plans for the 12 villages identified, in collaboration with ZSL, CI and ANDEGE
- Reinforcement of ecological surveillance and monitoring of protected areas in collaboration with CI and IUCN through:
    - training of guards in combating poaching,
    - training of guards in ecological and socio-economic monitoring
    - establishment of a geographic information system,
- Strengthening the capacities of sustainable use of resources of biodiversity users by training local residents in the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, in collaboration with CI, IUCN and ANDEGE

All activities were not completed because the programme lost a lot of time in getting to the field and funding ended. The second phase is currently being negotiated.

BIOPAMA

The Programme for Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) aims to improve long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas and neighbouring communities of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It aims to strengthen the management and governance of protected areas through better use and monitoring of information and capacity building in management and governance.

This initiative of the ACP Group of States, funded by the eleventh European Development Fund of the European Union, is jointly implemented by IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

BIOPAMA is currently in its six-year second phase (2017-2023), building on from the first phase. It involves an investment of 60 million euros. The direct beneficiaries of the BIOPAMA programme are protected area actors at regional, national and local levels, whose efforts will be supported through the provision of tools, services, capacity building and the possibility of financing actions at site level. For example:

- Environment ministries;
- Biodiversity conservation national agencies;

- Protected areas agencies;
- Regional organizations;
- Local communities living in and around protected areas; and
- Civil society.

BIOPAMA aims to complete and align with existing platforms and initiatives.

Equatorial Guinea has submitted a project proposal which is pending approval. The project proposal includes the Strengthening of the Management of the Monte Alen Landscape: The case of the National Park of Altos de Nsork. The proposal is for two years, with potential funding of 200,000 euros from BIOPAMA.

Regional Project for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin

Six Central African countries of the Congo Basin received a grant from GEF 4 for the implementation, through UNDP (implementing agency), of this regional project, to support an approach and methodology that aim to address the challenge of financing protected areas at local, national and regional levels. The goal of this five year project is to build capacity, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long-term financial sustainability of protected area systems and their associated ecosystems. The project aims to achieve this goal through 3 complementary results:

- Result 1: develop, enhance and strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support sustainable financing of protected areas at national and regional levels
- Result 2: improve existing mechanisms and put in place innovative pilot mechanisms for generating and disbursing revenues in protected areas
- Result 3: strengthen and develop business plans and put in place cost-effective management tools for protected areas and associated ecosystems

Equatorial Guinea is one of the beneficiaries of the grant. The overall funding for the project at regional level amounts to 8,181,818 $ and the COMIFAC is the executing agency. The project implementation started in 2017, and will be completed in 2021.

The expected outcomes for the Equatorial Guinea component of the project are:

- The capacity of state institutions and civil society have improved significantly in their exercise and their effectiveness
- The national capacities for sustainable management of natural resources and environment in the areas of water, soil, forests and management of sanitation and waste are reinforced

In Equatorial Guinea, Altos de Nsork National Park and the Gran Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve (on Bioko island) have been identified as the two pilot sites to design and implement sustainable financing mechanisms.

The project has been working with the support of BIOFIN (The Biodiversity Finance Initiative) to develop sustainable financing mechanisms. A national strategy for sustainable financing of protected areas has been developed. It has been validated at national level and an implementation action plan developed.

Our GEF 7 project will not focus on developing sustainable financing mechanisms as this is currently being addressed by this GEF 4 project.

3.5.2 Past and planned national actions and projects

National Land Use Plan development

A process for developing the national land use plan (LUP) is underway, and was defined as one of the activities in the REDD+ National Investment Plan and driven by the General Directorate of Planning and Territorial Development (GDPTD) of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning. In September 2019 a high-level dialogue workshop was held with representatives from various relevant government bodies and an international expert on the topic. A road map to achieve the development of the plan has been laid out and is to be implemented by the Ministry of finances and planning. The roadmap includes carrying out a diagnosis on current national and legal capacities to develop a LUP (mapping of the key actors to be included in the process, mapping of existing legal and institutional regulations, mapping of existing funding sources); holding a validation workshop on the content of the diagnosis in order to submit it to the government; setting up a technical coordination office; elaborating the LUP (defining the competencies of each stakeholder, defining a legislative framework); and constituting a national steering committee for the LUP. These activities require a budget of 3 billion FCFA.

The current barrier consists in finding sufficient funds to fully implement this roadmap. The government has agreed to fund 50% of the LUP process between 2020 and 2022 (1 500 million FCFA) and is looking for other sources of funding. Discussions on this are underway with CAFI and COMIFAC.

UNDP project: Strengthening Individual, Legal and Institutional Capacities for Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Equatorial Guinea

This project aimed to strengthen individual, legal and institutional capacities, in order to reduce continued land degradation and deforestation, and in the long term achieve sustainable land and forest management.

In addition, this project was designed to be a strategy to foster favourable conditions for promoting a country development policy that takes into account environmental and social concerns for a Millennium Development Goal-oriented development through participatory processes. The project had four outcome components:
1) capacities developed for land and forest management;
2) sustainable land management oriented towards development policies;
3) the medium-term investment plan is established to implement the National Action Plan;
4) an operational management unit with an established training system.

The final evaluation of this project resulted in a 65% success rate.

REDD+

A National REDD+ Strategy and National REDD+ Investment Plan have been developed and aim to guide and support the efforts of all parties involved in the implementation of REDD+, which aims to reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration in forests and improve the management and conservation of carbon stocks. In order to implement the investment plan finances are needed and are being requested through CAFI.

FAO projects

The FAO has carried out several projects in recent years that are relevant to the forestry and biodiversity sector, and for the project design:

Table 5: Presentation of FAO projects in Equatorial Guinea

Project name	Project objective	Brief project description	Duration	Donor
Field Schools to improve the development of agricultural production in Equatorial Guinea	To institutionalize the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach as an effective tool for inclusive learning and agricultural extension that ensures capacity building for small producers, rural development services and cooperative work.	Through various activities such as organizing training workshops for external and internal facilitators, identifying priority crops at the national level, developing good agricultural practices with respect to integrated pest management, strengthening the organization of the value chain and developing strategies for women and youth, among others, this project seeks to achieve the strengthening of the capacity of master trainers and facilitators in the FFS approach, the improvement of production and productivity of small producers and the development of strategies for visibility and institutionalization of the FFS approach in Bioko Island and Bata.	December 2018 - December 2020	FAO Technical Cooperation Programme ($307,000)
Preparatory support to the Designated National Authority (DNA) of Equatorial Guinea to interact with the GCF in the first phases of REDD+ (National Forest Monitoring System, Forest Emission Reference Levels and Forest References)	To lay the foundation for the development of the country programme for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in the forestry and land use sector.	The project aims to strengthen the national capacities of the DNA, the inclusion of different actors involved in consultative processes related to the development of an action plan for the National Forest Inventory, access to finance and the mobilization of the private sector in order to generate an enabling environment for investments at national, regional and international levels. The project also aims to strengthen institutional capacities and provide organizational and technical support, in order to raise awareness in the country about good practices in forest governance. It also aims to assist in building capacity to develop strategies to strengthen the private sector and promote its integration into international markets.	September 2018 - August 2019	Green Climate Fund
Development of Equatorial Guinea's National REDD+ Investment Plan (NIP-REDD+)	To preserve Equatorial Guinea's forests, sustainably manage their resources, contributing effectively to climate	This project aims to develop a National REDD+ Investment Plan for Equatorial Guinea. The plan should be multi-sectoral, based on updated data and studies and supported by a broad consensus. It is to be presented to the CAFI council for possible funding and future implementation. This is done through the following activities: plan for consultation, dissemination, and participation; a study of the	December 2016 - December 2019	CAFI (1 million $)

Project name	Project objective	Brief project description	Duration	Donor
	change mitigation, poverty reduction and sustainable development.	causes of deforestation and degradation in Equatorial Guinea; a historical analysis of deforestation and degradation 2004-2014; the development of a national strategy linked with the national REDD+ investment plan; 2-3 pilot REDD+ investment projects in formulated priority areas and others throughout the country.		
Preparatory support for the Green Climate Fund commitment in Equatorial Guinea	To enable Equatorial Guinea's effective participation in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by strengthening the capacities of the Designated National Authority (DNA) and supporting the formulation of a GCF country programme.	Equatorial Guinea is in its preparatory phase for applying for funding from the GCF to meet international commitments to combat climate change. In this context, this project focuses on strengthening the country's capacity, the insertion of various actors involved in consultative processes, and obtaining identified and nominated candidate entities for accreditation and access to funding through a structured dialogue between the DNA, the accredited entities and the GCF Secretariat. Three important results obtained in its implementation have been the Country Program, the Letter of No Objection and the creation of a national web page.	September 2018 - August 2019	Green Climate Fund
Family Poultry Development Program in Equatorial Guinea	To make a lasting contribution to the development of livestock farming in Equatorial Guinea	To further enhance the development of family poultry farming in Equatorial Guinea, this project seeks to increase national production of poultry products through the improvement of traditional poultry production, support the development of peri-urban commercial poultry farming, improve the health status of birds and strengthen national capacities, in the mainland and on Bioko Island. Examples of activites carried out during this project: training of external trainers and extension workers, vaccination campaigns, identification of extension workers, construction of henhouse-composters.	January 2013 - December 2019	Government of Equatorial Guinea (3.4million $)

Project for the Conservation of the High Socio-Economic Value Ecosystems of the Río Campo Nature Reserve

The project was implemented between 2013 and 2016 with the objective of ensuring the preservation of the forest ecosystems of high economic and social value of the Río Campo Nature Reserve through the systematic monitoring of its important biological diversity.

The total estimated cost of the project was 660,999 euros. 527,501 euros came in the form of a grant from the Congo Basin Forest Fund and the African Development Bank, and 133,497 Euros came from the government. The project was executed by ANDEGE and the main implementing partners were INDEFOR-AP and independent consultants recruited for work on different aspects.

The specific objectives were:

- provide a management structure for the reserve;
- improve the management of the reserve's ecosystems of high economic and social value by strengthening staff capacities;
- elaborate a management strategy for the reserve that contributes to having
    - a governance system,
    - transboundary management with Cameroon and the development of the REDD+ strategy, and
    - the improvement of living conditions of the surrounding population with the implementation of income-generating activities.

WCS project

WCS has been working on nature conservation issues by supporting INDEFOR-AP in the management of coastal protected areas in the continental region of Equatorial Guinea through an ongoing program "Alternatives to the Coastal Population" whose overall objective is to achieve measurable improvements in the quality of life of people living along the continental coast (Rio Campo, Playa Nendji and Punta Ilende) by improving the management of agricultural and fisheries resources through:

- Strengthening the capacity of INDEFOR-AP to manage protected areas,
- Strengthening the capacity of NGOs to support government institutions, and
- Creating, training, implementing agricultural and fishing activities, as well as helping to improve them.

Some of the activities carried out include:

- Construction of models/pilot systems to manage small-scale fishing (in groups),

- Continual technical assistance,
- Support for the elaboration and update of management plans for continental coastal areas,
- Ovens (fish dryers) for the community of Pume,
- Revision and update of the Water and Coastal Law,
- Awareness raising on sea turtles and the importance of the environment aimed at children and youth by TOMAGE

BZS and UWE Bristol project

Since 2018, BZS have partnered with the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) to run a joint conservation project focused on the Critically Endangered Western Lowland Gorilla in Monte Alén National Park, Rio Muni. This project is focused on implementing a long-term monitoring programme for large mammals in the park, working with INDEFOR-AP to help build capacity for wildlife and anthropogenic threat monitoring in the park, and working with local communities to mitigate against human-wildlife conflicts.

TOMAGE

Marine Turtles of Equatorial Guinea (TOMAGE) is a marine turtle research and conservation project. This project is integrated in INDEFOR-AP, and involves marine turtle experts. It is supported by Wildlife Without Borders of US Fish and Wildlife Service with an annual funding between 20,000 and 40,000 euros. It doesn't receive any funds from Equatorial Guinea.

The main objective of TOMAGE is to strengthen and achieve the conservation of marine turtles in Equatorial Guinea, working primarily in education and awareness of the population. The coast of Equatorial Guinea is an important habitat of the sea turtles, as five of the seven marine turtle species (at global level) nest on these shores. All of these species are in danger of extinction.

TOMAGE works in three of the country's protected areas: Río Campo Nature Reserve, Punta Ilende Nature Reserve and Punta Nendjy Scientific Reserve.

The organization works in coastal towns such as Tika, Ilende or Nendyi, thanks to volunteers from Equatorial Guinea and other countries (in the recent past), who carry out work during the breeding season. In Tika there is an eco-museum, built in 2007. It is a traditional architecture cabin, which serves as a tool to raise awareness among visitors and local people for the conservation of sea turtles. Unfortunately it is currently in a poor state due to the rise in sea levels.

Some of the actions TOMAGE carries out are:

- search for endangered eggs to protect them in prefabricated nests that are watched and cared for, so that new-born babies can survive and be released in the ocean,
- night patrols on the beach to monitor nests and turtles,
- data collection and analysis for protection and research purposes,
- training of INDEFOR-AP staff and awareness-raising of local population in schools and villages (including schools in Bata and university students) and through the media,
- eco-tourism and handicrafts (handicraft workshops for locals and students)

Since it was born in 2007, to date, TOMAGE has managed to release more than 8,000 turtles into the sea, rescue more than 50 turtles, and monitor the turtles that nest in the protected areas of the continental coast.

The organisation currently employs a National Director, 2 INDEFOR-AP technicians, 6 beach workers (2 in the south coast, 2 taking care of the Rio Campo eco-museum, 1 patrolling the Tica beach in Rio Campo, 1 does verification of what the fishermen fish). TOMAGE also supports 4 eco guards from Rio Campo Nature Reserve with per diems for occasional field work. This is also the case for student volunteers from Bata and the coordinator.

TOMAGE works in collaboration with other national conservation organizations, other than INDEFOR-AP, such as the Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program, the NGO ANDEGE and the Faculty of Environment of the UNGE.

The NGO has plans to build a few more eco-museums in other areas of the coast and renovate/rebuild the existing one, but the challenge is obtaining the funds to do this and to ensure continuous maintenance once the structures are built.

3.5.3 GEF interventions

The main GEF intervention projects linked with the current project in Equatorial Guinea are:

Table 6: Related GEF interventions in Equatorial Guinea

ID	Project Title	Grant and Co-financing	Implementing Agencies	Implementation Countries	Period	Project Objectives	Project Duration
10120	Enhancing Equatorial Guinea's institutional and technical capacity in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector for enhanced transparency under the Paris Agreement	$863,242 $695,561	FAO	Equatorial Guinea	GEF-7	In line with national priorities, this project will strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU) sector to respond to the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement	2020 – 2023 (3 years)
10034	Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea.	$5,329,455 $18,186,100	FAO	Equatorial Guinea	GEF-6	To conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks and promote sustainable livelihoods through community-based sustainable forest and land management	2020 – 2024 (5 years)
5454	Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the Member Countries of the Central African Forests Commission COMIFAC	$1,762,557 $9,200,000	UNEP	Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Congo DR	GEF-5	Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of its basic provisions by the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)	??? (3 years)
5191	Preparation of National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) in response to Climate Change in Equatorial Guinea	$200,000 $220,000	UNDP	Equatorial Guinea	GEF-5	To develop National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for Equatorial Guinea following a participatory process to address the most immediate climate related risks	2013 – 2018 (5 years)
3960	CBSP-Capacity Building for Regional Coordination of Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin under the GEF Program for the Congo Basin	$815,000 $3,026,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF-4	To strengthen COMIFAC's capacity for regional coordination in line with the objectives of the Convergence Plan and with specific focus on the GEF Congo Basin Strategic Program	2011 – 2015 (4 years)
3822	CBSP - A Regional Focus on Sustainable Timber Management in the Congo Basin	$3,075,681 $13,843,067	UNEP	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF-4	To promote a harmonized regional approach to the sustainable management of production forests in the Congo Basin	2012 – 2017 (5 years)
3779	CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin	$13,000,000 $60,300,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF-4	To strengthen the capacities of the Congo Basin countries on REDD+ issues and on forest carbon stocks measurements	2012 – 2018 (6 years)
3757	CBSP – Strengthening the National System of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea for the effective conservation of representative	$1,768,182 $4,932,800	UNDP	Equatorial Guinea	GEF-4	To reduce or eliminate the policy, legal, capacity, and socio-economic barriers that now prevent EG's protected areas system function to protect globally significant biodiversity	2010 – 2019 (9 years)

	ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity						
2906	CBSP Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin	$8,181,818 $26,397,000	UNDP	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea	GEF-4	To have in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long-term financial sustainability of PA systems and associated ecosystems within the Congo Basin	2011 – ongoing
47	Regional Environment and Information Management Project (REIMP)	$4,077,000 $15,850,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF-1	This project establishes a demand-driven, action-oriented environmental information database for the tropical forest region of central Africa to support decision-making and to build up national capacity for environmental monitoring, land-use planning, and conservation priority setting. Strong emphasis will be put on capacity building in the public and private sectors to use such data, on creating an integrated, standardized regional information network for data sharing, on connecting data suppliers and users to the electronic highway, and on defining and developing specific products desired by end users.	1998 – 2004 (6 years)

The table in Appendix 9.4 ‘Current and past GEF interventions in the Equatorial Guinea’, details all the GEF interventions in the country.

Additional information on 3 GEF projects that have a particular relevance is given below.

3.5.3.1 Strengthening the National System of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea for the effective conservation of representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity

The goal of this project was to ensure conservation of globally significant biodiversity and representative ecosystems in EG, and the objective was to make EG's protected area system effective in protecting species and ecosystem-level biodiversity. In order to achieve these objectives, three components were proposed:

• A policy framework and strategy for the management of PAs is developed;

• Improved institutional and individual capacities for the management of PAs; and

• Sustainable PA management approaches demonstrated in 3 pilot sites (originally the project was to pilot 3 sites although it ended up working in 5 PAs).

The project was to be executed by UNDP and implemented by Conservation International (CI) and the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment. CI left the country in 2012 and the project then operated under a mix of direct implementation by UNDP, and national implementation through a sequence of different Government Ministries and Agencies. The project was first implemented through the Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, then by the newly created Ministry of Forests and Environment and finally by the newly created shell of INCOMA that also hosts the GEF Operational Focal Point and which was by law expected to become the national PA Agency.

The project was officially signed on November 23rd, 2010. The Prodoc established a 4-year implementation period. Due to presidential elections and restructuring of government administration affecting the project's governance and difficulties encountered during the initial phase, it took UNDP and the Government almost four years to officially start the project and it was executed over a period of five years, from 2014 to 2019.

The project operated during much of its lifetime without an actual project team, except from late 2014 to 2016 when an international CTA was hired, ensuring project management with INCOMA. Also, during most of the project's lifespan, UNDP did not have a dedicated environment program officer supervising the achievement of outcomes and outputs. In addition, no Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established to guide the project.

Overall, the level of achievement of the project's outcomes was considerably low as only one of the three outcomes was rated as Moderately Satisfactory (component 1), and none of the project targets were met. The M&E of the project was evaluated as Unsatisfactory, and no lessons learnt were developed by the project. As a result, it is difficult to establish how the IUCN GEF project will be able to build on this GEF UNDP project. However, the project's terminal evaluation makes certain observations and recommendations that have been taken into consideration in project design:

- Although not directly related to the project's doing, the country is experiencing certain legal, institutional and financial changes which ought to help manage the NSPA more effectively -> This shows that political will to conserve biodiversity in EG is gradually strengthening, the proposed project will be able to build on this and contribute to strengthening it further.
- Ensure biodiversity conservation and NSPA strengthening projects are hosted within INDEFOR-AP -> The institutional framework of the proposed project plans for the execution of the project to be under the responsibility of the IUCN, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment, INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA. The project staff will be hosted by INDEFOR-AP, whose execution capacity will be built by IUCN throughout the project.
- The institutional and individual capacity remains a serious gap towards sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas (NSPA) -> The proposed project plans on addressing this gap through several capacity building activities at various levels of INDEFOR-AP, national and local government (ministries and agencies), PA law enforcement and local communities, through trainer of trainer activities, where relevant, to ensure sustainability of training.
- The project organized sensitization and capacity building campaigns and medium level technicians were trained although there is no clarity as to what the participants were trained -> further capacity building will be provided, as described above, and sensitization campaigns developed in outcome 4.1.
- Future conservation projects require strong community development work for conservation. The impacts of the project on communities has been insignificant and deserves to be strengthened -> This will be addressed through the development of alternative livelihood activities in component 3, as well as through governance assessments in component 2.
- The project supported the elaboration of the Draft Law of Protected Areas as well as the Law on Biodiversity, and lobbied politically for their approval, which is still in process -> The proposed project will continue and build on this work with output 1.2.1.
- The PA management plans which were to be produced by the project were not concluded -> the proposed project will update the management plans of the 5 target project PAs.
- The project produced a highly educational documentary "*El Secreto del Bosque*", the first nature documentary filmed in EG -> this will be used and built on for outcome 4.1 on awareness raising.

Finally, the terminal evaluation report states that “The GoEG has recently started prioritizing biodiversity conservation financially through the NSPA but still requires the assistance from development cooperation funds, such as GEF, to further improve the legal, institutional and managerial capacities”. This underlines the important of the proposed IUCN GEF project.

3.5.3.2 Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin

The project design calls for utilising GEF funding to address barriers to PA financial sustainability within six Congo Basin countries. According to this demonstration approach, approaches to removal of individual barriers would be demonstrated in one or more countries and at pilot PAs, with the resulting lessons captured and shared at national and regional levels and made available for replication. This approach will be further strengthened through a strong reliance on partnerships with donors and other stakeholders across the region that are active in support to PAs and/or PA finance, as a means of covering more ground and stimulating replication. In this way, the project offers a comprehensive yet realistic approach to the challenge of sustainable PA financing across the region and thus provides tangible support to the regional Plan de Convergence.

The project offers an approach and a methodology for addressing the PA financing challenge at local, national and regional levels. Its objective is to have in place capacities, institutional frameworks and model mechanisms for the long term financial sustainability of PA systems and associated ecosystems within six Congo Basin countries, including Equatorial Guinea. It aims to achieve this objective through three interconnected and complementary outcomes: (i) Outcome 1: Legal, policy and institutional frameworks to support sustainable conservation financing strengthened at regional and national levels; (ii) Outcome 2: Enhanced / innovative revenue generation, management and disbursement mechanisms piloted; (iii) Outcome 3: Business planning and cost effective management tools applied at PAs and associated landscapes.

This project is still currently underway and has experienced many delays in implementation. The Equatorial component of the project is the least advanced of the 6 project countries. At this stage and not knowing how the project will have progressed at IUCN GEF project inception, it is challenging to determine how the IUCN GEF project will be able to build on the UNDP GEF project advances and lessons learnt. However, exchanges will take place with the UNDP GEF project team at IUCN GEF project inception to discuss potential collaboration and synergies. The UNDP’s project logical framework has been reviewed and no duplications seem to exist with the IUCN GEF project proposed.

3.5.3.3 Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea

The project objective is to conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks and promote sustainable livelihoods through a new model of land and forest management with demonstrated economic, social and environmental viability, and potential for expansion. The project will contribute to social equity and gender equality by supporting women-led initiatives and promoting their active role in decision making, land-use activities and equal access to natural resources. To achieve the objective there will be a multi-level intervention, at policy, institutional and field levels. The project focuses on specific priority interventions defined in the country’s REDD+ National strategy, with a multi-sectoral approach and the engagement of multiple stakeholders (government institutions, communities, private sector, civil society and academia).

The project will be implemented in the framework of the following components:

- Component 1: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework and capacity for sustainable land and forest management.
- Component 2: Promoting a sustainable model of land and forest management for climate change mitigation.
- Component 3: Developing inclusive agriculture value chains for climate change mitigation.
- Component 4: Monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of best practices.

FAO will serve as the GEF agency accompanying INCOMA, INDEFOR and INPAGE in the execution of the project. This project should start being implemented a year before the IUCN GEF project, then both projects will be carried out in parallel.

The FAO GEF project will be complementary to the activities of the IUCN GEF project presented in this document. In terms of strengthening of the policy and institutional framework, the FAO project will focus on tenure governance related to land and forest in general (Forestry Law 1/1997 and the Land Ownership Regime Act 4/2009) whereas the IUCN GEF project will focus on the governance of protected areas (Protected Areas Law). The FAO project will work more closely with the private sector on sustainable and legal timber production. It will also work with 3 villages in the Litoral district, south of Bata on developing pilot community land and forest management plans. These villages are outside the IUCN project landscapes but the results of these activities will be considered when developing local land use plans with communities in the IUCN project, so as to build on lessons learnt. Furthermore, the FAO project will work towards developing sustainable agricultural value chains: coffee and coconut oil. These activities will be carried out outside the

IUCN project landscapes, but their outcomes will be considered in developing the alternative livelihoods activities so as to develop synergies.

3.5.4 Gaps to be filled

A number of major projects and programmes designed to address threats to biodiversity, forest and natural resources have been carried out by international organisations in the recent past in various locations across the continental region of Equatorial Guinea. However, there is a limited number of projects and stakeholders operating at present despite the persistence of a variety of threats to forest ecosystems. On-the-ground interventions and additional support is required to complement and upscale existing and past interventions implemented within the project landscapes. In this way, although the project will not fully resolve all identified threats and barriers, it will contribute to addressing them. In addition, while policy and legislative review is also an objective of existing projects, this work will require ongoing attention to strengthen, establish and maintain suitable frameworks to achieve sound and sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and other land based assets.

In conclusion, an analysis of past and present initiatives in Equatorial Guinea reveals a number of gaps to be filled (in line with identified threats and barriers), that the project will contribute to filling.

Gaps to be filled	Project contribution to fill gaps
No cooperation with Gabon and limited cooperation with Cameroon on transboundary natural resource management;	Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (output 1.1.1)
The absence of cadaster and land use plans at all levels, leading to conflicting land uses;	Contribution to the development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes (output 1.3.1), in synergy with the national land use planning process
Insufficient technical capacity of relevant government personnel to plan and make decisions for the sustainable use of natural resources;	Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources (output 1.2.2)
Knowledge gaps in government administrations on the NPAS and its related legal framework, leading to lack of consideration of the protected areas in land-use planning decisions;	Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources (output 1.2.2)
Insufficient human, financial and technical capacity of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, to carry out its roles and responsibilities regarding the management of protected areas;	INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA recognised as an efficient and reliable institution to manage international donor funds (output 2.1.1), enhanced management plans of PA in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes (output 2.1.2), enhanced protected areas resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PA) (output 2.1.3), participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing PA, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes (output 2.1.4)
Insufficient law enforcement regarding natural resources, in protected areas, forest concessions and the wider landscape;	Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing PA, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes (output 2.1.4)

Gaps to be filled	Project contribution to fill gaps
Knowledge gaps and limited understanding regarding the value of ecosystems and the impacts of human activities (in particular infrastructure development) on these ecosystems, at all levels;	Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights in such policies (output 1.2.1), Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources (output 1.2.2)
Lack of community involvement/participation in land use planning, decision-making processes and governance regarding the management and use of natural resources and of protected areas;	Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes (output 1.3.1), governance and management assessments are carried out at PA levels with communities (output 2.1.2), multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures (output 1.3.2)
Lack of opportunities for communities surrounding protected areas to develop environmentally sustainable livelihood activities, including lack of opportunities for alternative protein sources	Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model (output 3.1.1), technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (output 3.1.2)
Lack of a robust legal framework for the sustainable management of production forests (including unclear land tenure and access rights) and inconsistency of application of current legal framework.	Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in project landscapes, to reduce impact on forests (output 3.2.1)

4 INTERVENTION STRATEGY (ALTERNATIVE)

4.1 Project rationale and expected global environmental benefits

The project will contribute to combatting ecosystem degradation by supporting the development of integrated land use plans, at the local levels; providing capacity building for a wide range of stakeholders, at all levels; working to improve community participation in management of natural resources through enhanced governance structures; and providing appropriate technical inputs for the development of policies and regulatory frameworks that lead to improved land use planning. The project will strive to carry out a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach in implementing its activities, in order to promote inter-institutional cooperation.

In addition, the project will contribute to biodiversity conservation by supporting improved management of the landscapes' protected areas through capacity building of the stakeholders involved, increased law enforcement patrols and enhanced infrastructure. The development of sustainable alternative livelihoods by local communities will be driven by the project, and will decrease pressure on the landscapes' natural resources. Awareness on environmental issues and the conservation of natural resources will be raised at the national and local levels, targeting government officials, rural and urban dwellers and school students.

The project interventions undertaken at the landscape and local levels will lead to reduced unsustainable logging and poaching, as well as to enhanced land use planning. These interventions will have important benefits for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning and carbon sequestration. The project will contribute to protecting a globally recognized forest ecosystem, the Congo Basin forests, which hold national, regional and global importance, against further biodiversity loss.

Decreased forest eco-system degradation and improved management of natural resources will also contribute to climate change mitigation by halting the release of GHG emissions through avoided deforestation. The project interventions and the benefits that arise from them will also participate in addressing some of the core issues that led to the covid-19 pandemic, and will participate in reducing the risk of future pandemics arising.

4.2 Project goal and expected impact

The goal of this project is to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and forest ecosystems in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea through an inclusive landscape approach, effective land use planning, enhanced management of protected areas and sustainable livelihood options. In achieving this goal, the degradation of forest ecosystems will be reduced and there will be a multiplication of co-benefits.

The project interventions will lead to improved community livelihoods through the diversification of income-generating sources, increased direct economic value and benefits from natural resources, and increased resilience to the effects associated with climate change. At the national level, baseline information gathered on natural resources and other variables as well as capacity building will contribute to sound and efficient decision making in Equatorial Guinea with regards to land use and natural resources. The project interventions will also contribute to informing meta-analyses at the regional level, thereby supporting the sustainable management of natural resources in the Congo Basin as a whole. In addition, the project will promote and support conservation activities, including transboundary collaboration, improved governance of protected areas, the development of alternative livelihoods, and land use planning processes. This will include addressing current knowledge gaps and insufficient capacities of relevant stakeholders.

The logic of intervention of the project is:

- to support the developpement of land use plans at the local levels to avoid conflicting land uses having a detrimental impact on natural resources;
- to promote the adoption of improved livelihoods in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes, based on the sustainable use of natural resources to compensate for the loss of income resulting from the presence of protected areas (reducing detrimental logging and poaching);
- to support INDEFOR-AP in improving the management of the landscapes' protected areas (monitoring, law enforcement, infrastructure, training…).

The project will enable community investments to be carried out in a sustainable way for natural resources and then be duplicated through a favourable enabling environment and financing that will support good practices. The project aims to seed fund activities so they can be duplicated and have positive impacts on communities' livelihoods. A particular emphasis will be placed on involving women and youth throughout the project.

Equatorial Guinea has limited experience in land use related projects. Considering this, it is important to start with the basics in order to achieve change: carry out diagnosis studies, identify the problems and challenges, propose solutions, design strategies and action plans, and build capacity before finally implementing plans and recommendations. In addition, the project aims to create stronger political understanding, capacity and will towards protecting the country's forest ecosystems, through capacity building, and thus support and catalyse change.

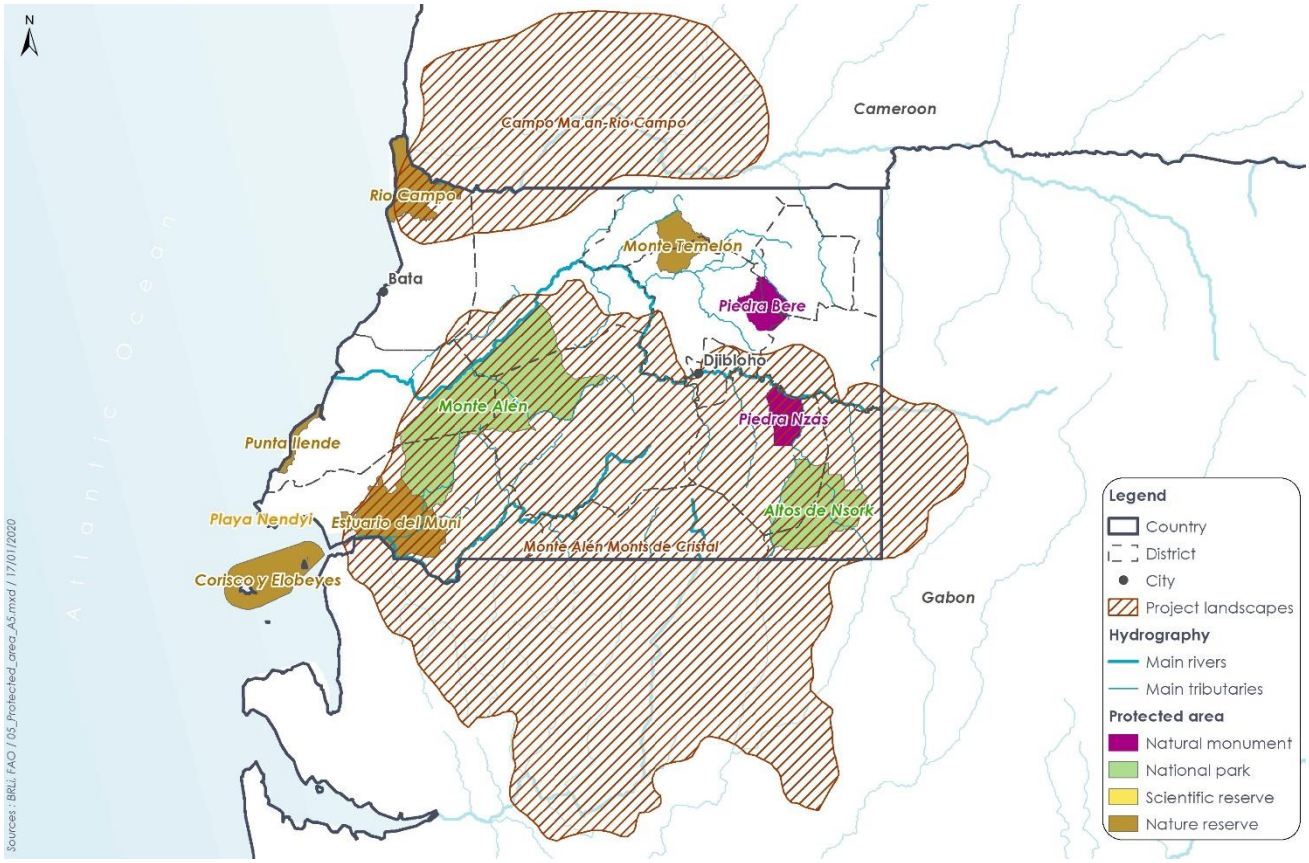
Without the project's interventions, ecosystem degradation will have a direct and negative impact on the local population, including on many endemic species that depend on these habitats. In addition, the goods and services forest ecosystems produce will diminish (e.g. water resources regulation, carbon sequestration, food production, climate regulation, pollution control). In keeping with the landscape approach the project will collaborate with the GEF Cameroon, Gabon and Regional projects.

4.3 Project implementation sites description

4.3.1 Presentation of the project forest landscapes

The map below shows the transboundary landscapes targeted by the project, as well as the five specific protected areas that will be the focus of project implementation: Monte Alen National Park, Altos de Nsork National Park, Piedra Nzas Natural Monument, Rio Muni Nature Reserve, Rio Campo Nature Reserve. These landscapes and implementation sites are presented in more detail in the sections below.

Figure 14: Map of the Monte Alen – Monts de Cristal and Campo Ma'an Rio Campo landscapes



4.3.1.1 General presentation of the Monte Alen landscape

The landscape of Monte Alén - Monts de Cristal stretches across the south and southeast of Equatorial Guinea and the northwest of Gabon. It covers about 26,747 km², south of the Rio Wele, with about 13,373 km² within Equatorial Guinea. The landscape stretches along a plateau and several mountain ranges. Rainfall varies from 2000 mm in the east to 2800 mm in the west. The Equatorial Guinea side of the landscape includes the National Parks of Monte Alén and Altos de Nsork, as well as the Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve and the Piedra Nzas Natural Monument, covering 349,000 hectares. The Gabon part of the landscape has two protected areas: Monts SENI National Park and Mbe National Park. The highest point of the landscape is Monte Mitra, situated in Equatorial Guinea, with a peak of 1200 m. It is the culminating point of the Niefang chain which runs from southwest to northeast. The landscape is characterised by a high biological diversity, both in terms of fauna and flora, and which is threatened by infrastructure, agricultural activities,

poaching, forest exploitation without sustainable management plans, lack of land use planning, weak management institutions etc. Forest concessions account for 65% of the Monte Alen landscape forests, protected areas account for 27% and subsistence agriculture and other uses for 8%.

In terms of the cultural and socio-economic context, the landscape population is approximately 122,000 inhabitants with an average density of 16-18 inhabitants/km² in Equatorial Guinea and 0.6 inhabitants/km² in Gabon. The landscape is populated by the Fang ethnic group (there are no other ethnic groups in this landscape). There is no official religion, but the majority are Catholic (86.1%). The inhabitants are organized in families and a concentration of families in a common space forms a village. The village is governed by the head of each tribe and by the president of the village council. A set of villages makes up the urban district, municipality or district, as the case may be.

Niefang and Evinayong are the main urban centres of the landscape, with about 37,000 and 36,000 inhabitants respectively. Niefang is situated 4km north of Monte Alen National Park whilst Evinayong is situated in the middle of the landscape, between Monte Alen National Park and Piedra Nzas Natural monument. Cogo (23,000 inhabitants), Aconibe (20,000 inhabitants), and Nsork (16,000 inhabitants) are the secondary urban centres of the landscape. All these towns are connected by an important network of tared roads.

The main economic activities of the Fang ethnic group found in the landscape are agriculture, hunting, logging (industrial and informal), traditional fishing, collection of other non-timber forest products, and small local businesses. The main sources of income are cassava, peanuts, bananas, forest animals, livestock (pigs and sheep) and small trade (sugar cane, maize and vegetables), as well as the production of cultural and artisanal tools. Some construction companies are also present within the landscape.

This landscape was defined by CARPE with the following objectives:
1. To plan the conception and implementation of the territorial management of the landscape, in the protected areas, forest concessions and community areas within it.
2. To promote the governance of natural resources by formulating environmental policies and legal reforms, and a micro-grant programme for civil society organisations for the conservation of the landscape.

The main threats to the biodiversity of the Monte Alén landscape are:
- Poaching and the sale of bush meat;
- Unsustainable industrial exploitation of forests as a consequence of low compliance with laws and regulations concerning the protection of biodiversity;
- Illegal logging (informal, for commercial and subsistence use);
- Lack of stable funding and sufficient staff to control the landscape;
- Deforestation and forest degradation caused by the proliferation of road networks and the construction of other infrastructure, as well as agricultural expansion;
- Extraction of non-timber forest products for household consumption and commercialization (CIFOR, 2014).

The four protected areas of the Monte Alen landscape were all created by Law number 4/2000 on Protected Areas in Equatorial Guinea. INDEFOR-AP is responsible for the management of these areas.

For each of the protected areas, the surrounding inhabitants exert certain pressures on the conservation areas. To achieve conservation objectives as well as allow social and economic development of the local population, the law provides for delimitating the protected areas into different zones, each with specific objectives and uses (see section 3.1.4.2 of the document for more detail). This zoning is currently being demarcated in Piedra Nzas Natural Monument. It has not yet been implemented in any of the other protected areas of the Monte Alen landscape.

4.3.1.2 General presentation of the Rio Campo landscape

The Rio Campo landscape covers the northern coastal strip of the continental region of Equatorial Guinea bordering the Republic of Cameroon. It includes the Río Campo Nature Reserve and the nearby forests of this reserve in the northern part of the Niefang district. The area is connected to the Campo Ma'an National Park in Cameroon and very probably constitutes an extension of the Pleistocene refuge recently found in this protected area. In addition to the presence of endangered species such as leopards, golden cats, chimpanzees and some of the last hippos in the country, there is a possibly important gorilla population in this area. This is one of the reasons that the Nature Reserve is currently being considered by INDEFOR-AP as a potential area for expansion to the east, to become a National Park (of at least 71,000 hectares, see figure 8).

Like the landscape of Monte Alén, the pluviometry of the area, the diversity of habitats, namely mainland forests (primary, secondary), riverbank forests (primarily along the Ntem river), swampy forests and coastal forests (mangroves), and the presence of species of animals emblematic of the sub-region (elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, goliath frogs, some hippos) are important values of this landscape.

There are four ethnic groups that cohabit in this landscape: the Fang, the Baseke, the Ndowe (or Kombe), and the Bisio (or Bujeba). The Fang is the majority ethnic group. The Fang live inland, they are a forest people that live from hunting,

foraging and agriculture (shifting cultivation), whereas the three other ethnic groups live along the coast and are fishermen. According to field consultations, the four groups cohabit peacefully and there is no particular hierarchy or discrimination between them. The main economic activities that take place in the landscape are: (i) artisanal fishing carried out by the coastal inhabitants (of the Ndowe, Bisio and Baseke ethnic groups); (ii) activities that affect the forests (traditional shifting cultivation, hunting, logging), which are mostly carried out by the Fang ethnic group. In addition, small business activities take place in the town of Rio Campo and in the villages that make up the landscape. There is also employment provided by a few construction and forestry companies operating in the area. As this is a transboundary zone, there is an important presence of the police and military.

The action of humans have caused the forest in this area to be reduced by half in the last 30 years. The greatest reduction of the forest has taken place in areas close to the coast. In contrast, places like the Niefang mountain range, due to its difficult access, seem to have been relatively well preserved.

The Yaoundé Declaration (March 1999) recognizes that the protection of forests requires a regional and policy approach, coordinated among countries and well implemented across political boundaries. The sub-regional Convergence Plan adopted by the ministers responsible for forests, through COMIFAC, puts transboundary collaboration at the centre of biodiversity conservation priorities. It proposes a transboundary management of natural resources between the protected areas of Rio Campo in Equatorial Guinea and Campo Ma'an in Cameroon, resulting in joint efforts on issues related to research, monitoring and evaluation, the fight against illegal hunting, mobilization of resources, exchange of information and experiences. That said, the specific collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea has not yet been finalized and signed by both parties. Actual on ground collaboration on managing natural resources has therefore not yet begun.

4.3.1.3 Socio-economic aspects common to both project landscapes

A widespread public consultation carried out by the FAO shows that the majority of the population perceives the forest as an integral part of their lives, a source of food (fruits, snails, worms, oil, game meat), medicines (seeds and bark), building materials (walls and ceilings of houses, boats or canoes from the ceiba tree), household goods (furniture, baskets, plates, ropes, climbing bows for palm trees) and income, as well as an element of protection for their houses and crops against the winds. The population uses multiple non-timber forest products. In Equatorial Guinea, at least 154 species are used for medicinal purposes, 17 of which are commonly traded (MBPMA, 2000). It is estimated that non-timber forest products could represent up to 42% of rural incomes (Obama, 1998). Some of these products are even exported to international markets. In addition, the population considers the itinerant crops as an integral element of the forest, and therefore vital for their food security. Forests also have a cultural and spiritual significance: some trees are considered sacred; forest products are used in ancestral ceremonies (paintings, traditional costumes, etc.). There are spirits of the forests, and sacred places in their interior where ceremonies and rituals are celebrated (FAO 2018). Other than goods, the forest also provides services to the population, for example sedimentation and flooding control, microclimate regulation, and carbon capture.

Livelihood activities

During the PPG field mission, focus group discussions and interviews were carried out in the two project landscapes. The details of the consultation programme are presented in annex 9.3. The following communities were consulted:

- Proximity to Piedra Nzas Natural Monument: Afanam
- Proximity to Altos de Nsork National Park: Engong, Masa and Esong Cdo
- Proximity to Monte Alen National Park: Santa Cruz, Atom, Engong Cdo, and Dumasi
- Proximity and within Rio Campo Nature Reserve: Bongoro and Ayamiken

These communities were chosen with the help of national consultants and INDEFOR-AP to be representative of the landscapes.

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people of the landscapes, followed by hunting, fishing, logging and sawing wood, harvesting NTFPs and making handicrafts. Food crops contribute to the food security of families and in some cases the commercialisation of surplus production generates substantial income.

The data collected in the field show a certain gender specificity in the activities carried out by the local communities of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes. Apart from agriculture, which is practised by both men and women, the field interviews revealed that hunting and logging and sawing wood are mainly male activities (men and youth). The gathering of non-timber forest products is practised by women, with the exception of vines, which are harvested in the forest by men for local handicrafts.

The table below presents the main economic activities carried out by the communities, the challenges faced in each of them and the gender aspects (a separate and specific section on gender analysis is presented further below).

The development of income generating activities is restricted by the fact that the rural populations of the landscapes have limited access to financial services. There are no micro-finance structures in the landscape that grant loans. As a

result, without access to formal financial services, women turn to informal financing channels. This is a system of community self-help that consists in putting money into a common fund and receiving money on a rotating basis. The sums collected are so derisory that they are generally reinvested in the running of the household.

Information gathered during the interviews reveals the non-existence of a livestock production activity in the communities of the two landscapes as there is no breeding tradition. The animals are not in stables or closed plots, they move around the villages freely. Animals found in the villages are chicken, ducks, sheep and pigs.

However, the village of Dumasi requested the support of the project to set up pig and sheep breeding units. Indeed, they find themselves caught between the development of the Niefang district on one side and the limits imposed by the Monte Alen National Park on the other. Furthermore, the area of forest they dedicate to agricultural activities is often visited by wildlife which damages the crops. As a result, the community wishes to move towards livestock farming.

Table 7: Characteristics and challenges of community livelihood activities in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes

Activity	Characteristics	Issues raised	Gender aspects
Agriculture	- Shifting cultivation (no sedentary forms of farming) - Subsistence food crops: cassava, taro, banana, yam, cucumber, peanut, plantain, pepper, eggplant, etc.	- Small surface areas and low productivity, use of rudimentary instruments - Aging of farmers and absence of manpower due to rural exodus - Effects of climate change: changing weather patterns, heavy rainfall followed by heat - Absence of phyto-sanitary products - Ignorance of new cultivation techniques - Difficulty in commercialising agricultural production despite a good road network - Absence of community-based organizations - Human/wildlife conflicts (with elephants, gorillas, cane rats)	- Joint activity (male/female) - Division of labour by gender: Men: clearing, slashing, stump removal Women: weeding, planting, harvesting, processing and marketing - Single women and widows use hired labour for the big clearing works
Hunting	- Practised year round - Techniques used: traps and rifles - Hunting concerns all species regardless of their protection status, apart from animals representing "totems" which are prohibited	- No compliance with regulations on protected species - Hunting within the PAs - Eco guards do not enforce hunting regulations because they also hunt - Strong pressure on wildlife from hunters from other localities who set up bush camps - Forest tracks and new roads facilitate poachers' access to PAs	- Predominantly male activity - Important source of income for men
Fishing	- Flagship activity for the local communities of the Rio Campo landscape, and an annex activity for those of the Monte Alen landscape - Collective activity (2 to 4 people) - Angling and net fishing practised in Rio Campo, intended for commercialization - Angling and artisanal fishing practised in Monte Alen, primarily for household consumption with the surplus being commercialised - Equipment used: dugout canoe, outboard motor, nets... - Practiced year round	- Overexploitation of the marine fishing resources in Rio Campo (competition of local fishermen with fishermen coming from Bata) - Absence of adequate fishing equipment for local fishermen - Absence of equipment required to store and conserve fish - Ignorance of and non-compliance with the regulations in force on fishing - Difficulties in obtaining necessary inputs (fishing equipment and materials, very high cost of lubricants, lack of fuel depots, lack of ice…)	- Practised by men in Rio Campo (marine fishing) - Practised by both men and women in Monte Alen (river fishing). The men fish with lines and nets in large rivers during periods of receding water levels. Women fish at dams and in small streams near villages.
Harvesting of NTFP	- Supplementary/side activity - Collection of medicinal plants, barks, nuts, wild fruit and mushrooms (seasonal products) - Often a seasonal source of income but practiced in all seasons for certain products (e.g. maranthacea and vines) - Part of household food security - The forest is the place where cultural knowledge is passed on to future generations	- Not valued enough, products are not processed, only consumed or sold in the markets - Access restriction to NTFP in PA forests	- Harvesting of products done predominantly by women, although men harvest vines used for making crafts - Marketing of products done by the women
Logging	- Side activity also important from a social/economic point of view - Wood cut into slats / rafters - Products for home construction and sale - Logs used for manufacturing of local handicrafts (mortar, pestle, stool, etc.)	- Unlawful practice, no compliance with timber and PA regulations; - Wood sometimes logged inside PAs	- Activity carried out by men

Activity	Characteristics	Issues raised	Gender aspects
Craft making	- Products made : baskets, mortars, pestles, drums, smokers, nets, traps, dugout canoes, etc.	- Disappearance of this skill, disinterest of the youth	- Activity practiced mostly by men
Product processing	- Concerns cassava and sugar cane - Products sold in the communities or in the markets	- Important difficulties in commercialising the processed products - Difficult working conditions - Handcrafted and rustic material - Hygiene conditions not respected for the production of sugar cane wine - Lack of community-based organizations	- Carried out by men and women in the case of sugar cane - Processing cassava into sticks is exclusively a female activity - These activities are a significant source of income for both men and women - Women are in charge of selling the products

In addition to livelihood activities for the generation of income, women are in charge of all household and domestic activities (cooking meals, looking after children, collecting firewood and water…). The children (girls) work with the women to collect firewood and provide drinking water for the preparation of meals. The married women (daughters-in-law) or the daughters left behind in the family provide care for the elderly.

Basic social infrastructure

Health	All the localities that were visited have health centres, but not all of them are functional either due to dilapidated buildings or to the lack of a community health worker. The health centres provide communities with primary health care. The diseases with a high prevalence in the project area are: malaria, bilharzia and diarrhoea. The health situation in these areas is of concern due to the low capacity of the health services to take care of the communities and the low availability of medicine. The impression therefore is that the population is left to take care of itself. In addition, the lack of health infrastructure pushes communities to resort to traditional medicine.
Water	Certain communities benefited from the installation of human-powered water pumps (with support from PACEBCo), but most other localities in the project area do not have access to drinking water. Water is fetched from the rivers close to the villages. This chore is carried out by women and children. The water from these sources is not always safe to drink. Under these conditions, women and children are the most exposed to water-borne diseases.
Education	Primary schools are present in all the villages of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes. These schools can be a means of sensitization and education of children on the importance of natural resources and the environment. Furthermore, there is limited access to higher education and training for the men and women of the landscapes. This is the case with regards to agricultural knowledge for instance, the communities are on the fringe of technological innovations in both production and processing. Agriculture is carried out on the basis of empirical knowledge transmitted from mother to daughter.
Road network	The Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes have a very good network of tarred roads, which represents a significant asset for the economic development of these areas. In principle, the movement of people and goods should be facilitated by such a road network, but in reality this is not the case. Indeed, vehicles transporting people and goods are far and few between and the price of transport is very high, making it difficult for communities to travel.
Energy	Most homes are lit with kerosene lamps. However, the more affluent have generators. Firewood is the main source of energy used in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes for domestic needs. It is used as fuel for cooking. The firewood is collected in the forest, it is the women and children who are in charge of this chore.

4.3.2 Presentation of the five project target sites

Five protected areas exist within the project landscapes and will be project implementation sites. These protected areas were all declared as such in 2000 by the protected areas law. The table below summarizes some of the key aspects of the five protected areas, and more specific socio-economic detail is given in the following sections.

Table 8: Presentation of the main characteristics of the five protected areas of the project landscapes

Protected Area	Location	Surface area (ha)	Justification	Symbol	Management plan	Management centre	Management objectives	Main management problems
MONTE ALEN LANDSCAPE								
Monte Alen National Park	In the interior of the continental region, just over 30 km from the coast. It extends in an elongated form	200,000	A mountainous massif of scenic interest, with maximum heights in the continental region and covered by humid equatorial and mountain forest in pristine conditions, preserving its megafauna intact. It is considered one of the best pleistocene refuges of biodiversity that persists.	Lowland gorilla	Yes but outdated (2010 - 2015), and not fully implemented	Yes but rundown and not being maintained for lack of funds	- To ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the natural functioning of ecosystems - To carry out recreational activities, environmental education and training - To develop scientific research in biological and human sciences - To improve the living conditions, economically and socially, of the local communities whilst respecting their culture	- Poaching and logging - Agriculture - Lack of personnel - Lack of financial resources
Piedra Nzas Natural Monument	In the east of the continental region, southwest of Mongomo and northeast of Aconibe	19,000	- Inselbergs and equatorial forest in floodable zones - Cavernous formations with important bat colonies - Area with cultural values for the Fang population	Egyptian bat	Yes but outdated (2014 - 2019), and not fully implemented	No	To ensure the preservation of the ecosystems, specifically the inselbergs and associated forests and fauna, and the way of life of the population that inhabits the area in a context of land use planning and sustainable management of resources	The area is in a relatively good state, favoured by its isolation. However, - the increase in hunting is a serious threat (there are stable hunting camps inside); - the construction of social infrastructure (roads, the city of Oyala) in the interior and peripheral areas compromises the conservation efforts; - there are insufficient human and financial resources
Altos de Nsork National Park	In the province of Wele Nzás, southeast of the continental region, almost 300km from Bata	70,000	It is the second largest sample of unbroken primary equatorial forest, and the only sample of Gabonese floristic component forest. It is an area of pleistocene refuge and high concentration of biodiversity, preserving its entire fauna.	Forest elephant	Yes but outdated (2008 - 2013), and not fully implemented	Yes, built in 2017 as part of the PACEBCo project (funds from AfDB) but not furnished and some of the building structure is already in disrepair	- To ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the natural functioning of ecosystems - To carry out recreational activities, environmental education and training - To develop scientific research in biological and human sciences - To improve the living conditions, economically and socially, of the local	- Poaching and logging; - Insufficient human and financial resources.

Protected Area	Location	Surface area (ha)	Justification	Symbol	Management plan	Management centre	Management objectives	Main management problems
							communities whilst respecting their culture	
Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve	In the south of the continental region, on the border with Gabon, in the province of Litoral, district of Kogo	60,000 (50,500 ha on land, 9500 ha at sea)	It is the best mangrove formation in the country, of great scenic attraction and an area of importance for the nesting of waterfowl and reproduction of crustaceans. It is a Ramsar site. It is also the habitat of the red-capped Mangabey and the main place in the country where the Manatee is found.	Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*)	Yes but outdated (2010 - 2015), and not fully implemented. Currently being updated with WCS support	No	To ensure that the natural resources of the reserve are managed in a sustainable manner to improve the quality of life of neighbouring populations.	- Poaching and logging - The use of unsustainable fishing - The development of infrastructure in the area (construction and proliferation of the road network, electricity networks, extension of the city of Kogo) - Insufficient human and financial resources
RIO CAMPO LANDSCAPE								
Rio Campo Nature Reserve	In the north of the continental region, along the coast, in the province of Litoral, district of Bata	33,000	The reserve is an important sample of the Atlantic-influenced rainforest, which is home to species unique in the country, such as the goliath frog and the hippopotamus, and also contains particular ecosystems such as mangroves and marshes. The Atlantic coast is recognized as an important habitat for sea turtles. The ethnological value of this area is highlighted by the occasional presence of pygmies.	The goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*)	Yes but outdated (2009 - 2014), and not fully implemented	Yes, built in 2016, furnished and functional although there is no housing so it is used only when staff go on field missions from Bata	To ensure the preservation of the ecosystems, the fauna and the ways of life of the local population living in a context of planned use of space and sustainable management of resources	The negative impacts of hunting, industrial forestry exploitation, fishing and the construction of new infrastructure threaten the conservation of biodiversity

4.3.2.1 Monte Alen National Park

Monte Alen National Park is situated in the interior of the continental region, between the districts of Niefang, Evinayong, Mbini and Kogo. It covers 200,000 hectares, which represents 34.12% of the country's total protected areas surface. The park has been operational since 1992 but was recognised by law in 2000 (Law 4/2000 on the Protected Areas of Equatorial Guinea).

The park is nestled in the basin of the river Wele, the largest in the country. The two most important rivers are the Wele river and its main tributary, the Nnain river. Its topography is very rugged, with a maximum altitude of 1200m (Monte Mitra).The importance of the park resides in the diversity of the little altered ecosystems that it shelters: primary forests, secondary forests, prairies, and marshes, which are habitats of numerous emblematic fauna species: elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, leopards, goliath frogs, buffaloes, giant pangolins... The park's enormous variety of ecosystems, home to a rich diversity of species of fauna and flora, is its treasure and strength.

Access to the park is made easy by a network of roads and highways in good condition. Niefang, located about 4km north of the park, is the most important urban centre in proximity to the park, with about 36,000 inhabitants. Evinayong, the capital of the Centro Sur province is located about 40 km from the park and has a population of about 36,521. Other than these two towns, 73 communities are located around the park, 28 of them are bordering communities (within 1 km of the park limits) and 45 are peripheral communities. No villages are situated inside the park but a number of them are on the border. The national park shares its southern border with Rio Muni Nature reserve, and 6 of the villages south of the park are also adjacent to Rio Muni Nature Reserve (Nkoho, Basilé, Mitong, Meyang, Nkoambeng, Kuma), which. The inhabitants of these communities are of the Fang ethnic group.

The current distribution of villages and the move from the past traditional elik (settlements) to today's villages can be described in four phases (Monte Alen Management Plan, 2010). Starting from the 1930s when the Niefang-Evinayong road construction began, some clans abandoned their elik to settle along the road, either because the men worked on its construction, to get closer to this communication axis, or to avoid the frequent wildlife crop damage in the forest areas. This was the first phase of concentration. The elik remained as hunting grounds although they were no longer cultivated. From 1964, the grouping of the population into concentrated villages was forced by the government, and the villages were equipped with an administrative unit, the Village Council. The elik that were next to the road were abandoned as settlements but kept as places of cultivation. In the 1970s, the repression resulted in many of the old elik in the forest being once again used as settlements. With the normalization of the political situation, the villages then regained their original population and many roadside elik were once again occupied by the descendants of their former settlers.

The important number of villages present in the surroundings of the park leads to considerable pressure being exerted on the biodiversity of the park from:

- Traditional shifting cultivation
- Hunting as a source of protein and other nutrients
- Conflicts with the wildlife due to crop damage

Farming (traditional shifting cultivation) is one of the main economic activities of the local population. The farming areas are located at a maximum distance of one to two kilometres from the road. The factors that condition the distribution of crops are the proximity to the village and the slope of the land, combined with the attempt by the farmers to avoid damage by goats or wildlife. The most common subsistence crops are peanuts, yucca, malanga, sugar cane and pumpkin. Some crops are permanent, particularly when they are cash crops. This is the case of pineapple, banana, and plantain. In the past coffee and cocoa crops were also abundant.

Some communities practice small-scale livestock rearing of goats and pigs, occasionally sheep, and chickens and ducks. In general, all domestic animals roam free, making controlling them difficult which can lead to crop damage, and make recovering them for slaughter and collecting eggs more challenging. Several experiments of breeding of wild species such as cane rats, hedgehogs and snails have been carried out in the area. None of these experiences have been continued due to existing difficulties such as the lack of veterinarians and specific products for the treatment of animals.

Hunting is another major economic activity, as well as a threat to the park's wildlife. Bush meat is widely consumed although it appears that it is not the main source of animal protein for families, but is combined with the meat of domestic animals and fish. Tie-trapping is the most abundant method of hunting, although the use of shotguns is increasing. Primates are clearly affected by shotgun hunting and their densities are inversely proportional to the proximity to population centres. Several authors claim that there are certain traditional prejudices or taboos towards the consumption of certain species, in particular chimpanzees and gorillas, although this prejudice does not prevent the animal from being killed and sold. The preference for bush meat in the urban centres does not seem to discriminate excessively between species.

Commercial timber harvesting took place in the area from the 1950s but stopped in the 1970s and no further commercial exploitation has occurred since then. Today a number of companies operate in the southern area outside of the park (Y.J. Timber, SOEGE, SOFMAL). Informal illegal logging is carried out inside the park by locals who sell the logged wood in Bata.

Since 1992, activities in line with the park's mission have been carried out. These actions include:

- Research: flora inventories, fauna census, human environment anthropological and socio-economic studies.
- Training: guards and eco-guards, tourist guides, farmers, technicians (seminars, workshops, meetings, courses).
- Awareness raising: various campaigns for the authorities, population and schools around the park
- Provision of infrastructure: management centre, trails, cabins
- Procurement of logistic means and equipment: cars, motorcycles, bicycles, canoes, various field equipment (camping and navigational equipment).
- Improvement of the living conditions of the local population: commissaries program, construction and equipment of schools and health centres, breeding of livestock (sheep and pigs).

The management of the park was under ECOFAC until 2009 when it was passed to INDEFOR-AP. Unfortunately there was insufficient continuity between the two, in particular in terms of funds, which decreased significantly once ECOFAC stopped, causing a lot of conservation activities to stop or reduce.

The park currently operates with 5 eco-guards who live in surrounding villages and carry out patrols in the forest and control the areas, 2 zone inspectors who patrol greater zones, collect information from the eco-guards and villages and prepare reports (one of the inspectors has a motorbike and has to pay for the fuel himself), one manager who lives in Bata and goes to the park roughly once a month, and one assistant manager who lives within the management centre. The zoning of the park has been defined in the management plan but the zones have not been delimitated on ground.

Two organisations, Bristol Zoological Society from the UK and Biodiversity Initiative from the USA, are carrying out studies (census of big mammals) within Monte Alen. They come regularly for field work.

Figure 15: Map of the north of Monte Alen National Park and surrounding communities

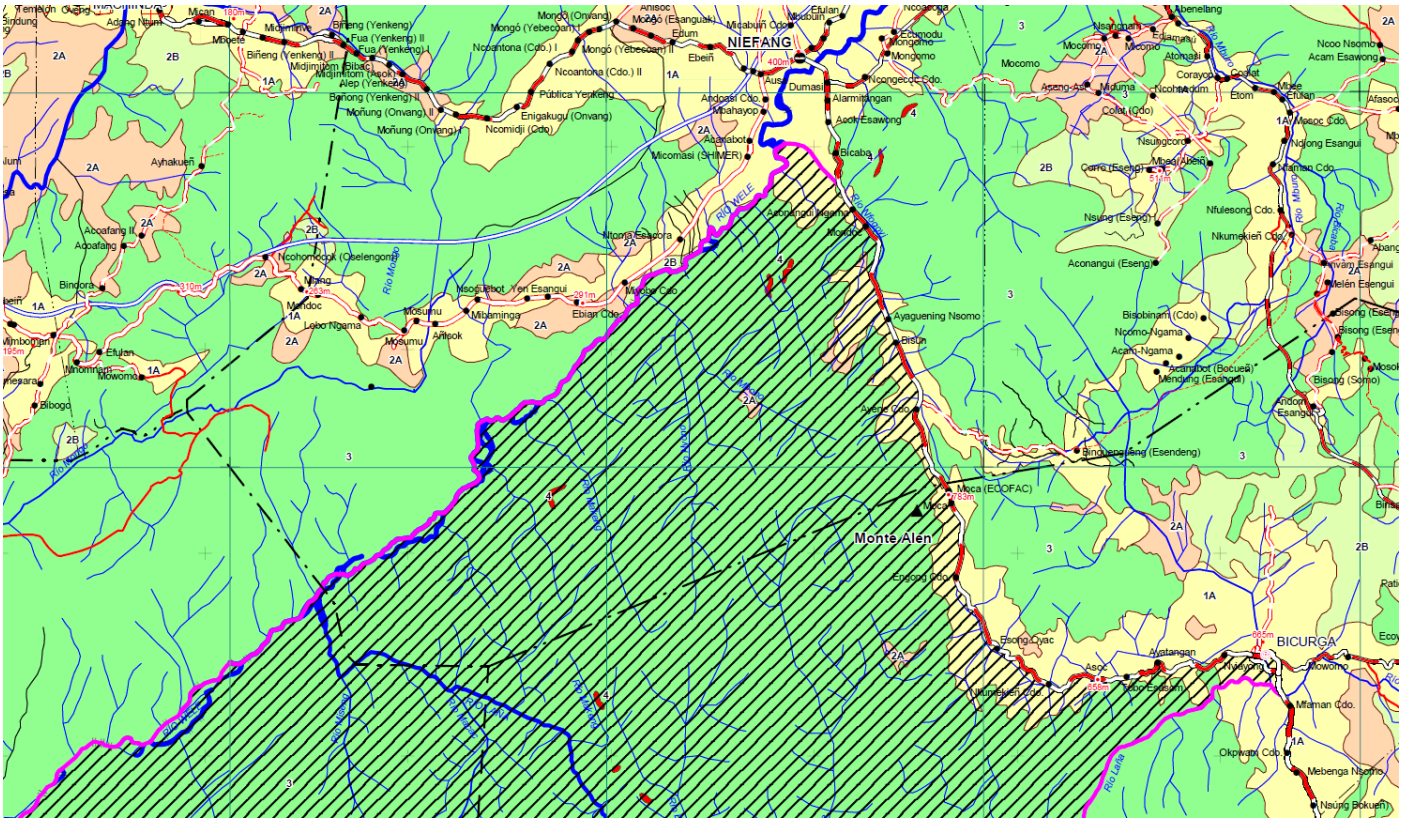
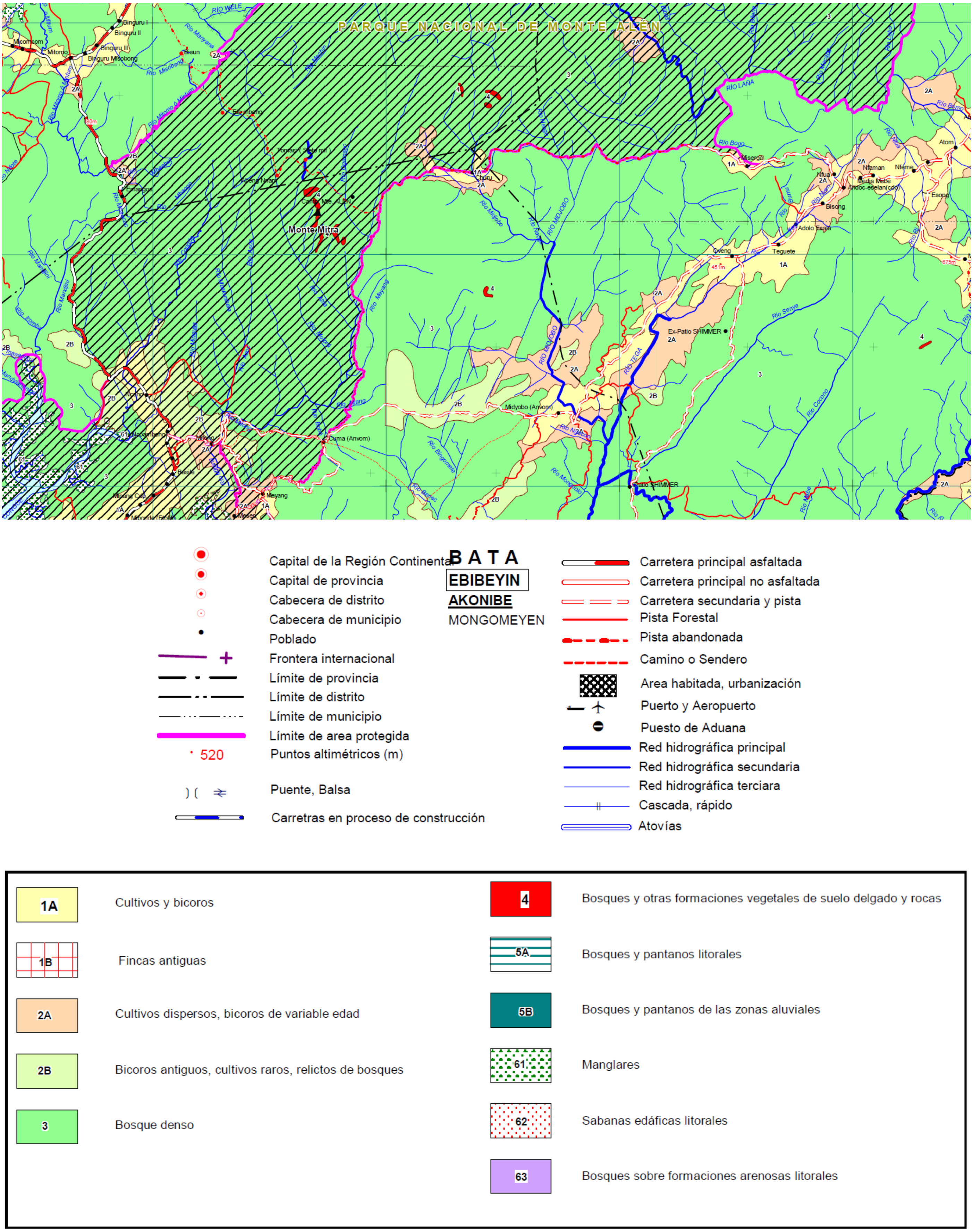


Figure 16: Map of the south of Monte Alen National Park and surrounding communities



4.3.2.2 Piedra Nzas Natural Monument

The Piedra Nzás Natural Monument covers 19,000 ha. It is bordered to the north by the Wele River, to the east by the Ndyoo River and to the west by the Biyele River. Recent inventories of fauna and flora show a diversity of animals and plants, threatened by illegal hunting, and logging in some areas. Threatened species such as elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees and mandrills are still present, albeit in small populations.

Six communities border the natural monument and one village (Bicuan Ndong) is situated within the natural monument, on the northern border, along the Wele River. All the inhabitants are of the Fang ethnicity, and practice agriculture and hunting; as well as artisanal fishing in the case of the villages of Oveng Ansem and Bicuan, due to their proximity to the Wele River. The other villages are situated south of the PA, along the Mongomo-Aconibe road.

The closest urban centre is Aconibe, about 8 km from the PA (as the crow flies) and with a population of about 20,000. Mongomo is the capital of the Wele Nzas province, population of about 53,000 and is about 20 km from Piedra Nzas as the crow flies. In addition, a new major city is being built in the middle of the forest, Djibloho, on the northern border of the Monte Alen landscape, about 30 km northwest of Piedra Nzas Natural Monument.

There is a high rate of temporary or permanent migration from the area to urban centres to study and work, with a lot of people who only return to rural villages during the holiday and festive seasons.

Traditional shifting cultivation is the most important economic activity in the area. The three most cultivated agricultural crops are cassava, peanuts and sugar cane, due to their nutritional and/or economic importance. Sugar cane is often processed and sold as a drink (Malamba). In addition to these, plantain, yam, pumpkin, pineapple, banana, corn, vegetables, and greens are cultivated. The women are in charge of selling agricultural products. The products from the villages are sold in small quantities within the same locality whilst larger quantities are sold in the markets of Mongomo and Aconibe. Products are rarely taken to Bata but customers often travel from Mongomo, Aconibe or Bata to buy agricultural products in the villages. The good condition of the roads has contributed positively to the transportation of agricultural products to the main markets, although there are still villages where little traffic is registered, such as Bicuan and Oveng Ansem, making it more difficult for farmers in these villages to sell their products and sometime leading to the loss of the products.

Hunting is the second most important economic activity in the area, and the main source of protein. The activity has developed due to the proliferation of roads and tracks in the area and their improved condition (paved and gravel roads), in addition to the important demand for bush meat from the cities of Mongomo, Mongomeyen, Aconibe, and Añisok. The blue duiker, bay duiker and porcupine are the most hunted species (in order of importance). The other species have a more moderate level of capture. Subsistence hunters hunt for self-consumption and only sell bush meat when they have hunted more than the family can consume. They generally sell the surplus in the village where they live. Commercial hunters on the other hand sell their meat mostly in the market of Mongomo, or in Mongomeyen, Añisok, and Aconibe. Clients from these towns often travel to the villages in search of bush meat.

River fishing is also an important economic activity for the people of Oveng ansem and Bicuan, while the villages in the south of the area occasionally fish for their own consumption. The fishermen of Oveng ansem and Bicuan fish in the Wele and Ndyoo rivers, and surrounding tributaries. The fishermen from the villages south of the monument fish mainly in Biyele and Ndyoo rivers and their tributaries.

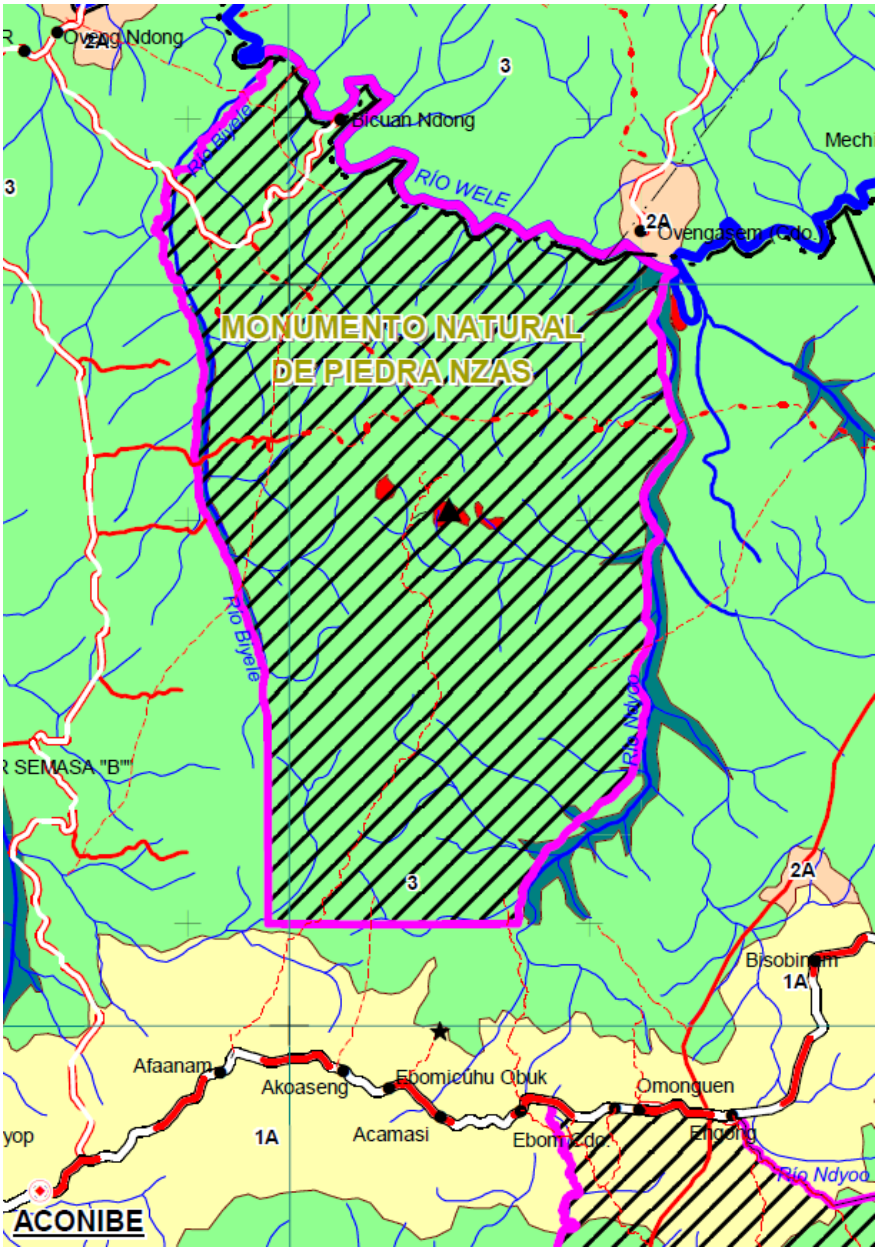
Forest concessions are present on either side of the natural monument (east and west), and a forest track was recently built across the middle of the protected area (2017). The Asian company Shimmer International operates to the east, its concessions is adjacent to the PA. This company had operated in the northern part of the PA prior to its declaration as a PA in 2000. Since then no company has operated within the PA.

The negative impacts derived from hunting, industrial forest exploitation and the construction of new infrastructures (e.g. roads, enlargement of the cities of Mongomo and Mongomeyen, construction of the new city of Djibloho) threaten the conservation of the biodiversity of the Piedra Nzás Natural Monument. The main objective of the protected area is to ensure the preservation of the ecosystems, specifically the inselbergs and associated forests and fauna, and the way of life of the population that inhabits the area through land use planning and sustainable management of resources.

The natural monument currently operates with 2 eco-guards who live in villages close to the PA, and one manager and one assistant manager who live in Bata for lack of infrastructure and funds on site (no housing, offices or management centre).

The zoning of the natural monument has been defined in the management plan and is currently being demarcated on ground.

Figure 17: Map of Piedra Nzas Natural Monument and surrounding communities



Source: Mapa de ocupacion de las tierras y vegetacion, Guinea Ecuatorial, 2018, INDEFOR-AP (see legend in section 4.3.2.1)

4.3.2.3 Altos de Nsork National Park

Altos de Nsork National Park is bordered to the west by the Abang River, to the north by the Aconibe highway and to the east and south by the Nsork and Alum road. The Ncama River crosses the east of the park from north to south. Some inselbergs are found towards its southern boundary.

There is a high density of antelopes and small primates in the park. Gorillas and chimpanzees are also found, although in smaller numbers. One of the most important species of the Altos de Nsork National Park is the narrow-nosed crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractos*). In terms of birdlife, the *Picathartes oreas* stands out, it is a threatened species at international level and can only be found in Cameroon, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea. There are also numerous frugivorous species. The presence of elephants has been recorded occasionally in the western part of the park.

The population of the protected area is concentrated mainly on its eastern and southern limits, in 16 villages, none of which are within the park. Nsork is the main town in the surrounding area of the park, it is situated on its eastern border and has a population of about 16,000. Aconibe is 20 km to the west of the northern border of the park, whilst Mongomo is 60 km to the northeast.

The inhabitants are mostly subsistence farmers and hunters. They practice traditional shifting cultivation and cultivate chili, sugar cane, cassava, plantain, peanut and pumpkin. Some of these products, mainly chilies, are marketed in neighbouring Gabon. Hunting focuses on small antelopes, porcupine, wild boar, pangolins and some primates and is the main source of protein.

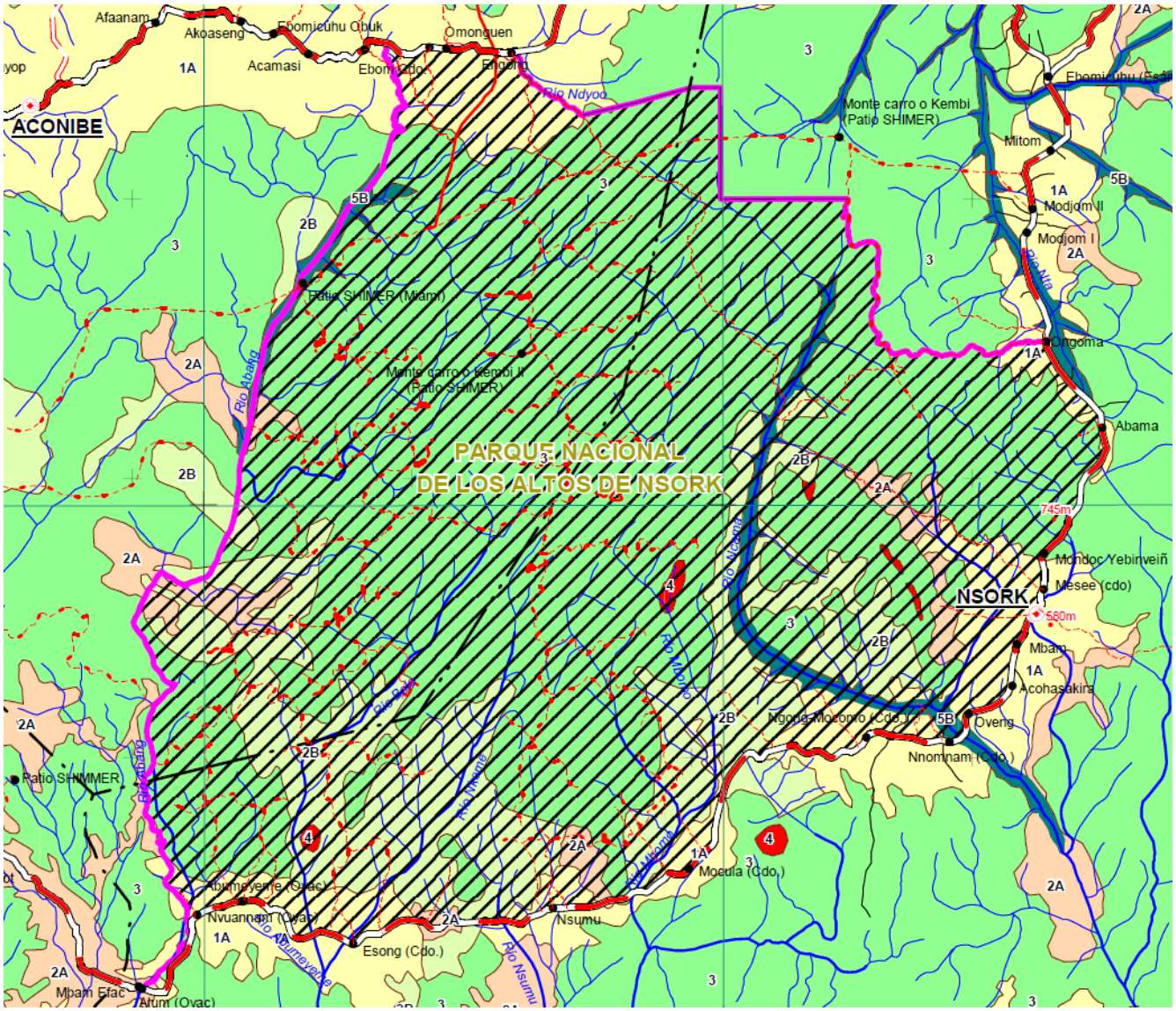
The area had never been subject to logging prior to 1995. In the same year, the French company ISOROY began its activities, which were interrupted after six months. From 1999, there was intense forest exploitation by the Asian company SHIMMER, whose activity lasted until 2006. This contributed to the local economy and provided jobs for some of the local people but it also left close to 90% of the forest degraded. Traces of the old forest tracks created in those days still persist and hunters take advantage of these to access the protected area. Fortunately companies no longer operate within the national park, and one company (WANPEN SA) operates in the area south of the park.

The difficulties that weigh on the conservation of the PNAN's biodiversity today are essentially illegal informal logging and unregulated hunting. Hunting within the park is for subsistence and commercial purposes. Hunting pressure is more important in the south east of the park, in proximity to the villages situated along the Nsork-Monogomo road (Abama, Ongoma…).

The different zones of the park have been defined in the management plan, but have not yet been demarcated on ground.

The park currently operates with 6 eco-guards who live in the surrounding villages, 3 cleaners, 2 guards and 2 gardeners who maintain the management centre, one manager and one assistant manager who live in Bata. They don't live on site as the centre is not furnished and there is a lack of funds. The centre is only used partially during field missions.

Figure 18: Map of Altos de Nsork National Park and surrounding communities



Source: Mapa de ocupacion de las tierras y vegetacion, Guinea Ecuatorial, 2018, INDEFOR-AP (see legend in section 4.3.2.1)

4.3.2.4 Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve

The Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve is a Ramsar site and is the most important wetland in the country with its mangrove formations, its particular fauna, its rich fisheries and crustaceans. Its mangroves are breeding grounds for fish and the estuary is the only habitat of the manatee in Equatorial Guinea. It also has an important population of aquatic birds. The estuary is the mouth of a large number of mostly permanent rivers (Mandjani, Congüe, Ebobo, Mitong, Toche, Mitemle, Mven), it is composed of lowlands with small hills bordering it.

The area is inhabited predominantly by the Fang ethnic group. The town of Kogo (about 23,000 inhabitants) and many villages are situated within the reserve. In total 33 villages are situated in or adjacent ot the reserve. The human population is concentrated mainly along the Kogo-Bata road (Ncoho, Ncoambeng, Basile, Minang, Mibonde, Ondeng, Vabe, Fula, Miwala, Río Muni), and along the eastern and southwestern borders of the reserve (Mitong, Meyang, Kuma, Akoga, Kagane). A forest road has been opened linking Ncoambeng village from the main road to Kuma village via Mitong, although this road is only passable in dry seasons. Certain villages can only be accessed by river, with canoes or motorized boats. A road that crosses the estuary was built in 2015, without any prior impact studies being carried out or mitigation measures being implemented. This road has affected the water flow of the area and is having an impact on the health of the mangrove.

The main economic activities are fishing, agriculture, hunting and logging. Fishing is the most important economic activity for most of the villages in the estuary, and is also the main source of protein for the inhabitants of the area.

Fishing is a daily and common activity for many of the villages in the reserve. All the men in the area are fishermen but young and middle-aged men are the most involved in fishing. Some live permanently in the villages and practice fishing continuously, particularly the married men; others are occasional fishermen, who fish from time to time to cover an economic need. For example, the students of the area fish to earn some income during the vacations.

Most of the fishing activity is focused on the rivers that make up the estuary (Mitemle, Mitong and Congüe) and their main tributaries. The fisheries are located along the banks of these rivers, where fishermen reside temporarily whilst fishing. The fishing areas are common to all the villages and fishermen of the estuary. Fishing is a year-round activity, but the months of dry season (June, July, August, December, January, and February) are the most favourable months. Fishing is done from canoes, with different types of nets, long lines, and floating lances. Not all fishermen have the necessary fishing equipment, and the fishing equipment used varies according to the tide. This forces the fishermen to lend and share equipment among themselves under agreements to proportionally share the fish they catch. The fishermen with fishing equipment pay an annual fee to the Kogo fisheries administration, according to the type and quantity of equipment they own. Canoes are registered by the Kogo Marina. Each fishery has a chief fisherman, in charge of solving problems related to the fishermen's activities.

The fish is sold smoked, fresh and salted. The smoked and salted fish is prepared in the fisheries. Women-buyers go to the fisheries to smoke or prepare salted fish. These women buy fish daily and prepare it to be conserved, until they have the amount of fish they need. Other buyers, especially those who come from Gabon, leave freezers with ice with the fishermen in the fisheries to keep fish for them. They come back after a week or two to pay and collect the fish.

There are three regular markets for the fish trade:

- Bata: the buyers buy mostly smoked and salted fish. The buyers from Bata go to all the fisheries of the estuary, but they are more frequent in the fisheries of the Congüe River;
- Gabon: the buyers buy smoked fish, fresh fish and salted fish. The buyers from Gabon tend to go to the fisheries of the Mitong and Mitemle rivers.
- Kogo: the fishermen themselves take their fresh fish to the market, especially when fishing activities are concentrated near the mouth of the estuary rivers; they also sell smoked and salted fish, but in smaller quantities.

On many occasions the fishermen's wives travel to sell smoked fish in Gabon or Bata. Prices per kilo of fish fluctuate depending on the season, the species and the quality of the fish.

Agriculture is carried out around and close to the villages without exceeding a 2 km distance. The main crops are cassava, plantain, banana, peanut, maize and sugar cane. Citrus cultivation is also important, with exports to neighbouring Gabon.

Hunting is another important activity in the area, practiced by young and middle-aged men, as a source of animal protein and income. It is carried out throughout the year. If the hunting area is far from the village, the hunters build hunting camps, where they stay for a few weeks whilst they hunt. The traps are visited every two to three days. The animals hunted during the stay in the camps are smoked. The fresh or smoked meat is sold to vendors who come mainly from Bata, and some from Gabon and the city of Kogo. The prices of the meat vary according to the species and its quality. Some hunting is carried out for subsistence purposes but clandestine hunters also come from Bata and practise hunting with both traps and shotguns. It is particularly practiced in the communities with access to large extensions of forest, such as Ncoho, Kuma, Mitong and Meyang.As the estuary is located between two areas where the demand for

fresh food (fish and bush meat) is very high (Bata and Gabon), and as it is easily accessible with the good road network, the natural resources are overexploited to meet this demand.

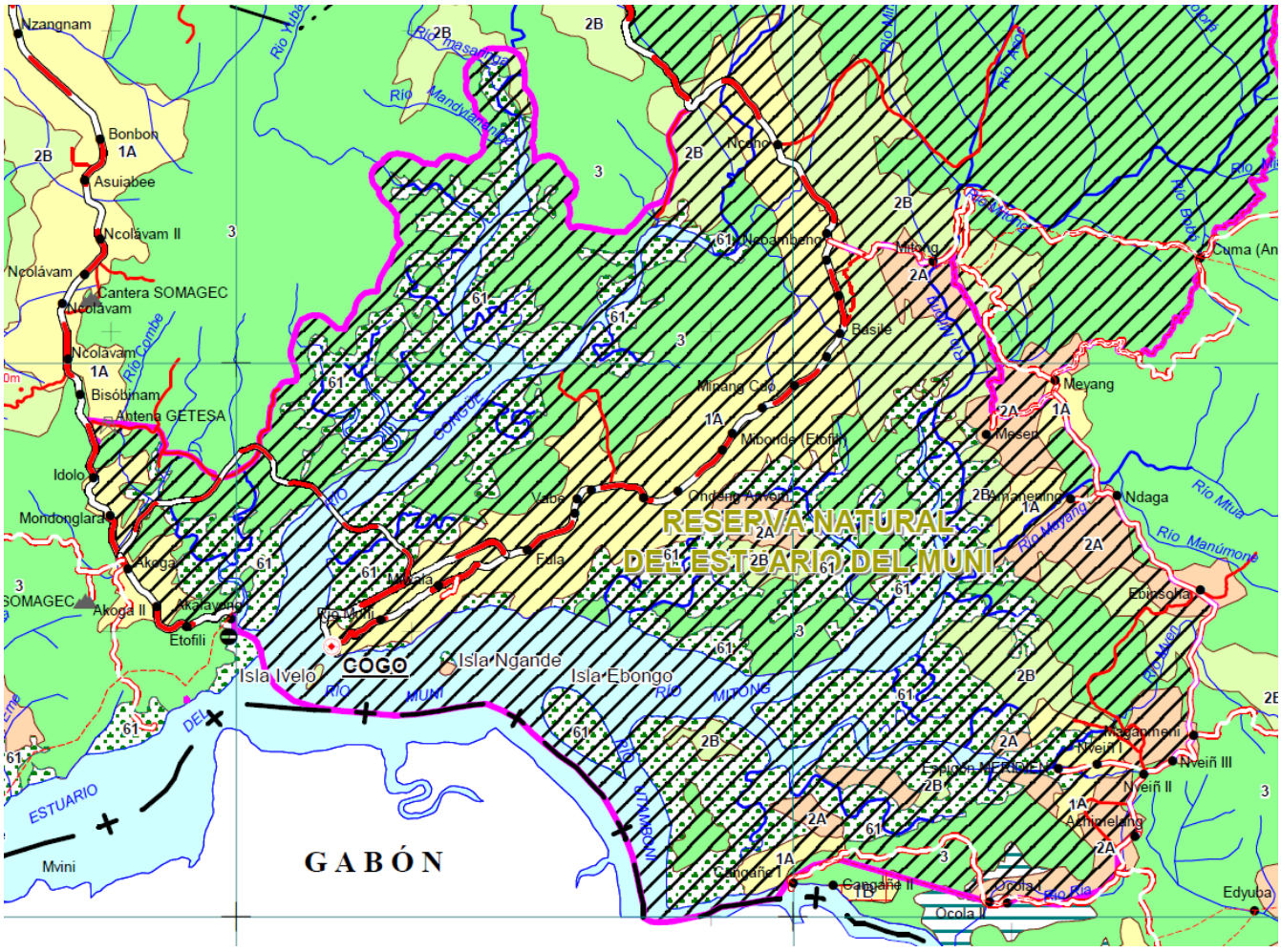
Forest exploitation in the area started in the 1950s, with an increase in the 1970s and 1990s. This previous exploitation has had a substantial impact on the reserve's forests. Today no company operates within the reserve, and once company (MAC S.A) operates just outside the reserve. Currently, informal illegal logging is carried out in the reserve by locals or outsiders who mill the wood and sell it in Bata. The good road network of the area makes the activity proliferate. The locals also take advantage of the wood from the forests for the construction of their homes.

The negative impacts derived from agriculture, fishing, industrial forestry, hunting and the construction of new infrastructure threaten the conservation of the biodiversity of the nature reserve. The main objective of the nature reserve is to ensure that its natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner to improve the quality of life of neighbouring populations. The different zones of the park have been defined in the management plan (see figure below), but have not been demarcated on ground.

The reserve currently operates with 4 eco-guards who live in villages within the reserve, one manager and one assistant manager who both live in Bata. They do not live in the reserve as there is no available infrastructure (houses, offices, management centre), and no funds.

Although the reserve is situated in a cross-border area, there is currently no collaboration with Gabon on conservation aspects.

Figure 19: Map of the Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve and surrounding communities



Source: Mapa de ocupacion de las tierras y vegetacion, Guinea Ecuatorial, 2018, INDEFOR-AP (see legend in section 4.3.2.1)

4.3.2.5 Rio Campo Nature Reserve

Rio Campo Nature Reserve was created in 2000 by Law No. 4/2000. It is situated in the north of Equatorial Guinea, in the Litoral province, 36km from Bata. Its north-eastern limit is the Ntem River, which is also the border with Cameroon, its western limit is the coast and its southern limit is the Mbia River. It has a surface area of 33,000 hectares.

The reserve is very rich in biodiversity, animals that can be found there include elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, mandrills, goliath frogs, various types of antelopes, sea turtles, leopards, hippos (the only ones left in the country). Rio

Campo Nature Reserve is classified as a Ramsar zone and is a pilot site of RAPAC. The beaches of the reserve are an important area for the reproduction and nesting of several species of marine turtles.

The population of the reserve is distributed in 27 villages and represents 4 ethnic groups: fang, ndowe, bisio, and the baseke. The human population of the reserve is concentrated mainly on the coast, from Punta Mbonda to the mouth of the river Ntem. About 4,500 people reside in the town of Rio Campo. The villages in the south coast (in the area of Punta Mbonda) are primarily Ndowes, whereas the villages further north are Bisios and Fang. In the interior, Yengüe, on the border with Cameroon, and Ayamiken, are important population centres, along with Anguma and various villages along the access road to the latter, such as Adjap and Esantua. All these towns are inhabited by Fang peoples. Bongoro is a relatively new village (formed in the 1990s) of Fang who come from other areas of the interior of the country, it is the biggest village in the reserve and the one that causes the most problems in terms of hunting and logging. The Basekes reside on the coast in the villages of Yengue and Mary.

An extended family of pygmies, also known as Beyeles, lives outside the reserve (family of 20: 1 man, 5 women, and 15 children) in the village of Ayamiken. They are the only pygmies in Equatorial Guinea. They no longer live a traditional lifestyle although they still depend on the forest for hunting and harvesting plants, and they practice traditional medicine for local people. Some members of the pygmy family have married with fang people. There is a military camp of several hundred soldiers in the village of Ayamiken where they live and a brand new major tared road passes next to the village.

The Beyeles of Rio Campo live mainly from hunting, fishing, gathering and collecting forest products. In spite of their settlement in the village of Ayamiken, the Beyeles do not practise subsistence farming. Their main source of income is generated by the use of natural resources through the practice of traditional medicine. Many medicines administered to the sick are made from plants, roots, bark through which decoctions, herbal teas, powders, etc. are obtained for care. In addition, the Beyeles are excellent hunters and bush meat is the basis of their diet. However, other uses are reserved for the products of the hunt, for example, certain animal bones, hair and skins or even bird feathers are also used in the traditional pharmacopoeia for the administration of daily care. This family of Beyeles is well known in the area for providing solutions to the various ills from which the local population suffers.

There are several access routes to the reserves. The main one is the road from Bata to the town of Rio Campo, in the far north of the reserve, on the border with Cameroun. This road accesses the reserve in the south and crosses it all the way to the north, with several smaller roads that branch off of it to the villages along the coast (Mary, Punta Mbonda, Tica), as well as the road that leads to Yengue, in the interior. There is a plan to build a bridge between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroun, across the Ntem River, in the town of Rio Campo. There is also a new tar road that connects Ayamiken to Bongoro. The reserve can also be accessed from Bata on an outboard motor to any village on the coast.

The main economic activities in the reserve are fishing, agriculture, hunting and the exploitation of timber (illegal informal logging by locals who sell the wood in Bata) and non-timber forest products. These activities, as well as the construction of new infrastructure (roads and a new bridge), are threats to the conservation of biodiversity.

Hunting is usually practiced by the inhabitants of the interior of the reserve and by non-residents (often from Bata). Although hunting was initially for subsistence, today it often has a commercial character. It is practiced with both traps and shotguns, mainly targeting small and medium antelopes, porcupines, pangolins, forest rats, etc. The use of firearms makes capturing primates (although hunting them is prohibited), forest boars and other major species possible. Currently, many of the hunting camps are located in Cameroon, in Campo Ma'an National Park, due to intense hunting on the Guinean side of the landscape, which has led to the reduction in number of many species (ANDEGE, 2009). However, there are still numerous hunting trails throughout the central and eastern areas of the reserve, which are very frequented as show the large number of cartridge cases found along them. There are circuits established to sell bush meat in the markets of Bata. A cab leaves to Bata from Anguma on a weekly basis (Anguma is currently situated outside the reserve but will be situated within the PA once its extension is approved, the area surrounding it is rich in fauna and flora and is currently being heavily hunted and logged); and from Bongoro and Ayamiken the service is almost daily. According to the last studies carried out in the markets of Bata (ANDEGE, 2007) this zone is one of the main suppliers of meat to Bata.

Artisanal fishing with both hooks and nets is practiced along the coast instead of hunting. The catch is sold in the market of Bata smoked, salted or dried. Transportation is provided from Elendé by car (several times a week) and by canoe to the coast.

Agriculture (shifting cultivation) is practised around all the population centres in a more or less extensive belt of farms: banana, plantain, peanuts, corn, yucca and other traditional crops are grown. Coconut is one of the most important crops along the coastal strip, and is exported to neighbouring Cameroon. In recent years however, the coconut trees have been affected by a disease (thought to be the coconut lethal yellowing disease and propagated by *Myndus crudus* plant-hopper), therefore reducing the production and income previously generated (although export to Cameroon had already reduced prior to appearance of the disease).

Forest exploitation. The entire eastern zone, from Ayamiken to the Nvuba River, has been heavily exploited for timber since colonial times, with many forestry companies succeeding each other in the area. Exploitation was carried out by ALENA in the extreme east during the 1960s, EXFOSA at the end of the 1980s and beginning of the 1990s in the

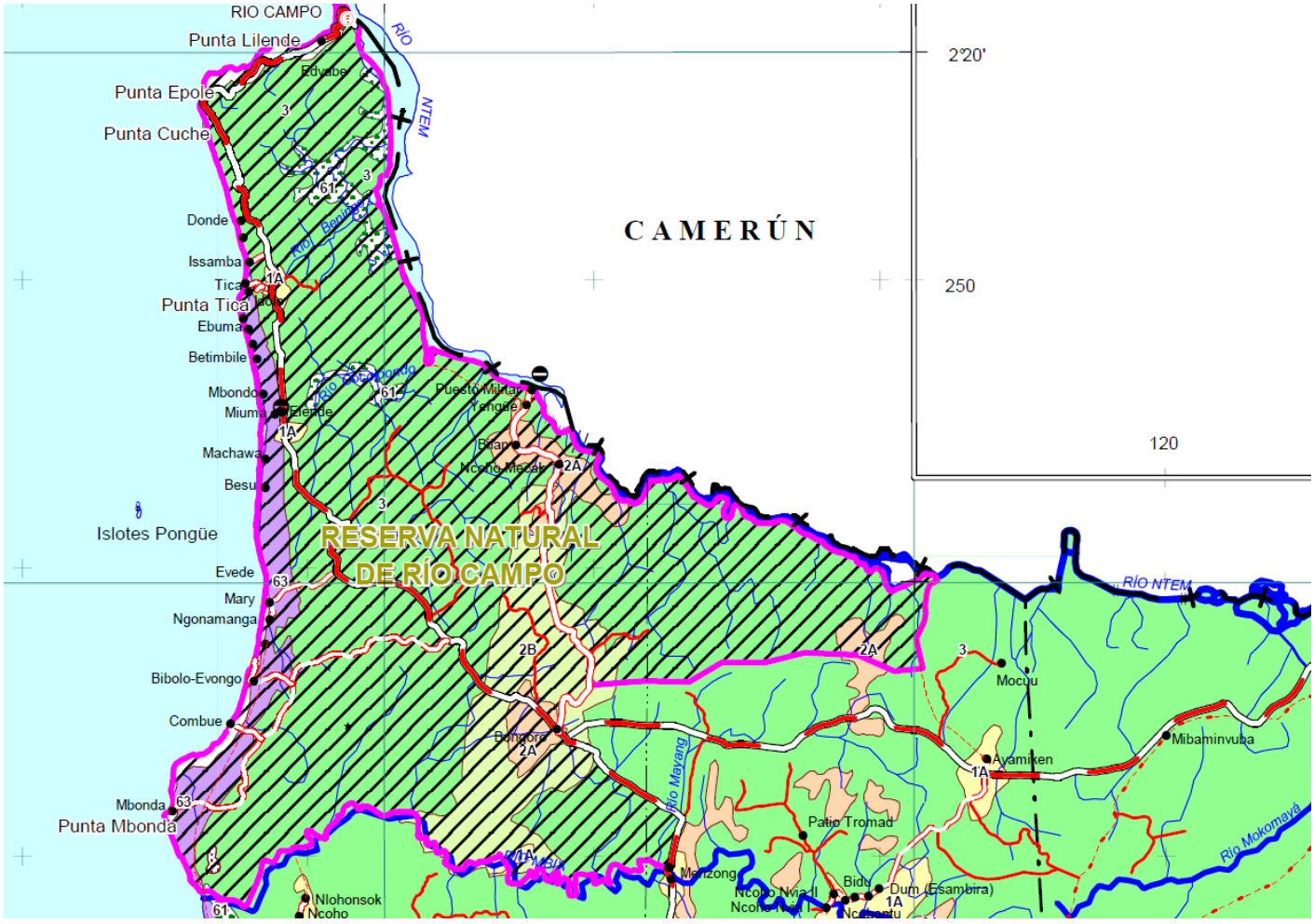
westernmost part near the Mbia River, in 1995 ABM was operating near Anguma, and lately in 2006 SOFMAL was operating near Bilan. Today, companies no longer operate within the reserve, and one company (the Lebanese company SOFMAL) operates to the east of the reserve. The direct consequence of this is the mosaic of secondary forest and the network of old logging roads in the reserve.

In the recent past (up until about 2014), the reserve received a good number of tourists, in particular to participate in the marine turtles conservation project (TOMAGE). Today this is no longer the case, partly due to the difficulty of obtaining visas to come into the country.

INDEFOR-AP is the institution in charge of the management of the protected area. The objective established in the management plan is to ensure the preservation of the reserve's ecosystems, fauna and the way of life of the population that inhabits it in a context of land use planning and sustainable management of resources. The management centre was built in 2016 with the funding of the African Development Bank and the Congo basin Forest Fund. It is in good condition but only includes offices. As there is no accommodation for staff it is only used occasionally during field missions.

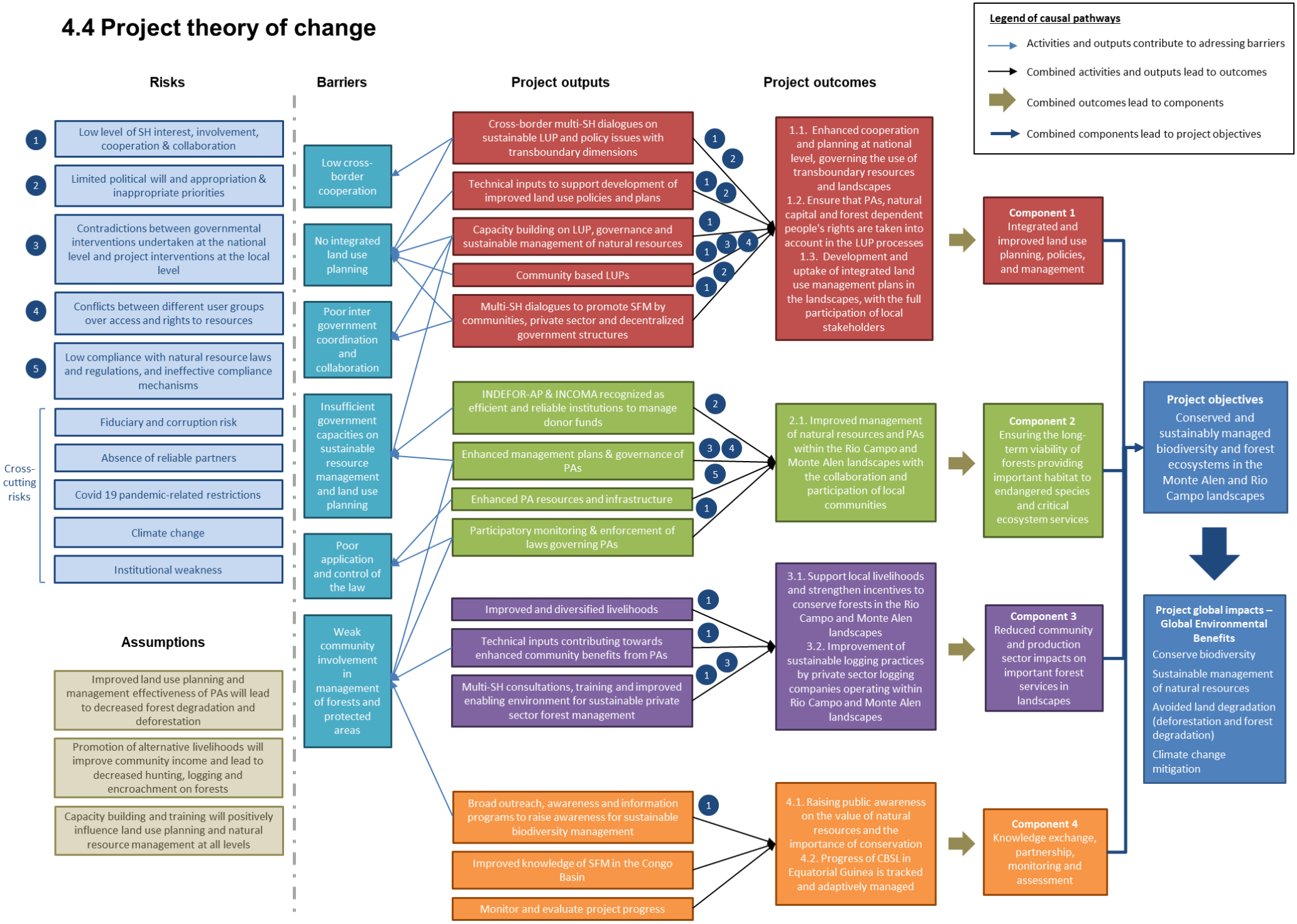
The reserve currently operates with 3 eco-guards living in villages within the reserve, one guard to watch over the management centre, one manager and one assistant manager who live in Bata as there is no accommodation in the management centre, and no funds.

Figure 20: Map of Rio Campo Nature Reserve and surrounding communities



Source: Mapa de ocupacion de las tierras y vegetacion, Guinea Ecuatorial, 2018, INDEFOR-AP (see legend in section 4.3.2.1)

4.4 Project theory of change



4.5 Project components and their expected outcomes and outputs

Project objectives: To conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and forest ecosystems in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea through an inclusive landscape approach, effective land use planning, enhanced management of protected areas and the promotion of local governance and sustainable livelihood options.

To attain the project objective, the project will be implemented through four main components (see table below). More detailed descriptions of each component as well as their associated outcomes, outputs and activities can be found below. Activity schedule and project work plan are in Appendix 9.8.

Table 9: Project components, outcomes outputs and activities

Component	Project outcomes	Project outputs	Project activities
1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management	1.1. Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes	1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)	Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape
			Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management
	1.2. Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels	1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies	Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems
			Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes
		1.2.2. Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources	Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework
	1.3. Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes	1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level
			Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)
			Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans

		1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures	Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)
2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	2.1. Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities	2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds	Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources
			Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas
		2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites
			Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines
			Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas
			Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices
		2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)	Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking
			Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery
		2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes	Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols
			Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams
			Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc
3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important	3.1. Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for	Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)

forest services in landscapes		communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model	Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods
			Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea
		3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)	Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population
			Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures
	3.2. Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests	Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon
			Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities
4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment	4.1. Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation	4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity	Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences
			Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff
	4.2. Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed	4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin	Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership
			Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs
		4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)	Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal
		4.2.3 Project evaluation and audit missions carried out	Activity 4.2.3.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits Activity 4.2.3.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP
			Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit

5. Project management & monitoring	5.1 Project is effectively and efficiently managed	5.1.1 Project management team established and functional	Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment

Note: all training activities proposed in the project components must include an evaluation of trainees' knowledge and capacity prior to and post training session, in order to evaluate the impact of the project training activities. Training sessions should not only be aimed at high level personnel but also medium and low level.

4.5.1 Component 1: Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management

The activities carried out in this component will contribute to improving the enabling environment for the development of integrated land use plans and better land use planning policies that take natural resources into consideration. To achieve this the project will build on existing and past initiatives to strengthen cross-border collaboration, provide appropriate tools and knowledge, build capacity and involve stakeholders from various sectors and levels. The development of local land use plans will contribute to better managed and preserved forest ecosystems, and will take in consideration lessons learned from past LUP initiatives in the Congo Basin. Strong collaboration with the regional CBSL project will be fostered for all activities of this component to build on the methods, tools, resources, partnerships and guidance the regional project can provide.

Outcome 1.1: Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes

Output 1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g. illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)

Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape

The purpose of the cooperation agreement is to establish a framework for collaboration and partnership in order to manage and promote the conservation and rational use of the natural resources of the Campo-Ma'an National Park and the Rio Campo Nature Reserve and to foster sustainable development for the benefit of local communities through the creation of a transboundary complex known as the Binational Rio-Campo-Ma'an (BRCM).

The collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea still requires signing by both parties. Authorization for signing seems to have been given by the Equatorial Guinea government but not formally by the Cameroon government. The project will therefore restart exchanges between the two country teams on the collaboration and thus revive the process, with the aim of obtaining a signed agreement in the early stages of the project. This process will be facilitated by RAPAC, as was done before, and will include the COMIFAC. The regional CBSL project will be solicited to provide guidance and support on this process.

Once the agreement is signed, the project will support the implementation of some of the key points of the collaboration document, such as the first meetings of the Steering Committee, the Technical and Scientific Committee and the Executive Committee of the BRCM. These meetings will define the crucial points to start collaboration work on and which the project will also support.

Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management

Exchanges between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea have already taken place but this was several years ago (until 2013). Since then changes have occurred in policy makers and the context has evolved (for example changes in legislation, changes in threats to natural resources, changes in land use etc). It will therefore be useful to carry out another two cross-border tours, with key stakeholders from both countries. Part of the tours will consist in visiting the transboundary landscape (field visit of Rio Campo Nature Reserve and Campo Ma'an National Park) to see concrete examples of current issues in those areas.

Relations between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon on natural resources management and land use issues have been less frequent than with Cameroon. Nevertheless, an operational (and not institutional) collaboration did take place as part of CARPE between 2006 and 2012. A policy-maker tour between the two countries will allow discussions on the possibility of developing more durable relations and cooperation on these topics.

The stakeholders involved in the tours will be inter-institutional and include high-level members from the key ministries and government institutions involved in land use issues to ensure cross-sector exchanges (for example, Ministry of agriculture, livestock, forests and the environment; Ministry of public works and infrastructure; Ministry of finance, economy and planning; Ministry of interior and local authorities; Ministry of mines and hydrocarbons; Ministry of Security; GE Proyectos; INCOMA; INDEFOR-AP; provincial and local governments…), as well as the managers of the protected

areas of the trans-boundary landscapes, local NGOs working in the landscapes, and members of the teams working on the collaboration agreement in the case of Cameroon.

The cross-border tours between key stakeholders of Equatorial Guinea and its neighbours will be an opportunity for learning, exchanges and experience sharing on sustainable land use planning and will lead to improved communication, coordination and collaboration between countries on cross-border aspects such as illegal trade in animal products, illegal logging and wood trade, industry development, eco-tourism and trans-boundary wildlife migration. The output of these exchanges will include lessons learnt in terms of land use planning in the various countries (national land use process in Gabon for example), that will then contribute to Equatorial Guinea's current national land use planning process.

The annual regional coordination meetings convened by the regional CBSL project will be another opportunity for further exchanges and progress on transboundary dialogue and the development of cross-border synergies.

Outcome 1.2: Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels

Output 1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies

The studies described below will be carried out in the early stages of the project, they are preliminary studies that will be used as decision-making support tools in the land use planning processes. There are a number of uncertainties that exist and that need to be clarified through objective scientific and technical studies, specific to the Equatorial Guinea context to support adequate and relevant political decision-making. The results of the studies will be communicated to relevant policy makers and members of government (see activity 4.2.1.2), to raise awareness on these topics, and will be considered in LUP activities (output 1.3.1), thus contributing to the development of land use policies and integrated land use plans that take forest ecosystems into consideration.

Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems

Infrastructure development, particularly road construction, can affect wildlife and their habitats in various ways. New roads cause habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation, creating artificial barriers that affect animal movement patterns, habitat use, migratory routes and dispersal abilities. Furthermore, new roads also facilitate human access to areas that were previously difficult to reach, increasing human activity, such as the establishment of settlements and incidence of hunting, which can drive the loss of wildlife populations.

Some of the animal species that are most affected by these artificial barriers are also those that are at higher risk of disappearing, such as great apes, monkeys, elephants, and large carnivores. These species have large home-ranges, can migrate or disperse over great distances, and/or have complex social structures that require fluid and uninterrupted movements of individuals across the landscape.

The consequences that road construction has on the environment are not fully understood, particularly in the Central African rainforest, in particular by those developing and approving infrastructure projects. There is evidence, however, that forest fragmentation leads to defaunation, interruption of gene flow, disruption of social dynamics, increase in animal density and competition for resources in areas not influenced by these new constructions, increase in disease transmission from humans and domestic livestock or pets, and an increase in mortality for wild animals. Furthermore, these effects on the animal community also lead to significant changes in the ecosystem, as many of these animals play a key role in maintaining forest function and structure; e.g., ecosystem engineers such as seed dispersing primates or birds. As such, forest fragmentation has also been linked to, for instance, a reduction in tree recruitment and a decrease in the forest carbon sequestration capacity.

A study will be carried out to investigate the effects of forest fragmentation on the ecosystem by examining changes in the animal community and changes in the forest function and forest structure in various areas within the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes (specific areas to be determined at the time of study realisation). In each of these areas, the following will be examined:

- overall biodiversity and large mammal population densities, movements and population genetic structure
- changes in forest structure, tree recruitment and carbon sequestration capacity

The study will use a multidisciplinary approach, combining analysis of multispectral imagery, with vegetation plots, transects surveys, camera trapping, passive acoustic monitoring and faecal genetic analysis. The study will provide recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate forest fragmentation in land use planning processes and infrastructure development (e.g. roads, bridges, electric lines etc), specific to the Equatorial Guinea context.

This study will be conducted by researchers of the University of the West of England as this falls in line with some of their current ongoing research in Monte Alen National Park on the effects of forest fragmentation on hornbills, and on the drivers behind perceived declines in great-ape occupancy and density.

Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes

In the same way that the impacts of forest fragmentation are not well known, the economic value of the forest ecosystems of Equatorial Guinea and their related services are not well known by policy makers and members of governments. Better knowledge of this value will translate into better land use and natural resources management policies, and will serve to better demonstrate and justify the need for more government funds to be directed towards Protected Areas. The study will evaluate both the direct values (e.g., timber, non-timber, tourism) and the indirect values (e.g., watershed protection, carbon sequestration) of the forest ecosystems of the landscapes. It will also provide recommendations and guidelines with regards to integrating the value of ecosystems and their services in land use planning, in line with the study results.

Output 1.2.2 Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources

Limited knowledge and insufficient understanding of the value of ecosystems and land tenure rights by decision makers, at provincial and local levels, hinders land use planning processes. More generally, there is insufficient technical capacity for land use planning and natural resources management using a holistic approach to enable environment preservation and sustainable development.

Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework

A capacity assessment and gaps analysis will be carried out, and appropriate training support and tools on land use planning processes will be developed. The capacity assessment will enable the identification of capacity gaps specific to each group of stakeholders regarding the management of natural resources and land use planning. Based on this gap analysis, tailor-made training support sessions will be designed. Training will focus on: i) the national protected areas system of Equatorial Guinea; ii) the value of the country's forest ecosystems; iii) the impact of economic development and large-scale infrastructure on forest ecosystems; iv) the existence and use of the Interactive Forest Atlas and how it should be used to avoid conflicting and overlapping land uses; v) methodology of land-use planning processes at provincial and local levels; vi) the sustainable management and use of natural resources, including the existence of appropriate governance structures; vii) the participation of local communities in LUP processes, and viii) the legal framework associated to the above (including land tenure). Specific training on the LUP methodology developed by the regional CBSL project will not be included in this training as this will be done by the regional project itself. Emphasis will be placed on the landscape concept in these trainings, so that all stakeholders understand how and why the landscapes were created, and their importance in achieving project objectives. Training tools will include booklets, guidelines, short videos, and simulation/role-playing exercises among others. At least 7 training kits will be developed by the project.

Training sessions, based on training kits developed, will be organised both at the provincial and local levels within the two project landscapes. The training will be carried out in two phases:

- Training of trainers: a selection of 10 medium level staff from INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA will be trained to carry out training sessions. This will ensure that the training sessions can continue beyond the project lifespan, with the help of the training kits developed by the project. The trainers training the trainers will be highly qualified in the field of conservation and management of natural resources and will have good knowledge of the Equatorial Guinea context.
- Training of wider government and ministry personnel: the trained trainers will train the personnel under the supervision of the contracted trainer, to put into application what they learnt. The targeted stakeholders will be divided into groups based on the capacity needs and the objectives of the institution. Group diversity will be promoted to maximise information and skills transfer during the training sessions. At the very least, each training session will be proposed twice in each targeted landscape and a minimum of 200 different people will attend trainings. Training sessions will take place in the different government institutions and the trainers will travel to those locations to carry out the trainings so as to optimise expenses and decrease costs. These training sessions will be held in such a way that capacities developed can then be applied in the land use planning processes promoted by the project (activities of outcome 1.3 below).

Outcome 1.3: Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes

This outcome will work to develop local level, community-based, integrated land use plans. It will also support the strengthening of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (output 1.3.2), which will facilitate making the link between the local small scale LUPs developed and the ongoing national LUP process, and thus ensure local

involvement in the national process: participation of communities (recognition of customary tenure and access rights in the LUP, empowerment of women), civil society organisations, and the private sector.

Furthermore, the added value the project will bring is to promote the use of the land use planning methodology and other tools developed by the regional CBSL project (see activity 1.3.1.1). The project will ensure that technical input developed in output 1.2.1, such as the value of natural ecosystems, is considered in the development of LUPs. Finally, it will ensure lessons learned from other land use planning initiatives in the Congo basin are taken in consideration (for example the land use planning and methodological guides for national, provincial and local land use schemes supported by CAFI in DRC, Congo and Gabon).

Output 1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes

Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level

The Equatorial Guinea project will provide input and participate in the process driven by the CBSL IP regional project to develop a land use planning methodology at landscape level that will be applied in the 6 Congo Basin IP countries. The project will advocate for the new methodology to be based on the existing one developed by COMIFAC in the context of CARPE (Guide for Integrated Landscape Land Use Planning in Central Africa, published in 2015). This will avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts, as well as loss of time. The methodology will also include lessons learnt from previous land planning processes in the project countries. This revised methodology should be developed in the early stages of the project so that ample time is given for implementation within the landscapes and appropriation of the methodology by the relevant stakeholders. Indeed, without sufficient appropriation, the methodology risks being just another unused document. This said, the project will support its appropriation in the Monte Alen landscape, through the already established multi-stakeholder landscape platform (see activity 1.3.2.1).

Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)

The development of a roadmap will ensure a standardization of the methodology used, and of the plans developed at local levels and will guarantee that the process is replicable. The COMIFAC Guide for Community-based Natural Resource Management Planning in Central Africa (2015) will be used to develop the roadmap and the land use plans. Successful participatory land use planning experiences carried out in the Congo Basin region will be researched, and replicable aspects will be adapted and included in the roadmap. The roadmap will define the stakeholders to involve, other than the communities themselves, as well as the facilitators and leaders of the process, and give a timeline for implementation. Specific attention will be placed on involving women and youth in the land use planning processes. The land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level will be consulted and used where appropriate. The multi-stakeholder land-use plans developed at the local levels will be used as input elements for the national land use plan. Indeed, developing land use plans at local levels is arguably more important than trying to develop a comprehensive national land use plan, which will be largely ignored by local communities unless it is tailored directly to them.

Community-based land use plans will be developed at the village level in each of the five protected areas of the two project landscapes, based on the roadmap developed. One LUP will be developed in the vicinity of each of the 5 PAs, and will cover a small number of communities all located in the same area.To support the development of community-based land use plans, the knowledge base on site will be built. Firstly, community knowledge on the current distribution, usage, state and trend of natural resources will be compiled. The results of studies carried out in output 1.2.1 will be considered, as well as previous environmental, ecological, socio-economic studies carried out in the landscapes. Specific studies will then be undertaken to complement this information based on the gaps identified with local communities. Potential activities to be undertaken at a finer scale can include rapid participatory biodiversity surveys, feasibility studies for various economic activity developments, assessments of economic and cultural value of flora and fauna, assessment of abundance trends of targeted species, legal documentation of land boundaries and satellite images. Training on the use of GPS will be provided to community members and local government stakeholders where appropriate.

After compiling the required information, a series of community meetings will be organised for the participatory development of the land use plans. Participatory mapping will be used for the development of the land use plans. As part of the planning exercise, land tenure will be discussed and mapped, forested areas and protected areas will be highlighted, areas for potential expansion of the villages will be delineated as well as agricultural and agroforestry areas, and sites for the development of other sources of income (e.g. tourism). After developing a detailed map, an action plan will be developed by local communities for the implementation of the sustainable development activities identified. The project will support the communities for the implementation of the plans, with guidance and regular follow up to ensure full understanding and ownership, so that implementation persists beyond the project lifetime. In addition, inter-village meetings will be organised to share progress, experiences and results of the planning process.

The support provided to implementation of the plans will vary according to the plans developed. However, some of the actions to support that can be expected include setting up appropriate governance structures in the communities to implement the plans, demarcating boundaries of the zones defined in the plans, supporting community applications to obtain rights on their lands (*bosques communales*) so as to control, access and manage their natural resources, supporting sustainable community enterprises and activities related to fisheries, agriculture, agroforestry, forestry, NTFPs etc (linked with activities of output 1.3), and building community capacity for natural resource management and for enterprise and financial management.

Pilot communities will be identified at the start of the project based on volunteers, motivation, previous experience, the involvement of local authorities and the presence of a few skilled individuals in the community that can help lead the process. The outcomes of the SAPA and SAGE will also be used as selection criteria. A specific team of facilitators will be constituted for this activity, with significant skill and experience in land use planning processes (in the Congo Basin region if possible). Organisations with experience in this domain will also be contacted for guidance (for example, the African Wildlife Foundation). A liaison officer will be nominated in each community to aid the data collection and facilitate communication with the rest of the community. This officer will be nominated by the community, should live in the community and have the ability to read and write.

Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans

The development of pilot land use plans is done with the idea of these experiences serving as examples and starting points for further wide spread development of land use plans in the target landscapes. To facilitate this, community champions will be identified and their willingness to participate in peer-to-peer training activities will be assessed. A peer-to-peer training approach will be encouraged for targeted villages to transfer the experience gained in participatory development of pilot community-based land use and management plans to neighbouring villages. To do so, exchange visits between villages will be funded by the project. Additional peer-to-peer training sessions will be provided by trainees to villages that are interested in embarking in the process of developing land use plans.

Furthermore, the outcome of the pilot land use planning processes will be shared with stakeholders at provincial and national level, with the aim of serving as catalysts and informing the development of integrated land use plans at provincial and national levels (for example, through the multi-stakeholder landscape platform of activity 1.3.2.1).

Output 1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures

Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)

A multi-stakeholder platform was created in the Monte Alen landscape as part of the PACEBCo project in 2014 but the creation process was not finalised before the end of the project. The platform will therefore be revived and supported to define its internal operating rules and review and implement its roadmap. The links between this platform and the protected area management structures and other local governance structures will be clarified.

This platform will be used in several ways:

- as a tool to ensure the involvement of communities in local natural resource governance, to give more voice and votes to local communities and thus ensure their active participation,
- as a way to involve stakeholders in the national land use planning process and make the link between the local small scale LUPs developed and the national LUP,
- as a means to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships that promote community-based forest management, and that could propose projects to be funded through the micro-projects grants (output 3.1.1) of the country project, or the micro grants and credits provided by the CBSL regional project open to community-based organisations, civil society organisations and local NGOs. The regional CBSL project will provide guidance on this point (this could include presentation of the digital platform for improved community access to financing, developed by the regional project).

4.5.2 Component 2: Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services

This component will strengthen protected areas management in the landscapes to ensure sustainable conservation of the forest ecosystems within them. This will be done by strengthening the capacities of INDEFOR-AP to manage PAs, at various levels: top management (on enhanced management of financial resources), middle management (PA managers and assistant managers on PA and natural resource management), and eco-guards. This will ensure that INDEFOR-AP personnel is in a better position to carry out their roles adequately. Wider law enforcement personnel will also be trained on law enforcement with regards to PAs and natural resources. These trainings will be institutionalised through training of trainers. INDEFOR-AP will also be supported through improved infrastructure and equipment to carry out its missions. PA governance will be strengthened and local communities involved through several assessments

(SAPA, SAGE and METT), and subsequent action plans put in place. The regional CBSL project will be solicited to provide technical support and guidance on how to incorporate traditional knowledge and learning of local communities into PA forest management, as well as how to ensure participation of local communities in natural resource governance (as laid out in REPALEAC's Strategic Plan 2025). All these activities will build on existing infrastructure and capacity provided by previous conservation projects (e.g. PACEBCo, ECOFAC, CARPE etc), and INDEFOR-AP's existing activities and operations (co-financing).

Outcome 2.1: Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities

Output 2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds

Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources

During the project design phase, INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA expressed their willingness to gain the necessary capacities to become executing agencies in future GEF programmes. To achieve this, the project will start by carrying out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, to identify shortcomings and areas of improvement in the management of financial resources. A list of recommendations will be drawn up as a result of this audit.

Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas

Based on the results of the financial audit, a capacity building programme will be developed and implemented for the top and middle management of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA. Training will cover topics such as enhanced fund management, developing appropriate management procedures, carrying out audits, optimising the use of funds, transparency, and researching, soliciting and obtaining funds from non-government sources. Four of the INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA staff trained will undergo an additional training of trainers session, so as to ensure the sustainability of the training.

The project will also support the implementation of the recommendations of the financial audit.

This output will lead to INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA diversifying their fund sources and better managing their funds, and therefore being in a better position to carry out their missions of managing natural resources and protected areas.

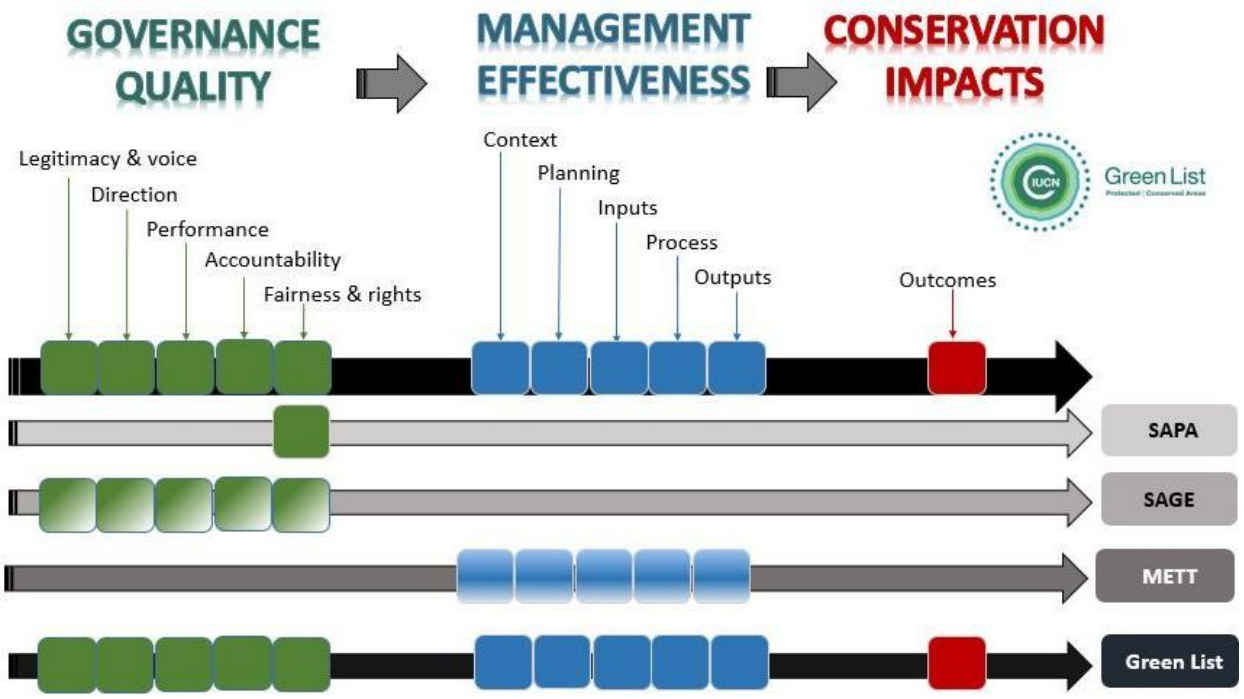
Output 2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five Protected Areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes

Each of the following steps and activities are designed to be part of the overall achievement of output 2.1.2, namely the enhanced governance and management of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes. Although Equatorial Guinea is not committing politically to the IUCN Green List in the context of this project, the Green List Standard will nevertheless be used as the overarching framework for guiding fair and effective protected and conserved areas. The IUCN Green List standard of protected and conserved areas will be introduced and implemented as the benchmark for successful area based conservation. This provides the explicit advantage of supporting the country's protected area system through globally consistent and recognized criteria and indicators. It also sets the ground for committing to the Green List process at any later stage.

The Green List Standard has four major components, (i) *good governance*, (ii) *sound design and planning*, (iii) *effective management* and (iv) *effective conservation outcomes*. Each component has a set of criteria and indicators. The performance of a protected area is assessed against the normative criteria. The assessments that will be carried out as part of this output will allow for a comprehensive review against the IUCN Green List Standard.

The activities will draw on three different tools, SAPA (social assessment for protected areas), SAGE (site assessment for governance and equity) and METT (management effectiveness tracking tool), see the figure below. Lessons learnt from other similar initiatives and community forestry and governance in the Congo Basin will be identified and considered in this output (for example: Van de Rijt, Appie, *Community forestry in the DRC: Lessons learnt from the Congo Basin*, 2015).

Figure 21: Tools for achieving improved governance and management in the IUCN Green List Standard



Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites

The effective participation of local communities is contingent on the existence of equitable governance arrangements that address issues of recognition, procedure (especially participation, transparency) and the distribution of benefits and costs. To foster these conditions will require a good understanding of the current situation. To this end the project will use the Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) tool (see: https://www.iied.org/assessing-social-impacts-protected-conserved-areas-sapa) which has been used in similar contexts in central and west Africa to enable communities and PA management to collectively assess positive and negative impacts (benefits and costs) of conservation from a community perspective and governance issues of recognition and procedure, and identify, plan, and monitor actions to improve which can be included in a PA management plan (i.e. linked to activity 2.1.2.2).

The choice of SAPA has also been motivated by the fact that it will help to ensure safeguard compliance as it serves to identify existing negative impacts of protected area conservation on local people that the project is inheriting (such as law enforcement actions that infringe/violate human rights, human wildlife conflict may infringe human rights to food etc.). It will complement the Process Framework that is developed to ensure compliance with the IUCN ESMS Standard on Access Restrictions. SAPA will also provide a baseline against which to monitor change in social impacts over time and thus whether the social safeguards are working, especially concerning the more vulnerable people.

Where SAPA indicates there will be value in a dedicated governance assessment, the multi-stakeholder Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool will be used 6 to 12 months after SAPA. SAGE is closely aligned with the criteria and indicators of the IUCN Green List Standard and both SAPA and SAGE are designed to contribute to PA management effectiveness assessments such as METT and IMET and are already being used in this way by the BIOPAMA programme. The SAPA assessment will be carried out by an international consultant with experience conducting SAPA in West or Central Africa, together with two national consultants. It will start with a training session for the local consultants. This will be followed by initial community meetings for scoping based on which detailed household surveys questionnaire and the actual household interviews will be prepared. Once the survey results are available, these will be discussed in final meetings with the communities which will then be the basis for the development of the action plan.

Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines

Currently all of the management plans of the protected areas of the two project landscapes are obsolete. In the Monte Alen landscape the project will update the management plans of Monte Alen National Park, Piedra Nzas Natural Monument and Altos de Nsork National Park. The management plan of Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve is also obsolete, but the project will probably not finance its update as this is being done with the support of WCS. The update of the management plan of Rio Campo will also be funded, and it will take into consideration the extension proposal of

the protected area to National Park status. The associated business plans of the protected areas will be updated where necessary.

Update of the existing management plans in the three PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park will be done in accordance with the IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines and the IUCN Green List Standard. The project will contract an IUCN WCPA accredited Green list expert to mentor the initial revision of the plans. The PA sites may use the IUCN Green List self-assessment process to guide the development of the plans. As the management planning will involve the defining of zones for conservation activities (see protected area policies in section 3.1.4.2 of the document), this needs to be considered in the SAPA assessment, and also integrated into the governance assessment activities in 2.1.2.3. As per the IUCN Good Governance principles, the management plans will be revised and validated via forums for the inclusion of rights holders and stakeholders. Particular efforts will be made to ensure the participation of women and youth.

A specific team will be formed to carry out this activity: a national consultant will lead a team of INDEFOR-AP management staff, with the mentoring and supervision of the IUCN WCPA Green list expert including with governance and management expertise. All the management plans will be updated in the same timeframe, in order to mutualise expenses and decrease costs.

Once the management plans are developed and technically approved, and the activities in 2.1.2.3 completed (SAGE and METT), the project will support INDEFOR-AP in getting their political validation:

- The project will facilitate the organisation of several high-level validation seminars in which all the management plans will be reviewed and approved at the same time by the relevant stakeholders (the government delegates of the area where the protected area is located, the governor, the mayors, the military and police chiefs, members of the multi-stakeholder platform, companies of the area, the relevant ministers, deputies and senators, community representatives…), to avoid multiple meetings
- Minutes of these seminars will be developed and a draft presidential decree prepared for promulgation along with a justification statement, and sent to the Presidency of the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment
- Progress on promulgation will be followed up on at the level of the Ministry of Forestry.

Activity 2.1.2.3: Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas

The Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) initiative aims to improve the governance and equity of protected areas, other conservation measures, and conservation-related actions. It is based on the relatively simple SAGE methodology, which enables stakeholders to assess the status of governance, plan actions to improve, and monitor progress. SAGE is fully aligned with METT.

The SAGE activity will be led by an international governance consultant and national governance consultant (the latter will be fully trained as part of the activities). SAGE is a governance assessment methodology that is used by managers and other site-level rights holders and stakeholders themselves. The activity will comprise a capacity building session and thereafter a two-day stakeholder workshop in two parts per protected area. In the first part, different stakeholder groups complete the SAGE questionnaire in their separate groups. In the second part these groups come together to share their findings. The SAGE questionnaire is similar to the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and, like METT, SAGE also captures qualitative information including specific governance challenges identified by different stakeholders, reasons for differences in perspective, and suggested actions to address the challenges and promote convergence of perspectives.

In addition to the actual assessment, and effective communication of the results, SAGE will include planning actions to improve governance and equity and monitoring of progress. SAGE is simpler and less costly than most other methodologies. Although this limits the depth of analysis, this reduces the risk of causing conflict around sensitive issues, which makes SAGE an excellent entry point for work to improve governance and equity.

Thereafter, the METT will be used for each of the PAs targeted by the project to progressively monitor the performance of the sites under the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas.

The METT is a tool developed by WWF and the World Bank to help monitor progress towards improving management effectiveness of protected areas. Further it aligns directly with the IUCN Green List Standard (see figure above). The METT is a generic tool designed for global use; thus it is unlikely to fit one protected area perfectly. The METT has already been carried out in Equatorial Guinea (in Monte Alen NP, Rio Campo NR, Rio Muni NR), as part of the GEF UNDP project *Strengthening the National System of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea for the effective conservation of representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity*, but it was not adapted to the local context or carried out in a participatory manner. The project will support the adaptation of the tool to the Equatorial Guinea context (using the METT handbook), by keeping the basic format of the METT the same and adding to, rather than changing, the wording of the METT (e.g. providing additional advice on interpretation for local conditions or by additional questions).

Adaptation of the tool will include considering adding questions on climate change, transboundary conservation, and social processes. It will be done through a participatory process, involving stakeholders from various levels. Before implementation of the tool, the protected area managers and their assistants will be trained on its objectives and use (including practical examples).

The METT is designed to track progress over time, so once the adaptation is done, the tool will be implemented three times, in each of the five protected areas of the project, at different stages of the project (beginning, mid-term, and end). The use of the tool will continue beyond the project and will become an automatic part of annual planning. The implementation of the METT will involve a variety of stakeholders to aid insight in the assessment results; including people outside the protected area, such as local communities, will bring richer insights. To ensure adaptive management, after each assessment, an action plan to integrate the results to the protected areas management will be developed, and the results will be communicated to those that participated in the assessment process (as well as other local and national stakeholders, including through the multi-stakeholder landscape platform of activity 1.3.2.1).

Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices

The protected areas managers and their assistants are forest technical engineers or environmental graduates, but they are not specifically trained to manage protected areas or for forest management. Specific capacity building on best management practices for protected areas is needed. A training course will be developed based on identified training needs already partly identified by INDEFOR-AP's Training department. The course will be attended by all managers and assistant managers of the five protected areas of the project landscapes. It will cover topics such as conservation and protected areas (global and national context, environmental problem, protected area values and objectives, legal framework), governance structures, roles and responsibilities of protected areas managers, natural resource management (planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluating, reporting, scientific research…), human relations and communication management (managing human relations with local communities, managing conflicts, local community involvement, receiving visitors, managing user and visitor impacts, awareness raising of the public, managing buffer zones), and operation and protection of protected areas (patrolling and surveillance, navigation techniques, infrastructure maintenance, trail creation and maintenance). The training will be carried out in a number of sessions over several months, giving the participants the opportunity of implementing the knowledge and skills learnt in between sessions. Training tools will include booklets, guidelines, short videos, simulation exercises, case studies and field visits, among others. Participants will be encouraged to enrol in the IUCN Green List capacity development programme which is a free, online and self-directed learning programme on the IUCN Green List and conservation outcomes. They may join the learning networks of the IUCN Green List capacity development programme for shared learning and exchange. They will also be encouraged to enrol in the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on conservation topics, such as those developed by the Program on African Protected areas & Conservation (PAPACO), which are free and open for all. The Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroun can also be contacted to provide guidance on developing the training course and finding experienced trainers.

The capacities developed by the trainees will be applied in outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4.

Output 2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)

Although INDEFOR-AP has a yearly budget it does not dispose freely of the funds. A lengthy and cumbersome application process has to be carried out every time funds are needed (for a field mission for example). The process contains 6 stages, each requiring verification and approval by different government entities. This is a major challenge as it means that it can take several months to receive funds for operational activities, thus hindering regular and reactive field work. Discussions on this problem will be facilitated with the relevant government institutions, with the aim of simplifying the procedure, without necessarily removing key control points.

Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation

Currently all of the managers of the protected areas are based in Bata. For effective management the management staff should be based in or near the protected areas. As this is not possible at present due to lack of funds, it is important to at least increase field presence by carrying out more regular field missions to the protected areas. The project will therefore finance frequent field missions of at least one week (in addition to the field trips already budgeted by INDEFOR-AP and to other project activities such as METT assessments and PA management plan updates) to each of the protected areas of the two landscapes throughout the project's lifespan. These field trips will provide opportunities for extensive patrols and monitoring of the areas, as well as meetings and exchanges with local communities and authorities to promote good relationships with them. An annual work plan for these trips, including the missions' aims and outputs, destinations, team needed and dates, will be developed at the beginning of each year in discussion with stakeholders working in these areas. The project budget accounts for a total of 300 missions of 4 days for the 5 protected areas over 4 years. Key local decision makers could occasionally be included in patrols to foster understanding of conservation challenges and continuous collaboration and support.

The number of eco-guards in the field is insufficient to carry out effective patrol work. 16 additional eco-guards will be recruited by INDEFOR-AP, with funds from the project. The eco-guards will be recruited from the local communities at the beginning of the project so that they can participate in the capacity building programmes (activity 2.1.4.1). Eco-guards recruited should be interested in regional ecological and social matters, be observant, dynamic, creative, able to react quickly and appropriately in emergencies, and capable of working both independently and in a group. Guards should also have the necessary qualities to attend and negotiate with people, such as visitors and members of the community. The specific selection process will be defined at the start of the project. An option is that the eco-guards could be recruited from the community patrol teams set up (see activity 2.1.4.2), based on feedback from the trainer (i.e. the trainer would identify the community members with the most aptitude to become an eco-guard, the others would remain community patrol team members).

The eco-guards of the five protected areas (existing and newly recruited) will be adequately equipped with personal protective equipment, as well as first aid boxes (and basic training, see activity below). The project will also fund the logistics of the additional field missions and patrols through the purchase of two 4x4 vehicles, 6 motorbikes (one for each protected area, two for Monte Alen PA), one boat for Estuario del Muni Nature Reserve and 20 bicycles for eco-guards.

In addition to field missions and patrols, existing monitoring trails and transects will be maintained, and extra trails created where necessary. The zoning of Monte Alen and Altos de Nsork National Parks will be implemented (delimitated on ground with transects and signposts) as defined in the management plans (see activity 2.1.2.1).

The establishment and management of a pilot cyber tracking centre will support anti-poaching activities in the two transboundary landscapes, notably by detecting and tracking poaching activities and other wildlife crimes. It will also provide the necessary data to promote policy update and change as well as decision-making on sustainable wildlife management. The tracking system will also be used by other stakeholders like scientific researchers, police, magistrates and local populations to promote scientific research, legal procedures and community participation in wildlife management.

Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery

Some of the key management infrastructure funded in previous conservation projects is now rundown or was not fully completed. This infrastructure will be improved so that it can be operational and effective. This will include:

- Provision of basic furniture for the offices and accommodation of Altos de Nsork management centre (the centre was built by PACEBCo but no furniture was provided). This will allow the protected area personnel to be based there permanently.
- Provision of basic accommodation furniture for Rio Campo management centre
- Renovation of staff housing in Monte Alen National Park and provision of basic furniture (buildings were financed by ECOFAC years ago and are now in need of refreshments). This will allow the project manager and the Monte Alen National Park Manager to be based there permanently.
- Construction of two new eco-museums in Rio Campo in support of the TOMAGE project to conserve marine turtles (the existing eco-museum structure has been affected by the ocean)
- Construction of two control points at strategic main entry points to Monte Alen National Park (Niefangang - by the bridge over the River Benito, Ebolowa Cruce - crossroad between Evinayong and Cuma, Ncono, and Sendje). These control points will check vehicles for bushmeat, among other things. A number of army and police control points already exist in Rio Campo Nature Reserve. The project will therefore encourage closer collaboration with these authorities for greater control rather than build extra infrastructure.

Output 2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes

Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols

Support for eco-guards and their work is considered a key component for the strengthening of protected areas. This includes the provision of essential equipment for their operations, which is provided for in activity 2.1.3.1, and training.

The eco-guards working in the protected areas were recruited in surrounding villages at different times. The majority do not have sufficient practical and theoretical training to carry out their work efficiently. A capacity building programme directed to all the eco-guards of the targeted project landscapes will therefore be organised (including newly recruited guards). The programme will be carried out in two phases:

- Training of trainers: 5 PA managers and assistant managers will be trained to become eco-guard trainers. This will ensure that future eco-guards recruited after the project's lifespan can be trained directly by INDEFOR-AP staff
- Training of eco-guards: these trained trainers will then train the eco-guards, under the supervision of the lead trainers contracted for the activity

This programme will include training on topics such as basic concepts of conservation and biodiversity; the mission, roles, and responsibilities of eco-guards; regional terrestrial and marine ecosystems and their environmental problems; legal framework; patrolling methodologies; monitoring, data collection and record keeping; species identification; the use of equipment such as compasses and GPS, map reading and orientation; reporting; awareness raising and relationship building with local communities (including gender sensitive and human rights aspects, e.g what constitutes abuse of human rights, including torture, cruel or unnatural punishments, sexual or gender-based violence); conflict resolution; how to deal with health and security risks (basic first aid for example), environmental education; support to scientific research; attention to visitors and other users; infrastructure, trails and signage upkeep. The training will include field exercises to apply acquired knowledge. Training manuals will be developed to complement the training sessions and will be divided in several modules with exercises, evaluations and additional references at the end to reinforce learning. The capacities developed by the eco-guards will immediately be applied in their daily conservation activities, during and beyond the project lifespan.

The training instructors will be identified at the start of the project. Trainers from the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroun could intervene, as could trainers from African Parks or WCS and North Carolina Zoo (who run SMART workshops). It is key that the trainers possess expertise in field conservation and experience in eco-guard training, as well as experience in human rights related issues.

Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams

Although additional eco-guards will be recruited, this will still not be sufficient for efficient field presence in the protected areas. Therefore where there are not enough eco-guards community patrol teams will be set up and trained to ensure more extensive and regular patrols and presence in the protected areas. Special efforts will be made to involve women in the patrols as experience has shown that involving women in such initiatives boosts conservation of protected areas and promotes environmental awareness in local communities. A pilot community patrol team will first be tested in three communities of the Monte Alen National Park in the first phase of the project. A participatory evaluation of the effectiveness of the community patrols will be done at the end of the second year and recommendations for improvement will be made. If the outcome is positive, the scheme will be replicated in 3 communities for each of the other 4 protected areas of the project. If the outcome is not conclusive, a second test phase will be carried out, integrating recommendations made during the participatory evaluation.

Community patrols will be carried out once a month and be led by the trained eco-guards. The eco-guards will ensure coordination between eco-guard and community patrol team activities, and will oversee and support the community patrols. These patrols will contribute to long-term monitoring of wildlife, and the teams will participate in community sensitization activities. PA management will also support community patrol teams (for logistic needs for example). Each team will be constituted of at least 4 people. Team members will be remunerated on a per diem basis by the project and will be provided with appropriate work wear.

Training of the community patrol teams will be carried out by the trainers trained under activity 2.1.4.1 (PA managers and assistant managers), under the supervision and guidance of the lead trainers, and in the same timeframe. These trainings will also include gender sensitive and human rights aspects, and health and security risks.

Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers etc

Local enforcement actors such as the police, army, local government authorities, and justice staff are not well aware of the presence and objectives of the protected areas of the landscapes and the associated legal framework. These stakeholders will be trained on these aspects, as well as on the importance of their role in enforcing the law to support conservation efforts. This will be done in line with the IUCN Guidelines on law enforcement. The role of each stakeholder in conservation of the landscape's eco-systems will be clearly exposed (forest guards, eco-guards, police, army, local authorities etc). Gender and human rights aspects will also be addressed during the training (for example, what constitutes abuse of human rights, including torture, cruel or unnatural punishments, sexual or gender-based violence etc; explanation of how the PA/use restrictions may affect peoples' livelihoods; importance of good community relations; conflict resolution measures etc). A training manual covering all these aspects will be developed, so as ensure a broader and more sustainable outcome of this activity. The *Manual on human rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and good practices applicable during anti-poaching operations*, developed by GIZ and WWF in Cameroun, can be used as an example or model to develop a similar Equatorial Guinea manual.

As the number of people to train on these aspects is important, and as training will be more efficient if it is carried out at local level, experienced INDEFOR-AP protected area staff will be trained to carry out the training of law enforcement actors (training of trainers for peer to peer training). This will ensure the sustainability of these training sessions beyond the project's lifespan as trainers will have been trained. At least two trainings in each of the landscape districts will be carried out. The training will include gender sensitive aspects as well as local community rights.

Further awareness raising of law enforcement will be carried out by the regional child project (in coordination with the Equatorial Guinea country project), in particular on illegal wildlife trade.

Once trained, the project will push for greater collaboration between law enforcement and conservation stakeholders. The police in particular will accompany INDEFOR-AP in field work (field missions and eco-guard patrols) on a regular basis, to carry out arrests and follow up prosecution where necessary. The aim here is not to harass or arrest community members using protected area resources for subsistence, but to focus on organised poaching and logging groups (albeit informal). These law enforcement activities will only be carried out after an initial awareness raising campaign on current laws and regulations is done in the landscapes (see output 4.1.1), and once the alternative livelihood projects are underway and generating income (see output 3.1.1). This is to avoid conflicting relations with local communities.

4.5.3 Component 3: Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes

This component will work with local communities living near protected areas, to develop alternative livelihood activities, in order to decrease the dependence and pressure on forest ecosystems and the services they provide, deliver socio-economic benefits, and increase local people's resilience to climate change. Local communities will be supported in developing sustainable micro-projects that generate lasting income. The project will provide technical inputs on NTFPs, to be incorporated in micro-project development. In addition, the project will work with the private sector to guide forest management towards more sustainable practices, thus decreasing the logging sector's impact on the country's forests. The CBSL regional project will be solicited to provide guidance for the activities of this component (in particular with regards to community-led multi-stakeholder partnerships that could be developed and funded through the micro-project grant).

Outcome 3.1: Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes

Output 3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model

This approach of micro-projects was selected to maximise ownership of the livelihood improvement interventions to be developed under the project, and ensure that they are aligned with the needs and aspirations of community members and therefore sustained beyond the project lifespan.

A maximum of 50 communities will participate in this program. Communities will have to be situated within 5km of the boundaries of one of the 5 project PAs, and will participate voluntarily. At least 3 communities should participate for each PA. The selected beneficiary communities of this output will be those most strongly affected by PA access restrictions. The communities most affected will be reflected in the results of the SAPA carried out in output 2.1.2. These results will therefore be taken into consideration when identifying potential beneficiaries.

The development of this output will build on lessons learnt from other similar initiatives in the Congo Basin and from tools and guidance provided by the CBSL regional project.

IUCN Cameroon Office will be the main fiduciary control body to manage the two main small grants programs on the field based on its previous experiences in the management of other important and complex small grants programs (e.g. CARPE, SOS, etc.). Oversight functions and controls will be carried out by the IUCN Regional Office for Central and West Africa and IUCN Headquarters. Within this framework, IUCN will select through a transparent process and sign small grants agreements with meritorious Communty-based organisations within the landscapes.

Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)

To have the best chance of success of the micro-projects scheme, a specific facilitator will be appointed by the project to implement this output, in collaboration with the project team. The facilitator will have experience in micro-projects and alternative livelihoods development. He will ensure the smooth design and implementation of micro-projects with local communities. He will also design project proposal templates, project evaluation guidelines and templates, draft project selection guidance notes, grant allocation modalities, and Memorandums of Understanding with beneficiaries, as well as write up final reports of project implementation. Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt will be compiled to capitalise these experiences and share knowledge with UNDP and other Congo Basin IP projects.

In each participating community, a community focal point will be nominated by the community, to facilitate liaison between the project team and the community beneficiaries. In addition, the team will collaborate with national NGOs (for instance ANDEGE) to support and build capacity of local civil society organisations (formal or informal) on topics such as CSO structuring, activity and action planning and implementation, collaborating and working together, creating groups, partnerships and networks, obtaining funds etc. Indeed, there is currently insufficient CSO capacity at community level to develop project propositions, and in Equatorial Guinea as a whole.

A call for proposal will be widely communicated to participating communities. The call for proposal will detail the application process, the format to use, the expected project types, and the deadline. A second call for proposal may be carried out if the first call for proposal was successful and if sufficient funds permit it.

Each adult member will have the choice of applying for a grant individually or as part of a group and/or association. The emergence of potential community-led partnerships will be encouraged through the multi-stakeholder landscape platform (see activity 1.3.2.1), and these groups will have the opportunity of applying for grants. Support and guidance will be provided to each individual/group for the development of the proposal. The people receiving support will include at least 40% of women and 30% of people aged between 18 and 30 years. A set amount per adult will be defined to give equal opportunities to everyone. However, access to this fund will depend on the quality and eligibility of the proposal. People applying as groups will have access to a higher budget. The time spent to put together the proposal will be a first investment from community members to show their motivation.

In exchange of benefiting from this small grants programme financed by the project, beneficiaries will commit to not carrying out any illegal or restrictive activities within protected areas. Examples of micro-projects that could be funded include, but are not limited to: NTFP related activities, material/equipment provision (fishing, agriculture, processing, storing, agriculture inputs…), bee keeping (honey production), hand-crafts, eco-tourism, market development, fuel efficient stoves, agroforestry, cultivation of alternative crop and tree species, value chain development….

A set of criteria will be developed to select the proposals that will be supported by the project. Major criteria for the selection process will include: i) environmental impact on biodiversity in the short, medium and long term; ii) social impact including cultural benefits in the short, medium and long term; iii) economic viability; iv) pilot best agricultural practices and v) replicability (so that successful micro-projects can be repeated elsewhere and have an increased impact). Environment and Social Impact Assessments and/or market analysis will be undertaken where necessary. Past experiences in alternative livelihood development, in particular in the Monte Alen National Park (ECOFAC programme) will be considered when selecting projects, to avoid repeat failures. The selection criteria and process will be made transparent to all community members to ensure that there is no feeling of injustice between selected and non-selected micro-project holders. A total of at least 100 micro-projects will be supported by grants in the selected beneficiary communities.

The project holders will be supported in the development of a long-term business plan identifying the human and financial needs for the maintenance of their interventions beyond the project lifespan. The support provided under the project will cover, as much as possible, all the identified inputs needed to implement and maintain the income-generating activity. Tailor-made training will be developed to support the implementation of the selected micro-projects. The project will also create links between relevant micro-project holders where synergies or complementarities can be developed (e.g. development of a specific value chain).

Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods

Community members whose micro-project proposals are funded will have the opportunity to participate in capacity-building programmes. These capacity building programmes will take place at the local level and will be designed based on community needs and requests identified during the programme design phase. At least 50% of the participants will be women and youth. The programmes will also include experience sharing sessions (for example with model farms through the field schools developed with FAO). Topics that could be covered by the programme include: new cultivation, conservation (e.g. smoking and salting), processing, storing and commercialisation techniques (for agriculture and fishing), food hygiene best practices, product diversification, how to set up solid community working groups, market development, finance management etc.

Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea

To facilitate transformational and sustainable change among civil society organisations, the project will partner with UNDP and the Government of Equatorial Guinea to set up a GEF UNDP Small grants Program for Equatorial Guinea that will continue after the life-span of the project and support the sustainability of the project's livelihood development activities. Whereas activities 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2 will focus specifically on communities in the vicinity of the 5 project PAs, the UNDP small grants program will be set up at national level, although this will be done based on lessons learned and experiences from small grants program executed in the landscapes (activities 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2)

IUCN will be the main fiduciary control body to manage this grants. IUCN will sign an execution agreement with UNDP in Equatorial Guinea.

Output 3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)

Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population

Catalogues identifying NTFP (medicinal plants, bark, fibres, fruits, seeds…) present in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes will be developed in collaboration with local communities. The catalogues will focus on the main NTFPs used by local communities and will give details on the products, where they are found, how and when they are collected and harvested, and how they are used and consumed. It will also identify whether current harvesting of the NTFPs is sustainable or not, and will highlight the current traditional/sustainable use systems in place. Particular attention will be paid to involving women, and the pygmy family of Ayamiken in the inventory.

Based on the NTFPs identified, and in line with the National NTFP Strategy, a market study will evaluate the possibilities of developing sustainable NTFP value-chains and will aim to identify which NTFPs have the most potential, highlighting the opportunities and constraints for developing such value-chains (identifying bottlenecks from raw material production to the final market). It will focus in particular on evaluating the existing stakeholders, access to markets (transport needs), capital availability (micro-finance schemes needs) and local capacity (training needs) for developing these value-chains. Recommendations on how the constraints can be lifted and the opportunities taken advantage of will be given. The sustainability of the proposed value-chains will be detailed (environmental, social and economic). The study will include a section on research of successful NTFP value-chain development in the Congo Basin region, and how Equatorial Guinea can learn from these experiences. Local communities and authorities will be consulted as part of the study.

The project will also support INCOMA's initiative to carry out research on identification, cultivation and marketing of edible mushrooms in the local communities of the landscapes.

High potential products investment opportunities identified by the study will be promoted in developing alternative livelihoods (output 3.1.1).

Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures

Human-wildlife conflict has been identified as one of the potential challenges for the implementation and success of agriculture-related activities aimed at providing alternative incomes for local people in areas of high conservation value. Villagers living near the boundary of Monte Alén National Park typically identify large, conspicuous animals, such as gorillas, chimpanzees and elephants, as causing significant crop damage and some are killed in retaliation (no threat to human lives were mentioned in the field mission, wildlife threats were exclusively identified as being to crops). However, a preliminary study conducted by researchers from the Bristol Zoological Society and the University of the West of England showed that even though gorillas, chimpanzees and elephants did occasionally raid villagers' crops, quite a lot of the damage seemed to be caused by cane rats. These results demonstrate that there may be a significant discrepancy between villagers' perceptions of species responsible for crop-raiding and the animals actually causing this damage. This also highlights the need to develop appropriate, species-specific solutions in order to successfully mitigate the problem of crop-raiding, and the subsequent killing of threatened species that are perceived to be the drivers of the issue.

As such, a two-pronged approach is needed to better understand the drivers affecting Human Wildlife Coexistence from both a community and wildlife perspective. First, a study will be conducted among communities surrounding Monte Alén National Park to better understand people's perceptions of the Park and the species they believe to be responsible for most crop damage, as well as a systematic study on crop-raiding events to determine what species do most of the damage. Second, the animals identified as crop raiders will be monitored to determine their movement patterns over different seasons and different landscapes to identify the drivers of raiding, such as seasonal changes in food availability in the forest, migration routes or breeding seasons, forest fragmentation or habitat degradation.

After these studies have been completed, the results will be used to design and pilot potential solutions targeting the species causing the most damage, in collaboration with villagers and other stakeholders (e.g., provincial government officials, INDEFOR-AP) to develop a management plan to mitigate against crop damage. Ultimately, results from these studies will enable the creation of a strategy to alleviate the pressures from human wildlife conflict in the area around Monte Alén National Park that would benefit the local community while also improving the protection of threatened species in this area. This activity will be carried out by a post-doctoral researcher from BZS during the first two years of the project.

Outcome 3.2: Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes

The project will support the private sector in improving its logging practices but will not in any way involve logging of primary forests.

Output 3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests

Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable forest management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon

A team of selected ministry staff (from various relevant ministries), stakeholders of the private forestry sector and civil society (including women and youth) will go to Gabon and Cameroon to learn from their advanced experiences on sustainable management of forest concessions. In Cameroon the team could visit the Ebony project. The aim is to facilitate experience sharing between Equatorial Guinea forestry private sector and sustainable forest management initiatives in Cameroon and Gabon.

The working group will also implement the FAO's Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) for Sustainable Management of Forest Concessions. The SAT aims to help decision-makers at the planning and operational/management levels and stakeholders to: (i) identify whether the necessary conditions are in place to enable the effective and sustainable management of public forests through concession arrangements; and (ii) develop, where applicable, measures to attain or make improvements to achieve those conditions.

This activity will work with and focus on existing forest concessions (within the national forests, see figure 7), and will not lead to the creation of new concessions.

Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities

The working group formed for activity 3.2.1.1 will communicate their travel findings and the assessment results through a multi-stakeholder workshop, including the wider private sector and civil society. Representatives of CAFI and COMIFAC will also be present. Discussions during the workshop will lead to identifying key steps that need to be taken to improve forest concession management in Equatorial Guinea and ensure sustainable logging practices (e.g. involving local communities in forest concession decision-making processes, necessary changes and evolutions in the forest legal framework to promote more sustainable forestry practices, setting a higher minimum forest concession allocation timeline (between 20 to 30 years), resolving land use conflicts such as overlaps between PAs and forest or mining concessions…).

In addition, training sessions will be organised to train ministry staff and the private sector on sustainable forest concession management and certification processes, with the use of the FAO Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox. Five staff from MAGBOMA will receive a training of trainers on these topics and will then train the selected ministry staff under the guidance of a lead trainer.

4.5.4 Component 4: Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment

This component will raise public awareness and educate school children on the value of the forest ecosystems and the importance of conserving them. The awareness raising activities will also be linked to outcomes 1.3, 2.1 and 3.1 in order to foster behaviour change that will facilitate the implementation of local level land use plans, the effectiveness of conservation of protected areas and the development of sustainable alternative lievlihoods.

This component will also enable the sharing of project experiences and lessons learnt at local, national and regional level through various means of communication so as to touch a large number of stakeholders. The project's progress will be tracked and project management and interventions adapted accordingly, to ensure project impact.

The knowledge related activities in this component will use the mechanisms established by the regional CBSL project for assimilating, documenting and sharing knowledge gained through project experience. The regional project will provide knowledge management instruments that will be used to strengthen sharing of lessons learnt and best practices. The regional project will also provide support for the creation of knowledge products that serve the visibility of the CBSL IP at national and regional levels. Templates, processes and guidelines provided will be used and implemented in developing knowledge products.

Outcome 4.1: Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation

Output 4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity

Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences

The rural communication interventions will target rural communities, especially women, indigenous and local population and youths, decentralized and deconcentrated government officials within the project landscapes. Local communities that are beneficiaries of activities of outputs 1.3, 2.1 and 3.1 will be particularly target for awareness raising activities in order to create behaviour changes that will have a direct impact on the effectiveness of project activities.

The interventions will also target city dwellers and government staff at national level. A varied set of tools will be used to reach targeted audiences: rural and national radio programmes, social networks, short documentaries on national television, events, posters, t-shirts etc.

The design of the awareness raising campaign will build on the awareness raising interventions already implemented in Equatorial Guinea, under REDD+ on forests. The programmes will include topics such as environmental problems, ecosystem services, biodiversity management and conservation, laws and regulations on protected animals, hunting and fishing practices, and logging, locations and limits of protected areas. The objective of these campaigns and programmes will be to create change of behaviour.

The project will also finance the creation of a web page for INDEFOR-AP.

The awareness-raising activities will be undertaken at three levels:

- At the national scale: production and broadcasting of radio shows and documentaries; organisation of awareness raising events, including in schools; posters at the Ministry of agriculture, livestock, forests and the environment; Ministry of public works and infrastructure; Ministry of finance, economy and planning; Ministry of interior and local authorities; Ministry of mines and hydrocarbons; Ministry of Security; GE Proyectos; INCOMA; INDEFOR-AP.
- At the provincial level in the targeted landscapes: awareness-raising events in the provincial capital including in schools; posters and pamphlets in the provincial government offices, as well as agriculture and forest offices
- At the local level, and with an emphasis on communities that are direct beneficiaries of project activities and are located in and around project target sites: posters and pamphlets on the project in villages and in local government offices; awareness-raising events with animations in villages; awareness raising events in all primary and secondary schools of the constituency; t-shirts; diffusion of documentaries in the villages; comic books illustrating the project interventions and objectives. In communities surrounding protected areas, specific emphasis will be place on communicating rules and regulations regarding hunting, logging, fishing etc early on in the project (and throughout its duration).

Awareness raising interventions will be initiated at the project inception and continue throughout the project implementation phase. Documentaries on the project interventions will be developed at mid-term and end-term and broadcasted on social networks, institutional websites, IUCN networks and TV channels. 15-minute shows will be broadcasted weekly for a month every 6 months on the national radio channel.

Local initiatives such as ANDEGE and TOMAGE will carry out environmental education campaigns in schools in both landscapes (with communication tools such as quiz competitions, conservation role playing games, posters, booklets, t-shirts and caps). School field trips to the protected areas will be organised as part of the campaigns.

An educational trail will be created in Monte Alen National Park to receive schools from the area as well as from towns such as Bata and Evinayong.

Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: funding of eco-guards and eco-museum staff

TOMAGE will be supported in the continuation and increase of the work they already do in Rio Campo Nature Reserve towards the conservation of marine turtles. Funding will be provided for the recruitment of additional eco-guards and staff to look after and maintain the educational eco-museums that receive visitors. The eco-guards will carry out ongoing sensitization in local communities of Rio Campo and will patrol beaches to monitor turtles and their nests, and collect data.

Outcome 4.2: Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed

Output 4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin

Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership

Two representatives of the Equatorial Guinea project will participate in 4 regional meetings/training events/workshops organised by the CBSL regional project (in particular INDEFOR-AP staff). On return, the participants will give feedback of the meetings and workshops to wider project stakeholders through summary briefs.

The project will also participate in the webinars proposed by the regional project.

Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs

These briefs will be communicated at local, national and regional level to all relevant stakeholders concerned by the project. At least two briefs will be developed each year.

As a minimum, the following briefs will de developed:

- Technical briefs to support decision-making on governance and management of protected areas, valuation of natural capital and promotion of land rights and livelihood options of local communities

Results of the studies of output 1.2.1 will be published in accessible technical briefs to facilitate communication to relevant stakeholder governments in Equatorial Guinea, and in the wider Congo Basin region, so as to be taken into account in decision-making and policy and regulation development, in particular with regards to land use planning. The landscape concept will also be presented and the relevance and importance of it explained in these briefs. Intensive communication and lobbying on these issues will be carried out throughout the project timeframe to change mind-sets and convince decision makers to take decisions in favour and in consideration of the environment.

- A brief that identifies the national enabling conditions for good governance based on the learnings from the combined governance and management effectiveness assessment conducted in five PAs under output 2.1.2

Once the assessments under output 2.1.2 are completed, the learnings and findings should be collated and analysed for recommendations that can be scaled up to the protected area system level. This should take the form of a white paper or policy paper that details the enabling conditions for good governance and effective management of protected areas. This paper should examine the results from the site assessments carried out under output 2.1.2 and make recommendations and policy options for improved, diversified protected area governance.

Output 4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)

Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional Information system and web-portal

Information on project advances, successes and challenges will be communicated to the CBSL regional project, as requested by them, through short articles, progress indicators, photos, videos and other formats proposed by the regional project. Part of the content will go towards the CBSL knowledge management platform. The project will also participate in and contribute to the Community of Practice put in place by the regional project to foster collaboration and interaction with other child country projects.

Output 4.2.3: Project evaluation and audit missions carried out

Activity 4.2.3.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation and audit

A mid-term and end of project evaluations will be carried out. The objective of the evaluation will be to assess the level of implementation of the activities of the project and the identification of successes and bottlenecks. It will also support the executing agency and partners to successfully implement the activities of the project, notably by attaining its outputs and outcomes.

A yearly audit will also be carried out to ensure that the funds of the project are managed properly.

Activity 4.2.3.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of CBSL IP

This activity will facilitate synergy with the Regional CBSL IP coordinated by the UN Environment. It will also ensure that capitalise on guidelines and tools that will be elaborated by the Regional for use by the various national projects, including ours. The activity will also facilitate collaboration with the transboundry project in Cameroon. Monitoring and evaluation will be done through evaluation missions, regional workshops, study tours, etc.

4.6 Risk analysis and risk management measures

A number of risks have been identified for this project - external risks, technical & operational risks and environmental & social risks. Measures to mitigate these risks have been integrated into project design as demonstrated in the table below. The risk level describes the residual risks considering that mitigation measures are adequately implemented. References to relevant outputs/activities are provided in the table below.

Table 10: Project risk and mitigation measures

Risk Description	Level	Mitigation measure(s)
External risks		
Infrastructure, forest or mining activities developed throughout the landscapes outside of any land use planning process	High	Component 1 of the project aims at developing integrated and improved land use planning and management. The component's activities will include stakeholders from all sectors and institutions related to land use, including those that make important decisions in allocating forest concessions or approving infrastructure development. These stakeholders will be involved in component 1 activities as much as possible, they will be sensitized and trained on the impacts of their professional activities on the country's natural resources (outputs 1.1.1, 1.2.2, and 1.3.2), and how they should take these into consideration. They will also contribute to the land use planning processes (outputs 1.3.1 and 1.3.2). Collaboration between stakeholders will be promoted.
No political willingness to support a transboundary agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea	Low	This is a low risk as past experience has shown that both governments have already attempted to develop such an agreement, showing that there is some willingness. The project will contribute to bringing this transboundary collaboration agreement back to the forefront of the political agenda of the relevant ministry through activities of output 1.1.1.
No political appropriation to develop land use plans at landscape level (no appropriation of the 'landscape' concept)	High	The landscape concept does not exist as such at the political level in Equatorial Guinea, it is not part of the legal framework of the organisation of the national territory (as are provinces, districts and municipalities for example). Protected areas are already accepted and recognised as an integral part of the territory at national level (although not always fully respected), but this is not the case for landscapes. For activities at landscape levels to be effective, the landscape concept needs to be integrated by all relevant stakeholders. The project will regularly present the landscape concept in technical briefs addressed to stakeholders (activity 4.2.1.2), and during capacity building sessions (output 1.2.2). Landscape level actions will be promoted through the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (output 1.3.2).
Fiduciary and corruption risk	High	There is a relatively high risk of corruption in Equatorial Guinea. To mitigate the risk of project funds being diverted, the project will be executed directly by the IUCN (Cameroon office). IUCN procedure for the disbursement of funds will be strictly followed. Stakeholders being paid to implement activities will receive the funds in stages, after having justified the expenses and presented the work done. In addition, the project staff will be hired by the IUCN independently of the Equatorial Guinea government. The mid-term project evaluation is an additional opportunity to monitor the appropriate use of funds.
Absence of reliable partners	Medium	As presented in the baseline, there is a limited number of reliable and experienced partners operating in Equatorial Guinea on issues related to the management of natural resources. As a result, the only low risk option for the institutional framework is to have the IUCN as executing agency. However, in order to partly address this issue, the project has a number of activities aiming to build capacity of existing stakeholders (output 1.2.2, activities 2.1.2.4, and 2.1.4.3). INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA in particular will be supported in building capacity on improved financial management, so as to strive towards becoming an executing agency in future (output 2.1.1).

Private sector not interested in diminishing their impact on forest ecosystems	High	The project will strive to make the forestry private sector aware of the necessity of moving towards more sustainable forest management practices through multi-stakeholders dialogues. It will also improve law enforcement to ensure compliance of the private sector with the law, which will be a first step towards sustainable forest management (2.1.4.3).
Lack of effective participation of local communities in project interventions	Medium	To ensure effective participation of local communities a number of activities geared towards the inclusion and consultation at local levels have been proposed: - In terms of land use planning, pilot land use plans will be developed at community level, for input in the development of a national land use plan. Local communities will also be represented in the multi-stakeholder landscape platform - Specific governance related activities have been planned to promote the involvement of local communities in protected areas' governance (SAPA, SAGE and METT). A specific gender action plan has been developed to ensure active participation and consultation of women.
Widespread health crisis (epidemic diseases)	Medium	Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases caused by a pathogen that has jumped from a non-human animal (usually a vertebrate) to a human. These diseases arise from human contacts with wildlife or livestock. These transfers of pathogens take place as a result of human activities, such as illegal wildlife trade and land use change. Land use change is a key driver of emerging zoonotic diseases. Deforestation, habitat fragmentation and an expanding agricultural frontier increase the contacts between humans and other animals, potentially increasing the chances of zoonoses emerging and spreading. The project will contribute to mitigation of zoonotic diseases by supporting land use planning processes and ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services. Such risks cannot be avoided by the project directly. However, the project can adapt to such circumstances by carrying out as many activities as possible at a distance, without putting anyone at risk. Other on site activities may still be carried out by providing personnel with appropriate protective equipment if the situation allows. See covid-19 action framework below for a more detailed analysis of covid-19 related risks and opportunities.
Strong climate variability during project lifetime negate positive effects of project interventions	Medium	Climate change and variability are recognized as environmental problems in the project landscapes, and are expected to continue to impact these areas. Efforts to conserve the forests of the PAs through activities in component 2, as well as to provide alternative livelihood activities for the local population through component 3 will help to build the resilience of local ecosystems and communities. See the climate risk assessment below for more detail.
Technical & operational risks		
Low level of cooperation and coordination between stakeholders (e.g. amongst sectors)	Medium	Several activities throughout the project's logical framework will bring stakeholders together (inter-institutional and cross-sectoral) to kick-start collaboration and cooperation processes. The project will promote multi-stakeholder activities such as: cross-border land use planning (output 1.1.1), local level land use planning (output 1.3.1), natural resources related law enforcement (output 2.1.4), and sustainable forest management (output 3.2.1).
Absence of sustainable funding mechanisms for the management and maintenance of protected areas post project	High	This risk is already being addressed by another GEF project (the Regional Project for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin). Nevertheless, in the project framework, INDEFOR-AP will be supported to enhance the management of its funds in order to get more out of the funds they currently receive. It will also receive capacity building for raising funds from sources other than the government. In addition, lobbying through the development and communication of technical briefs to decision

		makers throughout the project timeline will aim to lead the government to investing more funds into its protected areas.
Values of the protected areas network and ecosystem services are not taken into consideration in the land use planning processes	Medium	Lack of knowledge and awareness on the importance and value of the protected areas and the country's forest ecosystems is what leads to insufficient consideration in decision-making by government stakeholders. A number of specific studies will be carried out to determine the real value of these ecosystems and how best they can be considered in land use planning processes (output 1.2.1). These studies will be presented in clear and concise technical briefs, getting the message to relevant government stakeholders and raising awareness. The capacity building sessions will also cover these topics (output 1.2.2).
Institutional weakness: weak implementation capacity at local and institutional levels	High	National capacities to implement some of the project activities are limited. This is one of the reasons why the IUCN has been chosen as the project's executing agency. However, this does not mean that the IUCN will implement all activities. It will collaborate with local and national stakeholders to implement activities on ground, guiding and accompanying them, and building capacity as it does so (through the project staff). Where capacities are not available locally for the implementation of activities (for example carrying out certain specific studies or training sessions), the project will call for international services through calls for tenders. In addition, the project will contribute to building institutional capacity through various capacity building sessions.
Low compliance with natural resource laws and regulations and/or ineffective compliance mechanisms	Medium	Low enforcement of laws and regulations with regards to natural resources is currently a reality in Equatorial Guinea. The project will partly address this through building capacity of law enforcement personnel, many of which are not currently fully aware of the legal framework. It will also promote greater collaboration between INDEFOR-AP and law enforcement agencies (output 2.1.4). Local communities will be sensitised (output 4.1.1) on the laws and regulations to abide to (as many are not well aware of these), and will be supported to develop alternative livelihoods (output 3.1.1).
Delays in work plan and procurement plans validation and disbursements	Medium	The implementation of the IUCN procedures should guarantee the fluidity of administrative and project management. It must be noted however that transferring funds to Equatorial Guinea can be a long and cumbersome process. This is a risk that should not be minimised.

The environmental and social risks are presented in section 4.13.

Covid-19 action framework

Analysis of risks

The covid-19 pandemic presents a number of risks that could affect the project's implementation and impacts.

Risks	Mitigation measures
International and regional consultants and organisations are not able to travel to Equatorial Guinea to carry out the various studies and capacity building activities	Various possibilities according to the situation: - Activities are postponed to a later date in the project, when travel will once again be allowed - Local experts are recruited to work in pair with international experts: the local experts carry out the field work, guided by and with the input of international experts at a distance, thereby building capacity of local experts in the process
Equatorial Guinea stakeholders are limited or not able to travel for the various cross-border exchanges planned and the CBSL impact programme exchange activities	Various possibilities according to the situation: - Activities are postponed to a later date in the project, when travel will once again be allowed - A smaller number of stakeholders travel, thereby decreasing the covid risks

	- Activities are carried out at a distance with the help of visio-conference technology
Sanitary measures limit the possibility of stakeholders to meet and limit stakeholder and project staff mobility	Various possibilities according to the situation: - Activities are postponed to a later date in the project, when meetings and mobility are once again made easier - Meetings and consultations are carried out through a combination of means, depending on the types of stakeholders involved and the objective of the meetings: a higher number of smaller meetings (instead of a few large meetings) are carried out, meetings are carried out at a distance with the help of visio-conference technology, …
The economic impacts of the pandemic lead affected local communities to put increased pressure on natural resources (increased illegal logging and hunting).	- Put increased efforts into project activities that contribute to developing alternative livelihoods

Analysis of opportunities

The covid-19 crisis provides a number of opportunities to contribute to reducing the risk of future zoonotic and infectious diseases appearning. Indeed, the GEF project interventions will contribute to:

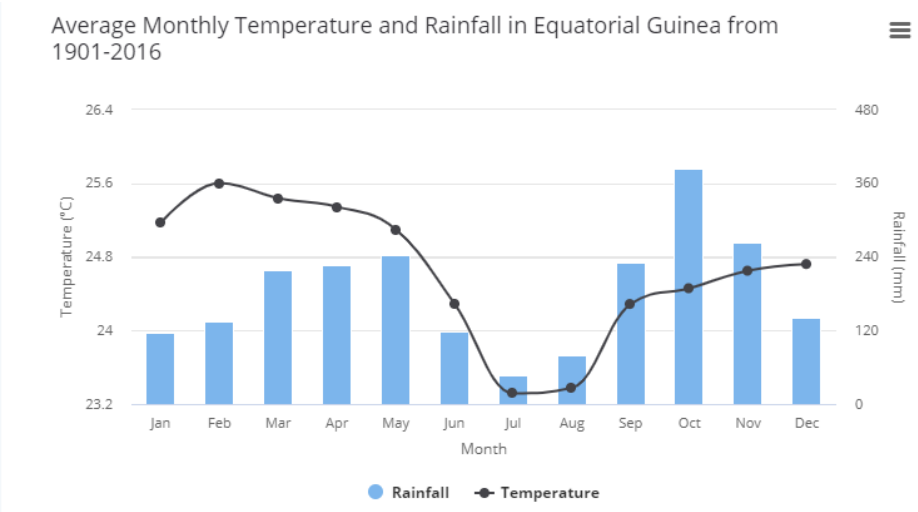
- Limiting forest fragmentation, and ecosystem degradation and destruction
- Promoting sustainable land uses that limit deforestation
- Adressing human-wildlife conflicts, and therefore human-wildlife contacts
- Developping alternative livelihoods to decrease local communities' dependence on hunting and logging
- Promoting sustainable natural resources management protecting natural capital

These opportunities will generate GEBs and pave the way towards a healthier environment, and therefore help mitigate future pandemics.

Climate risk screening

As stated in the country's INDC, "Equatorial Guinea, lacking meteorological stations for the measurement and evaluation of climatic factors (agrometeorology, hydrometeorology, wind isobars, etc.), is limited in its knowledge of climate change and its effects". Meteorological data is scarce for the country, as such, the climate risk screening is based on data from the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal, as well as data at regional Congo Basin level.

The climate of Equatorial Guinea is categorized as "tropical rainforest" according to Köppen, with features of "tropical savannah" at its easternmost end. The geographical conditions that significantly modify the climate of the territory in its continental part (Muni River) are the existence of the coast and the relief of the southern portion, mainly in the southeastern part where Monte Mitra is located (1200 m). The mean annual temperature is 24.65 ºC, and mean annual precipitation is 2205.34mm, with a short "dry" season in July and August.



Climate models, although varying greatly, indicate that temperatures will rise. There is uncertainty on the future evolution of precipitations, with some models predicting increases, whilst others predict decreases. However, rainfall will certainly

change in terms of timing, intensity and duration, with extreme rainfall events likely to increase and average rainfall less uniformely distributed, with an increased tendency for dry spells (USAID, 2018).

	Observed trends	Climate projections
Temperature	24.65 ºC (mean annual)	Mean annual temperature will rise by 1.62°C (1.22°C to 2.29°C) in 2040-2059 (RCP 8.5, Ensemble)
Rainfall	2205.34mm (mean annual)	Annual precipitation will rise by 105.43mm (-328.01mm to 476.72mm) in 2040-2059 (RCP 8.5, Ensemble)

Rising temperatures, prolonged dry spells, increased extreme weather events will lead to the potential following risks over the next 30 years:

Climate related risk	Adaptive capacity	Rating the risks	Measures to manage the risks
Decrease in biodiversity and change in forest species composition due to changes in temperatures and precipitation	Overall limited adaptive capacity: - Stakeholders both at local and national level have no to limited capacity to collect and use information related to climate risks: Equatorial Guinea has no meteorological stations and very limited meteorological data is available - As a result there are also few institutions that exist and have the resources (financial and technical) and capacity to support local stakeholders (communities, private sector, CSOs, government etc) to prepare and respond to climate impacts	Probability: Moderate Impact: Moderate **Risk: Moderate**	GEF project interventions contribute to climate change mitigation through reducing deforestation and ecosystem degradation, and contributing to sustainable management of natural resources. Incorporate climate information into landscape-level conservation, land-use planning, and protected area management: ensure that local land use plans and PA management plans developed integrate climate risks (outputs 1.3.1 and 2.1.2). Strengthen institutions that are responsible for conservation and management of ecosystems and natural resources (INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA), including their ability to incorporate climate change into their activities (activities of component 2). Encourage partnerships between governments and private business to protect forests and promote climate change mitigation (output 3.2.1). Maintain large intact landscapes and protect key, representative habitats within the landscapes (i.e. PAs) (activities of component 2). Conserve biodiversity and manage natural resources in ways that maintain their long-term viability (activities of component 2).
Extreme rain and wind storms causing tree-falls, flood risk and soil erosion		Probability: High Impact: Moderate **Risk: Moderate**	
Loss/shift of habitats outside of PAs, putting endangered species and wildlife in possible conflict with human settlements		Probability: Low Impact: High **Risk: Moderate**	
Changes in soil fertility and in crop yield: potential		Probability: Moderate Impact: Moderate	Support the development of alternative livelihoods not solely dependant on agriculture and

increases, reductions or failure/loss		**Risk: Moderate**	consider potential climate impacts when supporting such alternatives (output 3.1.1). In developing alternative livelihoods, promote climate-smart agricultural practices, including agro-forestry systems (output 3.1.1). Increase conservation outside of protected areas, and incorporate mixed natural systems (e.g., agroforests) (outputs 3.1.1 and 1.3.1). Seek information from women, and local people, who are often the custodians of local knowledge about wild plants, seeds, and other elements of biodiversity (outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 1.3.1).
Agricultural production and human health may be affected by the spread pathogens, parasites, and diseases due to higher temperatures.		Probability: Moderate Impact: Moderate **Risk: Moderate**	
Increased food insecurity		Probability: Moderate Impact: Moderate **Risk: Moderate**	

The Congo Basin forests, including forests in Equatorial Guinea, are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, whilst also being an important buffer to mitigate its effets in the region and globally. Conserving and protecting them is therefors a major step towards climate change mitigation (although not sufficient).

Overall risk

It is important to note that the project has an overall high risk which must not be underestimated although a number of mitigation measures have been put in place to address the risks. In addition to the risks presented in the table, it must be noted that this is a highly ambitious project, in a high risk environment, covering a wide range of topics, and aiming to achieve its goal over a period of just 4 years. This project alone may not be able to fully achieve the set objectives but it will complement and enhance the existing initiatives, as well as set the stage for further projects, and create the enabling environment to collectively bring about the necessary changes, and thus accomplish the preservation of the Congo Basin forests.

4.7 Consistency with national priorities and plans

The project is fully aligned with national priorities, plans and policies (see table below). This section will provide the evidence that, in addition to bridging a gap (identified in 3.5), the project is aligned with national strategies.

Table 11: Alignment of the project with key national priorities, plans and policies

National priorities	Project consistency
Intentional Nationally Determined Contributions	Equatorial Guinea's ambition is to reduce its GHG emissions by 20% by 2030, compared to 2010 levels, in order to achieve a 50% reduction by 2050. The project is consistent with some of the actions planned within the Forestry, Agriculture and Land Use Change sector, in particular: - Promotion of a policy based on land management and classification, through cadastres - Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Conservation of Biological Diversity and strengthening the National Protected Areas System with the incorporation of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Program It also aligns with objectives on 'Information, awareness and education on climate change': - Development of formal and informal education modules on the importance and conservation of the environment; - Publication of magazines, brochures, environmental agendas and other material to promote environmental awareness at the national level.
National REDD+ Strategy	Key objectives of the National REDD+ strategy that align with this project include: - reduce GHG emissions linked to agriculture, forestry and other land use by 20% by 2030, and by 50% by 2050;

	- maintain the forested area to 93% of the national territory; - reduce the annual rate of forest degradation to 0.45%; - strengthen the National Protected Areas System; - increase the area of productive forests with sustainable management plans to 80% by 2030; - achieve sustainability and improve the efficiency of the forestry and agricultural sectors; - mitigate and compensate for potential negative impacts for forests from future production activities
National Action Programme to Combat Deforestation and Land Degradation in Equatorial Guinea (2016 – 2025)	The programme has two objectives: 1. Promoting best practices on ongoing sectoral initiatives or strategies and their links to conservation and restoration of ecosystems for the improvement of living conditions of the population with exclusive dependence on resources/environmental factors. 2. Establish mechanisms to strengthen national capacities on persistent gaps and definition of the roles of the different actors/sectors, in order to achieve neutrality in the degradation of lands. The project aligns with 4 of the 5 Strategic Axes developed to attain the set objectives : - Management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems: improve the conditions of the affected ecosystems, by implementing conservation and restoration actions of the ecosystems in the Plan's area of influence, considering the basin as a geographical unit of intervention and the water resource as a priority, applying the relevant land management measures. - Promotion, awareness, education and capacity building, for sustainable development : raise the levels of awareness, education and consciousness of the population in management and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as identifying and meeting the needs of building capacities at all levels to prevent and reverse deforestation, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought - Earth Governance: contribute to consolidate the governance of natural resources, supporting the creation of enabling environments to promote solutions to combat deforestation and land degradation and mitigate the effects of the drought. - Managing risks of deforestation, forest degradation and drought: conduct analysis and monitoring for better understanding and predictive ability of the risks of deforestation, forest degradation and the effects of drought and the mitigation of same
National Economic and Social Development Plan, Horizon 2035	The project is consistent with the National Economic and Social Development Plan, Horizon 2035 that aims to 'consolidate social equity and economic diversification' through: 1. Eradication of poverty: 2. Sustainable social inclusion and peace 3. Productivity and industrialization 4. Environmental sustainability: focuses on environmental sustainability, guaranteed production, urban planning and responsible consumption for future generations.
National Adaptation Action Plan	The project is consistent with certain actions of this plan to mitigate and adapt to climate change, namely: - Sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea's forests to maintain ecosystem integrity and to ensure food security. - Develop communication and education campaigns on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, on alternative livelihoods to hunting wildlife for food, and campaigns to reduce market demand for bushmeat - Improvement of Community conservation programmes. - Support to the artisanal fishing sector by supplying them with fishing equipment and gear, boats and management support.
Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Equatorial Guinea	There are 17 National Goals pursued by the Strategy, the following are in line with the GEF project: - Involve the private sector, either to support ongoing initiatives or to develop others, especially "biodiversity conservation and fight against poverty". - Research and strengthening of legal tools, based on the strategic objectives and Aichi Goals 2, 3 and 5 (integration of biodiversity in planning processes and strategies, positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, reduction of degradation, fragmentation and loss of habitats) - Promote mechanisms for the valuation and sustainable use of natural resources, seeking the participation of the private sector, NGOs and ethnic groups - Provide equipment and resources for the management of protected areas and carry out periodic evaluations of the infrastructure, personnel and financial resources available to each protected area, for the implementation of the National Protected Areas System - Management of financing and support to national magazines and publications related to biodiversity,

	and creation of information dissemination mechanisms - Regularization of the NTFP sector
National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets	Equatorial Guinea General objective: • LDN will be achieved in 2030, with reference to the period between 2000 and 2010. The GEF project will contribute to 2 of the 4 specific objectives (targets): • Reduce conversion of forests into other land cover categories by 40% with reference to 2000-2010 levels and improve vegetation cover by 2030; • Promote research and knowledge on sustainable land management, through constant resource mobilization by 2030

4.8 Project alignment with IUCN Programme

The IUCN's mission is "To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable." In doing so, IUCN envisions "A just world that values and conserves nature". It has been operating this through quadrennial programming. The IUCN's programs for 2013-2016 and 2017-2020 focus on:

- expanding efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and link-up with efforts for poverty reduction and sustainable development;
- developing and promoting nature-based solutions to global, regional and local development challenges, providing tangible livelihood benefits and conserving biodiversity and,
- supporting and influencing the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

IUCN's work is organized around three programme areas: 1) Valuing and conserving nature; 2) Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; and 3) Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development. To achieve results, IUCN develops and uses its science-based knowledge on biodiversity, and tools and planning standards, to influence policy and action on the ground.

The proposed project is well aligned with all three IUCN programme areas, and more specifically with certain sub-results. Under the first programme area, IUCN will ensure that effective implementation and enforcement of laws and policies for valuing and conserving biodiversity and nature is accelerated, and that key drivers of biodiversity loss are addressed through application of conservation measures. Under the second programme area, IUCN will promote strengthened Governance at national and subnational levels related to nature and natural resources through the application of the rights-based approach, and incorporation of good governance principles. It will also establish, support and strengthen regional and global governance systems for conservation of nature and natural resources. Under the third programme, IUCN focuses on approaches to have healthy and restored ecosystems that make cost-effective contributions to meeting global challenges of climate change, food security and economic and social development.

These approaches include capacity development, knowledge generation on best practices, the creation of a robust set of principles, standards and tools, consolidating what already exists, and convening and empowering stakeholders to design solutions that influence policy, governance and action. Thus, this project will build on lessons learnt from and complement the abovementioned IUCN-led initiatives by providing resources to support incremental cost, taking into account what other organizations are doing in the target countries.

4.9 Incremental cost reasoning

Given the various national strategies and plans of Equatorial Guinea presented in section 4.7, there are efforts from the government to protect natural resources. However, in addition to a low institutional capacity of INDEFOR-AP and other relevant government stakeholders, technical and financial capacity is also limited. In these conditions, meeting the national targets will be a challenge. GEF resources are needed to enable awareness-raising, capacity building and coordination of efforts towards improved land-use planning and management of natural resources.

The project will capitalize as much as possible on experience previously gained in the country, and in the Monte Alén and Rio Campo landscapes, regarding the management of natural resources to ensure a demonstrable decreased rate of deforestation and forest degradation, improved carbon stocks and biodiversity in forested lands, and enhanced livelihoods of local populations.

Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues, technical inputs and capacity building of government stakeholders will lead to integrated and improved land use planning, and management that include transboundary aspects and the value of

ecosystems, and that involve local populations in the process. This will support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of the landscapes.

The management of protected areas within the Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes will be improved, and illegal poaching and logging will be decreased with the collaboration and participation of local communities. This will include capacity building for key stakeholders, development and implementation of enhanced management plans, enhancement of protected area resources and infrastructure to facilitate monitoring and management, and participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas.

In addition, the GEF resources will have a significant impact on the development of local alternative livelihoods to conserve forests in Rio Campo and Monte Alén landscapes. Capacity building for local entrepreneurs and community members, and a small grants programme that focus on issues related to NTFP ventures, eco-tourism, sustainable agricultural and fishing practices for forest community entrepreneurs will enable this. The private sector logging companies will be included in multi-stakeholder consultations and training to contribute to sustainable logging practices in the target landscapes.

These efforts in Equatorial Guinea will be coordinated with other country projects through collaboration on best practices and lessons learned to ensure impacts at the regional Congo Basin level.

Table 12: Detailed incremental reasoning

Business-as-usual scenario (without the GEF resources)	**Incremental scenario (with the GEF resources)**
Component 1: Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management	
Protected areas and forest ecosystems will remain at risk of being opened to unsustainable production activities and impacted by infrastructure projects designed without taking biodiversity aspects into consideration. The absence of land use plans and coordinated and integrated decisions regarding landscapes will prevent the achievement of the country's objectives and international commitments regarding biodiversity protection, forest cover, and reduction of carbon emissions. This will result in ongoing degradation of natural resources outside and within protected areas, particularly through infrastructure development and unsustainable logging and agricultural practices.	Under component 1, cross-border exchanges with Cameroon and Gabon will be carried out and the process of signing a transboundary agreement with Cameroon (Rio Campo-Campo Ma'an) will be promoted. The development of land use plans at local levels will be supported. Capacity of the relevant government institutions involved in land use planning processes will be built through training based on needs identification. The necessary technical inputs for improved decision-making on land use planning will be developed to ensure that the value of ecosystems and the rights of local communities are taken into consideration in land use planning processes. Communities will be involved in land use planning processes through the development of pilot community based land use plans.
Co-financing: 8 640 000 USD	GEF funds: 1,266,340 USD
Component 2: Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	
The protected areas of the target landscapes will continue to operate minimally. Limited human, financial and technical capacities will lead to limited positive impacts on biodiversity and combatting illegal activities. Apprehending illegal loggers and poachers will continue to be a challenge with few eco-guards and field missions by managers.	This component will enable a better functioning and efficiency of the protected areas of the targeted landscapes. Updated management plans, an increased presence of eco-guards and management teams on the ground, as well as collaboration with communities and other law enforcement agents for patrolling, will lead to a decrease in illegal activities such as logging and poaching. Capacity building of the protected areas personnel will ensure more effective management of patrols as well as relationships with local communities. The standardized and systematic monitoring and evaluation of natural resources conservation interventions and of protected areas management effectiveness in promoting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning through the METT tool will enable a permanent increase of knowledge. As a result, the practices implemented in the target landscapes for efficient protection of natural resources will improve continuously.
Co-financing: 11 610 000 USD	GEF funds: 1,644,947 USD
Component 3: Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes	
The natural resources of the landscapes, and of the protected areas, will continue to be used unsustainably by local	This component is focused on ensuring that local communities are involved in developing alternative sustainable livelihoods that suit their needs, through training and a small grants

Business-as-usual scenario (without the GEF resources)	Incremental scenario (with the GEF resources)
communities and the private production sector. This will lead to resource degradation and reduced ecosystem services.	program. This will mean less dependence and unsustainable use of natural resources within the landscapes, thus reducing pressure and impacts on forest ecosystems. In addition, the private sector will be involved and consulted to participate in multi-stakeholder platforms and consultations leading to more sustainable logging practices and forest management through an improved policy and regulations framework. Overall these activities will lead to reduced impacts and enhanced ecosystems.
Co-financing: 5 900 000 USD	GEF funds: 1,564,840 USD
Component 4: Knowledge Exchange, Partnership, Monitoring and Assessment	
The resources put in the other 3 components will have an impact limited in space and time without a knowledge management component.	Component 4 will ensure that the successes and lessons learnt of the project are capitalised and disseminated across the landscapes, and at national and regional level through a variety of communication tools. Exchanges with the regional initiative and other country projects of the Congo Basin Impact Program will take place. Wider communication to all levels of stakeholders, from local communities to national government officials on the importance of sustainable use and management of natural resources will lead to heightened awareness and consideration of these environmental topics. This will slow down some of the threats to the country's forest ecosystems so that future generations can benefit from the natural resources and associated services.
Co-financing: 3 020 000 USD	GEF funds: 623,620 USD

Incremental cost matrix

The following incremental cost matrix only presents the confirmed co-financing.

Table 13: Project incremental cost matrix (confirmed co-financing)

Costs	Baseline Costs (USD)	Alternative Scenario Costs (USD)	Incremental Costs (USD)
Component 1			
Total co-financing	8 640 000		
GEF Funds		1,266,340	9,906,340
Component 2			
Total co-financing	11 610 000		
GEF Funds		1,644,947	13,254,947
Component 3			
Total co-financing	5 900 000		
GEF Funds		1,564,840	7,464,840
Component 4			
Total co-financing	3 020 000		
GEF Funds		623,620	3,643,620
Project management cost			
Total co-financing	1 680 000		
GEF Funds		254,840	1,934,840
Sub-total (USD)	**32 450 000**	**5 354 587**	**37 804 587**
Agency fees (USD)		481 913	481 913
Total (USD)	**32 450 000**	**5 836 500**	**38 286 500**

The GEF project will be complementary with the co-financing provided by the Equatorial Guinea government, in particular the budgets of INCOMA and INDEFOR-AP, both institutes that work for the preservation of the country's ecosystems. The government's budget for developing a national land use plan is also included in the co-financing and is complementary with component 1 of the project. The co-financing received from BZS is also in line with the project as this organisation operates in the field of natural resource conservation.

4.10 Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the ability of a project to maintain an acceptable level of benefits flowing through its economic life, that is the continuation of project-derived benefits and impacts (i.e. institutional, environmental, social, economic and financial) beyond the project.

In order to achieve sustainability, the project approach is built around:

i) including local communities in decision-making and governance of natural resources,
ii) the integration of economic considerations,
iii) capacity building,
iv) raising awareness and improving knowledge management of stakeholders, and,
v) strengthening cross-sectoral and inter-institutional collaboration and coordination.

4.10.1 Financial and economic sustainability

INDEFOR-AP's capacities for researching, soliciting and obtaining funds other than government funds (from international organisations for example) will be developed and strengthened by the project. An audit of the finances of INDEFOR-AP will lead to identifying opportunities for improved management of funds (such as optimising use of existing funds). Recommendations will be made based on the results of the audit and INDEFOR-AP will be supported and guided in implementing these recommendations. These activities will lead to an overall better financial health and governance of INDEFOR-AP, as well as increased funds for the management of protected areas.

In addition, the project's communication to high level decision-makers on environmental and natural resources issues should also lead to more important budgets being allocated to INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA post-project. Furthermore, the GEF 4 project, the Regional Project for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin, is working on developing sustainable financing mechanisms for the protected areas of Equatorial Guinea. The project will also lay foundations for eco-tourism development in these areas, thus bringing in additional finances. With additional finances INDEFOR-AP will be able to sustain activities implemented in the landscapes, and in protected areas in particular.

Concerning the development of alternative livelihoods, the UNDP will continue the micro-projects development activities through the small grants program once the GEF project ends, thereby ensuring sustainability of this outcome. That said, the aim is for the micro-projects to be economically sustainable beyond the support of the project (i.e, once the project is over, the initiatives will carry on).

4.10.2 Institutional sustainability

The IUCN has been chosen as the project's executing agency for several reasons, one of them being the absence of reliable partners and weak institutional capacity. The project will therefore focus on strengthening the stakeholders and institutional abilities at various levels. Indeed, it has a number of activities aimed at building institutional capacity of existing stakeholders. As already mentioned, INDEFOR-AP an INCOMA will be supported in building capacity on improved financial management, to develop the potential to become a future executing agency. Several activities throughout the project's logical framework will bring stakeholders together (inter-institutional and cross-sectoral) to kick-start collaboration and cooperation processes. The project will promote multi-stakeholder activities such as cross-border cooperation, local level land use planning, natural resources related law enforcement, and sustainable forest management. Communities will participate in these activities as much as possible. Furthermore, the IUCN will collaborate with local and national stakeholders to implement activities on ground, guiding and accompanying them, and building capacity as it does so (through the project staff). This will ensure ownership of project activities by the relevant stakeholders and thus promote continuity of activities post project.

4.11 Replication

Many project activities have been designed in such a way that they can be replicated. The stakeholder capacities built on land use planning will be put to use in the long term as land use plans will have to be regularly reviewed and updated. The development of pilot community land-use plans will be done to enable replication to a wider number of communities in the landscapes, with little costs, and with the aid of peer to peer training and experience sharing between communities.

Through component 2, INDEFOR-AP will develop capacities at all levels: top management, protected areas management, operational personnel. This will allow the institute to implement the methods and tools developed during project activities, in protected areas outside of the project landscapes (8 of the country's 13 protected areas are not included in the GEF project but could indirectly benefit from it). This is the case for the use of the METT, the creation of community patrol teams, the overall increased participation of communities in the governance of protected areas, and the collaboration with law enforcement authorities.

The alternative livelihoods developed in output 3.1.1 will likely benefit to more than just those that participated directly in the micro-projects scheme. Community members may replicate micro-projects themselves through experience sharing, and the economic dynamic created will benefit the wider communities. In addition, the capacities strengthened through the scheme (of community members and civil society organisations) will make future replication easier. A similar effect can be expected for eco-tourism initiatives developed.

Other project activities that will be replicable if successful include the human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures, and the multi-stakeholder landscape platform.

The knowledge generated under output 1.2.1 will provide an evidence base to identify, prioritise and design the most appropriate and cost-effective interventions for biodiversity conservation and improved land-use planning. Furthermore, a website will be created for INDEFOR-AP to facilitate access to this evidence-based knowledge. Webpages will be created and organised in a user-friendly manner. For example, guidelines, technical reports, progress reports, evaluation reports and lessons learned from the project will be available on this website. This will facilitate the sharing of information between national and local government authorities, project managers, NGOs, CSOs and community leaders. Information will also be communicated to the CBSL Regional project to be shared more widely. This will promote the replication and upscaling of project activities beyond the project's intervention areas and implementation phase.

The standardised M&E system to be established under output 5.1.2 will build the case for collaborative and sustainable resource management. The benefits obtained at the environmental, social, and economic levels from the interventions of the project evaluated will be an important tool to convince government stakeholders and local communities in the country, and in the wider Congo Basin region, to embark towards conserving and sustainably managing biodiversity and forest ecosystems through an inclusive landscape approach, effective land use planning, enhanced management of protected areas and sustainable livelihood options.

4.12 Communication and knowledge management

Project communication will be predominantly undertaken in component 4 'knowledge, exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment'. Communication will take place on several levels in terms of geography and stakeholders. Outcome 4.1 concentrates on communication at Equatorial Guinea levels: local, landscape and national, while outcome 4.2 focuses on wider regional communication with the regional initiative of the Congo Basin Impact Program and the various other country projects. Communication activities and tools will target a wide variety of stakeholders: different levels of government officials, international and local NGOs, and local communities (children, youth, women...).

The communication and education materials will be designed according to target audiences (considering different education levels) and will integrate traditional, incremental and scientific knowledge. Communication material will include digital and non-digital means and tools, using a diversity of media and events. All materials will be branded and marked according to CBSL IP project guidelines and GEF communication guidelines. The project's knowledge management activities will be guided by the mechanisms, best practices, tools and methods proposed by the regional project, and through a close collaboration with the regional project. In addition, the project will contribute, with other national child projects, to the development of the annual knowledge management work plan developed at regional level by the regional project.

Table 14: Project communication targets and tools

Scale	Target	Example of communication activities
Regional level	- Regional organisations - Other GEF country project teams - Congo Basin countries' government officials	- Technical briefs - Regional workshops and webinars - Regional CBSL IP information system (knowledge management platform) - Articles and videos
National and landscape level	- Equatorial Guinea population - School students	- Production and broadcasting of radio shows - Production and broadcasting of short TV documentaries - Press article - Social media networks - Awareness raising events
Central level	- Decision and policy-makers - Government technical officers - National & international NGOs - International organisations	- Technical briefs - Posters, pamphlets, booklets - Existing institutional websites - Distribution of progress and evaluation reports - Project national meetings - Multi-stakeholder consultations and workshops
Provincial level	- Provincial authorities	- Project provincial meetings

Scale	Target	Example of communication activities
	- Decentralized government staff	- Press articles
Local level	- Village chiefs and councils - Community members	- Project local meetings - Project posters, brochures and signs - T-shirts and caps

The project will enable improved knowledge and capacities on natural resource management at all levels through the participation of all relevant stakeholders in training sessions on a variety of topics.

4.13 Environmental and social safeguards

In accordance with the IUCN Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) the project has been screened on potential environmental and social risks. The results are documented in the Screening Report, which is attached in Appendix 9.15. The screening concluded the following:

The project aims to improve land use planning, and management, ensure the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat and critical ecosystem services and reduce community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes. Component 1 supports the two landscapes (Rio Campo and Monte Alen) in the development of community-based land use plans at the local levels. Component 2 foresees concrete interventions to improve governance and management effectiveness of five protected areas in the same 2 landscapes (in 5 PAs) and component 3 interventions aim at supporting local livelihoods. The latter include a small grant program for promoting the diversification of livelihoods, and technical inputs to support community benefits accrued from protected areas. It will further promote sustainable forest management as well as engage community stakeholders, decentralized government structures and private sector logging companies in sustainable logging practices.

The project is expected to lead to environmental benefits (reduction of the degradation of forests) and social benefits through the livelihood support activities. Notwithstanding, the screening process uncovered some social risks, primarily related to the potential of causing adverse impacts to communities living in or adjacent to the 5 PAs when putting in place restrictions on the use of forest and non-forest natural resources, increasing enforcement of existing restrictions and expanding the PA coverage (triggering the Standard on Access Restrictions). Also, risks from potentially inappropriate law enforcement practices for local communities (in terms of human rights and livelihoods) have been identified, as well as safety risks for rangers and community patrols themselves (as well as project workers) due to being exposed to illegal poaching/wildlife crime. Another risk issue is gender-based violence given the contextual factors and the complete lack of awareness, legislation and prevention strategies. For a comprehensive analysis of social and environmental risks, please refer to section B1-B5 of the Screening Questionnaire in the Annex of the Screening Report in Appendix 9.15.

The Indigenous Peoples Standard has not been triggered (yet) as the field visits, social survey and stakeholder consultations have not identified the presence of indigenous people in the project sites. It is believed, though, that some small groups of nomadic Beyele people live in the dense equatorial forest, mainly located in the area on the border with Cameroon. Hence, the project should make the required efforts to confirm or rule out the presence of indigenous groups (including the Beyele) – through the social assessments (SAPA) that will be carried out under component 2 as well as through further investigation with relevant stakeholders, including social scientists and indigenous peoples' experts, to be undertaken during the inception phase. In case the presence of indigenous peoples is confirmed – even in areas outside the project sites but still in a distance that the groups might potentially cross and reach the project sites during their migratory trajectories – the standard would be triggered and requirements (including consultations, FPIC as well as respect of the wish to remain in a state of voluntary isolation) would need to be adhered to.

The Standard on Cultural Heritage is triggered as there is a possibility that the PA zoning might include sites of cultural/ spiritual significance. Another potential trigger is the possibility that the ecotourism strategy involves the use or promotion of cultural heritage.

Overall, the identified risks and impacts are limited in scale and few in number, and can be addressed through the application of protected area management good practices, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during project implementation. In fact, project design already attempts to mitigate the two main social risks, (i) risks from access restrictions and (ii) law enforcement as explained below. It is therefore classified as a moderate risk project.

i) Adverse impacts on local communities living in or adjacent to the five protected areas supported by the project from putting in place or enforcing restricitions on use or access to forest resources will be addressed, to a substantial extent, through the following strategies that are embedded in project design:

- Social assessment:
    - The social assessment that will be carried out under component 2 in all five sites will foster a good understanding of the current situation and identify existing negative impacts of protected area

conservation on local people that the project is inheriting (such as law enforcement actions that infringe/violate human rights, human wildlife conflict may infringe human rights to food etc.) and that new management measures might cause.
    - The assessment will follow the Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) tool.
- Improving governance:
    - Project design reflects the recognition that effective participation of local communities is contingent on the existence of equitable governance arrangements that address issues of recognition, procedure (especially participation, transparency) and the distribution of benefits and costs. This is ensured by implementing a governance assessment process in all five sites and by introducing and implementing the Green List criteria and indicators as the benchmark for successful and inclusive area based conservation.
    - Expected benefits of involving local communities in the governance of protected area are, among others, that they participate in decisions that affect them and that their rights and livelihood needs are respected. By ensuring full and effective participation, the formerly involuntary nature of putting in place access restrictions would turn into a process where such restrictions are increasingly decided by the communities themselves.
- Notwithstanding these efforts and as per IUCN ESMS Standard on Access Restricitions, a Process Framework (PF) is still required because:
    - the transfer of governance to local communities will be incremental for the existing PAs – hence the PF needs to capture how access restrictions will be handled in the meantime; and
    - even with inclusive governance some gaps remain in terms of the process and requirements compared with the requirements of the Standard (including the requirement to mitigate or compensate for livelihood losses) and the PF should provide guidance for closing these gaps.

ii) Risks related to law enforcement are being addressed by the project through the following design elements:

- Education and capacity building of eco-guards
    - to ensure they understand the laws they are enforcing and the powers they have in enforcing them, as well as the rights of local communities.
    - to encourage working with local communities rather than against them and to provide tools to interact with the population in a respectful manner.
    - focus will be on sanctioning organised poaching and logging groups rather than individual subsistence hunters from local communities.

- Law enforcement activities focusing on voluntary behavioural change and inclusion in decision making, including:
    - Education: meetings with communities to explain the law, posters depicting regulations, teaching other law enforcement authorities,
    - Actively engaging communities in decision-making and implementation processes for law enforcement at all stages (for example, discussions with communities on conservation law compliance issues and how to improve compliance - what incentives could make it easier for them to comply);
    - Working with eco-guards and local communities on legitimation: the regulations and their sanctions should be perceived as useful, appropriate and fair by the local communities
    - Local communities will be involved in patrolling activities and eco-guards recruited by the project will be selected from local communities in the project implementation sites.

The project will set up a small grant program to support micro-projects at community or household level. As the grant projects to be awarded will only be known during the project, they cannot be assessed on potential E&S risks at this point. Therefore, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed that provides the procedure for assessing such risks during project implementation.

The ESMF also provides guidance for risk identification and management related to those activities that are not yet fully defined (e.g. activities that require participatory decision making or that depend on the land use planning process); in particular on risks from potential restrictions to sites of cultural significance (if confirmed by SAPA). In order to integrate risk issues and ensure alignment of mitigation strategies, it was decided to integrate the Process Framework, triggered by the Standard on Access Restrictions, into the ESMF. The ESMF also instructs on assessment and consultation measures in fulfilment of the Standard on Indigenous Peoples.The ESMF/PF is attached as Appendix 9.16.

4.14 Gender equality and women's empowerment

The socio-cultural burdens reproduced by the communities and the socialization process weigh on women in Equatorial Guinea and relegate them to secondary roles. As previously mentioned, Equatorial Guinean society is predominantly patrilineal which means that men dominate at all levels of society. Thus, women are perceived as a social element devoid of decision-making power and as the subordinates of men. Gender aspects at country level are described in section 3.1.2.1 of the document, and gender aspects at landscape level are described in section 4.3.2.

The project does not have the ambition of transforming the country's gender related challenges. Nevertheless, it will contribute to addressing some of these challenges, and promote the participation of women wherever possible. In this sense, a Gender Action Plan has been developed, with specific gender sensitive indicators, and is presented in Appendix 9.5.

The purpose of the proposed Gender Action Plan is to ensure that the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the gender analysis are effectively integrated into the proposed project activities. This integration involves ensuring that:

- Both men and women actively and meaningfully participate;
- Both men and women have equal access to opportunities, resources and benefits arising from the project;
- Inequalities identified are not perpetuated.

The project's gender strategy aims to target the following gender inequalities:

- Limited women representation and participation in land use planning and natural resource management related processes and decision-making
- Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration, in all aspects of conservation and land use planning (in particular women from local communities)
- No participation of women in conservation participatory monitoring activities: no benefits derived from these conservation activities for women
- Women are more vulnerable to poverty than men, with less access to financial services, and less economic empowerment
- Less access to knowledge (i.e. training, capacity building) for women

5 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The proposed institutional set-up to implement the project activities is described in the following sub-sections.

5.1 National decision making and planning

The Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC will be the main decision-making platform of the project. It will be responsible for guiding the project implementation, providing vision, advising the Project Coordinator and its Project Management Unit (PMU) when needed, and validating reports, financial and technical reports in particular. Chaired by a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment, proposed PSC members will include Directors of the relevant Ministry divisions (environment and conservation, management and coordination, GEF focal point), representatives of other ministries (i.e. The Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Works…), representatives of the provincial government (i.e. Provincial Secretary or Environment Officer of the province) and representatives of the co-financiers. IUCN will participate as an observer. The final list of PSC members will be completed during the project inception phase, but no later than three months after project kick off.

The PSC will meet every 6 months to review progress in project execution, and to review and approve annual work plans and budgets. The main responsibilities of the PSC members are to:

- Ensure alignment of the project with other regional and national initiatives;
- Oversee project progress and take timely actions to resolve implementation constraints;
- Receive and review annual substantive and financial reports on project activities;
- Review and approve annual work plans; and
- Ensure monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

In addition, additional stakeholders – such as community leaders or other ministry representatives – will be invited to participate on an *ad hoc* basis when their input is deemed necessary.

Implementing Agency: The IUCN is the implementing agency for the project. It will ensure execution of administrative and financial matters and will assist in key technical and scientific issues. Its role will also be to consolidate results, directly facilitate workshops and the convening of key stakeholders (consistent with its comparative advantage in capacity building), and secure financial resources to complement project activities. Wherever possible, the project will take advantage of the opportunities for synergy and complementarities with other projects or other GEF Agencies (FAO, UNDP). Opportunities will be explored during project implementation to secure partnerships for follow-up investments for on-the-ground activities.

The Implementing Agency will be the primary responsible for:

- Supervising project implementation;
- Monitoring and evaluating project performance, and preparing implementation review;
- Solving implementation issues that cannot be sorted out internally;
- Providing technical backstopping to executing agencies at national and provincial levels; and
- Ensuring quality control of the project work plans, budget and reports.

Executing Agency: The execution of the project will be under the responsibility of the IUCN, through the IUCN Cameroon office. The Executing Agency will work in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment, INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA.

Institutional arrangements have been looked at extensively during the preparation of the project, through the development of the PIF and the PPG phase. Stakeholder consultations, including with Government partners, have highlighted some critical risks which could be a reason for stopping the project in moving forward during implementation. These are highlighted in section 4.6. In making the decision for selecting which institutional arrangement is the most appropriate to this project, the following risks (identified in section 4.6) have been taken into consideration:

- The high level of fiduciary and corruption risk;
- The absence of reliable partners on the ground that would guarantee the adequate execution of the project;
- The weak institutional capacity for implementation at the national and the local level.

While the above mentioned risks have been prominent in the decisions towards selecting the most appropriate institutional arrangement for this project, others have also been included in the thinking for identifying the relevant institutional arrangement. The main challenge to address was to select an agency that would be willing and have the capacity to undertake the executing function. In that perspective, IUCN, the Government and the project design team explored various options, which did not materialize and are outlined below:

- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Equatorial Guinea:** WCS is currently operating in Equatorial Guinea, in particular in Bata, where the GEF funded project is expected to take place. However, all agreements the institution had with the Government have been suspended since its request to become a national NGO instead of an internal NGO was rejected. Additionally, WCS informed IUCN that even if it was institutionally possible to be the executing agency for this project, the current level of project management cost would not allow WCS to take over as their costs are significantly higher for such a project. In this overall context, WCS was not assessed to be a potential candidate for the project executing entity.
- **Martinez Hermanos Foundation:** This Foundation is one of the major national NGOs in Equatorial Guinea. It is highly respected by Civil society organisations and the Government. However, the Foundation has no historical experience managing environmental and GEF Projects at a large scale, such as this one. The Foundation's projects currently focus on improving the livelihoods of children, notably by working in hospitals, schools, orphanages, cultural centres and sporting events. The Foundation was not assessed to have sufficient capacity, experience and expertise to undertake the role of the project executing agency for this project.
- **UN agencies:** The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was also approached but the relationship was not developed further because it has no presence in Equatorial Guinea, in addition to very limited experience managing projects in the country. Other UN agencies including UNDP and FAO were also consulted and proposed to undertake the role of the project executing agency, which they declined as their policies would not allow and would not have the capacity in the country to do it.

Based on the above, and in the light of the high risk level this project represents, in particular on the fiduciary and operational front, the consultations and assessment done for identifying the most appropriate institutional arrangement for the project, led to deciding on having IUCN as the project executing agency. While this falls into the exception outlined in the GEF project and programme cycle policy which advocates for separate agencies to undertake the implementing and executing functions respectively, this set-up was assessed as the only one suitable for having both the project operations run efficiently and mitigating the identified risks.

The decision of having IUCN as executing agency for this project was also supported by the following arguments.

- **Adequate fiduciary controls:** IUCN, as a GEF partner agency, has robust and transparent fiduciary standards. It has a track record of operating complex projects in the region, including managing project grants for other GEF agencies (when IUCN was not yet accredited as a GEF partner agency).
- **Firewall:** As per the GEF policy, IUCN has the capacity of establishing a firewall between the part of the institution which will play the role of executing agency and the one that will be in charge of the oversight function (in its role as a GEF partner agency). The executing function for this project will be hosted in the IUCN Cameroon country programme based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The oversight function for this project (Partner Agency role covered by the GEF agency fees) will be shared among the IUCN Headquarters and the IUCN Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (PACO) based in Dakar, Senegal. This distribution of responsibilities will ensure that there is sufficient expertise on the operational and fiduciary side for both the executing and the oversight functions.
- **Capacity building:** It has been agreed that IUCN, through its Cameroon programme, will build capacity of the National Institute of Forest Development and Protected Areas Management (INDEFOR-AP) during the course of this project to overcome the above risks and pave the way for scaling-up this work through the mobilization of additional resources in the future. Within this framework, IUCN and the GoE will jointly recruit the PMU staff members. The staff hired for the purpose of this project will have IUCN contracts and will be hosted by INDEFOR-AP. The PMU staff will be under the overall supervision of the IUCN programme in Cameroon, namely its Head of Programme.

Table highlighting the lines of responsibility, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland	IUCN Regional Office for Central and West Africa in Senegal	IUCN Cameroon Office
Implementation role: a) Oversight function (Partner Agency Role covered by the GEF Agency Fees); b) Reports to GEF Secretariat (Quality control of reports received	**Implementaiton role:** a) Oversight function (Partner Agency Role covered by the GEF Agency Fees);	**Execution role:** a) Adequate fiduciary controls on the field; b) Reports to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal

from IUCN Regional Office in Senegal; c) Monitoring and Evaluation of the Implementaiton of activities on the field executed by IUCN Cameroon Office; d) Accountable to GEF Secretariat	b) Reports to Headquarters (Quality control of reports received from IUCN Cameroon Office); c) Monitors and Evaluates the Implementaiton of activities on the field executed by IUCN Cameroon Office; d) Accountable to IUCN Headquarters	c) Execute project activities in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and the Environment, INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA; d) Reports to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal; e) Accountable to the IUCN Regional Office in Senegal

5.2 Project coordination and management

The project coordination and management will comprise of national implementing and executing agencies as well as local partners.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established by IUCN and will provide a management structure for the development and implementation of the project, in accordance with the rules and procedures of GEF/IUCN and consistent with directions provided by the PSC.

The PMU will be hosted by INDEFOR-AP but hired by IUCN, and all its staff will be based in the Monte Alen National Park (with a secondary office in Bata). All the necessary infrastructure is in place there. The project will provide the necessary financial support to operate this infrastructure. In return, the government / INDEFOR-AP will ensure that the Monte Alen National Park Manager also lives on site (and not in Bata).

The PMU will consist of 3 permanent staff:

- A Project Coordinator with an expertise in conservation and protected areas, natural resource management and the environment. The Project Coordinator will be appointed by the IUCN (Cameroon office), among national applicants, based on academic and professional profile, and suitability for the role (experience and expertise). The Project Coordinator will be in charge of ensuring the project is executed, with relevant activities carried out by the various stakeholders, and ensuring necessary reports are drafted.
- A Project Finance and Administrative Officer;
- A Technical Assistant/Communication Officer.

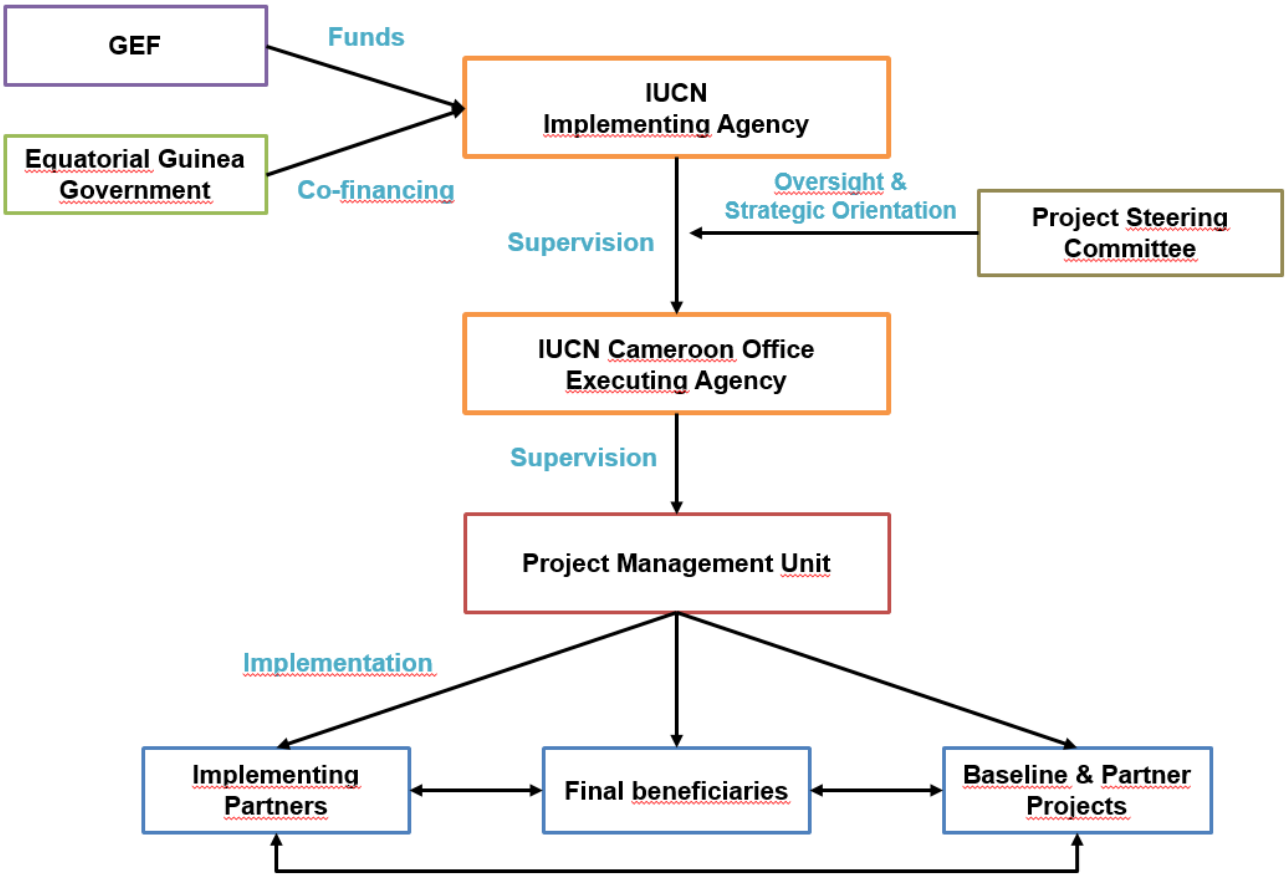
In addition, a part time Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) will be responsible for providing assistance to the PMU. The CTA will have oversight of the project activities and will give guidance and advice to the Project Coordinator whilst also controlling and monitoring project implementation. The CTA will be a highly qualified international expert hired by IUCN. The CTA will be half-time for the first year and further engagement will be based on the need of the PMU (on a basis of 2 months/year).

The PMU will be the primary responsible for:

- Planning project activities and the annual and quarterly budgets, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation, and communication of project achievements;
- Ensuring proper financial management and reporting of the project resources;
- Ensuring fluid communication between the executing and implementing agencies;
- Ensuring compliance with GEF and IUCN project management procedures and standards, and with the Environmental and Social Management System requirements;
- Preparing bid documents;
- Procuring any necessary equipment and supplies;
- Administering contracts;
- Consolidating reports;
- Providing reimbursements for expenses (e.g., daily allowance for meeting participation, transport costs, etc.); and
- Other duties as defined.

The PMU will ensure project activities are implemented. Some of the activities will be implemented directly by the PMU, but most will be at least partly implemented by partner stakeholders. Implementing stakeholders include organizations already present in Equatorial Guinea, such as INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA, BZS, WCS, and ANDEGE (among others), as well as regional or international external consultants and service providers. Contracts will be signed between IUCN and the stakeholders implementing activities. The funds for implementation will flow from the ICUN Cameroon office, to the PMU and to the stakeholders, according to IUCN procedures.

Figure 22: Project Institutional framework



5.3 Project execution

A number of implementation partners will be involved in ensuring project implementation and carrying out project activities, under supervision and in collaboration with the PMU, as presented in the table below:

Project activities	Implementation partner
Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape	MAGBOMA
Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management	MAGBOMA
Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems	IUCN (PMU with support of UWE)
Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP)

Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP)
Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP)
Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)	MAGBOMA
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources	MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA
Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas	MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA
Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices	INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking	INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery	IUCN, MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols	INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams	INDEFOR-AP
Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc	MAGBOMA in cooperation with relevant ministries
Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)	IUCN, Local NGOs
Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods	IUCN, Local NGOs
Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea	IUCN, UNDP
Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures	BZS
Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon	MAGBOMA, General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation
Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities	MAGBOMA, General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation
Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences	INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP, IUCN (PMU with support of consultants) & NGOs
Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff	INDEFOR-AP, TOMAGE
Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership	IUCN with key implementation partners

Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs	IUCN, MAGBOMA
Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal	IUCN
Activity 4.2.3.1: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP	IUCN
Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit	IUCN
Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment	IUCN
Activity 5.1.2.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits	IUCN

6 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The project will work in close collaboration with a wide a range of stakeholders: local communities, provincial and national government agencies and departments, civil society organizations, national and international organizations, regional initiatives, and the private sector in Equatorial Guinea. This collaboration was initiated during the PPG phase through one-on-one consultations and through the organisation of the inception and validation workshops, to which the stakeholders were invited. The details of the stakeholder analysis, consultation and engagement process during the design phase, as well as stakeholder engagement plan during project implementation are presented in Appendix 9.6.

7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

A monitoring and evaluation strategy and tools will be developed to meet the requirements of IUCN and GEF, in coherence with the regional project M&E system and framework. It will provide an evaluation framework and a set of indicators which will allow assessment of each initiative in a systematic and standardized manner. Project progress will be evaluated throughout the project lifespan, and an adaptive management approach will be used to integrate the results of the evaluation in the action plan and programme of the following year. This M&E system will be designed to ensure ongoing data collection and analysis, to monitor the project milestones and indicators, and to regularly assess progress in reaching set targets and adapt project management and implementation accordingly. The roles and responsibilities of INDEFOR-AP staff, and other national ministries and local government staff where relevant, will be clearly defined in the strategy, as well as a detailed planning for the M&E activities. Training will then be provided on a case-by-case basis on project management, data collection, monitoring and reporting on project indicators and objectives, and reporting cycles for the implementation of the project M&E system. The primary objective of this M&E system is the timely availability of quantitative and qualitative information on the project progress in meeting each indicator of the project log-frame for every step of the project management and reporting cycle.

The PMU will be in charge of the ongoing M&E of the project throughout the implementation period. The standard M&E reports and procedures required for all IUCN/GEF projects will apply to the M&E plan for the proposed project, including the elements in the table below.

Table 15: M&E activities, timeframe and responsibilities

M&E activity	Description	Frequency	Responsible	Budget (GEF funded)
Inception Workshop and Report	The Inception Workshop gathering the stakeholders involved in the project, and resulting Inception Report, provide the occasions and means to finalize preparations for the implementation of the proposed project, involving the formulation of the first annual work plan, the detailing of stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and that of reporting and monitoring requirements. Considering the consultation process at PPG, only minor adjustments are expected.	Within the first two months of project start up. Will be undertaken at the national and landscape scales.	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 4,000
Baseline study	The project logical framework will be fine-tuned where necessary.	At project inception.	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 1,000

M&E activity	Description	Frequency	Responsible	Budget (GEF funded)
Strategic Result Framework	The Project Results Framework presented in section 2 includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. Measurements of means of verification for project progress on output and implementation will be made throughout the implementation period.	Data collected continuously in order to have the required quantitative and qualitative data on the progress against each indicator prior to Annual Project Reports and to the definition of annual work plans.	PC CTA	US$ 4,000
Quarterly Progress Report	Each quarter, the PMU will prepare a summary of the project's substantive and technical progress towards achieving its objectives. The summaries will be sent to the IUCN Regional Program Coordinator.	Quarterly	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 4,000
Annual Project Report (APR)	The APR covers performance assessments on project outputs and outcomes, major achievements, evidence of success, constraints, lessons learned and recommendations as well as an overall rating of the project. The APR will be prepared by the Project Coordinator after consultation with the relevant stakeholders, and will be submitted to IUCN.	Annually	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 2,000
Tripartite Review (TPR) (Steering committee)	The TPR members will meet annually to assess the progress of the project and make decisions on recommendations to improve the design and implementation of the project in order to achieve the expected results.	Annually	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 4,000 (US$ 1,000 per meeting)
Independent External Evaluation at mid-term	A mid-term project evaluation will be conducted during the third implementation year, focusing on relevance; performance (effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness); issues requiring decisions and actions; and initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management.	At the mid-point of project implementation.	IUCN Coordinator/Evaluation Office	US$ 45,000
Independent External Evaluation at termination of the project	A final evaluation, which occurs three months prior to the final TPR meeting, focuses on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation but also covers impact, sustainability, and follow-through recommendations, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals.	At least three months before the end of project implementation.	IUCN Evaluation Office	US$ 60,000
Terminal Project Report	A Terminal Project Report will be prepared for the terminal meeting.	On completion of the terminal evaluation.	PC CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 1,340
Budget revisions	Project budget revisions will reflect the final expenditures for the preceding year, to enable the preparation of a realistic plan for the provision of inputs for the current year. It is expected that significant revisions will be cleared with the IUCN/GEF Coordinator for consistency with the GEF incremental principle and GEF eligibility criteria before being approved.	At least every year and as necessary during the course of the project	PC Administrative and Financial Assistant CTA IUCN Regional Program Coordinator	US$ 4,000
TOTAL indicative COST				US$ 129,340

CAPITALISATION

The main goal of the capitalisation process is to produce knowledge to inform action. It is about building the capacity of staff to implement mechanisms or processes that have proven effective in fulfilling their objectives. It is also a question of allowing a more effective use of the resources made available, avoiding error repetition, understanding reasons for successes, but also for failures. It is important to make a clear distinction between Capitalisation and Evaluation: these are convergent but distinct approaches. Capitalisation processes and tools can be broadly similar to those used in evaluation, but there is a fundamental difference in the fact that capitalisation does not lead to an evaluative judgement. The objective is to build an informed database of lessons learnt during project roll-out.

8 PROJECT FINANCING AND BUDGET

The overall project budget is presented in the table below. The detailed project budget is provided in Appendix 9.9.

The project procurement plan is presented in Appendix 9.10.

Table 16: Project budget per GEF Financing types (USD)

USD	TA	INV	Total
Component 1	1,266,340		**1,266,340**
Component 2	1,512,840	132 107	**1,644,947**
Component 3	952,340	612 500	**1,564,840**
Component 4	623,620		**623,620**
Project management cost	254,840		**254,840**
Total	**4 609 980**	**744 607**	**5 354 587**

Table 17: Project budget per GEF Focal areas (USD)

USD	SFM IP	Total
Component 1	1,266,340	**1,266,340**
Component 2	1,644,947	**1,644,947**
Component 3	1,564,840	**1,564,840**
Component 4	623,620	**623,620**
Project management cost	254,840	**254,840**
Total	5 354 587	**5 354 587**

Table 18: Project budget –Co-financing (USD)

USD	Recipient Gov	IUCN	BZS	Total
Component 1	8 640 000			**8 640 000**
Component 2	11 520 000		90 000	**11 610 000**
Component 3	5 760 000	140 000		**5 900 000**
Component 4	2 880 000	140 000		**3 020 000**
Project management cost	1 600 000	70 000	10 000	**1 680 000**
Monitoring & evaluation	1 600 000			**1 600 000**
Total	32 000 000	350 000	100 000	**32 450 000**

Table 19: Project budget –Co-financing spread among components (USD)

USD	Recipient Gov	IUCN	BZS	Total
Component 1	8 640 000			**8 640 000**
Component 2	11 520 000		90 000	**11 610 000**
Component 3	5 760 000	140 000		**5 900 000**
Component 4	2 880 000	140 000		**3 020 000**
Project management cost	1 600 000	70 000	10 000	**1 680 000**
Monitoring & evaluation	1 600 000			**1 600 000**
Total	32 000 000	350 000	100 000	**32 450 000**

9 APPENDIX

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9.2 Methodology of the consultation

APPROACH TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT DELIVERY

Objective and challenges of the assignment

The main goal of the assignment is to develop a project proposal (project preparation documents) to be submitted to IUCN first for internal review and then to the GEF for CEO approval. The main challenge of this assignment is to provide relevant high quality deliverables in a short time frame in order to ensure successful project review and endorsement in due time, as well as stakeholder involvement in the project.

Key principles

All along the project preparation process, **the consultant will work in close collaboration with the IUCN and key stakeholders** (both at national and local levels) in order to ensure the integration local challenges and expectations, relevance and sustainability of the project, and to secure stakeholders and partners involvement. The related consultation process corresponds to:

- The **Inception workshop** with the IUCN and national stakeholders;
- The **interviews with national and local stakeholders** before and during the field mission. (see list in Appendix 9.3);
- The **Filed mission update workshop** with the national stakeholders;
- The **participative elaboration** of the project during the Inception, field mission update and **Validation workshops**.

In addition to this, the expertise and knowledge of the area, its social and environmental features and issues that have the team members, and especially the local expert will be an asset all along the project design.

During the development of the project, the consultant will pay attention to respond to the concerns raised by the GEF Secretariat Review and the STAP review, that is:

- Further detail on how this project will implement on-the-ground activities that are priorities based on the relevant documents.
- The project should align with the reports rather than support the creation of future reports
- Ensure sustainability;
- Seek out existing and new programs that the project can leverage, particularly efforts made by institutions outside of the traditional environmental partners
- Clarify and enhance linkages of Components 1 & 2 with Component 3;
- Provide for formal knowledge management system or monitoring and evaluation components;
- Investigate how this project can build upon existing interventions.

PHASING AND SPECIFIC TASKS UNDER THE ASSIGNMENT

The project will be developed according to a three phases approach described below.

Phase 1: Inception

The objective of this first phase is to update and revise (when necessary) the main project outlines, including preliminary institutional arrangements (especially analysis of the capacities of the possible Executing Agency), project objectives and main activities, target areas / project boundaries.

According to the Consultant's experience, a web conference with the IUCN at project kick-off is essential in order to ensure a good start and efficiency all along the project preparation process. This meeting will mainly address the project background, IUCN's perception of the project and potential institutional arrangements, adjustment of the Consultant's methodology when necessary, etc.

Besides the adjustment and refinement of the methodology and consultations with IUCN, the Inception Phase will mostly be dedicated to a sound documentation collection and review and to the preparation of the field mission.

Phase 2: Field mission

The first mission will be organized into two sequences: a first week dedicated to interviews and data collection with national stakeholders and the participation in the Inception Workshop; and a second week dedicated to field investigations. The team leader will lead this mission. He will be supported by the team members.

a) Consultation week in Bata.

A first consultation week will be organized in Bata. Through the identification and meeting of the main stakeholders at national level, this first mission should allow the Consultant to:

- collect data / information (socio-economic, environmental surveys, strategic plans, policies and laws related to natural resources management, GIS layers, …);
- review baseline studies;
- identify natural resource patterns, priority issues and challenges;
- assess existing capacity and needs of the possible executing agencies;
- initiate the stakeholder analysis (including clarification of responsibilities with regard to data collection, storage and analysis);
- identify on-going and future projects, link with potential project partners, and investigate the strategies and activities implemented by the co-funding projects.

During this first week, the team will share their understanding of the baseline conditions with key stakeholders at the **Project inception workshop** and will work together on the identification of stakeholder expectations and needs. Under the guidance of the Team Leader and with the support of the other experts, they will translate the outputs of the workshop in the first mission report.

b) Field investigations during one week

A field mission of one week will be carried out in the sites selected for the project interventions. This phase consists in detailing project activities relevant to local needs and expectations and IUCN/GEF environmental and social policies. These investigations will then feed the project documentation. The mission will include:

- identification of the project enabling conditions to ensure that implementation arrangements, partnership strategies and capacities are in place and adequate for the successful project implementation and its **sustainability** (land-use rights/property, strength and weaknesses of the regulatory, planning and enforcement frameworks, existing initiatives in Equatorial Guinea, interest / motivation / effective investment of institutions and communities in natural resources management). These aspects will be analyzed and gathered by the team members through interview with national, and local stakeholders and review of relevant documentation;
- site-scale situational analysis through field work (socio-economic conditions, stakeholder identification and consultation, land ownership/tenure/rights, status of ecosystems, main threats, gender issues, existing ecosystem conservation tools and practices in place, identification of measures needed to alleviate the threats and estimation of their expected social and environmental benefits, candidate areas for ecosystem and habitat restoration, development of sustainable practices and income-generating activities).
- project institutional set-up and partnerships. The diagnosis of the capacity of the executing agency and the local partners will be deepened to feed the stakeholder engagement plan.

The team leader will supervise and organize the various investigations to ensure coherence and coordination among the team members. He will be responsible for providing technical recommendations for the co-funding commitments and building, assessing project costing, ensuring integration of the findings of the ESMP into the project design, and building on all thematic experts' inputs in order to come up with a clear vision of detailed project activities and beneficiaries. The first mission report will include a brief summary of conclusions and recommendations for the preparation and finalization of the projects documents, and ESMS relevant data to enable ESMS screening at that stage.

Phase 3: Elaboration and validation of the Project Document and CEO Endorsement Request

a) Document drafting

This task will mainly consist of valorising previous baseline analysis into a comprehensive draft project document. It will include project strategy, implementation plan and costing, monitoring, evaluation and communication strategies and tools, partner and co-funding commitments, and all other PPG documentation listed in the TORs.

This task will involve the team leader and thematic experts in order to ensure efficient coordination in document drafting as well as enough work load to finalize the documentation on time and ensure compliance with GEF policies.

b) Validation workshop

The draft project document will be presented and discussed with the stakeholders during a **Project validation workshop** organized in Bata. Discussions will focus particularly on:

- institutional and financial arrangement of the project;
- project logical framework;
- project activities;
- project implementation risks;
- project monitoring and evaluation scheme.

Decisions made during the workshop will feed the final version of the project document.

c) Finalization of the project document

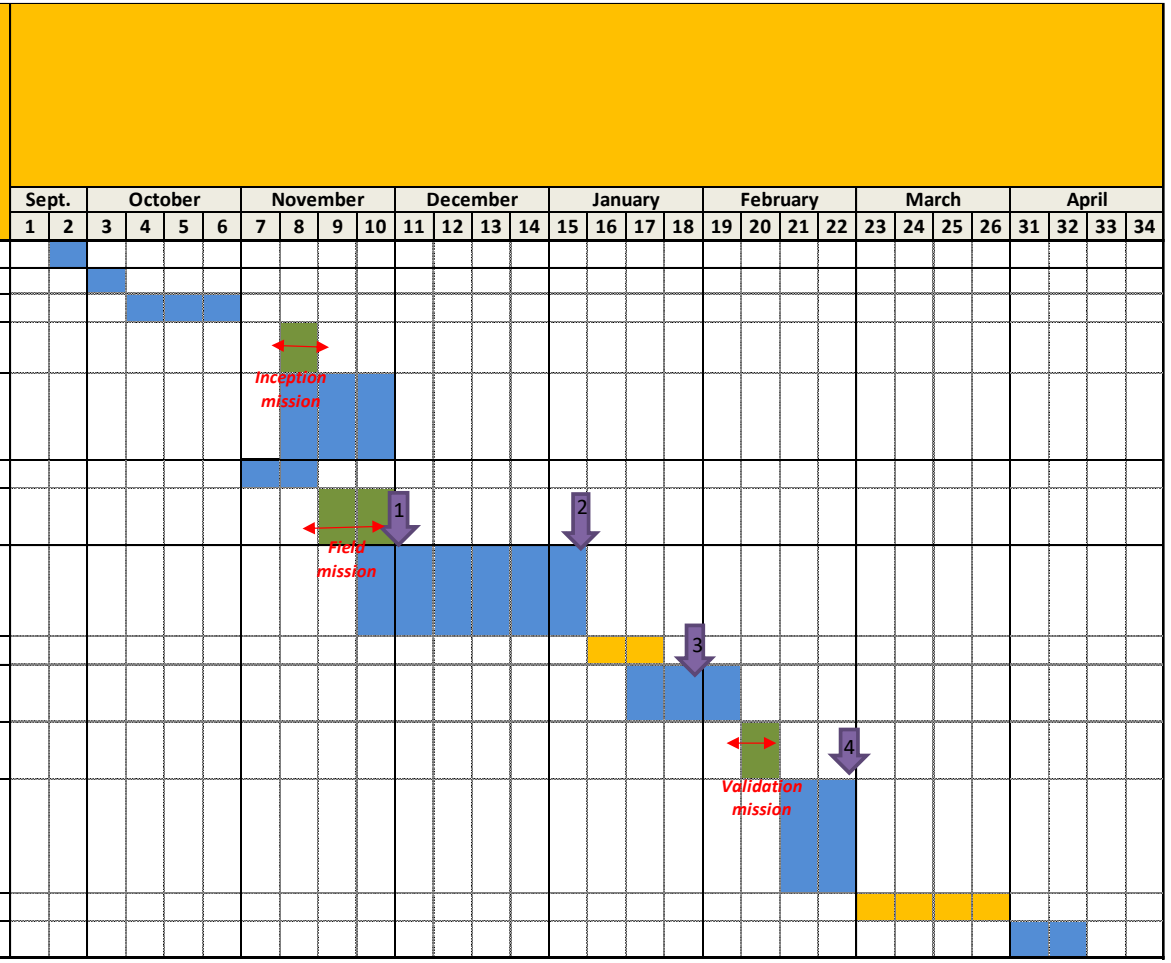
After the completion of validation workshop, the consultants will finalize the Project Document taking into account the comments and decisions made during the workshop. The consultants will prepare the other documents: the CEO Endorsement Form and all the annexes (M&E framework, detailed budget, procurement plan, tracking tools, etc).

d) Support to IUCN for the answer to the GEF Secretariat CEO Endorsement Review

After the submission of the CEO endorsement package, and once the GEF Secretariat has carried out its CEO endorsement review, the Consultant shall coordinate and support the IUCN for the provision of justified answered and additions to the document package.

Work plan and staffing work schedule of the PPG phase of the project design

Phases & Activities		Location
	Signature of the contract	
Phase I : Inception	1. Kick-off meeting and project preparation	Consultant Office
	2. Documentation review	Consultant Office
	3. M**ission in Equatorial Guinea**: Interviews and inception meeting	**Equatorial Guinea Malabo, Bata, field**
	4. Completion of diagnostic assessments, development of stakeholder engagement plan, site selection criteria/process, draft ProDoc sections	Consultant Office
Phase II : Field mission	5. Preparation for the field mission	Consultant Office
	6. **Field mission in Equatorial Guinea**: field visits and consultations	**Equatorial Guinea Bata, field**
Phase III : Design of project documents, validation and submission	7. Preparation of draft Project Documents for IUCN programmes. Final Sites selection. Coordination of safeguards assessment (ESMS), gender analysis and action plan.	Consultant Office
	Receipt of comments from UICN	
	8. Revision of the proposal for Proposal Review Meeting / Validation workshop	Consultant Office
	9. **Last mission in Equatorial Guinea**: Validation workshop	**Equatorial Guinea Malabo or Bata**
	10. Final completion of the Projects documents (ProDoc, CEO Endorsement Request, tracking tools), integration of final budget, project governance, safeguards disclosure, procurement plan (as necessary)	Consultant Office
	Submission of the CEO endorsment form to GEF Sec	
	11. Support to IUCN for responses to GEF Sec reviews, resubmission	Consultant Office



Presentation of a report

1 = Inception report, including baseline studies, draft logframe and theory of change
2= Submission of draft components for IUCN regional and global programmes
3= Submission of a revied version of project document and CEO endorsment for the Proposal Review Meeting
4= Submission of final project document and CEO endorsment

9.3 Itinerary: Field mission and validation workshop

Table 20: Field mission itinerary, 9th to 23rd November 2019

Date	Activities	Persons
Saturday 9th November	Travel from Paris to Malabo	GL & HL
Sunday 10th November	Travel from Malabo to Bata	GL & HL
Monday 11th November	Meeting with IUCN Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa & IUCN national consultant	DM, GL & HL
	General presentation meeting with INDEFOR-AP Director and the protected areas managers	DM, GL & HL
	Individual meetings with the managers of the protected areas of Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes (Parque Nacional de Monte Alen, Reserva Natural del Estuario de Muni)	GL & HL
Tuesday 12th November	Individual meetings with the managers of the protected areas of Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes (Monumento Natural de Piedras Nzas, Parque Nacional de los Altos de Nsork, Reserva Natural de Rio Campo)	GL & HL
	Meeting with the Director of INDEFOR-AP and the Director of the Department for the Conservation of the Environment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment	DM, GL & HL
Wednesday 13th November	Project inception workshop with relevant stakeholders	DM, GL & HL
Thursday 14th November	Meeting with WCS Country Director (with the presence of IUCN Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa)	GL & HL
	Meeting with REFADD, ADMAD & GRAIFEM representatives	GL & HL
	Meeting with ANDEGE representative	HL
	Meeting with INDEFOR-AP Director of Protected Areas Department	GL
	Meeting with INDEFOR-AP Director of Training and Sensitization Department and REPALEAC representative	GL
	Meeting with TOMAGE coordinator	GL & HL
Friday 15th November	Arrival of BRL consultant from Gabon	MN
	Travel to Evinayong, Aconibe and Nsork to meet with the authorities and get appropriate documentation signed	ALL
Saturday 16th November	Visit of Monumento Natural de Piedras Nzas Village of Bicuan Ndong could not be visited because it was inaccessible by road	DM, GL & HL
	Focus Group Discussions with Afanam village (Monumento Natural de Piedras Nzas)	MN
	Focus Group Discussions with Engong village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork)	MN
Sunday 17th November	Visit of the management centre of Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork	DM, GL & HL
	Visit of the management centre of Parque Nacional Monte Alen	DM, GL & HL
	Focus Group Discussions with Masa village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork)	MN
	Focus Group Discussions with Esong Cdo village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork)	MN
Monday 18th November	Focus Group Discussions with Atom village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen)	MN
	Focus Group Discussions with Santa Cruz village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen)	MN
	Visit of Reserva Natural de Rio Campo: management centre, river at Yengue, future extension zone, Punta Tica, eco museum TOMAGE protection of turtles project	DM, GL & HL
Tuesday 19th November	Focus Group Discussions with Engong Cdo village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen)	MN
	Focus Group Discussions with Dumasi village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen)	MN
	Return to Bata from Rio Campo	DM, GL & HL
	Meeting with the Director of Fundacion Martinez Hermanos	GL & HL
	Meeting with the INDEFOR-AP Director of Protected Areas Department	DM, GL & HL
	Meeting with the Director of INDEFOR-AP	DM, GL & HL

	BRLi team debrief on village focus groups in the Monte Alen landscape	GL, HL & MN
Wednesday 20th November	Focus Group Discussions with Bongoro village (Reserva Natural de Rio Campo)	MN
	Focus Group Discussions with Ayamiken village (Reserva Natural de Rio Campo)	MN
	Visit of Reserva Natural del Estuario Muni	DM, GL & HL
Thursday 21st November	Return to Bata	DM, GL & HL
	Visit of Bata medicinal plant market	MN
	Field mission restitution meeting with INDEFOR-AP personnel	DM, MN, GL & HL
Friday 22nd November	Travel Bata to Malabo	GL & HL
	Meeting with PNUD representative	GL, HL & MN
	Meeting with FAO representative	GL, HL & MN
	Meeting with Vice-minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment (MAGBMA)	GL, HL & MN
	Meeting with INCOMA personnel	GL & HL
Saturday 23rd November	Meeting with the General Director of Planning and Territorial Development of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning	GL & HL

Table 21: Validation workshop mission itinerary, 18th to 24th February 2020

Date	Activities	Persons
Tuesday 18th February	Travel from Paris to Malabo	GL & HL
Wednesday 19th February	Travel from Malabo to Bata	GL & HL
	Preparation of validation workshop	
Thursday 20th February	Preparation of validation workshop	GL, HL, DM
	Meeting with IUCN Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa & IUCN national consultant	
Friday 21st February	Validation workshop	GL, HL, DM
Saturday 22nd February	Visit of Monte Alen National Park management centre with IUCN Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa	GL, HL, DM
	Meeting with Post-Doctoral Research Associate of Bristol Zoological Society	
Sunday 23rd February	Meeting with BBPP National Manager	GL & HL
Monday 24th February	Meeting with the National Expert in Socioeconomics and Environmental Legislation and Finances at UNDP (Regional Project for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin – Equatorial Guinea component)	GL & HL
	Meeting with the General Director of Planning and Territorial Development of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning	
	Travel from Malabo to Paris	

(GL = Grégoire Lejonc, HL = Hélène Livingston, DM = Domingo Mbomio Ngomo, MN = Marielle Ntsame Nguema)

Table 22: People met during the field mission and validation workshop mission

Organisation	Position	Name
IUCN	Regional Forest Program Coordinator for Central and West Africa	Kenneth Angu Angu
IUCN	National Consultant	Diosdado Obiang Mbomio
INDEFOR-AP	Director	Fidel Esono Mba
INDEFOR-AP	Director of Protected Areas Department	Jesus Mba Mba Ayetibe
INDEFOR-AP	Director of Training and Sensitization Department	Angeles Mang Eyene
INDEFOR-AP	Manager of the Monte Alen National Park	Liscinia Josefa Bindang Ondo Nchama
INDEFOR-AP	Manager of the Piedras Nzas Natural Monument	Anastasia Amor Nengono Nkogo
INDEFOR-AP	Assistant Manager of the Piedras Nzas Natural Monument	Lucas Bibang
INDEFOR-AP	Manager of the Altos de Nsork National Park	Francisco Ondo Meye
INDEFOR-AP	Assistant Manager of the Altos de Nsork National Park	Esther Abeme Nguema
INDEFOR-AP	Manager of the Rio Campo Nature Reserve	Juvencio Eko Mangué Mekina
INDEFOR-AP	Assistant Manager of the Rio Campo Nature Reserve	Dorotea Umana Chele

INDEFOR-AP	Manager of the Estuario Muni Nature Reserve	Gaspar Lutero Mangue
INDEFOR-AP	Assistant Manager of the Estuario Muni Nature Reserve	Magdalena Presentacion Mangue Ona Nzang
WCS	Director	Cristian Barreras
TOMAGE	Coordinator	Carolina Martínez
REPALEAC	Representative	Angeles Mang Eyene
REFADD	Representative	Eloísa Sales Ipwa
GRAIFEM	Representative	Olivia Sales Ipwa
ADMAD	Representative	Piedad Memba Nkomi
Fundación Martínez Hermanos	Director	Fernando Javier Martínez
ANDEGE	Representative and Secretary General	Consolación Natividad Bindang Mba Mikue
MAGBMA	General Director of the Department for the Conservation of the Environment	Gabriel Ngua Ayecaba
MAGBMA	Vice-minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment	Excmo. Sr. Santiago Francisco Engonga Osono
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning	General Director of Planning and Territorial Development	Miguel Luba Bahosi
FAO	Representative	Fatima Espinal Mercedes
UNDP	UNDP Deputy Representative and Programme Officer	Isa Micami
INCOMA	Technician of the Water Resources Department	Feliciano Manuel Esono
UNDP	National Expert in Socioeconomics and Environmental Legislation and Finances at UNDP (Regional Project for Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin – Equatorial Guinea component)	Demetrio Bocuma Mene
Bristol Zoological Society	Post-Doctoral Research Associate	Partick McLaughlin
Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program	National Manager	David Montgomery

9.4 Current and past GEF interventions in the Equatorial Guinea

ID	Title	Focal Areas	Grant and Co-financing	Implementing Agencies	Countries	Fund Source	Period	Status
10208	The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation	$57,201,127 $387,383,108	United Nations Environment Programme	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-7	Concept Proposed
10120	Enhancing Equatorial Guinea's institutional and technical capacity in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use sector for enhanced transparency under the Paris Agreement	Climate Change	$863,242 $695,561	Food and Agriculture Organization	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-7	Concept Approved
10034	Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea.	Climate Change	$5,329,455 $18,186,100	Food and Agriculture Organization	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-6	Concept Approved
9981	GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process - Umbrella I	Land Degradation	$1,981,737 $336,000	United Nations Environment Programme	Angola, Burundi, Benin, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-6	Project Approved
9911	Strengthening of the Enabling Environment, Ecosystem-based Management and Governance to Support Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem	International Waters	$4,416,210 $47,234,855	United Nations Environment Programme	Benin, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-6	Concept Approved
9824	Support to Eligible Parties to Produce the Sixth National Report to the CBD (Africa-2)	Biodiversity	$1,963,500 $453,600	United Nations Environment Programme	Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-6	Project Approved
6925	Umbrella Programme for Biennial Update Report to the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change	$14,414,400 $1,393,400	United Nations Environment Programme	Afghanistan, Antigua And Barbuda, Angola, Burkina Faso, Bahrain, Bhutan, Dominica, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Cambodia, Kiribati,	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-6	Project Approved

					Comoros, Lao PDR, St. Lucia, Liberia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Mauritius, Maldives, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sao Tome and Principe, Uganda, Zambia, Congo DR			
5454	Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the Member Countries of the Central African Forests Commission COMIFAC	Biodiversity	$1,762,557 $9,200,000	United Nations Environment Programme	Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Congo DR	Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund	GEF-5	Project Approved
5286	Sustainable Energy for All: Promoting Small Scale Hydropower in Bioko and Other Clean Energy Solutions for Remote Islands	Climate Change	$3,502,968 $40,000,000	United Nations Development Programme	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-5	Project Approved
5191	Preparation of National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) in response to Climate Change in Equatorial Guinea	Climate Change	$200,000 $220,000	United Nations Development Programme	Equatorial Guinea	Least Developed Countries Fund	GEF-5	Project Approved
4829	Support to GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD	Land Degradation	$2,830,000 $2,750,000	United Nations Environment Programme	Afghanistan, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Benin, Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cook Islands, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Algeria, Gabon, Grenada, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Comoros, St. Kitts And Nevis, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Morocco, Moldova, Mongolia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Nepal, Nauru, Niue, Philippines, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Vanuatu, Serbia, South Africa, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-5	Project Approved
4513	Support to GEF Eligible Parties (LDCs & SIDs) for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD - Phase 1	Biodiversity	$6,798,000 $6,650,000	United Nations Environment Programme	Benin, Bhutan, Central African Republic, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Dominica, Grenada, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana, Cambodia, St. Kitts And Nevis, Lao PDR, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Maldives, Malawi, Nepal, Niue, Palau, Rwanda, Solomon Islands, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Vanuatu, Zambia, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-5	Project Approved
3960	CBSP-Capacity Building for Regional Coordination of Sustainable Forest Management	Land Degradation	$815,000 $3,026,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Project Approved

	in the Congo Basin under the GEF Program for the Congo Basin							
3822	CBSP - A Regional Focus on Sustainable Timber Management in the Congo Basin	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation	$3,075,681 $13,843,067	United Nations Environment Programme	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Project Approved
3782	CBSP: Strategic Program for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin		$0 $0	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Concept Proposed
3779	CBSP Enhancing Institutional Capacities on REDD issues for Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin	Land Degradation, Climate Change	$13,000,000 $60,300,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Project Approved
3757	CBSP – Strengthening the National System of protected areas in Equatorial Guinea for the effective conservation of representative ecosystems and globally significant biodiversity	Biodiversity	$1,768,182 $4,932,800	United Nations Development Programme	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Project Approved
2906	CBSP Sustainable Financing of Protected Area Systems in the Congo Basin	Biodiversity	$ 8,181,818 $ 26,397,000	United Nations Development Programme	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-4	Project closed
3506	LDC/SIDS Portfolio Project: Strengthening of Legal, Institutional and Individual Capacities for the Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Equatorial Guinea	Land Degradation	$0 $0	United Nations Development Programme	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-3	Received by GEF Secretariat
2469	Supporting Capacity Building for the Elaboration of National Reports and Country Profiles by African Parties to the UNCCD	Land Degradation	$900,000 $0	The World Bank	Burkina Faso, Burundi, Benin, Botswana, Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Algeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Malawi, Chad	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-3	Completed
2190	Technical Assistance to Francophone LDCs to Implement the UNFCCC8/CP8 Decision	Climate Change	$211,126 $38,000	United Nations Development Programme	Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Benin, Central African Republic, Cabo Verde, Djibouti, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, Togo, Congo DR	Least Developed Countries Fund	GEF-3	Project Approved
1188	Combating Living Resource Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current LME through	International Waters	$20,812,699 $43,971,292	United Nations Development Programme	Angola, Benin, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Gabon, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-3	Completed

	Ecosystem-based Regional Actions							
225	National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First Country Report to the COP	Biodiversity	$296,000 $0	United Nations Development Programme	Equatorial Guinea	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-1	Project Approved
47	Regional Environment and Information Management Project (REIMP)	Biodiversity	$4,077,000 $15,850,000	The World Bank	Central African Republic, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo DR	GEF Trust Fund	GEF-1	Completed

9.5 Gender Analysis and Action Plan

Introduction

This is the gender analysis prepared to inform the design and implementation of the proposed GEF funded project in Equatorial Guinea entitled, "**Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea".**

According to the World Bank, Equatorial Guinea has made considerable progress in the area of gender equality, particularly in education, health and literacy for 15-24 year olds. Despite this progress however, gender inequality in the political sphere, participation in decision making processes, access to land, inheritance and access to sources of financing still persists.

Context

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea is located close to the equator in the Gulf of Guinea and covers an area of 28,051.46 km². The country is made up of two regions, one continental and the other insular. The continental part is bordered to the north by Cameroon, to the south and east by Gabon and to the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It shares maritime borders with Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Gabon and Cameroon. Equatorial Guinea has a natural wealth of arable land, forests and mineral resources, including gold, oil, uranium, diamond and columbita-tantalite.

Until the mid-1990s, the country's economy was based on the agricultural and forestry sectors, where cocoa, coffee and timber production represented the main sources of income. The discovery and exploitation of oil in the 1990s represented significant economic growth, with oil accounting for 85% of GDP, 95% of tax revenues and almost all exports (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). Oil and gas became the driving force of the country's economy, leaving the old coffee and cocoa productions behind. From 2000 to 2011, the economy grew with an annual average of 23.2% (MAGBMA, 2019). Since 2013, the country has been experiencing an economic recession (see figure below), and the contribution of oil to GDP has decreased due to the decrease in production and in the price of oil in the world market. In 2016, oil represented 59% of GDP (INEGE, 2018). The country's GDP in 2018 was 13.3 billion USD, with an annual GDP decreasing by 6.4%.

Despite the country's high GDP per capita (20,855 in 2018 according to the World Bank), human development and poverty reduction remains the greatest challenge facing Equatorial Guinea. In 2018, the country ranked 144 according to the UNDP's Human Development Index. A large part of the population has not benefited from the oil boom and there is an unequal distribution of wealth, and disparities between rural and urban areas. Indeed, 57% of the population do not have access to safe drinking water and 16% of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition. (MAGBMA, 2019). 66 % of households have electric lighting (93% in urban areas and 43% in rural areas) and 56% have some form of access to clean drinking water (82% in urban areas and 33% in rural areas). Most households do not have toilets or latrines, especially in rural areas (EDSGE, 2011). In addition, high dependence on imports of both food and manufactured goods significantly increases the price of products and reduces the purchasing power of households.

Global Indicators

There are a number of indicators that have been created in order to objectively compare gender parity among different countries, namely the Gender Inequality Index and the Gender Gap Index. Unfortunately, data is unavailable for Equatorial Guinea for both of these indicators. The gender analysis is therefore based on more specific indicators and data that were found to be available.

Demography

Equatorial Guinea has a population of 1.31 million inhabitants, with an annual growth rate of 3.7% in 2018 (World Bank, 2020). 72.2% of the total population is found on the continental region. The population is young, with children between 0 and 14 years of age representing 47.3% of the population (MAGBMA, 2019).

The country's population has been increasing over the last decades. This increase is due to the birth rate of 4.5 births per women (2018 data), the influx of immigrants and the return of exiled Equatoguineans seeking employment in the oil sector. Immigrants represent 12.4% of the total population. That said, the population density remains relatively low, at 45 inhabitants/km^2 (in the continental region the density is 35 inhabitants/km^2).

According to the last census, carried out in 2015, 76.1 % of the population lives in urban areas and 23.9 % lives in rural areas (INEGE, 2019), in contrast with the past, when 60% to 70% of the population lived in rural areas. (MAGBMA & FAO, 2018). The annual urban population growth was 4.3% in 2018.

Health

The average life expectancy at birth in Equatorial Guinea is 58 years.

Fertility remain relatively high, with an average of 4.5 children per women. In rural areas, women generally do not have access to prenatal visits. They must travel to the nearest urban or peri-urban centre to receive pregnancy monitoring. Those with low income are limited to the care provided by the village health worker. According to the EDSGE 2011, the neonatal and infant mortality rates are 33.1 and 65 per 1,000 live births respectively. Maternal mortality has decreased over the years, with a rate of 1310 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, and 342 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015. In 2011, 68.3% of births were attended by skilled health personnel.

Contraception for women is far from common, with only 12.6% of married or in-union women of reproductive age (15-49 years) having access to contraception in 2011. Statistics also show that the adolescent birth rate is 155.6 births per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 years in 2018. Furthermore, women are more likely to contract HIV then men (7.4% of women, against 5.1% of men in 2016).

Education

Girls' access to early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling is equivalent to boys. However, this is not the case for university education, where men are more present than women. Furthermore, in 2016 the proportion of women in the workforce (77%) was lower than that of men (92%). In politics, out of a total of 170 Members of Parliament, only 32 were women. Similarly, there were only 9 women in ministerial positions, compared to with 71 men (UN, 2017).

Status of Gender Equality

Legal framework

Equatorial Guinea has signed or ratified most of the international human rights conventions of the United Nations and the African Union which prohibit discrimination based on gender.

At national level, the country has several legal frameworks that relate to gender equality:

- Article 5 of the Constitution establishes equality between women and men in all areas of social and family life, whilst article 15 makes gender discrimination an offence. Article 13.2 also requires the public authorities to put in place legislative measures and mechanisms to promote the adequate representation of women in State institutions and their participation in public offices;
- Article 3 of the Framework Act on Education states that early childhood education, primary education and vocational training must be free and compulsory for all Equato-Guineans and foreigners residing in the country, regardless of gender;
- Decree No. 167/2013 on the classification of civil servants guarantees the principle of equality and prohibits gender-based wage discrimination;
- The decree governing minimum wage also establishes equality in terms of salary;
- The National Employment Policy instituted in 2015 is designed to ensure, in collaboration with local agencies, the implementation of gender equality policies.
- The National Gender Policy (NGP), validated on 20 January 2011, is a response to the real disparities that exist between women and men in Equatorial Guinea. The NGP is articulated around five strategic axes:
    - Access to basic social services;
    - Respect for human rights and the elimination of violence;
    - Access/control of resources and equitable revenue sharing ;
    - Improved governance and equitable access to decision-making spheres;
    - Gender mainstreaming in macroeconomic policy

Institutional framework

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality is responsible for promoting and implementing public policies in the field of social affairs and gender. The Ministry's competencies in this domain are:

- To promote policies, programmes, projects and plans of action for the promotion of women;
- To encourage cooperation with national and international bodies and with NGOs for the promotion of women;
- To promote and encourage actions in favour of gender equality and the effective participation of women in public, cultural, economic and social life;

- To promote the establishment of family care institutions and the functions that fall within the central administration of the State in this regard;
- To strengthen measures to raise public awareness of the need for comprehensive prevention and protection against violence against women and girls;
- To promote women's rights in accordance with national, regional and international legal instruments;
- To monitor the implementation of conventions and other international, regional and sub-regional legal instruments for the promotion of women.

The Ministry is represented at all administrative levels: national, regional, provincial and district delegations, and autonomous supervisory bodies. There are advisers for social affairs and the promotion of women in all village councils. These positions are reserved exclusively for women.

Existing gender programmes

The technical and financial partners of the United Nations support the Government in the implementation of a number of programmes and projects aimed at promoting gender equality:

- The Multi-sectoral Plan of Action for the Promotion of Women and Gender Equality;
- The National Economic and Social Development Plan Horizon 2020 includes a number of strategies to promote women's rights, gender equality, economic empowerment of women and children, and access of women and children to basic social services;
- The Programme for the Promotion of Self-Employment of Rural Women;
- The National Programme for the Education of Adult Women, Young Women and Adolescents;
- The Educational project for women, illiterate adults and young women in a situation of failure or dropping out of school

Social norms and practices

The traditional roles and responsibilities of women and men are more or less at odds with the modern national legal framework. Indeed, overall the Equatorial Guinea culture is patriarchal with women taking on all domestic chores and child-care; men are regarded as the income earners and the overall heads of households. Men are generally responsible for decision-making both at household and community levels. Women have limited participation in community meetings. Their participation is limited to the presence of a councillor for the promotion of women in the village council.

According to the EDSGE 2011, violence against women persists in significant proportions. Indeed, 63% of women surveyed (aged 15 to 49) have been physically abused, mainly by their husband or partner, but also by their father/father-in-law and/or mother/mother-in-law. 32% of women report having been victims of sexual violence at some point in their lives. Among women who reported physical violence in the last 12 months, 46% were injured as a result of the violence.

Resource Access and Use

In Equatorial Guinea, the land legally belongs to the State, but the State recognizes (and may assign) the land rights of communities or individuals. The ownership of land in Equatorial Guinea can be summarized as: a) land owned by the State (b) land public property of municipalities/city councils; (c) land owned by villages; (d) land owned by family ownership; and (e) privately owned land.

In theory, women’s right to own and use land is the same as men’s, and no gender discrimination is made in the law with regards to land rights. However, the reality is that in 2016, only 12% of women owned land, as opposed to 88% of men (EG country profile 2016, UN) due to the country’s patriarchal culture.

In the continental region the land ownership system is patrilineal. In this system, men are the landowners and decide on the use of the land and associated natural resources. Land ownership rights are transferred from father to son. Women are given access to land by their husbands for agricultural activities, to produce food for the household, but they have no rights over it.

Economic activities

Women play a major role in communities and in the rural economy of Equatorial Guinea, particularly in relation to agricultural activities. Women represent around 80% of the country's agricultural labour force and they take charge of the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as taking care of domestic activities (MAB and FAO, 2012). Outside the agricultural sector, women hold a share of 36.9% of employment in 2018. The overall ratio of female to male labour force participation rate was 81.7% in 2019. This figure does not capture the informal sector, which is likely to show a higher ratio.

In general, rural women have less access than men to productive resources, services and opportunities, such as land, financial services and training. Social and economic inequalities between men and women undermine household food security and impede the growth of the economy.

Zoom on the project intervention sites

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the people of the landscapes, followed by hunting, fishing, logging and sawing wood, harvesting NTFPs and making handicrafts. Food crops contribute to the food security of families and in some cases the commercialisation of surplus production generates substantial income.

The data collected in the field show a certain gender specificity in the activities carried out by the local communities of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes.

Women are generally responsible for all the tasks related to maintaining the household. They are responsible for collecting water, firewood, cleaning, cooking and taking care of the children. Agriculture is practised by both men and women, each gender having specific agricultural activities to carry out. Men are responsible for physical work like land clearing for agriculture, hunting, construction work and fishing. The gathering of non-timber forest products is practised by women, with the exception of vines, which are harvested in the forest by men for local handicrafts. Women are responsible for food processing, and selling agriculture and fish products at the market. Men also participate in certain processing activities and in craft making. Gender roles in the project landscapes are described in more detail in the table below.

Activity	Gender aspects
Agriculture	- Joint activity (male/female) - Division of labour by gender: Men: clearing, slashing, stump removal Women: weeding, planting, harvesting, processing and marketing - Single women and widows use hired labour for the big clearing works
Hunting	- Predominantly male activity - Important source of income for men
Fishing	- Practised by men in Rio Campo (marine fishing) - Practised by both men and women in Monte Alen (river fishing). The men fish with lines and nets in large rivers during periods of receding water levels. Women fish at dams and in small streams near villages.
Harvesting of NTFP	- Harvesting of products done predominantly by women, although men harvest vines used for making crafts - Marketing of products done by the women
Logging and wood processing	- Activity carried out by men
Craft making	- Activity practised mostly by men
Product processing	- Carried out by men and women in the case of sugar cane - Processing cassava into sticks is exclusively a female activity - These activities are a significant source of income for both men and women - Women are in charge of selling the products

Project Responses: Gender Action Plan

The socio-cultural burdens reproduced by the communities and the socialization process weigh on women in Equatorial Guinea and relegate them to secondary roles. As previously mentioned, Equatorial Guinean society is predominantly patrilineal which means that men dominate at all levels of society. Thus, women are perceived as a social element devoid of decision-making power and as the subordinates of men.

The project does not have the ambition of transforming the country's gender related challenges. However, it recognizes that reducing gender inequalities and empowering women to participate more fully in society is essential to reduce poverty and achieve the project's objectives. It will therefore contribute to addressing some of these challenges, and promote the participation of women wherever possible.

The purpose of this proposed Gender Action Plan is to ensure that the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this Gender Report are effectively integrated into the proposed project activities. This integration involves ensuring that:

- Both men and women actively and meaningfully participate;
- Both men and women have equal access to opportunities, resources and benefits arising from the project;
- Inequalities identified are not perpetuated.

The project's gender strategy aims to target the following gender inequalities:

- Limited women representation and participation in land use planning and natural resource management related processes and decision-making
- Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration, in all aspects of conservation and land use planning (in particular women from local communities)
- No participation of women in conservation participatory monitoring activities: no benefits derived from these conservation activities for women
- Women are more vulnerable to poverty than men, with less access to financial services, and less economic empowerment
- Less access to knowledge (i.e. training, capacity building) for women

As such, the section below presents suggestions on how to integrate gender into the proposed project. In addition to the gender responsiveness framework presented in the table below, the following measures will be implemented to ensure equal involvement of women and men in the project:

- To ensure that the project is gender sensitive, an in-depth assessment of the social context will be undertaken in each targeted site at inception to understand the gender-related dynamics specific to the site, identify women in the villages and assess their level of education and abilities. Guidelines will then be developed by a gender expert regarding gender integration for application by the coordination team. The implementation of the gender-sensitive approach of the project will start with: i) making sure – at very early stages of the implementation phase – that all stakeholders understand the purpose of the project; and ii) clearly informing the stakeholders that the project interventions have a clear focus on women as well as men. This is particularly important for community related project activities and will enable women's involvement to be understood and accepted. This is also expected to facilitate communication with the community elders on gender issues.
- Personnel from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality will be consulted for guidance throughout the implementation of project activities. The village councils' counsellors in charge of the promotion of women will also be continuously consulted and involved.
- Women tend not to speak in a mixed group. Specific focus groups will therefore be organised with women for all the project activities, especially under Component 3. Particular attention will be given to the timing of these focus groups to avoid putting an extra burden on women's routine.
- Women's access to higher education is lower than men's access. In order to ensure adequate women involvement in every step of the project, consultations will be undertaken to identify the awareness-raising, knowledge-sharing and training material that can be understood by all. For example, visual communication tools will be preferred.
- The livelihood support activities proposed by local communities under the micro-projects will be analysed to identify if they are male-led, female-led or mixed income generating activities. In order to reach equal participation of women in economic activities, the livelihood development proposals to be supported by the project will be selected in such a way that they generate economic benefits to an equal number of men and women.

The coordinator of the PMU will be responsible for ensuring the above measures are implemented. A budget of 15,000 USD will be attributed for the gender assessment carried out at the beginning of the project.

The table below presents a detailed gender action plan for the project: An indicator is proposed for the gender action(s) associated to each project output. Targets are set for each indicator as well as the means of verification to be used to evaluate whether the set targets have been reached. For each output an institution has been designated to ensure the implementation of the defined gender actions. The action plan will be monitored on an annual basis by the PMU.

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)	Ensure women's representation and meaningful participation: - Invite women to participate (in particular women leaders) - Support women's participation in dialogues (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	Limited women representation and participation in politics in general, including in land use planning and natural resource management	% of women participating in the cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues	40% of participants are women	Attendance lists Monitor women's experience of the dialogues through an anonymous questionnaire (did they feel it was useful, that they were appropriately consulted, included, represented, and was their voice heard?)	MAGBOMA
1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies	Ensure studies and assessments incorporate gender responsive methods and make recommendations on gender responsive interventions (convene women's focus groups to collect qualitative data, conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and gender analysis etc)	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	Technical inputs incorporate gender responsive methods (e.g. disaggregate women and men's perspectives, needs, practices, institutional participation etc) and make recommendations on gender-responsive interventions where relevant % of women consulted during assessments	Gender responsive methods used and recommendations given in studies/ assessments of activities 1.2.2.3, 1.2.2.4, and 1.2.2.5. 40% of people consulted are women	Study reports	IUCN (PMU and contracted service provider carrying out the assessment)
1.2.2 Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital	- Invite women to participate - Ensure that training is socio-culturally acceptable for women and design sessions to encourage women's voice	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women attending the training Incorporation of gender responsive	40% of training participants are women Presence of gender responsive aspects in the training	Attendance lists Training material	MAGBOMA

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources	- Explicitly incorporate into training a gender-responsive take on the theme at hand - When designing the training, consider different needs and constraints of women vs men in adopting new techniques or in changing behaviours - Support women's participation (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	Less access to training for women	aspects in the training			
1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Ensure women's representation and meaningful participation: - Invite women to participate (in particular women leaders) - Support women's participation in meetings (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women attending LUP meetings and peer to peer training sessions Women's feed-back on representation and meaningful participation	40% of attendees are women 75% of women give positive feedback on representation and participation	Attendance lists Monitor women's experience of the meetings through a questionnaire (did they feel it was useful, that they were appropriately consulted, included, represented, and was their voice heard?)	Ministry of finance
1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures	Ensure women's representation and meaningful participation: - Invite women to participate (in particular women leaders) - Support women's participation in dialogues (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women participating in the multi-stakeholder dialogues	40% of participants are women	Attendance lists Monitor women's experience of the dialogues through an anonymous questionnaire (did they feel it was useful, that they were appropriately consulted, included, represented, and	MAGBOMA

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
					was their voice heard?)	
2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds	- Invite women staff to participate - Ensure that training is socio-culturally acceptable for women and design sessions to encourage women's voice - Support women's participation (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration Less access to training for women	% of women attending the training	TBD according to the number of women staff in INDEFOR-AP at time of training	Attendance lists	INDEFOR-AP
2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Ensure women's representation and meaningful participation: - Invite women to participate (in particular women leaders) in consultations and work meetings - Support women's participation in meetings (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives) - Ensure that training is socio-culturally acceptable for women and design sessions to encourage women's voice - Explicitly incorporate into training a gender-responsive take on the theme at hand	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women attending consultation and work meetings (management plan updates and METT assessments), and training (PA management) Women's feed-back on representation and meaningful participation Incorporation of gender responsive aspects in the PA management training	40% of attendants are women 75% of women give positive feedback on representation and participation Presence of gender responsive aspects in the training	Attendance lists Monitor women's experience of the meetings through a questionnaire (did they feel it was useful, that they were appropriately consulted, included, represented, and was their voice heard?) Training material	INDEFOR-AP
2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans	Recruit women eco-guards	No participation of women in participatory monitoring activities: no benefits derived	% of women eco-guards recruited	50% of eco-guards recruited are women	Recruitment contracts	INDEFOR-AP

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
(enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)		from these conservation activities for women				
2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes	- Recruit women as part of the community patrol teams - Invite women to participate in the training - Ensure that training is socio-culturally acceptable for women and design sessions to encourage women's voice - Explicitly incorporate into training a gender-responsive take on the theme at hand - When designing the training, consider different needs and constraints of women vs men in adopting new techniques or in changing behaviours - Support women's participation (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	No participation of women in participatory monitoring activities: no benefits derived from these conservation activities for women Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women attending the training Incorporation of gender responsive aspects in the eco-guard, community patrol teams and law enforcement trainings % of women recruited in community patrol teams	30% of trainees are women Presence of gender responsive aspects in the trainings 50% of patrol team members recruited are women	Attendance lists Training material Community patrol team agreements	INDEFOR-AP and MAGBOMA
3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model	Ensure women's participation: - Invite women to participate in the small grants program and the trainings - Support women's participation in meetings and trainings (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives) - Give specific support adapted to women's	Women more vulnerable to poverty than men, with less access to financial services, and less economic empowerment Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	% of women receiving financial support for a micro-project through the SGP % of women attending the training and experience sharing programs Incorporation of gender responsive	50% of grant beneficiaries are women 50% of trainees are women Presence of gender responsive aspects in the trainings	List of grant beneficiaries and grant contracts Attendance lists Training material	IUCN and UNDP

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
	needs, to propose and carry out micro-projects - Explicitly incorporate into training a gender-responsive take on the training theme at hand - When designing the training, consider different needs and constraints of women vs men in adopting new techniques or in changing behaviours - Ensure that training is socio-culturally acceptable for women and design sessions to encourage women's voice		aspects in the trainings			
3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)	Ensure studies and assessments incorporate gender responsive methods and make recommendations on gender responsive interventions (convene women's focus groups to collect qualitative data, conduct sex-disaggregated data collection and gender analysis etc)	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions not taken into consideration	Technical inputs incorporate gender responsive methods (e.g. disaggregate women and men's perspectives, needs, practices, institutional participation etc) and make recommendations on gender-responsive interventions where relevant % of women consulted during assessments	Gender responsive methods used and recommendations given in studies/assessments of activities 31.2.1 and 3.1.2.2. 40% of people consulted are women	Study reports	IUCN (and service provider carrying out the assessment)
3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable	Ensure women's representation and meaningful participation:	Women's voices often not heard and women's views and position/conditions	% of women participating in the working group, in the	40% of participants are women	Attendance lists Monitor women's experience of the dialogues through	MAGBOMA

Output	Gender action	Gender inequalities targeted	Indicator	Target	Means of verification	Responsibility
private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests	- Invite women to participate (in particular women leaders) - Support women's participation in the working groups, training and workshop (actively encourage women to speak and share their perspectives)	not taken into consideration	workshop and in the trainings		an anonymous questionnaire (did they feel it was useful, that they were appropriately consulted, included, represented, and was their voice heard?)	
4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity	Ensure the awareness programs incorporate gender responsive aspects	Lack of awareness of gender inequalities	Incorporation of gender responsive aspects in the awareness programs	Presence of gender responsive aspects in the awareness programs	Awareness programs' material	IUCN
5.1.1 Project management team established and functional	Strong presence of women in the PMU	Women less likely to have a job in the formal sector	Women in the PMU	The PMU includes at least one woman	PMU work contracts	IUCN Cameroun

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9.6 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Stakeholder Analysis

The stakeholder analysis presented in the table below exposes the various stakeholders (government agencies, local communities, civil society organizations, international organizations, private sector, …) that could potentially be interested in the project and/or have an influence on the project (whether positive or negative). It also suggests how to engage with each of the identified stakeholders during the project design phase and how they could be involved in the project.

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
Government agencies (national, provincial, local)					
MAGBOMA	As the Ministry in charge of forests and protected areas the project is in line with its missions and it will participate in it.	Positive influence: support and participation in project activities, support project lobbying and decision-making processes, support in project engagement with other ministries	Increased capacity of personnel	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use
INDEFOR-AP	As the institution in charge of managing the protected areas targeted by the project it will be a direct executing partner.	Positive influence: hosting of the project management unit in its facilities, active role in project implementation, support in stakeholder engagement, support of project lobbying processes	Increased capacity of INDEFOR-AP personnel, increased human and financial means of INDEFOR-AP, increased operations, enhanced infrastructure	Meetings and consultations	Participation in activities under component 2 and in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use, management of natural resources and trans-boundary aspects
INCOMA	It is concerned by all environmental aspects, including the management of natural resources	Positive influence: support project lobbying and decision-making processes, support in project engagement with other ministries on natural resources related issues	Increased capacity of personnel	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to natural resources
General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation	As the institution in charge of controlling forest activities in the country it will be supported and certain activities financed by the project.	Positive influence: support in engaging the private logging sector	Increased capacity of personnel and increased operations	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and the forestry private sector

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
INPAGE	It is concerned by agriculture related activities, from production to processing and marketing	Positive influence: support in engaging local communities to develop sustainable alternative livelihoods linked to agriculture (providing training, guidance…)	Increased involvement with local communities of the target landscapes	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use, as well as in activities of outcome 3.1.1
Ministry of finance, economy and planning	It is the institution charged with developing a national land use plan	Positive influence: collaboration on LUP, support in project engagement with other ministries on LUP aspects	Support in the land use plan development process and capacity building of ministry personnel	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs, multi-stakeholder dialogues and land use planning related activities
Ministry of public works and infrastructure	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to infrastructure projects	Positive influence if willing to participate in LUP process and collaborate. Potential negative influence if infrastructure is built in and around project PA sites without prior impact studies and consultation of INDEFOR-AP	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on the management of natural resources and the importance of the NPAS and its related legal framework	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use
Ministry of mines and hydrocarbons	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to mining projects	Positive influence if willing to participate in LUP process and collaborate.	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on the management of natural resources and the importance of the NPAS and its related legal framework	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
Ministry of security, including law enforcement agencies	It is in charge of law enforcement, including laws related to conservation and protected areas	Positive influence if willing to participate in LUP process and collaborate on law enforcement in project PA sites	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on conservation law enforcement	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs related to conservation law enforcement
GE Proyectos	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to infrastructure projects	Positive influence if willing to participate in LUP process and collaborate. Potential negative influence if major projects are approved in and around project PA sites without prior impact studies and consultation of INDEFOR-AP	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on the management of natural resources and the importance of the NPAS and its related legal framework	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources
Ministry of interior and local corporations	It is concerned by governance aspects and local governments	Positive influence if willing to participate in LUP process and collaborate.	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on the management of natural resources and the importance of the NPAS and its related legal framework	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Artisanal Crafts Promotion	It is concerned by tourism related topics	Positive influence: provision of technical support for the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods with local communities, and the development of an eco-tourism strategy	Increased involvement with local communities of the target landscapes	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation and consultation in activities of outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. Request guidance to ensure that cultural values are respected and promoted by the project

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality	It is concerned by all gender aspects	Positive influence: assistance in ensuring that women are adequately engaged and involved in all steps of the project	Increased involvement with local communities of the target landscapes	Invitation to consultation workshops	Consult at various stages of the project, request guidance to ensure that women are adequately engaged and involved in the project
Provincial and local authorities	As authorities of the project target and implementation sites they will endorse and support project activities.	Positive influence if willing to facilitate implementation of project activities in implementation sites	Awareness raising and capacity building of personnel on land use planning, the management of natural resources and the importance of the NPAS and its related legal framework	Invitation to consultation workshops	Ensure participation in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources. Request support and facilitation of project interventions.
Local communities					

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
Community members	The inclusion of local communities in the project is of vital interest if results are to be achieved. Many conservation projects have failed because local communities were not integrated in the design and implementation processes. In the Monte Alen and Rio Campo Landscapes, local communities maintain a mosaic of uses of the forests (agriculture, hunting, fishing, gathering, etc.). As a result, the forest is perceived as a community asset that enables them to meet their subsistence needs. The protection of the forest ecosystems and the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods is therefore of interest to local communities.	Positive influence if willing to contribute through knowledge of the forest and of the project landscapes and in identifying solutions that are not readily apparent to the project team.	Positive impacts of project activities on local communities: - Development of a local economy through the establishment of income-generating activities (alternative livelihoods) and increased financial capacity of members of community groups; - Social cohesion through the fact that men and women will be brought together in groups to participate in project activities. - Facilitate the participation of community leaders in local governance for the sustainable management of natural resources. Potential negative impacts of the project on local communities: - Resistance to compliance with regulations concerning hunting and logging that could lead to a reduction in the income of men and youth involved in those activities - Conflicts with law enforcement personnel	Participatory approach: participation in consultations organized in the form of focus groups, village assemblies, interviews, to identify the needs and aspirations of local communities.	Inhabitants of the selected pilot project areas will be made aware of project activities and invited to take part in decision-making processes. They will be actively involved in the project activities. Their cooperation will be sought in project implementation: alternative livelihoods activities, governance of protected areas, capacity building programs, multi-stakeholder platforms and consultations, the development of land use plans at local levels… Heads of local communities and community leaders will be the main counterparts in linking the project objectives and activities to the needs of the people in the project area.
Women and informal women groups			As above - Economic empowerment of women;		Women will be involved in all community related project activities, with specific emphasis to

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
					include them (see GAP). They will participate in the alternative livelihoods output, the development of pilot community land use plans, and will be consulted in the various project studies and assessments. Their knowledge of local contexts will be put to use.
Youth			As above		Youth will be involved in all community related activities, with specific emphasis to include them
Farmer, fishermen and other local formal and informal groups			As above		Existing formal and informal groups will be involved in and benefit from the alternative livelihoods output.
Civil Society Organizations					
ANDEGE	ANDEGE has forest engineers and agronomists who have worked in past projects in the targeted landscapes	Positive influence: technical contributions and provision of knowledge of project landscapes	Increased activity	Meetings and consultations	Participate in updating management plans and working with communities on the alternative livelihood micro-project development, facilitate interactions with local communities and raise awareness, support training activities. Share their previous experience working with local communities on conservation issues in

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
					EG, contribute to technical studies.
TOMAGE	TOMAGE is very active in conservation activities in the Rio Campo landscape	Positive influence: provision of knowledge of Rio Campo landscape and communities	Increased activity, provision of eco-museums and extra personnel	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in awareness raising activities in Rio Campo landscape, share their experience of working with local communities in Rio Campo, facilitate interactions with those communities
REFADD	It is concerned by projects and activities involving the participation of women	Positive influence: ensuring the adequate participation of women	Increased involvement with local communities of the target landscapes	Meetings and consultations	Consult at various stages of the project, involve in work with local communities, particularly on alternative livelihood activities
REPALEAC	It is concerned by projects and activities involving the participation of forest dependant people	Positive influence: ensuring the adequate participation of forest dependant people	Increased involvement with local communities of the target landscapes	Meetings and consultations	Consult at various stages of the project, involve in work with local communities, particularly on alternative livelihood and NTFP related activities
International organizations					
IUCN	Executing and implementing agency	Project management	Increased presence in Equatorial Guinea	Meetings, calls, reports	Project execution and management, execution of administrative and financial matters, assistance for key technical issues, engagement of relevant stakeholders for activity implementation, consolidation of results, facilitation of workshops and convening of

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
					stakeholders, securing of national financial resources to complement project activities
WCS	WCS operates in the target landscapes and works on conservation aspects in line with the project	Positive influence: Experience sharing and knowledge of the target landscapes	Increased network and reach in EG, synergies with own projects	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources, sharing of experience working with communities in Rio Campo
FAO	FAO operates in the target landscapes and works on forestry and land use aspects in line with the project	Positive influence: the FAO has been involved in the process of developing a national land use plan and can give guidance on the best way the project can support this process	Increased network and reach in EG, synergies with own projects	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources, and in the land use planning processes
AfDB	AfDB has financed projects in the target landscapes in the past and will finance future projects on conservation aspects in line with the GEF project	Positive influence: potential execution and collaboration with PACEBCo 2 project (project awaiting validation and confirmation)	Increased network and reach in EG, potential synergies with own project (PACEBCo 2)	Invitation to consultation workshops	Collaboration
UNDP	UNDP operates in the target landscapes and works on conservation aspects and protected areas in line with the project	Positive influence: experience sharing and knowledge of the target landscapes' PAs and of the related challenges, including from a policy and legal framework point of view	Increased network and reach in EG, synergies with own projects	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources Contribution to setting up a GEF UNDP Small Grants Program for EG

Stakeholder Analysis					
Stakeholder	**Interest of the SH in the project**	**Potential influence of the SH on the project**	**Impact of the project on the SH** *(positive or negative)*	**How to engage during design process**	**How to engage in project (early ideas)**
UNEP	In charge of the regional project of the Congo Basin IP	Positive influence: integrating the project in the wider CBSL IP by providing spaces for learning, exchange, collaboration, methodologies, communication platforms…	Provision of project information, indicators, technical briefs, feedback of experiences etc	Email exchanges	Provide regular updates of project progress and challenges and request feedback, integrate the project in the wider CBSL IP by providing spaces for learning, exchange, collaboration, methodologies, communication platforms…
BZS	Complementarities and synergies between the project and BZS/UWE project in Monte Alen, potential for collaboration	Positive influence: knowledge of Monte Alen NP, technical support, co-financing	Involvement in certain activities, increased conservation activities in Monte Alen NP having a beneficial impact on BZS/UWE project	Meetings and email exchanges	Participate in conservation activities under component 2, in synergy with BZS project operating in Monte Alen NP, share their experience on conservation work in EG
UWE	Complementarities and synergies between the project and BZS/UWE project in Monte Alen, potential for collaboration	Positive influence: knowledge of Monte Alen NP, technical support	Involvement in certain activities, increased conservation activities in Monte Alen NP having a beneficial impact on BZS/UWE project	Meetings and email exchanges	Carry out assessments of activities 1.2.2.1 (forest fragmentation) and 3.1.2.3 (human-wildlife conflicts), and potentially other studies
Agencies executing other country child projects of the Congo Basin Impact Programme	Part of the Congo Basin Impact Programme	Positive influence: experience and knowledge sharing	Experience and knowledge sharing, collaboration	Email exchanges and calls	Collaboration with Cameroon and Gabon child projects on transboundary aspects
Private Sector					
Logging companies	Logging companies operate in the target landscapes	Potential willingness to expand forest exploitation in protected areas	Increased awareness and capacity on sustainable forest management	Meetings and consultations	Ensure participation in relevant training sessions and multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms on sustainable forest management and logging practices

Stakeholder consultation during project preparation

The project will work in close collaboration with a wide a range of stakeholders: local communities, provincial and national government agencies and departments, civil society organizations, national and international organizations, regional initiatives, and the private sector in Equatorial Guinea. This collaboration was initiated during the PPG phase through one-on-one consultations and through the organisation of the inception and validation workshops, to which the stakeholders were invited. The consultations were undertaken between the 9th and 23rd of November 2019 and the 19th and 24th of February 2020. The inception and validation workshops were organised to ensure active involvement of all stakeholders in project design and preparation, which is crucial for project ownership by stakeholders. Local stakeholders were included in project design through the organisation of focus group discussions to discuss project objectives and activities and assess their interest in the project (see Appendices 9.2, and 9.3 for the methodology of the consultation and the list of meetings held).

The table below presents the various meetings and consultations that were carried out during project design and their outcomes.

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Documentation of Stakeholder Consultation (carried out during Project Preparation)				
Consultations (place and date)	**Organizations represented**	**Number of participants** (disaggregated by gender)	**Form/methodology of consultation**	**Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion** (including how it influenced project design)
November field missions				
Bata – 11.11.2019	IUCN	Male: 2	Meeting/interview	General discussions on Equatorial Guinea context linked to the project
Bata – 11 and 12.11.2019	INDEFOR-AP	Male: 10 Female: 7	Group presentation and discussions Individual meetings and interviews	Baseline information on protected areas of the landscapes: activities carried out, threats to ecosystems, challenges encountered, stakeholders present…
Bata – 12.11.2019	Department for the Conservation of the Environment (Director), MAGBOMA	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	General discussions on Equatorial Guinea institutional context linked to the project – it would be ideal if IUCN was executing agency
Bata – 13.11.2019	INDEFOR-AP, WCS, TOMAGE, IUCN, REFADD, REPALEAC, MAGBOMA, ANDEGE, COMIFAC, CEFDHAC	Male: 18 Female: 12	Project inception workshop with all interested stakeholders	Presentation of the CBSL IP and the EG project (components and deliverables) to the stakeholders; presentation by INDEFOR-AP of its activities in project landscapes; contribution of the participants to ideas of project activities in line with the objectives and local and national contexts, identification of further potential stakeholders to involve and co-funding sources.
Bata – 14.11.2019	WCS (Country Director)	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on WCS activities, discussions on project institutional framework and co-financing possibilities
Bata – 14.11.2019	REFADD, ADMAD & GRAIFEM	Female: 3	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on organisations' activities
Bata – 14.11.2019	ANDEGE	Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on organisations' activities
Bata – 14.11.2019	TOMAGE	Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on organisations' activities and suggestions of project activities and how TOMAGE could be supported
Bata – 14.11.2019	REPALEAC	Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on organisations' activities and how to engage with forest dependant people, ideas of activities to implement
Afanam village (Monumento Natural de	Local community	Male: 16 Female: 25	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women)	Baseline information and discussion on the following topics: - The history of the community ;

Documentation of Stakeholder Consultation (carried out during Project Preparation)				
Consultations (place and date)	**Organizations represented**	**Number of participants** (disaggregated by gender)	**Form/methodology of consultation**	**Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion** (including how it influenced project design)
Piedras Nzas) – 16.11.2019			- Interviews with community leaders	- Organizational dynamics; - The activity profile of men, women, youth; - The division of labour by gender; - Access to and control of natural resources ; - Access to basic social services; - Women's socio-political involvement at the community level; - The relationship between communities and Protected Areas; - Project activity opportunities: suggestions by the community members
Engong village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork) – 16.11.2019	Local community	Male: 14 Female: 11	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders	As above
Masa village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork) – 17.11.2019	Local community	Male: 19 Female: 3	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders	As above
Esong Cdo village (Parque Nacional Altos de Nsork) – 17.11.2019	Local community	Male: 10 Female: 9	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders	As above
Atom village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen) – 18.11.2019	Local community	Male: 24 Female: 21	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders	As above
Santa Cruz village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen) – 18.11.2019	Local community and members of the farmers' group 'Esen Ene Mbeng'	Male: 22 Female: 16	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders and the representatives of the community farmers' group	As above
Engong Cdo village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen) – 19.11.2019	Local community and members of the farmers' group 'Avuarnam'	Male: 16 Female: 19	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women)	As above

Documentation of Stakeholder Consultation (carried out during Project Preparation)				
Consultations (place and date)	**Organizations represented**	**Number of participants** (disaggregated by gender)	**Form/methodology of consultation**	**Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion** (including how it influenced project design)
			- Interviews with community leaders and the representatives of the community farmers' group	
Dumasi village (Parque Nacional Monte Alen) – 19.11.2019	Local community	Male: 5 Female 12:	- Village Assembly - Interviews with community leaders	As above
Bata – 19.11.2019	Fundacion Martinez Hermanos (Director)	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Presentation of the project and its activities, discussion on the institutional framework and how the foundation could be involved
Bata – 19.11.2019	INDEFOR-AP (Director of Protected Areas Department)	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on project landscapes and in particular on past projects carried out in these landscapes with input on failures and shortfalls, as well as proposals of project activities, discussion on ecosystem threats, and the challenges in managing the protected areas
Bongoro village (Reserva Natural de Rio Campo) – 20.11.2019	Local community	Male: 19 Female: 12	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion groups (men, women) - Interviews with community leaders	Baseline information and discussion on the following topics: - The history of the community ; - Organizational dynamics; - The activity profile of men, women, youth; - The division of labour by gender; - Access to and control of natural resources ; - Access to basic social services; - Women's socio-political involvement at the community level; - The relationship between communities and Protected Areas; Project activity opportunities: suggestions by the community members
Ayamiken village (Reserva Natural de Rio Campo) – 20.11.2019	Local community	Male: 9 Female: 8	- Village Assembly - Homogeneous focus discussion group with the family of indigenous people - Interviews with community leaders	As above, with a specific focus on how the project could support the indigenous family. There was very little reaction and participation from them.
Bata – 21.11.2019	INDEFOR-AP	Male: 7 Female: 3	Group presentation and discussions	Field mission restitution, feedback from INDEFOR-AP on initial proposals of project activities and potential institutional framework for the project

Documentation of Stakeholder Consultation (carried out during Project Preparation)				
Consultations (place and date)	**Organizations represented**	**Number of participants** (disaggregated by gender)	**Form/methodology of consultation**	**Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion** (including how it influenced project design)
Malabo – 22.11.2019	PNUD	Male: 2 Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on PNUD projects and discussions on potential co-financing opportunities
Malabo – 22.11.2019	FAO	Male: 1 Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on FAO projects and the national land use planning process. Discussions on potential co-financing opportunities
Malabo – 22.11.2019	MAGBOMA	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Discussion on co-financing from the government
Malabo – 22.11.2019	INCOMA	Male: 2 Female: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on INCOMA activities and in particular understanding the environmental impacts assessment requirements in the country
Malabo – 23.11.2019	Planning and Territorial Development of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning (General Director)	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Baseline information on the national land use planning process
February field mission				
Bata – 20.02.2020	IUCN	Male: 1	Meeting/interview	Preparation of the validation workshop and discussion of key points for project design
Bata – 21.02.2020	INDEFOR-AP, WCS, TOMAGE, UICN, REFADD, REPALEAC, MAGBOMA, COMIFAC, INCOMA, BZS, SOFMAL, MAC S.A, CAMELI, MF	Male: 24 Female: 13	Project validation workshop with all interested stakeholders	Presentation of project proposal: project logical framework (outcomes, outputs, activities), institutional arrangements, co-financing. Gathering of feedback from stakeholders on project proposal (changes, precisions, suggestions).
Monte Alen NP – 22.02.2020	BZS	Male: 2	Meeting	Presentation of BZS project in Monte Alen and discussion of potential overlaps, synergies and collaborations possible with GEF project
Malabo – 23.02.2020	BBPP	Male: 1	Meeting	Presentation of BBPP, discussion on EG conservation context and possible extension of BBPP's work to Monte Alen landscape
Malabo – 24.02.2020	UNDP	Male: 1	Meeting	Meeting with National Expert in Socioeconomics and Environmental Legislation and Finances: presentation of UNDP/GEF Regional Project for Sustainable

Documentation of Stakeholder Consultation (carried out during Project Preparation)				
Consultations (place and date)	**Organizations represented**	**Number of participants** (disaggregated by gender)	**Form/methodology of consultation**	**Issues discussed and outcomes of discussion** (including how it influenced project design)
				Financing of Protected Areas in the Congo Basin – Equatorial Guinea component. Discussion on project activities, potential synergies between projects.
Malabo – 24.02.2020	Planning and Territorial Development Department of the Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning	Male: 1	Meeting	Further precisions on the national land use planning process and how the project could support it
Distance consultations				
12.2019	CAFI	Male: 1	E-mail exchanges	Inquiry on CAFI activities in EG and potential co-financing opportunities
02.2020	Consultant designing Cameroon child project	Female: 1	E-mail exchanges and skype call	Presentation of Cameroon project logical framework and discussion on how to collaborate
03.2020	BZS & UWE	Male: 1 Female: 1	E-mail exchanges and skype call	Presentation of project proposal, suggestions from BZS & UWE on proposal, discussions on how they could support and collaborate with the project, synergies between BZS/UWE and GEF project
09.2020	UNDP	Male: 2 Female: 2	E-mail exchanges	Further details on UNDP GEF projects

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation

The project management team will ensure that the direct participation of national and local stakeholders is continued throughout the implementation phase of the project. Indeed, a number of stakeholders will be directly involved in activity implementation, and some will participate in the Project Steering Committee. The table below presents how and when the various stakeholders should be engaged with, as well as which institution is responsible for this engagement (PMU and INDEFOR-AP). To facilitate continuous engagement, a MoU will be signed between IUCN and each stakeholder that will participate substantially in project implementation. No specific costs or resources have been allocated to stakeholder engagement as these have been directly included as part of the project activities' budgets.

The covid-19 pandemic will certainly affect the stakeholder engagement elements of the project. The project will put in place certain measures to mitigate this to a certain degree. However, the risks associated with the pandemic may not be fully addressed by the project.

Depending on the sanitary measures in place at the time of project implementation, certain stakeholder engagement activities that require stakeholders to physically meet may have to be postponed to a later date (assuming that the pandemic will be under control during the second half of the project). Other stakeholder engagement activities may be held at a distance, through conference calls, if the situation allows it (all relevant stakeholders are equipped with the necessary equipment, and good working internet connections). Some situations may allow for meetings to be held, but with a smaller number of participants, in which case the number of meetings may have to increase, in order to engage all relevant stakeholders. When in-person meetings are required and able to take place, the project will ensure that all the necessary sanitary measures are taken to limit virus propagation (social distancing, wearing face masks, providing hand gel), and will sensitise participants to them.

With the sanitary restrictions and measures evolving on a daily basis, it is not possible today to plan exactly how each of the stakeholder engagement interventions will need to take place. The project will have to operate with an adaptive approach, adapting activities to the evolving context.

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
Government agencies (national, provincial, local)				
MAGBOMA	It is a key stakeholder as the Ministry in charge of forests and protected areas and will be a beneficiary of the project	Involve in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use Involve in project steering committee (PSC) as chair	Project management unit (PMU)	Bi-yearly meetings with PMU Annually for PSC meetings Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
INDEFOR-AP	It is a key stakeholder as the institution in charge of managing the protected areas targeted by the project, it will be a direct beneficiary as well as an implementing partner	Involve in activities under component 2 and in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use, management of natural resources and trans-boundary aspects Involve in project steering committee (PSC)	Project management unit (PMU)	Quarterly meetings with PMU Annually for PSC meetings Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
INCOMA	It is concerned by all environmental aspects, including the management of natural resources	Involve in activities related to land use planning, under component 1, and in relevant capacity building programs. Involve in the Project Steering Committee (PSC)	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Annually for PSC meetings Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation	As the institution in charge of controlling forest activities in the country it will be a direct beneficiary	Involve in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and the forestry private sector	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Annually for PSC meetings Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
INPAGE	It is concerned by agriculture related activities, from production to processing and marketing, and can contribute to developing alternative livelihoods	Involve in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use, as well as in activities of outcome 3.1.1	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
Ministry of finance, economy and planning	It is the institution charged with	Involve in relevant capacity building programs, multi-stakeholder dialogues and		Annually for PSC meetings

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
	developing a national land use plan	land use planning related activities. Involve in the Project Steering Committee (PSC)	INDEFOR-AP with support from MAGBOMA, and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
Ministry of public works and infrastructure	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to infrastructure projects			
Ministry of mines and hydrocarbons	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to mining projects			
Ministry of interior and local corporations	Concerned by governance aspects and local governments			
GE Proyectos	It is concerned by land use issues and conflicts related to infrastructure projects			
Ministry of security, including law enforcement agencies	They are in charge of law enforcement, including laws related to conservation and protected areas	Involve in relevant capacity building programs related to conservation law enforcement	INDEFOR-AP with support from MAGBOMA, and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Artisanal Crafts Promotion	It is concerned by tourism related topics	Involve in activities of outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. Involve to provide guidance to ensure that cultural values are respected and promoted by the project.	INDEFOR-AP with support from MAGBOMA, and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
Ministry of Social Affairs and Gender Equality	It is concerned by all gender aspects	Involve to provide guidance to ensure that women are adequately engaged and involved in the project.	INDEFOR-AP with support from MAGBOMA, and PMU	Meeting at project kick off, mid-term and end of the project, and as and when activities are being implemented
Provincial and local authorities of project intervention sites	As authorities of the project target and implementation sites they will be beneficiaries of the project	Involve to support and facilitate the implementation of the project interventions. Involve in relevant capacity building programs and in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources. Involve in the Project Steering Committee.	INDEFOR-AP with support from MAGBOMA, and PMU	Annually for PSC meetings Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented (including activities with local communities)

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
Civil Society Organizations				
ANDEGE	ANDEGE has forest engineers and agronomists who have worked in past projects in the targeted landscapes	Involve in updating management plans and working with communities on the alternative livelihood micro-project development, facilitate interactions with local communities and raise awareness, support training activities. Share their previous experience of working with local communities on conservation issues in Equatorial Guinea with the project team. Contribute to technical studies.	INDEFOR-AP	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
TOMAGE	TOMAGE is very active in conservation activities in the Rio Campo landscape	Involve to share their previous experience of working with local communities in Rio Campo. Facilitate interactions with those local communities and participate in awareness raising activities	INDEFOR-AP	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
REFADD	It is concerned by projects and activities involving the participation of women	Involve to assist the project management team in integrating the gender dimension in every aspect of the project implementation (and particularly in the development of alternative livelihoods), starting with community consultations which include women and awareness raising on gender issues at project inception. Involve in the implementation of project activities to maximise involvement of and benefits to women and youth	PMU	Meeting at project kick off, mid-term and end of the project, and as and when activities are being implemented
REPALEAC	It is concerned by projects and activities involving the participation of forest dependant people	Involve to give guidance on how best to involve forest dependant people in the project, and how to engage them. Support in work with local communities, particularly on alternative livelihood and NTFP related activities	PMU	Meeting at project kick off, mid-term and end of the project, and as and when activities are being implemented
Local communities				
Community members	The inclusion of local communities in the project is of vital interest if results are to be	Inhabitants of the selected pilot project areas will be made aware of project activities and invited to take part in decision-making processes. They will be actively consulted	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
	achieved. Many conservation projects have failed because local communities were not integrated in the design and implementation processes. In the Monte Alen and Rio Campo Landscapes, local communities maintain a mosaic of uses of the forests (agriculture, hunting, fishing, gathering, etc.). As a result, the forest is perceived as a community asset that enables them to meet their subsistence needs. The protection of the forest ecosystems and the development of sustainable alternative livelihoods is therefore of interest to local communities.	and involved in the project activities. Their cooperation will be sought in project implementation: alternative livelihoods activities, governance of protected areas, capacity building programs, multi-stakeholder platforms and consultations, the development of land use plans at local levels, inputs on various assessments… Heads of local communities and community leaders will be the main counterparts in linking the project objectives and activities to the needs of the people in the project area.		
Women and informal women groups	Specific importance of engaging women in a patriarchal society, to ensure they benefit equally from project activities (see further details in gender action plan)	Women will be involved in all community related project activities, with specific emphasis to include them (see section 4.14). They will participate in the alternative livelihoods output, the development of pilot community land use plans, and will be consulted in the various project studies and assessments. Their knowledge of local contexts will be put to use.	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented, specific attention to engage according to gender action plan
Youth	Importance of engaging the youth that will be	Youth will be involved in all community related activities, with specific emphasis to	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
	the future users of the landscapes' natural resources	include them, as well as consulted for the various assessments and studies		stakeholder are being implemented
Farmer, fishermen and other local formal and informal groups	Importance of engaging with the direct users of the natural resources the project aims to positively benefit, to avoid potential negative impacts on these users	Existing formal and informal groups will be involved in and benefit from the alternative livelihoods output, as well as consulted for the various assessments and studies.	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
Private Sector				
Logging companies	Logging companies operate in the target landscapes	Involve in relevant training sessions and multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms on sustainable forest management and best logging practices	INDEFOR-AP and PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
International organizations				
IUCN	Executing and implementing agency	Ensure execution of administrative and financial matters and assist in key technical issues. Execute and manage the project. Engage relevant stakeholders for activity implementation. Consolidate results, directly facilitate workshops and the convening of key stakeholders (consistent with its comparative advantage in capacity building), and secure national financial resources to complement project activities. Participate in the Project Steering Committee.	PMU	Annually for PSC meetings Continuous
WCS	WCS operates in the target landscapes and works on conservation aspects in line with the project	Involve to share their experience of working with communities on the development of sustainable livelihoods in Rio Campo. Participate in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources.	PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
FAO	FAO operates in the target landscapes and works on forestry and land use aspects in line with the project	Involve in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources, and in the land use planning processes	PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
AfDB	AfDB has financed projects in the target landscapes in the past and will potentially finance future projects on conservation aspects in line with the GEF project	Engage if/when PACEBCo 2 project is approved by AfDB	PMU	If/when PACEBCo 2 project is approved by AfDB
UNDP	UNDP operates in the target landscapes and works on conservation aspects and protected areas in line with the project	Involve in multi-stakeholder dialogues linked to land use and management of natural resources, participate in small grants program (output 3.1.1)	PMU and IUCN	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
UNEP	In charge of the regional project of the Congo Basin IP	Provide regular updates of project progress and challenges and request feedback Integrate the project in the wider CBSL IP by providing spaces for learning, exchange, collaboration, methodologies, communication platforms…	PMU and IUCN	Quarterly exchanges
BZS	BZS operates in the target landscape (Monte Alen) and works on conservation aspects in line with the project	Involve in conservation activities under component 2 in synergy with their own project operating in Monte Alen National Park. Share their experience on conservation work in Equatorial Guinea. Involve in the Project Steering Committee as they will be the organisation with the most important presence in the Monte Alen landscape.	PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented
UWE	UWE operates in the target landscape (Monte Alen) and works on conservation	Involve to carry out assessments of activities 1.2.1.1 (forest fragmentation) and 3.1.2.2 (human-wildlife conflicts), and potentially other studies.	PMU	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented

Stakeholder engagement during project implementation				
Stakeholder	**Purpose of Engagement**	**Mechanism / process of Engagement**	**Responsible Entity**	**Frequency and Timing**
	aspects in line with the project			
Executing agencies of other country child projects of the Congo Basin Impact Programme	Part of the Congo Basin Impact Programme	Collaboration with Cameroon and Gabon child projects on transboundary aspects	PMU and IUCN	Engagement as and when activities concerning the stakeholder are being implemented

9.7 Terms of Reference for project staff

Position	Tasks to be performed
For Project Management	
International Consultants	
Project coordinator / senior conservation, protected areas and natural resource management expert (30% of his/her time for management)	Supervise and coordinate the project to ensure its results are in accordance with the Project Document and the rules and procedures established by IUCN : • Ensure adequate information flow, discussions and feedback among the various stakeholders of the project; • Ensure adherence to the project's work plan, prepare annual work plan and budget; • Coordinate and closely monitor the implementation of project activities and ensure delivery of high quality outcomes; • Contribute to project activities according to time planned in project budget • Ensure a high level of collaboration with all the national and local stakeholders related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners and relevant initiatives, explore and promote synergies; • Draft, review and approve technical Terms of Reference in collaboration with the Project Steering Committee (PSC); • Participate in the overall procurement process of project consultancies and services (e.g. revision of technical and financial proposals, interview of consultants); • Guide the work of consultants and subcontractors, provide technical support and oversee compliance with the agreed work plan; • Build, motivate and lead a high-performing project team; coordinate and supervise the work of the project personnel; • Mobilize personnel, goods and services, to initiative activities, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications and overseeing all contractors' work; • Supervise and guide the Chief Technical Adviser on the government policies and priorities; • Maintain regular contact with IUCN Cameroon office and CTA on project implementation issues of their respective competence; • Inform the PSC and IUCN of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support • Participate in PSC meetings and provide support as required; • Organize project meetings, draft the agenda, and record decisions of national meetings; • Participate in the public relations activities for the project; • Assume overall responsibility for reporting on project progress vis-à-vis indicators in the project results framework; prepare GEF quarterly project progress reports, as well as any other reports requested by the IUCN • Assume overall responsibility for meeting financial delivery targets set out in the agreed annual work plans, reporting on project funds and related record keeping; • Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports; • Request the timely disbursement of GEF resources from IUCN, to allow the execution of project activities, in strict accordance with the Project Budget; • Liaise with project partners to ensure their co-financing contributions are provided within the agreed terms; • Direct the implementation of a knowledge management strategy developed during the project preparation phase (e.g. regular exchange of information/experience with other projects, cross-learning and

	sharing results and good practices, capturing lessons learnt during project implementation); • Implement and manage the project's monitoring and communications plans; • Support the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the IUCN Cameroon office; • Ensure that gender issues are adequately addressed during project implementation; • Ensure that all Social and Environmental Safeguards (ESMS) are observed and implemented in the project's activities and interventions; • Undertake any other actions related to the project as requested by IUCN; • The project manager will be involved in the direct implementation of the following project activities: - Component 1: activities 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2, 1.2.2.1, 1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2, 1.3.1.3, 1.3.2.1 - Component 2: activities 2.1.1.1, 2.1.1.2, 2.1.2.1, 2.1.2.2, 2.1.2.3, 2.1.2.4, 2.1.3.1, 2.1.3.2, 2.1.4.1, 2.1.4.2, 2.1.4.3 - Component 3: activities 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2, 3.1.1.3, 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2 - Component 4: activities 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2, 4.2.1.1, 4.2.1.2, 4.2.2.1 - Component 5: activities 5.1.1.1, 5.1.2.2
Local Consultants	
Finance and administrative officer	Under supervision of the project coordinator, responsible for all aspects of project financial and administrative management: • Organise control of budget expenditures by preparing payment documents, and compiling financial reports; • Maintain the project's disbursement ledger and journal; • Control the usage of non-expendable equipment (record keeping, drawing up regular inventories); • Provide general administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the project management unit; • Project logistical support to the Project coordinator and project consultants in conducting different project activities (trainings, workshops, stakeholder consultations, etc.); • During the visits of foreign experts, organise visa support, transportation, hotel accommodation etc.; • Keep files with project documents, expert reports; • Keep regular contact with project experts and consultants to inform them about the project details and changes; • Provide English translation as required; • Draft correspondence and documents; finalise correspondence of administrative nature; edit reports and other documents for correctness of form and content; • Arrange duty travel; • Act on telephone inquiries, fax, post and e-mail transmissions, and co-ordinate appointments; • Organise and coordinate the procurement of services and goods under the project. • Perform any other administrative duties as requested by the Project coordinator. • The Finance & Admin Officer will be involved in the direct implementation of project activities 2.1.1.2 and 5.1.2.2
Technical assistant and communication officer	Under supervision of the project coordinator, responsible for all aspects of project communication, and technical assistance: • Ensure effective logistical arrangements and coordination between all the actors in the project for the prompt and effective implementation of the program activities; • Assist in the overall administrative matters of the project, such as registry and maintenance of project files and records;

	• Ensure collection and disseminating of information pertaining project's dynamics; • Prepare routine correspondence and maintain project correspondence and communication, as well as receive, screen and distribute correspondence; • Assist in logistical organization of meetings, site visit, and working groups and workshops, by preparing agendas, appointments and meetings both internal and external relations and write minutes from the meetings; • Support knowledge management and information sharing among project staffs and stakeholders; • Assist in gathering knowledge and data from surveys; • Assist in dissemination of project information reports and responding to queries from concerned stakeholders; • Participate in site visits to understand the ground situation and prepare field reports; • Provide project oversight through monitoring visits to ensure activities are implemented according to designs and the risks are adequately managed; • Assist the project team to conduct post-completion evaluation of the project; • Provide administrative support to the Project Coordinator and other consultants in the implementation of their tasks for the achievement of project results; • Maintain records on all project personnel and local consultants and their respective status in accordance with accepted policies and procedures; • Determine need for procurement and supply of office supplies, equipment and establish and maintain office files, logs, index, control index or other information concerning the work under the coordinator's control; • Assist the Project Coordinator in the preparation of TORs, and in the recruitment processes and agreements/ MoUs with partner organisations; • Assist in preparing requests for advance of funds and/or direct payments and follow-up on timely disbursements, and submit expenditure and program budget status reports; • Assist in responding to queries from the GoEG, stakeholders and IUCN with respect to implementation of the project programmes; • Assist in the preparation and timely submission of quarterly, progress and annual project implementation review reports and other monitoring reports as may be required; • Perform as secretary to meetings with partners and stakeholders and to monitor follow up actions on decisions taken; • Facilitate and mobilize stakeholders for training, workshops and meetings as well as follow-through actions; • The Technical Assistant and Communication Officer will be involved in the direct implementation of the following project activities: - Component 1: activities 1.1.1.2, 1.2.1.1, 1.2.2.1, 1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2, 1.3.1.3, 1.3.2.1 - Component 2: activities 2.1.2.2, 2.1.2.4, 2.1.3.1 - Component 3: activities 3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2, 3.1.2.1, 3.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1, 3.2.1.2 - Component 4: activities 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2, 4.2.1.2, 4.2.2.1 - Component 5: activities 5.1.1.1, 5.1.2.2
For Technical Assistance	
International Consultant	
Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	The CTA will be in charge of daily project management and technical supervision: • Facilitate lead role in assisting the PMU to review progress to date as well as prioritizing activities during project implementation; • Support PMU in developing a multi-year work plan for the project duration;

	• Lead development of an exit strategy for the project; • Advise the PMU, PSC and IUCN on key strategic and policy issues related to land use planning and protected area management relevant to SFM and in the Congo Basin context; • Provide assistance to the PMU in preparation/review of technical documents and reports. • Support PMU in preparation of Terms of References and developing methodology in the execution of various technical studies to be carried out during the project; • Verify that TORs have been met and assure quality of technical reports and studies compiled by consultants; • Provide technical inputs for project monitoring, and mid-term and terminal evaluation exercise; • Produce policy-briefing papers, project technical and periodic reports for advocacy and knowledge management as appropriate; • Provide technical support and mentoring for PMU • Ensure that sound systematic conservation planning principles are adhered to during project intervention and be responsible for monitoring that intended SFM, Biodiversity conservation and land degradation outcomes of the project are attained; • Coordinate and facilitate cooperation and lessons learning/sharing between country and regional projects of the impact programme; • Contribute to project activities according to time planned in project budget • Perform other duties relevant to the project and his/her expertise. The CTA will be accountable for monitoring, providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants, who will be hired with GEF funds, as well as the outputs generated in the implementation of the project, including outputs and activities carried out by project consultants. The CTA will be involved in the direct implementation of the following project activities: - Component 1: activities 1.1.1.1, 1.1.1.2, 1.2.1.1, 1.2.1.2, 1.2.2.1, 1.3.1.1, 1.3.1.2, 1.3.2.1 - Component 2: activities 2.1.1.2, 2.1.2.2, 2.1.3.1, 2.1.3.2, 2.1.4.3 - Component 3: activities 3.1.1.1, 3.1.2.2, 3.2.1.1 - Component 4: activities 4.1.1.1, 4.2.1.1, 4.2.1.2, 4.2.2.1 - Component 5: activities 5.1.1.1, 5.1.2.2

9.8 Detailed project workplan

Outcomes, outputs and activities	Months															
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Component - 1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management																
Outcome - 1.1. Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes																
Output - 1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)																
Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape																
Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management																
Outcome - 1.2. Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels																
Output - 1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies																
Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems																
Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes																
Output - 1.2.2. Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources																
Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework																
Outcome - 1.3. Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local																

stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes	
Output - 1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	
Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level	
Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)	
Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans	
Output - 1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures	
Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)	
Component - 2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	
Outcome - 2.1. Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities	
Output - 2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds	
Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources	
Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas	
Output - 2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	
Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites	
Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines	

	Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas
	Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices
Output - 2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)	
	Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking
	Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery
Output - 2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes	
	Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols
	Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams
	Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc
Component - 3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes	
Outcome - 3.1. Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	
Output - 3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model	
	Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)
	Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods
	Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea
Output - 3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)	

Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population	
Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures	
Outcome - 3.2. Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	
Output - 3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests	
Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon	
Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities	
Component - 4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment	
Outcome - 4.1. Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation	
Output - 4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity	
Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences	
Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff	
Outcome - 4.2. Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed	
Output - 4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin	
Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership	
Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs	
Output - 4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)	
Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal	
Output - 4.2.3 Project evaluation and audit missions carried out	
Activity 4.2.3.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits	

		Activity 4.2.3.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP													
Component - 5. Project management & monitoring															
Outcome - 5.1 Project is effectively and efficiently managed															
	Output - 5.1.1 Project management team established and functional														
		Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit													
		Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment													

9.9 Detailed project budget

	Details	unit	no. of units	cost per unit	TOTAL BUDGET	C GEF	Out GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
Title: Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea					**5 354 587**	**T**		**1 320 520**	**1 774 322**	**1 173 878**	**1 085 867**	**5 354 587**
Component	**1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management**				**1 266 340**	*T*		**110 240**	**555 190**	**329 873**	**271 037**	**1 266 340**
Outcome	1.1. Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes											
Output	*1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)*											
	Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape				**16 300**	*C 1*		6 267	6 267	3 767	-	16 300
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 1	O1 1	*600*	*600*	*600*		1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,4	5 000	2 000	C 1	O1 1	*667*	*667*	*667*		2 000
	Cross border meeting	meeting	5,0	2 500	12 500	C 1	O1 1	*5 000*	*5 000*	*2 500*		12 500
					16 300			*6 267*	*6 267*	*3 767*	-	*16 300*
	Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management				**78 120**	*C 1*		26 040	26 040	26 040	-	78 120
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C 1	O1 1	*480*	*480*	*480*		1 440
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,3	5 000	1 500	C 1	O1 1	*500*	*500*	*500*		1 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	0,1	1 800	180	C 1	O1 1	*60*	*60*	*60*		180
	Cross-border policy maker tours	lump sum	3,0	25 000	75 000	C 1	O1 1	*25 000*	*25 000*	*25 000*		75 000
					78 120			*26 040*	*26 040*	*26 040*	-	*78 120*
Outcome	1.2. Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels											

Output	*1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies*														
	Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems				**166 400**	*C 1*		33 280	133 120	-	-	166 400
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 1	O1 2	*360*	*1 440*			1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500	C 1	*O1 2*	*500*	*2 000*			2 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	0,5	1 800	900	C 1	O1 2	*180*	*720*			900
	International consultant - fees	per day	145,0	700	101 500	C 1	*O1 2*	*20 300*	*81 200*			101 500
	International consultant - per diem	per day	110,0	160	17 600	C 1	O1 2	*3 520*	*14 080*			17 600
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	120,0	250	30 000	C 1	*O1 2*	*6 000*	*24 000*			30 000
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	100,0	80	8 000	C 1	O1 2	*1 600*	*6 400*			8 000
	International flight	per unit	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 1	*O1 2*	*720*	*2 880*			3 600
	National flight	per unit	2,0	250	500	C 1	O1 2	*100*	*400*			500
					166 400			*33 280*	*133 120*	-	-	*166 400*
	Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes				**75 100**	*C 1*		15 020	60 080	-	-	75 100
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 1	*O1 2*	*360*	*1 440*			1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500	C 1	O1 2	*500*	*2 000*			2 500
	International consultant - fees	per day	50,0	700	35 000	C 1	*O1 2*	*7 000*	*28 000*			35 000
	International consultant - per diem	per day	40,0	160	6 400	C 1	O1 2	*1 280*	*5 120*			6 400
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	80,0	250	20 000	C 1	*O1 2*	*4 000*	*16 000*			20 000
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	60,0	80	4 800	C 1	O1 2	*960*	*3 840*			4 800
	International flight	per unit	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 1	*O1 2*	*720*	*2 880*			3 600
	National flight	per unit	4,0	250	1 000	C 1	O1 2	*200*	*800*			1 000
					75 100			*15 020*	*60 080*	-	-	*75 100*

Output	*1.2.2. Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources*														
	Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework				**77 100**	*C 1*			11 050	52 933	13 117	-	77 100
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 1	O1 2		*450*	*900*	*450*		1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,4	5 000	2 000	C 2	O1 2		*667*	*667*	*667*		2 000
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	20,0	250	5 000	C 1	O1 2			*5 000*			5 000
	Development of specific training modules	package	7,0	4 000	28 000	C 1	O1 2		*9 333*	*18 667*			28 000
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	30,0	1 000	30 000	C 2	O1 2			*18 000*	*12 000*		30 000
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	5,0	1 200	6 000	C 3	O1 2			*6 000*			6 000
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 1	O1 2		*600*	*1 200*			1 800
	National flight	per unit	10,0	250	2 500	C 1	O1 2			*2 500*			2 500
					77 100				*11 050*	*52 933*	*13 117*	-	77 100

Outcome	1.3. Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes														
Output	*1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes*														
	Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level				**47 740**	*C 1*			15 913	15 913	15 913	-	47 740
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C 1	O1 3		*480*	*480*	*480*		1 440
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,3	5 000	1 500	C 1	O1 3		*500*	*500*	*500*		1 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 1	O1 3		*600*	*600*	*600*		1 800
	International consultant - fees	per day	30,0	700	21 000	C 1	O1 3		*7 000*	*7 000*	*7 000*		21 000

	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	40,0	250	10 000	C 1	O1 3	*3 333*	*3 333*	*3 333*		10 000
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	3,0	4 000	12 000	C 1	O1 3	*4 000*	*4 000*	*4 000*		12 000
					47 740			*15 913*	*15 913*	*15 913*	-	*47 740*
	Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)				**774 500**	*C 1*		-	258 167	258 167	258 167	774 500
	Project Coordinator	per month	2,5	3 600	9 000	C 1	O1 3		*3 000*	*3 000*	*3 000*	9 000
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,6	5 000	3 000	C 1	O1 3		*1 000*	*1 000*	*1 000*	3 000
	Support to community-based land use plan	package	5,0	150 000	750 000	C 1	O1 3		*250 000*	*250 000*	*250 000*	750 000
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,5	1 800	4 500	C 1	O1 3		*1 500*	*1 500*	*1 500*	4 500
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	2,0	4 000	8 000	C 1	O1 3		*2 667*	*2 667*	*2 667*	8 000
					774 500			-	*258 167*	*258 167*	*258 167*	*774 500*
	Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans				**20 400**	*C 1*		-	-	10 200	10 200	20 400
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 1	O1 3			*900*	*900*	1 800
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 1	O1 3			*1 800*	*1 800*	3 600
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	15,0	1 000	15 000	C 1	O1 3			*7 500*	*7 500*	15 000
					20 400	C 1	O1 3	-	-	*10 200*	*10 200*	*20 400*
Output	*1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures*											
	Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)				**10 680**	*C 1*		2 670	2 670	2 670	2 670	10 680
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C 1	O1 3	*270*	*270*	*270*	*270*	1 080
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,4	5 000	2 000	C 1	O1 3	*500*	*500*	*500*	*500*	2 000

	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 1	O1 3	*900*	*900*	*900*	*900*	3 600
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	20,0	200	4 000	C 1	O1 3	*1 000*	*1 000*	*1 000*	*1 000*	4 000
					10 680			*2 670*	*2 670*	*2 670*	*2 670*	*10 680*
TOTAL Component 1					**1 266 340**	*C 1*		**110 240**	**555 190**	**329 873**	**271 037**	**1 266 340**
								0	0	0	0	

	Details	unit	no. of units	cost per unit	TOTAL BUDGET			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
Component	**2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services**				**1 644 947**	*T*		**580 404**	**486 690**	**287 997**	**289 857**	**1 644 947**
Outcome	2.1. Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities											
Output	*2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds*											
	Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources				**50 720**	*C 2*		50 720	-	-	-	50 720
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,2	3 600	720	C 2	O2 1	*720*				720
	Financial audit of INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA	per unit	1,0	50 000	50 000	C 2	O2 1	*50 000*				50 000
					50 720			50 720	-	-	-	50 720
	Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas				**26 280**	*C 2*		-	13 140	13 140	-	26 280
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C 2	O2 1		*540*	*540*		1 080
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,2	5 000	1 000	C 2	O2 1		*500*	*500*		1 000
	Project Finance and Administrative Officer	per month	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 2	O2 1		*1 800*	*1 800*		3 600
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	1,0	4 000	4 000	C 2	O2 1		*2 000*	*2 000*		4 000
	International consultant - fees	per day	15,0	700	10 500	C 2	O2 1		*5 250*	*5 250*		10 500
	International consultant - per diem	per day	10,0	160	1 600	C 2	O2 1		*800*	*800*		1 600

	International flight	per unit	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 2	O2 1		*900*	*900*		1 800
	National flight	per unit	2,0	250	500	C 2	O2 1		*250*	*250*		500
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	1,0	1 000	1 000	C 2	O2 1		*500*	*500*		1 000
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	1,0	1 200	1 200	C 2	O2 1		*600*	*600*		1 200
					26 280			-	13 140	13 140	-	26 280
Output	*2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes*											
	Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites				**52 990**	*C 2*		52 990	-	-	-	52 990
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C 2	O2 1	*1 440*			-	1 440
	International consultant - fees	per day	20,0	700	14 000	C 2	O2 1	*14 000*			-	14 000
	International consultant - per diem	per day	15,0	160	2 400	C 2	O2 1	*2 400*			-	2 400
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	25,0	250	6 250	C 2	O2 1	*6 250*			-	6 250
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	20,0	80	1 600	C 2	O2 1	*1 600*			-	1 600
	Surveyors	per day	100,0	50	5 000	C 2	O2 1	*5 000*			-	5 000
	International flight	per unit	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 2	O2 1	*1 800*			-	1 800
	National flight	per unit	2,0	250	500	C 2	O2 1	*500*				500
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	25,0	200	5 000	C 2	O2 1	*5 000*			-	5 000
	Gender assessment	package	1,0	15 000	15 000	C 2	O2 1	*15 000*				15 000
					52 990			52 990	-	-	-	52 990
	Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines				**190 520**	*C 2*		63 507	127 013	-	-	190 520
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,8	3 600	2 880	C 2	O2 1	*960*	*1 920*			2 880

	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500	C2	O21	*833*	*1 667*			2 500
	International consultant - fees	per day	90,0	700	63 000	C2	O21	*21 000*	*42 000*			63 000
	International consultant - per diem	per day	70,0	160	11 200	C2	O21	*3 733*	*7 467*			11 200
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	230,0	250	57 500	C2	O21	*19 167*	*38 333*			57 500
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	180,0	80	14 400	C2	O21	*4 800*	*9 600*			14 400
	International flight	per unit	3,0	1 800	5 400	C2	O21	*1 800*	*3 600*			5 400
	National flight	per unit	6,0	250	1 500	C2	O21	*500*	*1 000*			1 500
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	60,0	200	12 000	C2	O21	*4 000*	*8 000*			12 000
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	4,0	4 000	16 000	C2	O21	*5 333*	*10 667*			16 000
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,3	1 800	4 140	C2	O21	*1 380*	*2 760*			4 140
					190 520			63 507	127 013	-	-	190 520
	Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas				**28 380**	*C2*		21 740	-	3 320	3 320	28 380
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C2	O21	*540*		*270*	*270*	1 080
	International consultant - fees	per day	15,0	700	10 500	C2	O21	*10 500*				10 500
	International consultant - per diem	per day	10,0	160	1 600	C2	O21	*1 600*				1 600
	International flight	per unit	1,0	1 800	1 800	C2	O21	*1 800*				1 800
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	20,0	250	5 000	C2	O21	*2 500*		*1 250*	*1 250*	5 000
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	15,0	80	1 200	C2	O21	*600*		*300*	*300*	1 200
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	1,0	1 200	1 200	C2	O21	*1 200*				1 200
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	30,0	200	6 000	C2	O21	*3 000*		*1 500*	*1 500*	6 000
					28 380			21 740	-	3 320	3 320	28 380

	Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices				**79 480**	*C 2*			-	26 493	26 493	26 493	79 480
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,8	3 600	2 880	C 2	O2 1		*960*	*960*	*960*	2 880
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	60,0	250	15 000	C 2	O2 1		*5 000*	*5 000*	*5 000*	15 000
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	50,0	80	4 000	C 2	O2 1		*1 333*	*1 333*	*1 333*	4 000
	Regional flight	per unit	3,0	650	1 950	C 2	O2 1		*650*	*650*	*650*	1 950
	National flight	per unit	3,0	250	750	C 2	O2 1		*250*	*250*	*250*	750
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	45,0	1 200	54 000	C 2	O2 1		*18 000*	*18 000*	*18 000*	54 000
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	0,5	1 800	900	C 2	O2 1		*300*	*300*	*300*	900
					79 480				-	26 493	26 493	26 493	79 480
Output	*2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)*												
	Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking				**813 380**	*C 2*			302 720	178 220	166 220	166 220	813 380
	Project Coordinator	per month	2,5	3 600	9 000	C 2	O2 1		*2 250*	*2 250*	*2 250*	*2 250*	9 000
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	1,0	5 000	5 000	C 2	O2 1		*1 250*	*1 250*	*1 250*	*1 250*	5 000
	Boat with motor	per unit	1,0	12 000	12 000	C 2	O2 1		*12 000*				12 000
	Boat (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	per month	48,0	350	16 800	C 2	O2 1		*4 200*	*4 200*	*4 200*	*4 200*	16 800
	Establishment of a Cyber Tracking Centre	lump sum	1,0	12 000	12 000	C 2	O2 1			*12 000*			12 000
	Motorbike (offroad)	per unit	6,0	5 000	30 000	C 2	O2 1		*30 000*				30 000
	Motorbike (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	per unit	240,0	100	24 000	C 2	O2 1		*6 000*	*6 000*	*6 000*	*6 000*	24 000
	Eco-guard equipment	per unit	40,0	280	11 200	C 2	O2 1		*2 800*	*2 800*	*2 800*	*2 800*	11 200
	Eco-guard activity per month	per month	800,0	400	320 000	C 2	O2 1		*80 000*	*80 000*	*80 000*	*80 000*	320 000

	Bicycle	lump sum	20,0	600	12 000	C2	O21	*12 000*				12 000
	GPS	per unit	5,0	500	2 500	C2	O21	*2 500*				2 500
	INDEFOR-AP field mission (4 days)	lump sum	300,0	800	240 000	C2	O21	*60 000*	*60 000*	*60 000*	*60 000*	240 000
	Toyota Range Rover	per unit	2,0	40 000	80 000	C2	O21	*80 000*				80 000
	Car (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	per month	96,0	330	31 680	C2	O21	*7 920*	*7 920*	*7 920*	*7 920*	31 680
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	4,0	1 800	7 200	C2	O21	*1 800*	*1 800*	*1 800*	*1 800*	7 200
					813 380			302 720	178 220	166 220	166 220	813 380
	Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery				**167 547**	*C2*		87 827	63 573	573	15 573	167 547
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C2	O21	*720*	*240*	*240*	*240*	1 440
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,4	5 000	2 000	C2	O21	*1 000*	*333*	*333*	*333*	2 000
	Basic furniture (Altos de Nsork management centre)	lump sum	1,0	10 000	10 000	C2	O21	*10 000*				10 000
	Basic furniture (Rio Campo management centre)	lump sum	1,0	6 000	6 000	C2	O21	*6 000*				6 000
	Basic furniture (Monte Alen management centre)	lump sum	1,0	8 107	8 107	C2	O21	*8 107*				8 107
	Renovation of staff housing (Monte Alen management centre)	lump sum	12,0	8 000	96 000	C2	O21	*48 000*	*48 000*			96 000
	Construction of ecomuseum in Rio Campo	lump sum	2,0	15 000	30 000	C2	O21		*15 000*		*15 000*	30 000
	Construction of control points	lump sum	2,0	7 000	14 000	C2	O21	*14 000*				14 000
					167 547			87 827	63 573	573	15 573	167 547
Output	*2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes*											
	Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols				**73 510**	*C2*		-	24 503	24 503	24 503	73 510
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C2	O21		*600*	*600*	*600*	1 800
	International consultant - fees	per day	40,0	700	28 000	C2	O21		*9 333*	*9 333*	*9 333*	28 000

	International consultant - per diem	per day	36,0	160	5 760	C2	O21		*1 920*	*1 920*	*1 920*	5 760
	Regional flight	per unit	3,0	650	1 950	C2	O21		*650*	*650*	*650*	1 950
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	5,0	1 200	6 000	C2	O21		*2 000*	*2 000*	*2 000*	6 000
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	30,0	1 000	30 000	C2	O21		*10 000*	*10 000*	*10 000*	30 000
					73 510			-	24 503	24 503	24 503	73 510
	Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams				**138 000**	C2		900	45 700	45 700	45 700	138 000
	Project Coordinator	per month	1,0	3 600	3 600	C2	O21	*900*	*900*	*900*	*900*	3 600
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	12,0	1 200	14 400	C2	O21		*4 800*	*4 800*	*4 800*	14 400
	Local stakeholder - per diem	per day	4 000,0	30	120 000	C2	O21		*40 000*	*40 000*	*40 000*	120 000
					138 000			900	45 700	45 700	45 700	138 000
	Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc				**24 140**	C2		-	8 047	8 047	8 047	24 140
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C2	O21		*480*	*480*	*480*	1 440
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,1	5 000	500	C2	O21		*167*	*167*	*167*	500
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	6,0	1 200	7 200	C2	O21		*2 400*	*2 400*	*2 400*	7 200
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	15,0	1 000	15 000	C2	O21		*5 000*	*5 000*	*5 000*	15 000
					24 140			-	8 047	8 047	8 047	24 140
TOTAL Component 2					**1 644 947**	C2		**580 404**	**486 690**	**287 997**	**289 857**	**1 644 947**
								35%	30%	18%	18%	

	Details	unit	no. of units	cost per unit	TOTAL BUDGET		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
Component	**3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes**				**1 564 840**	T	**510 912**	**506 793**	**297 810**	**249 325**	**1 564 840**

Outcome	3.1. Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes														
Output	*3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model*														
	Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)				**969 400**	*C 3*			324 475	267 350	217 350	160 225	969 400		
	Project Coordinator	per month	3,0	3 600	10 800	C 3	O3 1		*2 700*	*2 700*	*2 700*	*2 700*	10 800		
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	1,0	5 000	5 000	C 3	O3 1		*1 250*	*1 250*	*1 250*	*1 250*	5 000		
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	7,0	1 800	12 600	C 3	O3 1		*3 150*	*3 150*	*3 150*	*3 150*	12 600		
	Support micro project implementation - NGO contract	per unit	4,0	25 000	100 000	C 3	O3 1		*50 000*	*50 000*			100 000		
	Micro-project fund	per unit	100,0	6 125	612 500	C 3	O3 1		*153 125*	*153 125*	*153 125*	*153 125*	612 500		
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	450,0	250	112 500	C 3	O3 1		*56 250*	*28 125*	*28 125*		112 500		
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	450,0	80	36 000	C 3	O3 1		*18 000*	*9 000*	*9 000*		36 000		
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	400,0	200	80 000	C 3	O3 1		*40 000*	*20 000*	*20 000*		80 000		
					969 400				324 475	267 350	217 350	160 225	969 400		
	Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods				**63 600**	*C 3*			-	21 200	21 200	21 200	63 600		
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 3	O3 1			*600*	*600*	*600*	1 800		
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 3	O3 1			*600*	*600*	*600*	1 800		
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	60,0	1 000	60 000	C 3	O3 1			*20 000*	*20 000*	*20 000*	60 000		
					63 600				-	21 200	21 200	21 200	63 600		
	Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea				**201 440**	*C 3*			50 360	50 360	50 360	50 360	201 440		
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C 3	O3 1		360	360	360	360	1 440		
	Support to set up GEF UNDP small grants program for EG	package	1,0	200 000	200 000	C 3	O3 1		50 000	50 000	50 000	50 000	200 000		

					201 440					50 360	50 360	50 360	50 360	201 440
Output	*3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)*														
	Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population				**84 700**	*C 3*				81 550	3 150	-	-	84 700
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,6	3 600	2 160	C 3	O3 1			*1 080*	*1 080*			2 160
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,3	1 800	4 140	C 3	O3 1			*2 070*	*2 070*			4 140
	National / Regional consultant - fees	per day	200,0	250	50 000	C 3	O3 1			*50 000*				50 000
	National / Regional consultant - per diem	per day	180,0	80	14 400	C 3	O3 1			*14 400*				14 400
	Meeting (local - 20 people)	meeting	70,0	200	14 000	C 3	O3 1			*14 000*				14 000
					84 700					81 550	3 150	-	-	84 700
	Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures				**166 280**	*C 3*				54 527	111 753	-	-	166 280
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C 3	O3 1			*360*	*720*			1 080
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,1	5 000	500	C 3	O3 1			*167*	*333*			500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,5	1 800	2 700	C 3	O3 1				*2 700*			2 700
	Post-Doctoral researcher (including operationnal cost)	per month	36,0	4 500	162 000	C 3	O3 1			*54 000*	*108 000*			162 000
					166 280					54 527	111 753	-	-	166 280
Outcome	3.2. Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes														
Output	*3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests*														
	Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon				**52 980**	*C 3*				-	52 980	-	-	52 980
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,4	3 600	1 440	C 3	O3 2				*1 440*			1 440
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,2	5 000	1 000	C 3	O3 2				*1 000*			1 000

	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	0,3	1 800	540	C 3	O3 2		*540*			540
	Cross-border policy maker tours	lump sum	2,0	25 000	50 000	C 3	O3 2		*50 000*			50 000
					52 980			-	52 980	-	-	52 980
	Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities				**26 440**	*C 3*		-	-	8 900	17 540	26 440
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C 3	O3 2			*540*	*540*	1 080
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	0,2	1 800	360	C 3	O3 2			*360*		360
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	1,0	4 000	4 000	C 3	O3 2			*4 000*		4 000
	Development of specific training modules	package	1,0	4 000	4 000	C 3	O3 2			*4 000*		4 000
	Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	package	10,0	1 200	12 000	C 3	O3 2				*12 000*	12 000
	Peer to peer capacity building sessions	package	5,0	1 000	5 000	C 3	O3 2				*5 000*	5 000
					26 440			-	-	8 900	17 540	26 440
TOTAL Component 3					**1 564 840**	*C 3*		**510 912**	**506 793**	**297 810**	**249 325**	**1 564 840**
								31%	31%	18%	15%	

	Details	unit	no. of units	cost per unit	TOTAL BUDGET			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	TOTAL
Component	**4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment**				**623 620**	*T*		**51 505**	**163 188**	**195 738**	**213 188**	**623 620**
Outcome	4.1. Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation											
Output	*4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity*											
	Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences				**316 700**	*C 4*		-	109 733	107 233	99 733	316 700
	Project Coordinator	per month	1,0	3 600	3 600	C 4	O4 1		*1 200*	*1 200*	*1 200*	3 600

	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,3	5 000	1 500	C4	O4 1		*500*	*500*	*500*	1 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	12,0	1 800	21 600	C4	O4 1		*7 200*	*7 200*	*7 200*	21 600
	Production and broadcasting of radio shows	lump sum	5,0	5 000	25 000	C4	O4 1		*8 333*	*8 333*	*8 333*	25 000
	Production and broadcasting of TV documentaries	lump sum	3,0	40 000	120 000	C4	O4 1		*40 000*	*40 000*	*40 000*	120 000
	Communication tool kit	lump sum	10,0	1 500	15 000	C4	O4 1		*7 500*	*7 500*		15 000
	Environmental education activities (per school)	lump sum	75,0	1 200	90 000	C4	O4 1		*30 000*	*30 000*	*30 000*	90 000
	Creation of an educational trail	lump sum	1,0	25 000	25 000	C4	O4 1			*12 500*	*12 500*	25 000
	INDEFOR-AP website, project brochure and signs	lump sum	1,0	15 000	15 000	C4	O4 1		*15 000*			15 000
					316 700			-	109 733	107 233	99 733	316 700
	Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff				**117 560**	*C4*		29 390	29 390	29 390	29 390	117 560
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,3	3 600	1 080	C4	O4 1	*270*	*270*	*270*	*270*	1 080
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,6	1 800	2 880	C4	O4 1	*720*	*720*	*720*	*720*	2 880
	Eco-guard equipment	per unit	20,0	280	5 600	C4	O4 1	*1 400*	*1 400*	*1 400*	*1 400*	5 600
	Eco-guard activity per month	per month	240,0	400	96 000	C4	O4 1	*24 000*	*24 000*	*24 000*	*24 000*	96 000
	Local stakeholder - per diem	per day	400,0	30	12 000	C4	O4 1	*3 000*	*3 000*	*3 000*	*3 000*	12 000
					117 560			29 390	29 390	29 390	29 390	117 560
Outcome	4.2. Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed											
Output	*4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin*											
	Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership				**19 900**	*C4*		-	9 950	-	9 950	19 900
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C4	O4 2		*900*		*900*	1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500	C4	O4 2		*1 250*		*1 250*	2 500
	Regional meeting particpation - per diem for 4 days	lump sum	8,0	600	4 800	C4	O4 2		*2 400*		*2 400*	4 800

	Regional flight	per unit	12,0	650	7 800	C 4	O4 2		*3 900*		*3 900*	7 800
	National flight	per unit	12,0	250	3 000	C 4	O4 2		*1 500*		*1 500*	3 000
					19 900			-	9 950	-	9 950	19 900
	Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs				**9 520**	*C 4*		2 380	2 380	2 380	2 380	9 520
	Project Coordinator	per month	1,0	3 600	3 600	C 4	O4 2	*900*	*900*	*900*	*900*	3 600
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500	C 4	O4 2	*625*	*625*	*625*	*625*	2 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,9	1 800	3 420	C 4	O4 2	*855*	*855*	*855*	*855*	3 420
					9 520			2 380	2 380	2 380	2 380	9 520
Output	*4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)*											
	Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal				**8 700**	*C 4*		2 175	2 175	2 175	2 175	8 700
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800	C 4	O4 2	*450*	*450*	*450*	*450*	1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,3	5 000	1 500	C 4	O4 2	*375*	*375*	*375*	*375*	1 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	2,0	1 800	3 600	C 4	O4 2	*900*	*900*	*900*	*900*	3 600
	Project Finance and Administrative Officer	per month	1,0	1 800	1 800	C 4	O4 2	*450*	*450*	*450*	*450*	1 800
					8 700	C 4	O4 2	2 175	2 175	2 175	2 175	8 700
Output	*4.2.3 Project evaluation and audit missions carried out*											
	Activity 4.2.3.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits				**133 000**	*C 4*		7 000	7 000	52 000	67 000	133 000
	Annual Project Audit	per unit	4,0	7 000	28 000	M E	M E	*7 000*	*7 000*	*7 000*	*7 000*	28 000
	Project mid-term evaluation	per unit	1,0	45 000	45 000	M E	M E			*45 000*		45 000
	Project final evaluation	per unit	1,0	60 000	60 000	M E	M E				*60 000*	60 000
					133 000			7 000	7 000	52 000	67 000	133 000

	Activity 4.2.3.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP				**18 240**	C 4		10 560	2 560	2 560	2 560	18 240
	Project Coordinator	per month	0,5	3 600	1 800		M E	*450*	*450*	*450*	*450*	1 800
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	0,5	5 000	2 500		M E	*625*	*625*	*625*	*625*	2 500
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,3	1 800	2 340		M E	*585*	*585*	*585*	*585*	2 340
	Project Finance and Administrative Officer	per month	2,0	1 800	3 600		M E	*900*	*900*	*900*	*900*	3 600
	Meeting (national - 30 people)	meeting	2,0	4 000	8 000		M E	*8 000*				8 000
					18 240			10 560	2 560	2 560	2 560	18 240
TOTAL Component 4					**623 620**	C 4		**51 505**	**163 188**	**195 738**	**213 188**	**623 620**
								8%	26%	31%	34%	

	Details	**unit**	**no. of units**	**cost per unit**	**TOTAL BUDGET**			**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**TOTAL**
Component	**5. Project management & monitoring**				**254 840**	T		**67 460**	**62 460**	**62 460**	**62 460**	**254 840**
Outcome	5.1 Project is effectively and efficiently managed											
Output	*5.1.1 Project management team established and functional*											
	Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit				**234 200**	C 5		58 550	58 550	58 550	58 550	234 200
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	per month	9,0	5 000	45 000		P M C	*11 250*	*11 250*	*11 250*	*11 250*	45 000
	Project Coordinator	per month	25,0	3 600	90 000		P M C	*22 500*	*22 500*	*22 500*	*22 500*	90 000
	Project Finance and Administrative Officer	per month	43,0	1 800	77 400		P M C	*19 350*	*19 350*	*19 350*	*19 350*	77 400
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	per month	1,0	1 800	1 800		P M C	*450*	*450*	*450*	*450*	1 800
	Project team - per diem	day	200,0	100	20 000		P M C	*5 000*	*5 000*	*5 000*	*5 000*	20 000
					234 200			58 550	58 550	58 550	58 550	234 200

Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment					**20 640**	*C 5*		8 910	3 910	3 910	3 910	20 640
	Desktop computer	per unit	2,0	800	1 600		P M C P	P M C P	*1 600*				1 600
	Laptop computer	per unit	1,0	800	800		M C P	M C P	*800*				800
	Portable hard drive / USB memory stick	per unit	5,0	100	500		M C P	M C P	*500*				500
	Power stabilizer	per unit	1,0	600	600		M C P	M C P	*600*				600
	Printer	per unit	1,0	500	500		M C P	M C P	*500*				500
	Projector	per unit	1,0	1 000	1 000		M C P	M C P	*1 000*				1 000
	Monte Alen office supplies	per month	46,0	340	15 640		M C	M C	*3 910*	*3 910*	*3 910*	*3 910*	15 640
					20 640				8 910	3 910	3 910	3 910	20 640
TOTAL Project management & Monitoring and evaluation cost					**254 840**	*C 5*		**67 460**	**62 460**	**62 460**	**62 460**	**254 840**
								26%	25%	25%	25%	

9.10 Project procurement plan

Items	Quantities	Unit	Unit amount	Overall Amount (USD)
Communication and education				***290 000***
Production and broadcasting of radio shows	5,0	lump sum	5 000	25 000
Production and broadcasting of TV documentaries	3,0	lump sum	40 000	120 000
Environmental education activities (per school)	75,0	lump sum	1 200	90 000
Communication tool kit	10,0	lump sum	1 500	15 000
Creation of an educational trail	1,0	lump sum	25 000	25 000
INDEFOR-AP website, project brochure and signs	1,0	lump sum	15 000	15 000
Consultants - Short Term Technical Assistance				***1 202 710***
International consultant - fees	405,0	per day	700	283 500
International consultant - per diem	291,0	per day	160	46 560
National / Regional consultant - fees	1 245,0	per day	250	311 250
National / Regional consultant - per diem	1 055,0	per day	80	84 400
Local stakeholder - per diem	4 400,0	per day	30	132 000
Annual Project Audit	4,0	per unit	7 000	28 000
Financial audit of INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA	1,0	per unit	50 000	50 000
Post-Doctoral researcher (including operationnal cost)	36,0	per month	4 500	162 000
Project mid-term evaluation	1,0	per unit	45 000	45 000
Project final evaluation	1,0	per unit	60 000	60 000
Equipment				***146 300***
Boat with motor	1,0	per unit	12 000	12 000
Desktop computer	2,0	per unit	800	1 600
GPS	5,0	per unit	500	2 500
Laptop computer	1,0	per unit	800	800
Motorbike (offroad)	6,0	per unit	5 000	30 000
Portable hard drive / USB memory stick	5,0	per unit	100	500
Power stabilizer	1,0	per unit	600	600
Printer	1,0	per unit	500	500
Projector	1,0	per unit	1 000	1 000
Eco-guard equipment	60,0	per unit	280	16 800
Toyota Range Rover	2,0	per unit	40 000	80 000
Infrastructure maintenance & rehabilitation				***176 107***
Basic furniture (Altos de Nsork management centre)	1,0	lump sum	10 000	10 000
Basic furniture (Rio Campo management centre)	1,0	lump sum	6 000	6 000
Basic furniture (Monte Alen management centre)	1,0	lump sum	8 107	8 107
Renovation of staff housing (Monte Alen management centre)	12,0	lump sum	8 000	96 000
Establishment of a Cyber Tracking Centre	1,0	lump sum	12 000	12 000
Construction of ecomuseum in Rio Campo	2,0	lump sum	15 000	30 000
Construction of control points	2,0	lump sum	7 000	14 000
Meetings				***315 300***
Cross border meeting	5,0	meeting	2 500	12 500
Cross-border policy maker tours	5,0	lump sum	25 000	125 000
Meeting (local - 20 people)	605,0	meeting	200	121 000
Meeting (national - 30 people)	13,0	meeting	4 000	52 000
Regional meeting particpation - per diem for 4 days	8,0	lump sum	600	4 800
Training				***290 000***
Development of specific training modules	8,0	package	4 000	32 000
Training sessions (1 day - 12 participants)	85,0	package	1 200	102 000
Peer to peer capacity building sessions	156,0	package	1 000	156 000
Operating Costs				***2 478 570***
Monte Alen office supplies	46,0	per month	340	15 640
International flight	10,0	per unit	1 800	18 000

	Regional flight	18,0	per unit	650	11 700
	National flight	41,0	per unit	250	10 250
	Gender assessment	1,0	package	15 000	15 000
	Support to set up GEF UNDP small grants program for EG	1,0	package	200 000	200 000
	Support to community-based land use plan	5,0	package	150 000	750 000
	Micro-project fund	100,0	per unit	6 125	612 500
	Support micro project implementation - NGO contract	4,0	per unit	25 000	100 000
	INDEFOR-AP field mission (4 days)	300,0	lump sum	800	240 000
	Boat (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	48,0	per month	350	16 800
	Eco-guard activity per month	1 040,0	per month	400	416 000
	Motorbike (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	240,0	per unit	100	24 000
	Car (insurance & maintenance & fuel)	96,0	per month	330	31 680
	Bicycle	20,0	lump sum	600	12 000
	Surveyors	100,0	per day	50	5 000
Project Team and Long Term Technical Assistance*		-			***455 600***
	Chief Technical Advisor (CTA)	18,0	per month	5 000	90 000
	Project Coordinator	48,0	per month	3 600	172 800
	Project Finance and Administrative Officer	48,0	per month	1 800	86 400
	Technical Assistant/Communication Officer	48,0	per month	1 800	86 400
	Project team - per diem	200,0	day	100	20 000
Total					**5 354 587**

9.11 Terms of Reference for Consultants to support use of SAPA and SAGE within a safeguard system

As an element of its social and environmental safeguard system, the project will use the Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) tool which has been developed by IIED and Fauna and Flora International and, to date, used in at 20 protected areas (PA) in eight countries in Africa (Liberia, Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Mozambique). SAPA provides the perspective of community members on positive and negative impacts of a PA, and any associated conservation or development activities, on their livelihoods and wellbeing. In addition, SAPA assesses key aspects of governance and equity including community engagement, access to information, dispute resolution, the conduct of law enforcement agents, and measures to mitigate negative social impacts. Providing a snapshot of the current situation, SAPA identifies existing safeguard issues that will be inherited by a new project, and establishes a baseline against which any new safeguard issues arising because of the project, and the success of mitigation measures, may be monitored. In addition to assessment, the SAPA process engages community representatives and other key stakeholders in planning and implementing actions to address the weaknesses/problems that have been identified (and opportunities for improvement). Where SAPA indicates a need for a more comprehensive assessment of governance and equity issues, the Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool is recommended to be used 12 months after SAPA in conjunction with the annual review of progress in implementing the SAPA action plan. Also developed by a consortium led by IIED, SAGE has, to date, been used at 15 sites in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is recommended by IUCN for use in the IUCN Green List certification process.

There will be two consultancies related to using SAPA (and where required SAGE).

1. National consultant to serve as the lead facilitator of SAPA and SAGE assessments (comparable to an IMETT coach) and trainer of the three assistant facilitators – local people who are fluent in the national language as well as local languages (usually paid c $50/day). A SAPA assessment typically requires 30 days of this consultant's time over a period of 3 months while a SAGE assessment following SAPA requires 10 days over a period of one month. Essential competencies include:
    a. Experience facilitating multi-stakeholder workshops, community meetings, focus groups and key informant interviews
    b. A basic understanding of the concepts of social impact, livelihoods and wellbeing, governance, gender, protected areas.
    c. Skills in descriptive data analysis (ie skills statistical analysis are not needed), including use of Microsoft Excel.
    d. A basic understanding of English (at least verbal) to be able to engage in the SAPA and SAGE learning networks at regional level.
    e. The character and sufficient experience to be respected by all site-level stakeholders. This criteria also requires that this person is not herself/himself a stakeholder at the site or seen to be having a particular agenda regarding conservation of the PA and any associated conservation/development activities.

2. International consultant to train and mentor the national consultant and assistant facilitators to a) use SAPA, b) conduct the annual progress review and c) use of SAGE in conjunction with this annual review (a total of three field visits for the first site). For subsequent sites it is assumed that the national consultant will be capable of leading the assessments and, as necessary, training new assistant facilitators. Therefore the role of the international consultant will be limited to remote support with no more than one further field visit to monitor and reflect on use of SAPA/SAGE at the second or third site (ie a total 4 visits over 2 years). Essential competencies include:
    a. Substantial experience in providing technical support for SAPA and SAGE assessments in the context of PA conservation in Africa.
    b. At least a basic understanding of Spanish.

9.12 Other attached documents

The following documents can be found attached:

- Human rights and security risks assessment
- METT assessments of Monte Alen, Rio Campo and Rio Muni protected areas

9.13 Signed co-financing letters

REPUBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganaderia, Bosques y Medio Ambiente

March 03, 2020

EL MINISTRO

Num. .....

To: Sheila AGGARWAL-Khan
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28, 119 Gland-Switzerland

Subject: Co-financing of the Project "Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea"

Dear Sheila,

On behalf of the Government of Equatorial Guinea I am pleased to commit USD 32,000,000 in co-financing to support the achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the GEF funded Project "*Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea*". Supported by the Ministries in Charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment through Institutes under its tutelage such as INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA as well as other programs such as REDD+ and PLND.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as **in-kind** co-funding should the project proposal be successful. Activities under this GEF-funded project will build on the following initiatives that support sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in Equatorial Guinea:

Project/Activity name	Funding source: Recipient Country Government	Implementation period	Estimated contribution (USD)
Biodiversity: BD-1-1	INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA	2021-2024	13,000,000
Climate Change CC-2-7	INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA, PNI REDD+	2021-2024	11,500,000
Land Degradation: LD-1-1	INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA, P LDN	2021-2024	7,500,000
Total		-	32,000,000

We look forward to working with GEF on these important activities for the benefit of Equatorial Guinea and its population.

Yours sincerely,

Francisca ENEME EFUA
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment
&Political Focal Point of the GEF

Dakar, 2nd march 2021

To Sheila AGGARWAL-Khan,
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Rue Mauverney 28, 119 Gland-Switzerland

Ref: UICN/DR/023/2021

Subject: Co-financing of the Project "Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea"

Dear Sheila,

On behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), I am pleased to commit USD 350,000 in co-financing to support the achievement of the objectives and outcomes of the GEF funded Project *"Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea"*.

This contribution as described above is intended to qualify as in-kind co-funding should the project proposal be successful. Activities under this GEF-funded project will build on the following initiatives that support sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in Equatorial Guinea:

Project/Activity name	Funding source	Implementation period	Estimated contribution ($)
Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) Programme	European Union	2017-2023	350,000
Total	-	-	350,000

We look forward to working with GEF on these important activities for the benefit of Equatorial Guinea and its population.

Yours sincerely,

Aliou FAYE
Regional Director,
IUCN West and Central Africa Office

Bristol Zoological Society
Saving Wildlife Together

04/02/2021

Dr Sheila Aggarwal-Khan
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28
119 Gland, Switzerland

Subject: Co-financing of the Project "Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea"

Dear Dr Aggarwal-Khan

On behalf of Bristol Zoological Society, I am please to commit to invest $100,000 USD through our conservation project in Monte Alen National Park and surrounding communities over the next five years. Our project aims and objectives are complementary to the activities in the GEF project in this area. We will also commit our expertise and skills through this project to build capacity and co-develop solutions for the benefit of local people and wildlife in this area.

Activities supported will include:

- Biodiversity and anthropogenic disturbance monitoring with SMART
- Capacity building among local communities for the above
- Human-wildlife co-existence intiatives, particularly in relation to elephant crop-raiding
- Eco-tourism pilot studies
- Research on the impact of disturbance on wildlife and ecosystems

The contributions as outline above are intended to qualify as co-funding should the project proposal be successful.

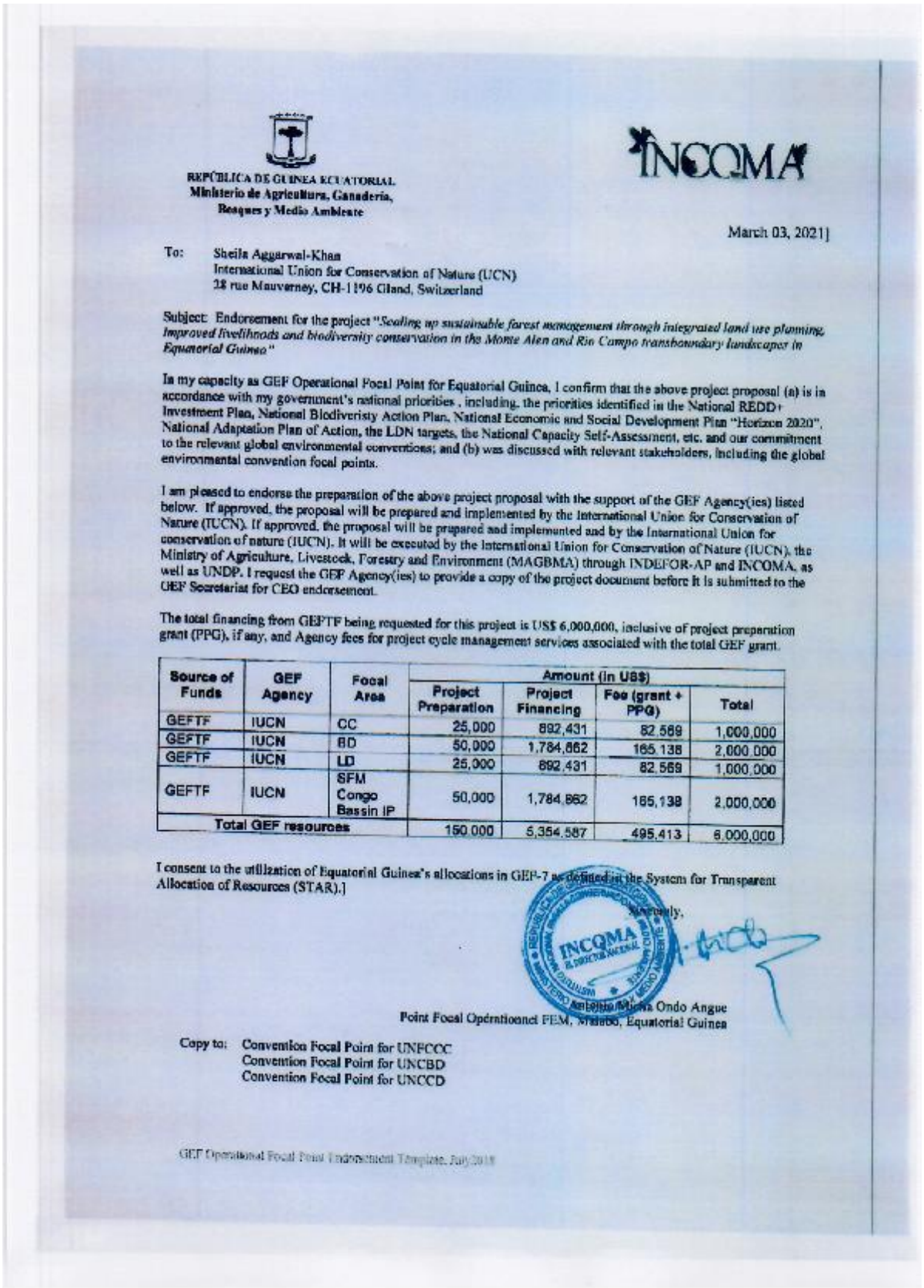
Brian Zimmerman
Director of Conservation and Science
Bristol Zoological Society

Bristol Zoo Gardens
WILD PLACE

Bristol Clifton and West of England Zoological Society Limited
Registered in England No. 5154176 Registered Charity No. 1104986

c/o Bristol Zoo Gardens
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3HA
T: +44 (0) 117 428 5300
F: +44 (0) 117 973 6814
E: info@bristolzoo.org.uk
bristolzoo.org.uk

9.14 GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Letter



REPÚBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Bosques y Medio Ambiente

INCOMA

March 03, 2021]

To: Sheila Aggarwal-Khan
International Union for Conservation of Nature (UCN)
28 rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland

Subject: Endorsement for the project "*Scaling up sustainable forest management through integrated land use planning, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo transboundary landscapes in Equatorial Guinea*"

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Equatorial Guinea, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities , including, the priorities identified in the National REDD+ Investment Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Economic and Social Development Plan "Horizon 2020", National Adaptation Plan of Action, the LDN targets, the National Capacity Self-Assessment, etc. and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Agency(ies) listed below. If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). If approved, the proposal will be prepared and implemented and by the International Union for conservation of nature (IUCN). It will be executed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Environment (MAGBMA) through INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, as well as UNDP. I request the GEF Agency(ies) to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

The total financing from GEFTF being requested for this project is US$ 6,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Amount (in US$)			
			Project Preparation	Project Financing	Fee (grant + PPG)	Total
GEFTF	IUCN	CC	25,000	892,431	82,569	1,000,000
GEFTF	IUCN	BD	50,000	1,784,862	165,138	2,000,000
GEFTF	IUCN	LD	25,000	892,431	82,569	1,000,000
GEFTF	IUCN	SFM Congo Bassin IP	50,000	1,784,862	165,138	2,000,000
Total GEF resources			150,000	5,354,587	495,413	6,000,000

I consent to the utilization of Equatorial Guinea's allocations in GEF-7 as defined in the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).]

Sincerely,

Antolin Micha Ondo Angue
Point Focal Operationnel FEM, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

Copy to: Convention Focal Point for UNFCCC
Convention Focal Point for UNCBD
Convention Focal Point for UNCCD

GEF Operational Focal Point Endorsement Template, July 2018

9.15 ESMS Screening Report (including ESMS Questionnnaire)

ESMS Screening & Clearance Report

PROJECT DATA

The fields below are completed by the project proponent

Project Title:	Land use planning and long term forests and natural resources management in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes in Equatorial Guinea		
Project proponent (e.g. IUCN programme):	PACO Regional Forest Program		
Project ID	10293	Funding agency:	GEF
Name and function of staff leading project development:	ANGU ANGU Kenneth, Head of the Cameroon Country Office and Regional Forest Program Coordinator for West and Central Africa	Entity executing/managing the project:	IUCN
Expected start date and duration:	January 1, 2021- December 31, 2024	Contract value (in CHF):	5 354 560
Country:	Equatorial Guinea	Geography/landscape:	Rio Campo and Monte Alen

ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR ESMS SCREENING

The fields below are completed by the project proponent; the purpose is to establish the need for ESMS screening.

Tick one option	Definition	Next steps
☒ Area-based project	An **area-based project** is a project where resources are provided in form of technical assistance, physical investments (infrastructure, technology or equipment) or financing to bring about changes in skills, knowledge, attitudes, behaviours and/or practices of institutions or individuals **within a defined geographical area**. An area-based project triggers changes on the ground; in fact, it is designed to have positive impacts on species/biodiversity and/or human wellbeing, but unintended negative effects are possible.	Screening needed -> continue with **Step 1a**
☐ Non-area-based project	A **non-area-based** project does not implement any activity (e.g. technical assistance, physical investment or financing) in a defined geographical area. The following types of projects are considered non-area based projects: a. Global/regional/national projects that contribute to global, regional or national policy, strategy development or planning, advances global knowledge - provided the project does not involve any actions on the ground; b. Projects analysing biophysical or spatial data, assessing or monitoring status of ecosystems, biodiversity or species including presentation of data in form of a database, maps or through web-based platforms (e.g. Red List of Species, Red List of Ecosystems, IBAT etc.) - provided the project does not involve any actions on the ground or changes in regulatory policies with potential impacts on people or cultural heritage. c. Preparation and dissemination of position papers, scientific paper, reports, documents and communication materials; d. Organization of an event, workshop, stakeholder meeting, conference or training; e. Partnership coordination and management of networks; f. Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences; g. Projects related directly to roles where IUCN provides statutory advisory services to intergovernmental processes with their own oversight policies and procedures in relation to the types of issues covered by ESMS h. Projects that supports the internal development of the IUCN	Screening not needed - complete this box and upload the document on the Project Portal
☒ Law Enforcement	Projects that include law enforcement activities must undergo ESMS Screening due to the potential impacts on people' s security, health and safety, irrespective of whether they are area-based or not.	Screening needed -> continue with **Step 1a**

☐ Service Agreement Projects	Service Agreement Projects are projects set up to deliver a service to meet the objectives of a client in exchange for consideration (payment). The client has defined the scope of work and outcomes. IUCN clients might use service agreements for routine services provided in a competitive environment. Service Agreement Projects are outside the scope of the ESMS.	Screening not needed -> complete this box and upload the document on the Project Portal
☐ Sub-awards or sub-grants	Sub-awards (or sub-grants) are awards where IUCN is not the prime recipient receiving funding from an originating donor but only the sub-recipient. In this position IUCN has responsibility for programmatic decision making over the sub-award, but does not have the primary authority of the award. Examples are consortium partner arrangements where IUCN is only responsible for selected work packages and does not have the role of a consortium coordinator responsible for quality assurance. The Project Manager should verify that the prime recipient has a robust environmental and social management system at least equivalent to IUCN's. The IUCN ESMS Coordinator should be consulted if the Project Manager believes that the prime recipient has overlooked an ESMS risk or if the environmental and social risk management is inadequate.	Screening not needed (unless system of prime recipient is insufficient) -> complete this box and upload the document on the Project Portal
The classification of the project is confirmed below by naming the staff member who completed this section. If you have any doubts, contact the ESMS Coordinator or the regional ESMS officer		
Comments on the above classification of the project (where relevant):		
n/a		
Name and function of staff leading project development:		Date
n/a		n/a

STEP 1A: DECISION ON THE NEED OF A FORMAL ESMS SCREENING VERSUS SELF-ASSESSMENT

The fields below are completed by the project proponent - tick one of the three options

1. ☒	Project budget is ≥ CHF 1,000,000 - Formal ESMS Screening is required **-> continue with Step 1b and then Step 2**	
2. ☐	Project budget is < CHF 1,000,000 - Formal ESMS Screening is not required as environmental or social risks are appraised through completion of ESMS Questionnaire (referred to as **Self-Assessment**[1]**) -> continue with Step 1b** If the Self-Assessment does not identify any environmental or social risks or only low risks that are fully addressed by the project activities, no further steps are required and the project is considered cleared on ESMS. The low risk category is confirmed below by providing a brief rationale why the project is considered a low risk project and naming the staff who conducted the Self-Assessment. This document must then be uploaded on the Project Portal and serves as ESMS Screening & Clearance Report[2]. If risks have been identified during the Self-Assessment, tick option 3 below.	
	☐ **low risk**	Rationale why project is considered low risk:
	Name and function of staff who conducted **Self-Assessment:**	
3. ☐	Despite being a small project (< CHF 1,000,000), risk issues were identified during the **Self-Assessment** - Formal ESMS Screening process is required **-> continue with Step 2**	

STEP 1B: COMPLETING THE ESMS QUESTIONNAIRE (ENCLOSED AS ANNEX)

The fields below are completed by the project proponent

[1] ESMS Self-Assessment means that the Project Proponent completes the ESMS Questionnaire provided in this template as Annex and makes the final judgement about the environmental and social risks. This includes filling out the cells marked with **Project Proponent** as well as the final row in each section row where it says **conclusion of IUCN ESMS Reviewer**.

[2] Please save the document with the following file name: "esms screening and clearance_ID_NAME PROJECT_self-assessment_low risk".

	Name and function of individual representing project proponent	Date
ESMS Questionnaire completed by:	BRLi - Grégoire Lejonc & Hélène Livingston	16 January 2020
Has a safeguard screening or ESIA[3] of the project been done before? Or any form of an environmental and/or social assessment related to the project or to its components? For GEF projects see footnote[4]		☐ yes ☒ no
If yes, provide details (content of assessment, what gaps may exist, whether data is still current enough and whether the relevance and quality of data has been assessed by proponent):		

STEP 2: FORMAL ESMS SCREENING

To be completed by the IUCN ESMS reviewer(s); only needed when the options 1 or 2 above (marked in red) are ticked

	Name	IUCN unit and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer:	Linda Klare	ESMS Coordinator	29.9.2020
	Jennifer Kelleher	IUCN Global Protected Area Program, Lead Governance, Equity and Rights	
	Gonzalo Oviedo	ESMS Consultant	
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Screening stage:	Prodoc		18.9.2020
	Human Rights and Security Risk Questionnaire		16.9.2020
	Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan		16.9.2020

The below Screening Report is completed by the IUCN ESMS reviewer(s) after having gone through the ESMS Questionnaire. It summarizes the main findings of the ESMS Screening and represents a consensus between ESMS reviewers.

ESMS Screening Report	**Required tools or other action**	*Guidance on rating likelihood, magnitude and significance is provided below[5]*		
Environmental and Social Risks (potential negative impacts) *(see section B of the questionnaire for details)*		Likelihood (1-4)	Magnitude (1-4)	Significance (L, M, M+, H)
Gender equality and risks		3	3	Moderate
Risks of affecting vulnerable groups		2	3	Low
Risks of infringing on human rights		2	2	Low

[3] Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or any other type of impact assessment (a partial ESIA, a targeted assessment of environmental and/or social risks etc.)

[4] Safeguard screening of GEF projects is the responsibility of the IA. If IUCN is an EA, screening by IUCN is usually not needed. It is however advised to review the IA's screening report.

[5] Guidance on rating likelihood, magnitude and significance is provided below (see heading in purple). For more information on these ratings, please see the Guidance Note on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks available at www.iucn.org/esms.

Community health, safety and security risks			3	3-4	Moderate
Labour and working conditions			3	3-4	Moderate
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions			1	1	Low
Risks from project design failing to address climate change			1	1	Low
Other environmental or social risks *(add new rows below for each risk)*:		See separate assessment	n/a	n/a	n/a
ESMS Standards	**Trigger[6]**	**Required tools or other action**	Likelihood (1-4)	Magnitude (1-4)	Significance (L, M, M+, H)
Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions *(see section C1 of the questionnaire for details)*	☒ yes ☐ no ☐ TBD	☐ Resettlement Action Plan ☐ Resettlement Policy Framework ☐ Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts Access Restriction ☒ Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework (included in the ESMF) ☐ Other:	TBD	TBD	TBD
Indigenous Peoples *(see section C2 of the questionnaire for details)*	☐ yes ☐ no ☒ TBD	☐ Indigenous Peoples Plan ☐ Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework ☒ Other: Guidance to be provided in ESMF	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cultural Heritage *(see section C3 of the questionnaire for details)*	☐ yes ☐ no ☒ TBD	☐ Chance Find Procedures ☒ Other: Guidance to be provided in ESMF	2-3	2-3	Low-Moderate
Biodiversity & Sustainable Use Natural Resources *(see section C4 of the questionnaire for details)*	☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Pest Management Plan ☐ Other:	n/a	n/a	n/a
Quality of stakeholder consultation during project design so far *(see section D4 for details)*	☐ good ☒ adequate ☐ not sufficient	Required action:			
Project Risk Category:	*The project risk category rates the overall project; it is based on the rating of likelihood and magnitude established for each E&S risk area and for the ESMS Standards. The overall rating is usually that of the highest risk.*		☐ **low risk**	☒ **moderate risk**	☐ **high risk**
Brief summary of the main findings: main risk issues, their significance and risk issues of standards triggered; justification of the overall risk rating	The project aims to improve land use planning, policies, and management, ensure the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat and critical ecosystem services and reduce community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes. Component 1 focuses on the national policy and institutional level in order to improve the enabling environment and strengthen capacities. It further supports the 2 landscapes (Rio Campo and Monte Alen) in the development of community-based land use plans at the local levels. Component 2 foresees concrete interventions to improve governance and management effectiveness of five protected areas in the same 2 landscapes (in 5 PAs) and outcome 3 interventions aiming at supporting local livelihoods. The latter include a small grant program for promoting the diversification of livelihoods, technical inputs to support community benefits accrued from protected areas and support to eco-tourism development. It will				

[6] The decision of triggering a standard does not mean that a safeguard instruments or plans has to be prepared right away. The ESMS Reviewer will specify the consequences of triggering the standard in the respective ESMS reviewer section of the questionnaire in C1-C4. Often plans might be required immediately (prior to project approval), in other cases only at a certain point in time (e.g. plans might need to be complete and accepted before the relevant activity can begin). In cases where the risk issues are less substantive, a plan might not be needed at all and mitigation measures are incorporated into the ESMP.

	further promote sustainable forest management and logging practices of community stakeholders, decentralized government structures and private sector logging companies. The project is expected to lead to environmental benefits (reduction of the degradation of forests) and social benefits through the livelihood support activities. Notwithstanding, the screening process uncovered some social risks, primarily related to the potential of causing adverse impacts to communities living in or adjacent to the 5 PAs when putting in place restrictions on the use of forest and non-forest natural resources, increasing enforcement of existing restrictions and expanding the PA coverage (triggering the Standard on Access Restrictions). Risks from potentially inappropriate law enforcement practices for local communities (in terms of human rights and livelihoods) have been identified, but also safety risks for rangers and community patrols themselves (as well as project workers) due to their exposure to illegal poaching/wildlife crime. Another risk issue is gender-based violence given the contextual factors and the complete lack of awareness, legislation and prevention strategies. For a comprehensive analysis of social and environmental risks, please refer to section B1-B5 of the Screening Questionnaire in the Annex. The Indigenous Peoples Standard has not been triggered (yet) as the field visits, social survey and stakeholder consultations have not identified the presence of indigenous people in the project sites. It is believed, though, that some small groups of nomadic Beyele people live in the dense equatorial forest, mainly located in the area on the border with Cameroon. Hence, the project should make the required efforts to confirm or rule out the presence of indigenous groups (including the Beyele) – through the social assessments (SAPA) that will be carried out under component 2 as well as through further investigation with relevant stakeholders, including social scientists and indigenous peoples' experts, to be undertaken during the inception phase. In case the presence of indigenous peoples is confirmed – even in areas outside the project sites but still in a distance that the groups might potentially cross and reach the project sites during their migratory trajectories – the standard would be triggered and requirements (including consultations, FPIC as well as respect of the wish to remain in a state of voluntary isolation) would need to be adhered to. The Standard on Cultural Heritage is triggered as there is a possibility that the PA zoning might include sites of cultural/ spiritual significance. Another potential trigger is the possibility that the ecotourism strategy involves the use or promotion of cultural heritage. Overall, the identified risks and impacts are limited in scale and few in number and can be addressed through the application of protected area management good practice, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during project implementation. In fact, project design already attempts to mitigate the two main social risks, (i) risks from access restrictions and (ii) law enforcement, as explained below. It is therefore classified as a moderate risk project. Ad (i) Adverse impacts on local communities living in or adjacent to the five protected areas supported by the project from putting in place or enforcing restrictions on use or access to forest resources will be addressed, to a substantial extent, through the following strategies that are already embedded in project design: • Social assessment: ○ The social assessment that will be carried out under component 2 in all five sites will foster a good understanding of the current situation and identify existing negative impacts of protected area conservation on local people that the project is inheriting (such as law enforcement actions that infringe/violate human rights, human wildlife conflict may infringe human rights to food etc.) and that new management measures might cause. ○ The assessment will follow the Social Assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) tool. • Improving governance: ○ Project design reflects the recognition that effective participation of local communities is contingent on the existence of equitable governance arrangements that address issues of recognition, procedure (especially participation, transparency) and the distribution of benefits and costs. This is ensured by implementing a governance assessment process in all five sites and by introducing and implementing the Green List criteria and indicators as the benchmark for successful and inclusive area based conservation. ○ Expected benefits of involving local communities in the governance of protected areas are, among others, that they participate in decisions that affect them and that their rights and livelihood needs are respected. By ensuring full and effective participation, the formerly involuntary nature of putting in place access restrictions would turn into a process where such restrictions are increasingly decided by the communities themselves.

	• Notwithstanding these efforts and as per IUCN ESMS Standard on Access Restrictions, a Process Framework (PF) is still required because:
	  ○ the transfer of governance to local communities will be incremental for the existing PAs – hence the PF needs to capture how access restrictions will be handled in the meantime; and
	  ○ even with inclusive governance some gaps remain in terms of the process and requirements compared with the requirements of the Standard (including the requirement to mitigate or compensate for livelihood losses) and the PF should provide guidance for closing these gaps.
	Ad (ii) Risks related to law enforcement are being addressed by the project through the following design elements:
	• Education and capacity building of eco-guards
	  ○ to ensure they understand the laws they are enforcing and the powers they have in enforcing them, as well as the rights of local communities.
	  ○ to encourage working with local communities rather than against them and to provide tools to interact with the population in a respectful manner.
	  ○ focus will be on sanctioning organised poaching and logging groups rather than individual subsistence hunters from local communities.
	• Law enforcement activities focusing on voluntary behavioural change and inclusion in decision making, including:
	  ○ Education: meetings with communities to explain the law, posters depicting regulations, teaching other law enforcement authorities,
	  ○ Actively engaging communities in decision-making and implementation processes for law enforcement at all stages (for example, discussions with communities on conservation law compliance issues and how to improve compliance - what incentives could make it easier for them to comply);
	  ○ Working with eco-guards and local communities on legitimation: the regulations and their sanctions should be perceived as useful, appropriate and fair by the local communities
	  ○ Local communities will be involved in patrolling activities and eco-guards recruited by the project will be selected from local communities in the project implementation sites.
	The project will set up a small grant program to support micro-projects at community or household level. As the grant projects to be awarded will only be known during the project, they cannot be assessed on potential E&S risks at this point. Therefore, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is needed that provides the procedure for assessing such risks during project implementation.
	The ESMF will also need to provide guidance for risk identification and management related to those activities that are not yet fully defined (e.g. activities that require participatory decision making or that depend on the land use planning process); in particular on risks from potential restrictions to sites of cultural significance (if confirmed by SAPA) and the need to obtain consent from the respective rights holders if the ecotourism strategy involves the use or promotion of cultural heritage. The Process Framework (PF), triggered by the Standard on Access Restrictions, should be integrated into the ESMF in order to ensure alignment and management. The ESMF should also instruct on assessment and consultation measures in fulfilment of the Standard on Indigenous Peoples.

Required assessments or tools	☐ Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (Full ESIA) ☐ Partial ESIA ☐ Targeted Environmental or Social Assessment ☐ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) ☒ Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) ☐ Abbreviated ESMF ☐ Other:

GUIDANCE FOR RATING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

The rating of risks is based on the assumptions that the management measures and plans specified in the respective column are implemented and effective in mitigating the risk. It is good practice that the plans are available before ESMS Clearance. Risk rating is based on the two elements: likelihood and the expected impacts (consequence).

Likelihood represents the possibility that a given risk event is expected to occur. The likelihood should be established using the following five ratings:

- *Very unlikely to occur (1)*
- *Not expected to occur (2)*
- *Likely – could occur (3)*
- *Known to occur - almost certain (4)*
- *Common occurrence (5)*

Impact (or consequence) refers to the extent to which a risk event might negatively affect environmental or social receptors – see below criteria distinguishing five levels of impacts:

Table 1: Rating impact of a risk area

Severe (5)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of **very high magnitude**, including **very large scale** and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), cumulative, **long-term (permanent and irreversible**); **receptors** are considered **highly sensitive**; examples are severe adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value[7]; severe adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with long-term consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to severe and cumulative social conflicts with long-term consequences.
Major (4)	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of **high magnitude**, including **large scale** and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), of certain duration **but still reversible** if sufficient effort is provided for mitigation; receptors are considered sensitive; examples are adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with temporary consequences on peoples' livelihood; impacts give rise to social conflicts which are expected to be of limited duration.
Medium (3)	Adverse impacts of **medium magnitude**, **limited in scale** (small area and low number of people affected), **limited in duration** (temporary), impacts are relatively predictable and can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with known solutions and straight forward measures.
Minor (2)	Adverse impacts of **minor magnitude, very small scale** (e.g. very small affected area, very low number of people affected) and only short duration, may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated.
Negligible (1)	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or on the environment.

Significance of a risk area is established by combining likelihood and expected impact (consequence) of a risk event as demonstrated in the table 2. The significance rating signals how much attention the risk area will require during project development and implementation and the extent of control actions to be put in place. See the Guidance Note on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks for further details on the rating (including factors influencing the likelihood and impact).

Table 2: Rating significance of a risk event

		Likelihood of occurrence				
		Very unlikely to occur (1)	*Not expected to occur (2)*	*Likely – could occur (3)*	*Known to occur - almost certain (4)*	*Common occurrence (5)*
Impact	*Severe (5)*	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
	Major (4)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

[7] For the definition see IUCN ESMS Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.

	Medium (3)	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Minor (2)	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
	Negligible (1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

STEP 3: ESMS CLEARANCE OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

*The purpose of the ESMS Clearance stage is to confirm the risk classification that has been established by the formal ESMS Screening and to review and approve the risk assessments and safeguard tools developed. It is completed at the **end of project development** prior to approval of the project. The fields below are completed by the IUCN ESMS reviewer.*

	Name	IUCN unit and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer Clearance Stage:	Linda Klare	IUCN ESMS Coordinator	14.4.2021
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Clearance Stage:	Prodoc		13.4.2021
	Gender Action Plan		2.2.2021
	Stakeholder Analysis and Engagement Plan		2.2.2021
	ESMF		13.4.2021

Have findings from the risk assessment or other final steps of project development triggered any **changes to the risk classification** of the project? If yes, explain and indicate the risk areas where modifications were made.	n/a
Have the **ESMS actions** requested by the ESMS Screening been completed (e.g. tools and other actions)? Has this been done in a satisfactory manner? Has the implementation of the tools been budgeted for?	ESMF has been developed With regards to the human rights risks from law enforcement, it is acknowledged that Activity 2.1.4.5 has been added for assessing the legal framework for law enforcement related to protected areas and security and human rights risks
Are there **ESMS actions** requested by the ESMS Screening that still need to be completed during the project? If yes, specify the actions and respective deadlines?	
Has the quality of **stakeholder consultation** during project design been adequate? Have results of the consultations been documented (disaggregated by gender, where relevant)? Does this demonstrate how the consultations were used to inform project design?	The documentation of stakeholder engagement during project design is documented in Appendix 9.3 of the prodoc. overall it is considered satisfactory, although more engagement with local communities and with the private sector would have added value. But it is acknowledged that the Covid 19 outbreak and the security situation in northern Burkina Faso limited the intensity of consultation.
Has a **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** (SEP) been developed that describes how the identified stakeholder will be further engaged during project implementation?	A SEP is available (in annex 2). Some engagement will need to be further specified, in particular with regards to the civil society. However, due to the participatory and consultative nature of the engagement strategies as part of land use planning processes, the social assessment (SAPA) and the governance assessment (SAGE), the SEP is considered adequate.
Is the SEP inclusive and provides for active participation of a wide range of stakeholders – particularly women, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, representatives of the local communities and local groups?	
Are provisions made for monitoring the SEP during project implementation?	The consultative project activities mentioned in the above section will be reported on as part of the regular project monitoring.

Has a **project-level grievance redress mechanism** (GRM) been established that explains the processes for submitting, resolving and escalating grievances? Is the GRM culturally appropriate, readily accessible for local stakeholders and provide appropriate confidentiality protection?	Yes. The ESMF contains a general description of the GRM functioning and fairly detailed provisions for the site-specific adaptations. Detailed procedures to be finalized at inception stage.
Have stakeholders been informed about the GRM?	To be done in inception phase

CLEARANCE DECISION	
☒ **Cleared**	The conclusions are positive and the project proposal meets all requirements with regards to avoiding or reducing environmental and social risks: the proposal is accepted.
☐ **Conditionally cleared**	The conclusions above call for improving one or more ESMS action and/or for important re-formulation of tools and mitigation measures. This will lead to the proposal being conditionally cleared; the reviewer will provide guidance on the way forward.
☐ **Clearance rejected**	Essential ESMS provisions have not been complied with, plans or other actions have not been completed and critical mitigation measures have not been incorporated or don't seem feasible or sufficient for avoiding or minimizing impacts; or significant data gaps still prevail and additional field assessments are required.
Rationale – Explain clearance decision (why cleared, conditionally cleared or rejected):	An ESMF has been developed that addresses the identified risks and provide guidance for mitigating. It integrates the requirements for a Process Framework and relevant elements of the Standard on Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage. It also establishes procedures for identifying potential E&S risks of micro-projects supported by the small grant program. As such all provisions established by the screening have been fulfilled.
Clearance conditions (when conditionally cleared) - Explain tasks to be completed during the project:	

Approval ESMS Clearance (M level or above)			
Name	IUCN Unit and Function	Date	Signature
Sheila Aggarwal Khan	Director, GEF and GCF Unit	14.4.2021	

ANNEX: ESMS QUESTIONNAIRE – *TO BE COMPLETED AS A PREPARATION FOR THE FORMAL ESMS SCREENING OR THE ESMS SELF-ASSESSMENT*

A. PROJECT SUMMARY

To be completed by project proponent

Component	Project outcomes	Project outputs	Project activities
1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management	1.1. Enhanced cooperation and planning at national level, governing the use of transboundary resources and landscapes	1.1.1. Cross-border multi-stakeholder dialogues on sustainable land use planning and policy issues with transboundary dimensions (e.g., illegal poaching and logging; infrastructure development; connectivity; legal extractives; water)	Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape
			Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management
	1.2. Ensure that protected areas, natural capital and forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local and landscape levels	1.2.1. Technical inputs to support the development of improved land use policies, including incorporating natural capital in such policies	Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems
			Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes
		1.2.2. Capacity building program strengthening the ability of relevant government personnel at local and provincial levels to incorporate natural capital and forest dependant people's land rights into land use planning, and management; and strengthening effective local governance of natural resources	Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework
	1.3. Development and uptake of integrated land use management plans in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, with the full participation of local stakeholders, to support the sustainable management and ecological integrity of these landscapes	1.3.1. Development of community-based land use plans at the local levels in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level
			Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)
			Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans
		1.3.2. Multi-stakeholder dialogues to promote sustainable forest management by communities, private sector and decentralized and deconcentrated government structures	Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)

2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	2.1. Improved management of natural resources and PAs within the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes with the collaboration and participation of local communities	2.1.1. INDEFOR-AP & INCOMA recognized as efficient and reliable institutions to manage international donor funds	Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources
			Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas
		2.1.2. Enhanced management plans and governance of five protected areas in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites
			Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines
			Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas
			Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices
		2.1.3. Enhanced protected area resources and infrastructure, to facilitate the implementation of management plans (enhanced monitoring and management of these PAs)	Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking
			Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery
		2.1.4. Participatory monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies governing protected areas, and illegal poaching and logging in wider landscapes	Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols
			Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams
			Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc
3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes	3.1. Support local livelihoods and strengthen incentives to conserve forests in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	3.1.1. Improved and diversified livelihoods based on the sustainable use of forest and agricultural resources, including income generating and livelihood options for communities, adopted and implemented through a small grants program that capitalises on the GEF UNDP model	Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)
			Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods
			Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea
		3.1.2. Technical inputs contributing towards enhanced community benefits accrued from the use and	Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population

		management of protected areas (e.g. NTFP value chains, human-wildlife conflicts)	Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures
	3.2. Improvement of sustainable logging practices by private sector logging companies operating within Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes	3.2.1. Multi-stakeholder consultations, training and improved enabling environment for sustainable private sector forest management in Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, to reduce impacts on forests	Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon
			Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities
4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment	4.1. Raising public awareness on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation	4.1.1. Broad outreach, awareness and information programs on the value of natural resources and the importance of conservation to raise awareness and support for sustainable management of Equatorial Guinea and Congo Basin biodiversity	Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences
			Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff
	4.2. Progress of CBSL in Equatorial Guinea is tracked and adaptively managed	4.2.1. Improved knowledge of best practices in sustainable management of forest resources in the Congo Basin	Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership
			Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs
		4.2.2. Operational system to monitor and evaluate progress (providing relevant information to managers, stakeholders and Regional Initiative)	Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal
5. Project management & monitoring	5.1 Project is effectively and efficiently managed	5.1.1 Project management team established and functional	Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit
			Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment
		5.1.2 Project evaluation and audit missions carried out	Activity 5.1.2.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits
			Activity 5.1.2.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP

Guidance on completing the questionnaire

- Answer the questions in the 'Project proponent' column by selecting 'Yes, no, n/a (not applicable) or TBD (to be determined)'; in the second column provide additional information - describing the risk, whether it will need to be further assessed, and/or how the risks will be **avoided or managed** (minimized or mitigated).
- If you don't have the required information, describe how you would gather the data during the project preparation phase or during project implementation. Please note that additional activities identified and specified in this exercise will either need to be integrated into the ToR for the risk assessment or into the project design as project activity. E.g. if you describe that land rights of local communities will be assessed, this either needs to be included in the ToR of a social assessment or specified as project activity.
- If the information requested can be found in the project proposal, please also reference the specific section of the proposal where this stated.

B. ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Please consider not only direct environmental and social impacts but also potential indirect[8], cumulative[9] and transboundary impacts as well as impacts of associated facilities[10]			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question and describe how the risks are **being assessed, avoided or managed***	*Comments, additional considerations*
Gender equality and risks (including gender-based violence)			
1. Is there a risk that the project may discriminate against women or other groups based on gender with regards to participation in the design and implementation of project activities or to access to resources, services, or benefits provided by the project?	No		While it is intended to achieve full participation of local stakeholders and integrate women in the development of the land use management with the, there might be constraints to their participation due to the socio-cultural context which need to be given high attention.
2. Is there a risk that project activities inadvertently create, aggravate or perpetuate inequalities between women and men or have **adverse impacts** on the situation of women and girls?	No		Not agreed. Law enforcements (inappropriate enforcement practices) might involve particular risks for women and girls. To some extent the GAP address this risks (Incorporation of gender responsive aspects in the eco-guard, community patrol teams and law enforcement trainings)

[8] Indirect impacts refer to unplanned but predictable activities enabled by the project that may occur later or at a different location. Example: Equipment intended for species monitoring (camera traps) enhances law enforcement.

[9] Cumulative Impact means the collective impact of a project's incremental impact added to the impacts of other relevant past, present and reasonably foreseeable future developments. Example: Investments in tourism development by the Government leads to substantial increase in number of tourists that frequent a site and turns a project-funded PA access road into a major cause for disturbance for wildlife.

[10] Associated Facility or Activities means a facility or activity not funded as part of the project that is necessary for the financial and/or operational viability of the project, and would not have been constructed or expanded if the project did not exist. Example: a visitor centre built by the project might require an access road as associated facility – the construction of which might trigger environmental impacts.

3. Is there a risk that the project potentially limits women's ability to use, develop or protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	No		The land use plans might restrict use of resources that are important for women- further details of access restrictions impacts see C1
4. Is there a risk that persons employed or engaged by the project executing agency or through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project might engage in gender based violence (including sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment)? Have any such incidents been reported in the past?	No		While it is not possible to assess the likelihood of such risks at this stage, it seems an important risk area to monitor. According to data from OECD there is no law in EG addressing violence against women including specific provisions for investigation, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrator and protection and support services for victims. Violence against women is believed to be widespread. The legal framework does not provide legal protection from sexual harassment and does not cover sexual harassment in the workplace, educational establishments, and in other public places.[11] Because of these context factors, it will be important to put in place - at **inception stage - c**lear **procedures** to **identify** risks and **prevent** incidents related to sexual exploitations, abuse or harassment including procedures that describe **how to act** in case of incidents (e.g. report, investigate, remedy such actions.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on[12]		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 3
Risk of affecting vulnerable groups			
5. Has the project site been assessed on the presence of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals[13]. Please name the groups and ensure that groups referred to in footnote 13 are considered.	Yes	The pygmies living in Ayemeken are a potential vulnerable group (one family – about 20 persons). This family is living in the middle of a new military camp of more than 500 troupers, close to a new paved road.	There is no sufficient information about vulnerable groups in the sites influenced by land use decisions supported by the project (e.g. elderly people, persons with disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, displaced people, people living in poverty, marginalised or

[11] OECD (2019), Gender, Institutions and Development Database, https://oe.cd/ds/GIDDB2019.

[12] Please see guidance given above for estimating the **probability** of the event to occur and its **impact** (consequence) on the receptor. It is understood that there might still be a considerable degree of uncertainty.

[13] Depending on the context vulnerable groups could be landless or elderly people, persons with disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, displaced people, people living in poverty, marginalised or discriminated individuals or groups, among others.

			discriminated individuals or groups, among others). The social assessment for Protected Areas (SAPA) that will be conducted in all 5 PAs (Activity 2.1.2.1) will identify VG in the 5 PAs and the buffer zones.
6. Is there a likelihood that project risks and negative impacts fall disproportionately on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups? Consider impacts on material and on non-material livelihood conditions. Also consider changes in **land use** and/or **tenure arrangements** with a risk of disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including people coming from outside the project area such as internally displaced people.	No		With regards to the wider area influenced by the LU plans developed under activity where 1.3.2., risks are not expected to fall disproportionally on VG as this will be done using an inclusive and participatory land use planning approach. For the activities under outcome 2.1 (in particular access restricitions) SAPA will assess social vulnerabilities and potential impacts (positive and negative) of the PAs. But such risks accounted for under C1
7. Is there a risk that the project might discriminate against vulnerable groups with regards to participation in the design and implementation of project activities or to access to resources, services, or benefits provided by the project?	No		Through the social assessment vulnerable groups will be identified. Given the process oriented nature of the project a number of activities will only be defined during the implementation. Hence the EMSF should provide guidance for ensuring participation of vulnerable groups in all aspects relevant to them.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 2	Estimated impact (1-5): 3
Risks of infringing in human rights, including substantive and procedural rights			
8. Could the project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of individuals or groups? In terms of economic rights, consider in particular their ability to access services or resources essential to basic needs (e.g. health or education, drinking water, productive resources, sources of income, subsistence food production).	No		The project is expected to have positive impacts as under outcome 1.2. it will be ensured that forest dependant people's rights are taken into account in the land use planning processes and decisions at local, landscape, national and transboundary levels. Impacts from the PAs will be covered by SAPA and the Governance Assessment (SAGE) aims at improving inclusion in PA management.
9. Is there a likelihood that the project might lead to unjustified preferential treatment of individuals or groups (e.g. in terms of access to resources or services provided by the project) or to the formal or	Yes	Under Activity 3.1.1.1 to 3.1.3 the project foresees the awarding of grants for micro-projects at community or household level. In order to ensure avoiding unjustified preferential treatment of individuals or groups the project will develop transparent and clear eligibility criteria.	Projects with grant components require the development of an Environmental and Social management Framework (ESMF) as the projects to be awarded will only be known during the project. The ESMF will need to

de facto restriction or exclusion[14] of groups from access to resources or services provided by the project?			provide criteria to ensure fair and transparent processes when awarding the grants.
10. Is there a likelihood that the project would exclude individuals or groups from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No		SAPA will ensure that relevant stakeholders in the bufferzone of the PAs will be identified and SAGE will improve their inclusion in PA management.
11. Is there a likelihood that the project might contribute to the discrimination or marginalization of specific groups? (only mention situations not specified in any of the questions above)	No		
12. Within the project area, are there any indications of legacy issues, current conflicts or human rights infractions? Have any of the project's potential partner organizations and stakeholders been involved in human rights conflicts in the past? Consider in particular situations such as failing to respect the rights or livelihood needs of indigenous or local communities during the process of protected area establishment, forced eviction of people, resettlement process where agreed arrangements and compensations were not complied with or other actions that resulted in historical injustice.	No		This aspect has not been fully assessed, but this is included in SAPA.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):2	Estimated impact (1-5):2
Community health, safety and security			
1. Is there a risk that the project could exacerbate existing conflicts among communities, groups or individuals (e.g. by increasing resource competition when promoting economic opportunities, aggravating conflicts about land or natural resources or by causing an influx of in-migrants). Consider in particular situations where the project sites are affected by fragility, violence and conflicts (war, inter-ethnic conflict, insurgency or high levels of drug trafficking or other organised crime) and dynamics of recent or expected migration (e.g. return of displaced people).	Yes		There might be conflicts and security issues related to illegal occupants within the PAs as well as negative impact of PA legislation on customary rights to the land. These issues need to be assessed as part of the social processes (SAPA and SAGE); measures should be developed by SAGE and SAPA for addressing the aspects relevant to the project.
2. Is there a risk that project activities might weaken community institutions or disrupt social interactions within the communities or the cohesion of communities?	No		Risk should be captured by SAPA and addressed.
3. Does the project potentially increase risk of human–wildlife conflicts including the risk of injury or loss of life of humans?	No	The human-wildlife conflicts are already existing, and the project proposes to research and understand these better to mitigate them. I'm not sure I see how this will increase these already existing conflicts	

[14] Examples for *de facto* restriction or exclusion are: information is not made available in appropriate languages, individuals with no/low income or without tenure rights (or registered titles) can't access services (e.g. agricultural extension services, persons with disabilities are confronted with physical barriers that block their access; certain groups are stigmatised by society and thus have no access services.

4. Does the project or project partners engage or work with law enforcement personnel (including collaboration with government forest guards, protected area or community rangers, police, military or paramilitary forces) that may pose a potential security risk for communities and/or individuals? Consider causes such as inadequate training or lack of accountability mechanism and practices such as violent interrogation practices, harassment of members of particular ethnic groups, detention of arrested people without legal proceedings etc.	Yes	The project will work with law enforcement personnel and security risks will be mitigated by training the personnel (activity 2.1.4.4) The Security and Human Rights Risks Questionnaire has identified a number of gaps and risks with regards to law enforcement. While the eco-guards which are ontracted by INDEFOR are responsible for patrolling to identify illegal activities, they are not habilitated to carry out arrests but this is delegated to the police or army. There is no consistent and systematic relationship between rangers, police/military and the justice system. Also, there is no code of conduct for law enforcement, no monitoring and no systematic procedure for reporting incidents and no formal grievance procedure for complaints about unfair treatment, harassment or abusive behaviour on the part of the rangers or police/army. Based on current information/data the likelihood of human rights risks is assessed as **level 3 (Likely) and the impact as Medium (3) to Major (4);** but this need to be confirmed with additional consultations with communities, PA staff, police and other stakeholders during the inception phase.	The potential risks to local communities need further assessment during the inception phase (ESMF to provide guidance). They should also be included in the SAPA process.
5. Do any of the law enforcement personnel carry firearms in the course of their duty?	Yes	Eco-guards and forest guards are not armed. Police and army carry arms.	
6. Is there a possible risk that the project exposes communities to accidental hazards or increases their vulnerability to natural hazards? This would cover exposure to hazardous substances (explosives, fuel and other chemicals), the use of vehicles and equipment and risks related to new constructions or failure of structural elements built by the project (e.g. through failure to secure construction sites or water infrastructure, collapse of buildings, exposure to risks from earthquake or subsidence etc.).	No		
7. Is there a likelihood that the project causes health and safety risks through construction or management changes of water infrastructure (e.g. by changing flows into water infrastructure, triggering water-born or -based diseases) or through increasing risks of other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections? Examples include the creation of stagnant water bodies, livestock activities affecting quality of portable water etc.	No		
8. Is there a probability that the project could have adverse impacts on community health and safety through reduction in local air quality (e.g. through generation of dusts, burning of wastes, or burning fossil fuels and other materials in improperly ventilated areas)?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 3	Estimated impact (1-5): 3-4
Labor and working conditions affecting project workers[15]			
9. Would the project potentially lead to working conditions that fail to comply with national labor laws and international commitments? Consider the following minimum requirements[16]: • clear documentation of employment terms and conditions (including their rights under national law related to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation and benefits); • regular and timely payment of wages; adequate periods of rest (incl. holiday, sick, maternity, paternity, and family leave); • principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment relating to any aspect of employment relationships in the context of the project (e.g. hiring and treatment of workers); • prevention of harassment, intimidation, and exploitation in the workplace, in particular of vulnerable workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities; • freedom of association and collective bargaining.	No		
10. Is there a risk that project workers might be exposed to occupational health and safety (OHS) risks including specific hazards in the work areas (e.g. dangerous machinery, chemical or biological hazards, hazardous transport activities, increased exposure to infectious diseases and specific threats to women)? Also consider risks for people engaged in community work programs or volunteers engaged by the project or project partners.	No		
11. Are any project staff or people engaged for the project (e.g. rangers, community rangers) exposed to the risk of violence in the course of their duties (e.g. exposure to armed poachers or criminal groups involved in drug trafficking)? If yes, explain how risks are managed (e.g. access to adequate healthcare, systems of evacuation in case of emergencies)?	Yes	Potential security risks for project workers, in particular for rangers or community patrols/ volunteers; security issues might be related in particular to poaching and illegal wildlife trade, in particular due to the transboundary location	
12. Might the project be directly or indirectly involved in either forced labor (e.g. any work or service which someone has not volunteered for and is forced to do) or child labor[17]? Child labor could occur, for example, in projects promoting agricultural or forest commodities (e.g. cocoa production) with the risk of interfering with the child's	No		While there is a legal working age of eighteen, this is not enforced, and many children are engaged in farm work. While not under direct influence of the project, the project should monitor risks of harmful child labour and

[15] Project workers refer to (i) **direct** project workers (people employed or engaged directly by the project executing entity to work specifically in relation to the project), (ii) **contracted workers** (people employed or engaged through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project, regardless of location), (iii) **primary supply workers** (people employed or engaged by the project's primary suppliers) and (iv) **community workers** (people employed or voluntarily engaged in providing community labor).

[16] The minimum requirements are established in the ESMS Guidance Note on Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks available at: www.iucn.org/esms

[17] Child labor for these purposes refers to children under the age of 14, unless national law specifies a higher age. Children between 14-18 employed or engaged in the project would not be considered as child labor (unless national law specifies a different age), but would require special conditions related to their engagement.

education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.			ensure not to be implicated when promoting alternative livelihood opportunities.
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):3	Estimated impact (1-5):3-4
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions			
1. Is there a risk that the project might lead to releasing pollutants to the environment or increased generation of waste or waste water due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts? Consider in particular hazardous waste.	No		
2. Does the project activities involve a significant use of energy, water or other resources? If yes, explain how it will be ensured that resources are used efficiently.	No		
3. Might the project use or promote the use of chemicals or other hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phase-outs?)[18] Please note that the use of pesticides are covered in the Biodiversity Standard (Section C4).	No		
4. Will the project lead to significant increases of greenhouse gas emissions or to a substantial reduction of carbon pools (e.g. through loss in vegetation cover or below and above ground carbon stocks)?	No		
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):1	Estimated impact (1-5):1
Climate Change (risks from project design failing to take climate change into account)			
5. Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might affect the effectiveness of project activities or the sustainability of intended changes? If yes, explain how the project intends to lower such risk.	No	The project aims to increase the resilience of communities and landscapes to climate change impacts through effective ecosystem and landscape management Efforts to conserve the forests of the landscapes (PA, Forest Concessions,etc.) through activities in component 2, as well as to provide alternative livelihood activities for the local population through component 3 will help to build the resilience of local ecosystems and communities.	
6. Is there a risk that project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of local communities or the local ecosystem to climate variability, temperature increases or climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc)?	No	The project is also consistent with national climate priorities like Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs, REDD+ Strategy, etc.)	
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 1	Estimated impact (1-5): 1

[18] For instance, substances listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or other chemicals or hazardous materials subject to international bans, restrictions or phase-outs due to high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential depletion of the ozone layer, consistent with relevant international treaties and agreements.

7. Please list in the row(s) below any other direct, indirect (induced or cumulative), and transboundary environmental and social risks, and the risks and impacts of associated facilities:[19]	N/A		
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on		Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):	Estimated impact (1-5):

C. POTENTIAL IMPACTS RELATED TO ESMS STANDARDS

C1: STANDARD ON INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS[20]

	Project proponent		IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question and describe how the risks are **being assessed, avoided or managed***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Will the project involve physically involuntarily resettling people or communities and/or acquiring their land (e.g. for the creation of a strict nature reserve or reducing the threat of wildlife related incidents for communities living in reserves)? **if yes, answer a-b below**	No	*Shaded cells do not need to be filled out*	*Shaded cells do not need to be filled out*
a. Describe the project activities that require resettlement.			
b. Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?			
2. Is there a risk that the project will involve forced eviction[21]?	No		
3. Does the project include activities that might cause economic displacement by restricting peoples' access to or use of land or natural resources where they have traditional or customary tenure, or recognizable usage rights? Please consider the following activities: establishing new protected areas (PA) or extending the area of an existing PA, improving enforcement of PA regulations (e.g. training guards, providing monitoring and/or enforcement equipment, providing	Yes		

[19] Example for cumulative impact: A project builds an access road for PA staff, but another project builds a visitor center in the PA which increases traffic on the road and causes disturbance for nesting sites etc.

[20] The term "**involuntary resettlement**" refers to project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use which have adverse impacts on communities and persons. Project-related land acquisition or restrictions on land use may cause physical displacement (relocation, loss of residential land or loss of shelter), economic displacement (loss of land, assets or access to assets, leading to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood), or both. Resettlement is considered involuntary when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse land acquisition or restrictions on land use that result in displacement (World Bank ESS5)

[21] It is important to understand that Involuntary resettlement is different from "**forced eviction"**; the latter being defined as the permanent or temporary removal **against the will** of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal and other protection (WB ESS5). Forced evictions is an extreme form of involuntary resettlement and "constitutes a gross violation of human rights, in particular the right to adequate housing" (Commission on Human Rights, Resolution 1993/77).

training/tools for improving management effectiveness), constructing physical barriers that prevent people accessing certain places; changing how specific natural resources are managed to a management system that is more restrictive[22]; **if yes, answer a-h below**			
Answer only if you answered yes to item 3			
a. Indicate the project activities that (might) involve restrictions and the respective land or resources to be restricted including communal property and natural resources such as marine and aquatic resources, timber and non-timber forest products, fresh water, medicinal plants, hunting and gathering grounds and grazing and cropping areas		Under component 1 the project will support the revision of the PA law which will include advocating for an extension and declaration of Rio Campo Nature Reserve to National Park status. This will imply the village of Anguma then being situated within the PA once its extension is approved. The associated management plan of this protected area as well as those of the four PAs in the Mont Alen landscape will be updated where necessary. This might lead to stronger enforcement of existing restrictions within protected areas, such as hunting and logging, as well as to new restrictions – depending on the outcomes of the management effectiveness assessment (METT). The project will further improve law enforcement capacities through: training of eco-guards, setting up of community patrol teams, support to Forest Guards, and capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors (police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc). The project will further contribute to improvement of regulations supporting the PA law including application regulations and enforcement decrees, as well as laws on hunting and fauna, forestry, and the environment some of this might include elements on restrictions.	As a conclusion: new restrictions and stronger enforcement of existing restrictions are expected to be effective in the five PAs in the Mont Allen and Rio Campo landscape. The extension of the Rio Campo Nature Reserve is expected to affect one particular village (Anguma) that will then be situated within the PA. While this decision will not involve physical displacement of people (resettlement), it does imply some form of economic displacement (e.g. loss of land, assets or access to assets) which might lead to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood– depending on the provisions established in the management plans. The revisions of the national law and associated regulations might possibly have implications at national scale (e.g. other PAs) in case the changes might induce changes of use or access restrictions.
b. Has the legal framework regulating land tenure and access to natural resource been analysed, broken down by different groups including women and ethnic/indigenous groups? Are customary rights for land and natural resources recognized? Are there any groups at the project site whose rights are not legally recognized?		Yes, see chapter 3.1.3.3. Customary or traditional rights are recognized in the Basic Law of 2012 (article 30) and in the Land Ownership Regime Act 4/2009, which defines and guarantees traditional property. Each village exploits	The Process Framework to clarify how customary rights of local communities (such as legal subsistence hunting and NTFP collection) will be respected and protected.

[22] Note that the Standard "does not apply to restrictions of access to natural resources under community-based natural resource management projects, i.e., where the community using the resources collectively decides to restrict access to these resources" (e.g. introduction of restrictions to ensure continued access to these resources) "provided that an assessment establishes that the community decision-making process is adequate and reflects voluntary, informed consensus, and that appropriate measures have been agreed and put in place to mitigate adverse impacts, if any, on the vulnerable members of the community" (WB ESS5).

		a more or less limited territory within which it carries out its activities and exercises a certain authority. The ownership of land in Equatorial Guinea could be summarized as: a) land owned by the State (b) land public property of municipalities/city councils; (c) land owned by villages; (d) land owned by family ownership; and (e) privately owned land.	
c. Have the implications of access restrictions on people's livelihoods been analysed? Consider adverse potential impacts on livelihoods, food security, businesses and employment due to • Loss of access to natural resources in a particular area, • Loss of access to social services such as schools, health care etc, • Change of quality/quantity of resources a household can access, • Change in seasonal access to a resource, • Change in nature of access (i.e. from unregulated to regulated), • Change in types of assets needed to access resources; If yes, please elaborate on the different livelihood elements that are affected, explain who might be affected and describe impacts. Distinguish between social groups (incl. vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples), men and women; also consider impacts of restrictions on people coming from outside of the project area.		There is some understanding about the potential adverse impacts of use restrictions on people's livelihoods. The project will strengthen control of illegal and unsustainable activities within PAs (such as poaching and illegal logging) but at the same time will also support the development of alternative livelihoods for local communities and of community benefits accrued from protected areas. The enforcement activities may have impact on access to natural resources, but the rights of local communities (such as legal subsistence hunting and NTFP collection) will be upheld.	The Process Framework will need to establish methodology for systematically assessing the negative impacts on local communities in the 5 PAs due to restrictions as well as benefits they receive from sustainably managed resources and from project support activities.
d. Have strategies been considered to avoid restrictions by making changes to project design? If yes, explain.			While not directly a strategy for avoiding restrictions, improvements of PA governance will indirectly lead to management decisions being more responsive to local communities' livelihood needs. Governance will be tackled at two levels: As part of output 1.2.1 where the project will advocate integrating local governance aspects into national PA law (for example, having governance committees for each protected area that include communities); and in the 5 PAs through the governance assessments (which looks at fairness and rights) and through the application of the Green List which imply adherence to the social criteria (e.g. consideration of legitimate rights of local communities and of social effects).
e. If it is not possible to avoid restrictions, will the project include measures to minimize or compensate for impacts from loss/ restrictions of access? Please describe the measures.		The project will support alternative livelihoods activities through a small grants program	The Process Framework to provide a methodology for ensuring that livelihood measures target people affected by restrictions
f. Are eligibility criteria established that define who is entitled to benefits or compensation? Are they transparent and fair (e.g. in		No, there is no eligibility criteria.	To be provided by Process Framework (PF)

proportion to their losses and to their needs if they are poor and vulnerable)?			
g. Are these measures culturally appropriate and gender inclusive? Does the geographical scale of the measures match the scale of the restrictions (e.g. will measures be accessible to all groups affected by the restrictions)?		Yes.	The measures will be defined with the communities. The PF to provide further guidance.
h. Has a process been implemented or started to obtain consent from groups that are likely to be negatively affected by restrictions? Please describe the process (who has been consulted and how).		No	Process to be provided by the PF.
4. Will/might the project require the acquisition of land for purposes other than the conservation objectives described above? E.g. for building (communal) infrastructure (development of water tanks, irrigation canals, access roads etc.). If yes, describe the legal status/ownership of the land that might be subject to land acquisition. If voluntary donations are considered, explain how it will be ensured that no pressure or coercion is involved.	No		
5. Has any form of resettlement, land acquisition or land use restrictions occurred prior to the project (e.g. the start of the design phase)? Was any of this undertaken or initiated in anticipation of or in preparation for the project?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions

What are the main risks and who are the main groups potentially affected? Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What safeguard tools are to be prepared (e.g. Process Framework)? When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?	As explained above the project involve a number of activities that might lead to new restrictions and stronger enforcement of existing restrictions in the five PAs in the Mont Allen and Rio Campo landscapes. The extension of the Rio Campo Nature Reserve is expected to have affect one particular village (Anguma) that will then be situated within the PA. While this decision will not involve resettlement of this community, it does imply some form of economic displacement (e.g. loss of land, assets or access to assets) which might lead to loss of income sources or other means of livelihood– depending on the provisions established in the management plans. The revisions of the national law and associated regulations might possibly have implications at national scale (e.g. other PAs) in case the changes might induce changes of use or access restrictions. The project tries to mitigate those risks by promoting good governance – at a national scale by promoting the integration of the need for local governance into PA law; at the site level through the Governance assessment and the use of Green List Criteria. The expected benefits of strengthening governance are, among others, to turn the involuntary nature of potential access restrictions into a voluntary process and also to reduce impacts from access restrictions as these are decided by the community themselves. However, as per IUCN ESMS policies, a Process Framework is still required because: • the transfer of governance to local communities will be incremental for the existing PAs – hence the PF needs to capture how access restrictions will be handled in the meantime; • even with inclusive governance and adherence with Green List criteria and indicators there might still be gaps compared with what the Standard requires (in particular in terms of the requirements to mitigate impacts) and the PF should provide guidance for closing the gaps;

Standard triggered? (Yes / No / TBD)	Yes	Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): TBD (see PF)	Estimated impact (1-5): TBD (see PF)

C2: STANDARD ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES [23]

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question and describe how the risks are **being assessed, avoided or managed***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Does the project site[24] overlap with lands or territories **claimed** indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples? **If yes, answer questions a-k**	No	Though the field visits, social survey and stakeholder consultations have not identified the presence of indigenous people in the project sites, it is believed that some small groups of nomadic Beyele people live in the dense equatorial forest, mainly located in the area on the border with Cameroon.	
2. Even if indigenous groups are not found at the project sites, is there still a risk that the project could affect the rights and livelihood of indigenous peoples?. **If yes, answer questions a-i**			
Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.			
a. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the project's area of influence.			
b. What are the key characteristics that qualify the identified groups as indigenous groups? Do these groups identify themselves as indigenous? And how does the host country's Government refer to these groups?			
c. Explain whether communities have traditionally lived in the project site or whether there are groups or some households who have moved from their traditional area to the project site to be in or near a protected area for economic reasons.[25]			
d. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood through access restrictions? While this is covered under the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions, if yes, please specify the indigenous groups affected. Distinguish between communities whose traditional resource use areas overlap with the	n/a		

[23]The coverage of indigenous peoples includes: (i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services

[24] The project site is defined as the project's area of influence. This is often larger than the site where actual project activities are located as it considers the area impacted by the activities. For example, a project that intervenes in a PA through strengthening law enforcement will also impact groups that live just outside a PA but have historically hunted inside the PA, even before it was created.

[25] It is important to bear in mind that the Standard is seen to generally apply to the community and not to an individual that may have left the community.

PA, even before it was created, from those who have a recent history and presence there.			
e. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood in ways other than through access restrictions? E.g. by affecting their self-determination, cultural identity, values and practices, social cohesion, or by providing inequitable benefits?	n/a		
f. Does the project intend to promote the use of indigenous peoples' traditional (ecological) knowledge?	n/a		
g. Are any indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation? If yes, how does the project respect their rights (paying attention to national laws on the matter) and avoid any negative impacts?	n/a		
h. Explain whether and how legitimate representatives of indigenous groups have been consulted to discuss the project and better understand potential impacts upon them? Has a process been started or implemented to achieve their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to activities that might affect them (positively or negatively)?	n/a		
i. Explain whether opportunities are considered to provide benefits for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in a way agreed with them and is culturally appropriate and gender inclusive?			

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Indigenous Peoples

What are the main risks and who are the main groups potentially affected? Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What are the safeguard tools to be prepared (e.g. IPP)? When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?	It is acknowledged that the field visits, social survey and stakeholder consultations have not identified the presence of indigenous people in the project sites. Because it is believed, though, that some small groups of nomadic Beyele people live in the dense equatorial forest, mainly located in the area on the border with Cameroon, the project should make the required efforts to confirm or rule out the presence of indigenous groups (including the Beyele) – including through the social assessments (SAPA) that will be carried out under component 2 as well as through further investigation with relevant stakeholders, including social scientists and indigenous peoples' experts, to be undertaken during the inception phase. In case the presence of indigenous peoples is confirmed – even in areas outside the project sites but still in a distance that the groups might potentially cross and reach the project sites during their migratory trajectories – the standard would be triggered and requirements (including consultations, FPIC as well as respect of the wish to remain in a state of voluntary isolation) would need to be adhered to.

Standard triggered? (Yes / No / TBD)	TBD	Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): TBD	Estimated impact (1-5): TBD

C3: STANDARD ON CULTURAL HERITAGE[26]

	Project proponent		IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question and describe how the risks are **being assessed, avoided or managed***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near a site officially designated or proposed as a cultural heritage site (e.g., UNESCO World Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites, or Cultural Landscapes) or a nationally designated site for cultural heritage protection? **if yes, answer a-c below**	No		
2. Does the project site include important cultural resources such as burial sites, buildings or monuments of archaeological, historical, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value? **if yes, answer a-c below**	No		
3. Does the project area site include any natural features or resources that are of cultural, spiritual, or symbolic significance (such as sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas, or sacred species)? **if yes, answer a-c below**	TBD		The Social Assessment (SAPA) to explore with the communities about the presence of cultural features including of symbolic or spiritual significance.
a. Will the project involve development of infrastructure (e.g. roads, dams, slope restoration, landslides stabilisation) or construction of buildings (e.g. visitor centre, watch tower)?	No		
b. Will the project involve excavation or movement of earth, flooding or physical environmental changes (e.g., as part of ecosystem restoration)?	No		
c. Is there a risk that physical interventions described in items a. and b. might affect known or unknown (buried) cultural resources?	No		
4. Will the project restrict local users' access to cultural resources or natural features/sites with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance?	TBD	The update of the management plans (and therefore of the zoning) will be done in accordance with the IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidelines and the IUCN Green List Standard – hence include the participation of the local communities - as to identify such areas and ensure restriction to such sites is not limited	There is a certain potential that the PA zoning will include sites of cultural/ spiritual significance. This will need to be guided by the PF
5. Is there a risk that project activities might affect in-tangible cultural resources such as values, norms or practices of local communities?	No		
6. Will the project promote the use of or the development of economic benefits from cultural heritage resources or natural features/sites with cultural significance to which local communities have legal (including customary) rights?	TBD		The project supports the development of ecotourism strategies. in case the project recommends the use of cultural artefacts or

[26] Cultural heritage is defined as tangible or intangible, movable or immovable cultural resource or site with paleontological, archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community, or natural feature or resource with cultural, religious, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature.

			other cultural expression, consent from the communities would need to be required
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Cultural Heritage			
What are the main risks and who are the main groups potentially affected? Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What are the safeguard tools to be prepared (e.g. Chance Find procedures)? When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?		There is a potential that the PA zoning will include sites of cultural/ spiritual significance. The Process Framework will need to provide guidance to avoid any impacts. Another potential trigger is the possibility that the ecotourism strategy involves the use or promotion of cultural heritage. The likelihood of both issues is considered between 2 and 3 and the impact is not known, but tentatively rated with 2-3. The PF or ESMF to provide guidance about assessment needs and the need to obtain consent from the respective rights holders.	
Standard triggered? (Yes / No / TBD)	Yes	Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5): 2-3	Estimated impact (1-5): 2-3

C4: STANDARD ON BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question and describe how the risks are **being assessed, avoided or managed***	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near areas • legally protected or officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • recognised for their high biodiversity value and protected as such by indigenous peoples or other local users • which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value[27]	Yes	The Rio Campo and Estuario del Muni Nature Reserves are Ramsar sites. The 5 protected areas within the project landscapes fall under IUCN categories. (See 4.3.1 Presentation of the Equatorial Guinea forest landscapes and associated protected areas)	
2. If there are any project activities proposed within or adjacent to areas high biodiversity value or critical habitats **described above**, is there a risk of causing adverse impacts to biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystems? Consider activities such as infrastructure works (e.g. watch tower, facilities, access roads, small scale water infrastructure) or ecotourism activities and impacts from inadequate waste disposal,	No		

[27] Areas important to threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, important to endemic or restricted-range species or to migratory and congregatory species; areas representing key evolutionary processes, providing connectivity with other critical habitats or key ecosystem services; highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems (e.g. to be determined in future by the evolving IUCN Red List of Ecosystems); areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and subsets such as important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), important Plant Areas (IPAs), important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity or Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

disturbance of nesting sites, slope erosion through hiking trails etc. Consider both construction and use phases?			
2. Is there a risk of significant adverse impacts on biodiversity **outside above described areas** (PA etc.), through infrastructure development, plantation development (even small scale) or other activities e.g. through the removal of vegetation cover, creation of soil erosion and/or debris deposition downslope, or other disturbances? Consider both construction and use phases.	No		
3. Is there a risk that the project affects areas of high biodiversity value **outside above described areas** (PA etc.), e.g. by procuring natural resource commodities (e.g. timber used for watch towers etc.)? If yes, explain whether appropriate industry-specific sustainability verification practices be used.	No		
4. Will the project introduce or use **non-native species** (flora and fauna), whether accidental or intentional? Consider activities such as reforestation, erosion control or dune stabilisation or livelihood activities (e.g. aquaculture, farming, horticulture etc.). If yes, explain how the risk of the species developing invasive characteristics is managed?	No		
5. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading **invasive species** (e.g. through creation of corridors, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?	No		
6. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects **water dynamics** or **water flows** through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities and as such affects the hydrological cycle, alters existing stream flow and/or reduces seasonal availability of water resources?	No		
7. Is there a risk that the project affects **water quality** of surface or groundwater (e.g., contamination, increase of salinity) through irrigation/ agricultural run-off, water extraction practices, influence of livestock or other activities?	No		
8. Will the project involve or promote the application of pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (**biocides**)? Also consider the use of integrated pest management.	No		
9. Will the project involve handling or utilization of **genetically modified organisms**/living modified organisms?	No		
10. Does the project promote the use of **genetic resources** (e.g. harvesting, market development), and if so, what are the measures for access and benefit-sharing relating to these?	No		
11. Is there a risk that the project could give rise to an increase of incoming **migration** and population increase, which could put a strain on the existing natural resource base?	No		
12. Could the project result in **noise and vibration** from construction and maintenance equipment, traffic and activities, which may disturb sensitive fauna receptors, including underwater noise impacts on fish and marine mammals?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources			
What are the main risks? If possible, indicate probability and magnitude of impacts. Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient? What are the safeguard tools to be prepared (e.g. Pest Management Plan, Protocol for Species Selection)? When would the tools need to be available (complete and accepted)?	The impacts are expected to be exclusively positive. the standard is not triggered.		
Standard triggered? (Yes / No / TBD)	no	Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5):n/a	Estimated impact (1-5):n/a

D. INTEGRATING ESMS PRINCIPLES IN PROJECT DESIGN

The below table reviews the project and its design process on adherence to the ESMS Principles. The principles are described in the ESMS Manual. Please note that the Guidance Note on Stakeholder Engagement[28] represents a new policy provision and delineates further requirements for consultation and involvement of stakeholder during project design and implementation.

	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Has a **Stakeholder Analysis** been done and documented identifying a project's key SH, assessing their interest in the project, ways in which they may influence the project's outcomes and how they might be impacted by project activities (positively or negatively)?	Yes	See 6 - Stakeholder engagement and participation	
2. Does the analysis differentiate between women and men, and along key axes of social differentiation, where relevant?	No		See GAP for gender differentiated analysis; The PF to provide for a gender differentiated analysis of access restriction impacts;
3. In case stakeholders have been identified that might be negatively affected by the project, please name the groups.	No		This will be guided by the PF
4. Has information about the project and potential risks (ESIA, ESMP) been **disclosed**? If yes, indicate the sites. If not, explain how and when this will happen.	No	It will be done by the PMU and the INDEFOR-AP at the project inception.	This will be guided by the PF
5. Have **consultations** been held with relevant groups to discuss the project concept and risks? Were consultations conducted in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way? Provide details about the form of consultations and the groups involved.	Yes	10 communities were consulted during the PPG stage trough focus groups. Not all communities in project site were consulted. All communities surrounding the PAs will be consulted during the project inception.	The PF will include further requirements about consultation

[28] Available at www.iucn.org/esms

6. Were women involved in the consultations or consulted separately? Please provide details.	Yes	Women were invited to meetings and they participated.	
7. Have **vulnerable groups** such as disadvantaged or marginalized people been consulted or stakeholders that might be negatively affected? Please provide details about the groups, the consultations and results of the consultations.	Yes.	We met the only family of pygmies living in Equatorial Guinea.	The PF will include further requirements about consultation with vulnerable groups, impact assessment to focus in particular of VG
8. While gender risks have been covered in section B, briefly describe how the project is likely to **improve gender equality** and women's empowerment.	Yes	The project will ensure that women are considered and involved in project activities wherever possible (alternative livelihoods micro-projects, capacity buildings, awareness raising…).	See Gender Action Plan
9. Has a **project-level grievance redress mechanism** (GRM) been established that explains the processes for submitting, resolving and escalating grievances? If not, explain how and when this will happen. If indigenous peoples are present, explain how it will be ensured that a GRM is available that is culturally appropriate, available in local languages, accessible to affected indigenous peoples, and take into account the availability of customary dispute settlement mechanisms among indigenous peoples.	No	This will be done at the project inception by the IUCN.	
10. Is the project in full compliance with laws and regulations of the host country incl. those implementing obligations under international laws (incl. provisions for impact assessments, disclosure and consultation)? Are relevant licenses or permits available?	Yes		

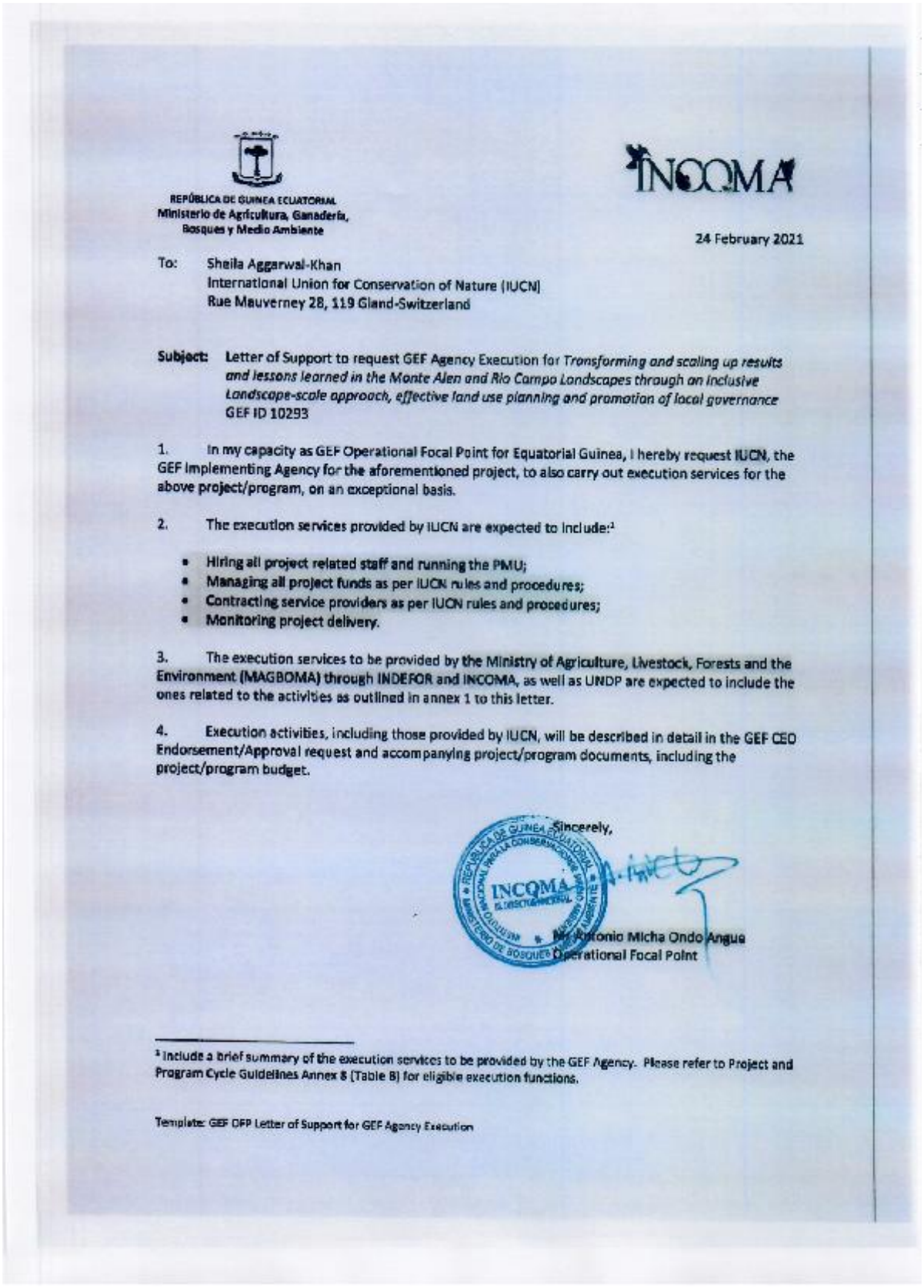
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer

Are ESMS requirements on stakeholder engagement, disclosure and grievance fulfilled to satisfactory level? What additional actions need to be carried out and by when? What actions to be implemented during the project should be included in the ESMP or the Stakeholder Engagement Plan?	

9.16 Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including Process Framework

The ESMF can be viewed here: https://www.iucn.org/gef-iucn-partnership/projects#FM-Equatorial-Guinea

9.17 Letter of Suport to Request GEF Agency Execution and Annex 1



REPÚBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Bosques y Medio Ambiente

INCOMA

24 February 2021

To: Sheila Aggarwal-Khan
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Rue Mauverney 28, 119 Gland-Switzerland

Subject: Letter of Support to request GEF Agency Execution for *Transforming and scaling up results and lessons learned in the Monte Alen and Río Campo Landscapes through an inclusive Landscape-scale approach, effective land use planning and promotion of local governance*
GEF ID 10293

1. In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Equatorial Guinea, I hereby request IUCN, the GEF Implementing Agency for the aforementioned project, to also carry out execution services for the above project/program, on an exceptional basis.

2. The execution services provided by IUCN are expected to include:[1]

- Hiring all project related staff and running the PMU;
- Managing all project funds as per IUCN rules and procedures;
- Contracting service providers as per IUCN rules and procedures;
- Monitoring project delivery.

3. The execution services to be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and the Environment (MAGBOMA) through INDEFOR and INCOMA, as well as UNDP are expected to include the ones related to the activities as outlined in annex 1 to this letter.

4. Execution activities, including those provided by IUCN, will be described in detail in the GEF CEO Endorsement/Approval request and accompanying project/program documents, including the project/program budget.

Sincerely,

Mr. Antonio Micha Ondo Angue
Operational Focal Point

[1] Include a brief summary of the execution services to be provided by the GEF Agency. Please refer to Project and Program Cycle Guidelines Annex 8 (Table B) for eligible execution functions.

Template: GEF OFP Letter of Support for GEF Agency Execution

Annex 1 - Distribution of activities for project execution

Component	Project activities	Implementation partner
1. Integrated and improved land use planning, policies, and management	Activity 1.1.1.1: Sign and implement the collaboration agreement between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea on the Campo Ma'an/Rio Campo transboundary landscape	MAGBOMA
	Activity 1.1.1.2: Organize three cross-border policy maker tours with Gabon and Cameroon to promote learning and exchange on best practice land use planning, policies and management	MAGBOMA
	Activity 1.2.1.1: Carry out a study on the state of forest fragmentation and its consequences on ecosystems	IUCN (PMU with support of UWE)
	Activity 1.2.1.2: Carry out a study on the value of ecosystem services of the Monte Alen and Rio Campo landscapes	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
	Activity 1.2.2.1: Train relevant government and ministry personnel from all institutions taking part in land use planning processes (at provincial and local levels) on the sustainable management and use of natural resources and protected areas, and the related legal framework	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
	Activity 1.3.1.1: Contribute to the elaboration and appropriation of the land use planning methodology developed by the CBSL IP Regional project at the landscape level	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP)
	Activity 1.3.1.2: Propose a roadmap and develop five multi-stakeholder land-use plans at the local levels, in the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes, based on the CBSL methodology (one pilot in the vicinity of each protected area of the targeted landscapes)	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR AP)
	Activity 1.3.1.3: Implement peer-to-peer training sessions to capitalise on pilot land use plans	Ministry of finance, MAGBOMA (INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP)
	Activity 1.3.2.1: Support the functioning of the Monte Alen landscape multi-stakeholder platform (elaboration of their statutes, meetings, exchange of experiences and lessons learned, etc)	MAGBOMA
2. Ensuring the long-term viability of forests providing important	Activity 2.1.1.1: Carry out a financial audit of INDEFOR-AP and INCOMA, and develop recommendations for better management of financial resources	MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA

habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	Activity 2.1.1.2: Build capacity and implement recommendations for enhanced financial resources and financial management of the protected areas	MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP, INCOMA
	Activity 2.1.2.1: Conduct multi-stakeholder site level Social Assessments for Protected Areas (SAPA tool) of five PAs and buffer zones and produce evaluation reports with action plans for the sites	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.2.2: Revise and update the existing management plans in the four PAs of the Monte Alen landscape and development of the management plan of the upcoming Rio Campo National Park in line with the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.2.3 : Carry out assessments for governance and management using the Site Assessment for Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool, and the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for each of the PAs targeted by the project in adherence to the IUCN Green List Standard of Protected and Conserved Areas	IUCN, INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.2.4: Train protected areas management personnel on best management practices	INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.3.1: Finance INDEFOR-AP's control and monitoring work: eco-guard patrols, managers' field missions, equipment, signage and PA zoning delimitation, cyber tracking	INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.3.2: Finance improvement and maintenance of key infrastructure of the protected areas of the Rio Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to facilitate project delivery	IUCN, MAGBOMA, INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.4.1: Capacity building of eco-guards to ensure effective and equitable patrols	INDEFOR AP
	Activity 2.1.4.2: Set up and train community patrol teams	INDEFOR-AP
	Activity 2.1.4.3: Capacity building of local forest law enforcement actors: police, army, mayors, justice, divisional officers, etc	MAGBOMA in cooperation with relevant ministries
3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important forest services in landscapes	Activity 3.1.1.1: Put in place a micro-project grant to support local communities, particularly women and youth, in diversifying their livelihoods (e.g. NTFP ventures, IPLC, ecotourism, policies/legislation, local livelihoods, etc.)	IUCN, UNDP, Local NGOs
	Activity 3.1.1.2: Identify and implement capacity-building and experience sharing programs for local entrepreneurs and community members in order to improve and diversify their livelihoods	IUCN, UNDP, Local NGOs

	Activity 3.1.1.3: Contribute to setting up a GEF UNDP small grants program for Equatorial Guinea	IUCN
	Activity 3.1.2.1: Carry out a market study on the opportunities of developing an NTFP value-chain, and elaborate catalogues of NTFPs with the participation of the local population	IUCN (PMU with support of consultants)
	Activity 3.1.2.2: Carry out research on human-wildlife conflicts in order to understand them and propose and test appropriate mitigation measures	WCS
	Activity 3.2.1.1: Facilitate sustainable management of existing forest concessions by capitalizing on the advanced experiences of Cameroon and Gabon	MAGBOMA, General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation
	Activity 3.2.1.2: Support multi-stakeholder consultations and trainings to improve key policies and/or legislative frameworks that favour certification and sustainable forest management in the Río Campo and Monte Alen landscapes to reduce unsustainable logging activities	MAGBOMA, General Directorate of the Forest Guard and Reforestation
4. Knowledge exchange, partnership, monitoring and assessment	Activity 4.1.1.1: Design and implement broad outreach, awareness and information programs for national and local community audiences	INCOMA, INDEFOR-AP, IUCN (PMU with support of consultants) & NGOs
	Activity 4.1.1.2: Support the TOMAGE project: eco-guards and eco-museum staff	INDEFOR-AP, TOMAGE
	Activity 4.2.1.1: Participate in regional CBSL meetings and workshops to promote knowledge sharing, exchange and partnership	IUCN with key implementation partners
	Activity 4.2.1.2: Facilitate the publication and dissemination of lessons learned on the implementation of the project through the development of high-quality briefs	IUCN, MAGBOMA
	Activity 4.2.2.1: Provide information to contribute to CBSL Regional information system and web-portal	IUCN
5. Project management & monitoring	Activity 5.1.1.1: Appoint the project management unit	IUCN
	Activity 5.1.1.2: Procure office equipment	IUCN
	Activity 5.1.2.1: Organise project mid-term and end evaluation, and audits	IUCN
	Activity 5.1.2.2: Monitor and evaluate project's progress, following the guidelines of the Regional Initiative of the CBSL IP	IUCN