

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

Document Generated by: GEF Coordination Office CO

At: 2024-08-27 08:48:59

Table of contents

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION	3
1.1 Project Details	3
1.2 Project Description	4
1.3 Project Contacts.....	4
2 Overview of Project Status.....	6
2.1 UNEP PoW & UN.....	6
2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators	7
2.3. Implementation Status and Risks	7
2.4 Co Finance	8
2.5. Stakeholder	8
2.6. Gender	10
2.7. ESSM	10
2.8. KM/Learning.....	10
2.9. Stories	11
3 Performance.....	12
3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes	12
3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)	13
4 Risks.....	17
4.1 Table A. Project management Risk	17
4.2 Table B. Risk-log.....	17
4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks.....	18
5 Amendment - GeoSpatial.....	20
5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM).....	20
5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)	20

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

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 5454	Umoja WBS: 32NPL-11267-SB-001121-14AC0003
SMA IPMR ID: 26262	Grant ID: S1-32NPL-000002
Project Short Title: COMIFAC Project	
Project Title: Ratification and Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) for the Member Countries of the Central African Forests Commission COMIFAC	
Duration months planned:	36
Duration months age:	115
Project Type:	Medium Sized Project (MSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	Regional
Region:	Africa
Countries:	Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe
GEF Focal Area(s):	Biodiversity
GEF financing amount:	\$ 1,762,557.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 9,200,000.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2014-11-13
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2015-05-25
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2015-05-25
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2015-03-16
Date of First Disbursement:	2015-05-25
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 1,692,641.00

Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 1,762,557.00
Midterm undertaken?:	Yes
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	2018-08-29
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2024-12-31
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2024-12-31
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2025-01-15
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2024-12-31

1.2 Project Description

Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of its basic provisions by the member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC).

Component 1: Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. This component aims at carrying out all the necessary activities in the 8 countries that have not ratified or acceded to the Protocol yet, to put the request through the legislature or relevant national authority.

Component 2: Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This component will be carried out in all the COMIFAC countries, starting with Rwanda and Gabon that have already ratified the Nagoya Protocol, followed by the others as they ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol.

Component 3: Sub regional Cooperation and coordination. Countries are expected to share information and gain from the experiences and improve knowledge and understanding of the other members of COMIFAC on the Nagoya Protocol. This will be achieved by means of regional and bilateral exchanges as appropriate.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Law Division
names of Other Project Partners	Key Ministries and agencies in charge of environmental policy and Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) implementation of the participating countries
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Johan Robinson
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Andre Toham
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Paul Vrontamitis
UNEP Support Assistants	Eric Mugo

Manager/Representative	Mamadou Kane
Project Manager	Emmanuel Adonsou
Finance Manager	Bernard Koech
Communications Lead, if relevant	N/A

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Nature action subprogramme, Foundational: Environmental governance
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	Subprogramme 4 Environmental Governance
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature: (i) Number of national or subnational entities that, with UNEP support, adopt integrated approaches to address environmental and social issues and/or tools for valuing, monitoring and sustainably managing biodiversity.
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	<p>The project contributed to the Strategic priority 3: Environmentally sustainable management, climate change and land use planning (Burundi UNDAF 2019-2023), to the Strategic Pillar IV: Resilience, Early Recovery, and Food Security (Outcome 4.1: By 2020, people (especially vulnerable groups) in target areas are more resilient to environmental, social, and economic shock (Cameroon UNDAF 2018-20200); to Promotion of sustainable and equitable development and regional integration and outcome 5 : the populations and other public and private actors make more rational use of natural resources and improve food security (Central African Republic UNDAF 2012-2016); to the Strategic priority 2 : Sustainability, reduction of environmental risks, fight against climate change and building resilience; (Chad UNDAF 2017-2021); to the Strategic Axis 3 Diversification of the economy based on the following growth-promoting sectors: agriculture, in the broad sense, tourism, coupled with the continued industrialization of our economy for a short, medium and long term impact. In particular, for the agro-pastoral sector, this involves strengthening food security and the economic inclusion of poor women, particularly in rural areas (Congo: UNDAF 2020-2024); to the Strategic Priority Area 4 : Sustainable management of natural resources and fight against climate change and outcome The Congolese State improves the management of its natural resources (mining, energy, biodiversity and land) and the associated benefits, disaster management mechanisms and is committed to the green economy (DR Congo UNDAF 2013-2017), to the Strategic orientation 5 Act on Environmental Regulation in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and outcome: The country has a stronger legislative and institutional framework that guarantees sustainable management of the environment; adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its effects (Equatorial Guinea UNDAF 2013-2017), to the Strategic priority: Environmental sustainability and resilience: and its outcome by 2022, Gabon will improve the preservation of biodiversity and the management of its natural resources, particularly forestry, mining, energy and land, in a manner compatible with environmental sustainability (Gabon: UNDAF 2018-2022), to the strategic priority 1: Economic Transformation and Outcome 2 by 2023 Rwandan Institutions and communities are more equitably productively and sustainably managing natural resources and addressing climate change and natural disasters (Rwanda: UNDAF 2018-2023), to the Strategic orientation: (3) promotion inclusive sustainable growth and resilience (Sao Tome and Principe UNDAF 2017-2021).</p>
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat

	desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed • 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

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

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
	(NULL)			

Implementation Status 2023: Final PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	Final PIR	S	S	L
FY 2023	8th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2022	7th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2021	6th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2020	5th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2019	4th PIR	S	S	L
FY 2018	3rd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2017	2nd PIR	S	S	L
FY 2016	1st PIR	S	S	L
FY 2015				

Summary of status

Rating towards outcomes: The rating is S because, from the baseline (Gabon and Rwanda which have ratified the Nagoya Protocol) all eight (8) countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Chad, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe) have ratified or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol. All

the beneficiary countries including Gabon and Rwanda have developed their national ABS strategy and action plan and have started its implementation. Awareness raised, sensitization, and capacity-building activities have been organized in all the 10 participating countries, which increased key stakeholders understanding on ABS mechanism and to promote appropriate and legal access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and benefit sharing principles. At national level, the involvement of all stakeholders, including government staff, indigenous people and local communities has facilitated ownership of the project. In collaboration with the COMIFAC secretariat, knowledge and experiences sharing workshops have been organized and contributed to the harmonization of project implementation in the participating countries and to enhance regional collaboration on genetic resources conservation and management.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 9,200,000
Actual to date:	800,000
Progress	<p>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</p> <p>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) which had promised 6,000,000 did not contribute to the project and, many participating countries and the COMIFAC Secretariat as executing agencies have not reported on co-financing. In addition, many countries are not responsive for preparing national co-financing reports. UNEP Law Division staff continued to support the project implementation and completion and increased its in kind contribution to the project.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2017-10-24
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	The second Steering Committee Meeting (PSC) was held back-to-back with the knowledge sharing workshop in Kigali, Rwanda. The countries national ABS teams representative and COMIFAC Secretariat have shared the view that progress was made and noted that project activities were successfully implemented in all participating countries in particular, the ratification of or accession to the Nagoya Protocol, the development of national ABS strategies and action plan, awareness-raising; capacity-building activities; and exchange of knowledge and experiences in the sub-region. Regarding the financial and co-financing reports, the project coordinator presented the

	<p>detailed outlines of the expenditures both at national and regional level and noted the delayed on the co-finance reports submission by the participating countries. The Committee recommended to the member countries: 1)To continue awareness-raising and sensitization efforts at all levels to ensure appropriate access to genetic resources and to promote “fair and equitable sharing of the benefits; 2) Encourage synergy and partnership with specialized national research structures; the private sector; training institutions; and organized structures of indigenous people and local communities.</p>
--	--

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	No
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	In all participating countries, the implementation of the project activities has integrated elements of gender mainstreaming as component of social inclusion and sustainability in the implementation of ABS mechanism. And in this regard, project activities such as trainings, capacity building activities and stakeholders consultation meeting have been designed to ensure opportunities for both women and men to provide their perspectives on potential activities and priorities in the management of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? No If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN?
New social and/or environmental risks	Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes?
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken?
Environmental and social safeguards management	The indigenous people and local communities, as holders of traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources are in centre of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, therefore their interests are considered and protected during the ABS implementation processes

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	<p>A capacity building manual has been developed and be will utilized as a training tool aimed at a range of ABS actors and decisions makers.</p> <p>High turnover of national ABS focal points and government staffs engagement were one of the most challenging for the implementaion of the project. The project team continue to reengage the new ABS focal points and government staffs to ensure the project activities will be executed as planned.</p>
Main learning during the period	N/A

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	N/A
-----------------------------	-----

3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Objective: All 10 member countries of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) have ratified of /acceded to the Nagoya Protocol and all member countries of COMIFAC started the implementation of its basic provisions.	Number of countries that will have submitted NP ratification protocols to the CBD Secretariat	Gabon and Rwanda have ratified the Nagoya Protocol	N/A	All member countries of the Central African Forests Commission ratified or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol under this project and started its implementation.	8	All 8 member countries of COMIFAC (100%) have ratified or acceded to the Nagoya Protocol including: Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Principe.	S
Outcome 1.1: National authorities to take informed decisions on the ratification of the Protocol and future implementation	a. By 2016, 70% parliamentarians are trained about the importance of ABS and how it is linked to natural resources management (NRM).	Parliamentarians and decision makers in COMIFAC countries are still not fully aware of the importance of ABS for their national development.	N/A	70% of parliamentarians trained about the importance of ABS and how it is linked to natural resources management (NRM).	80%	Awareness raising activities of parliamentarians in all participating countries completed	S
"Outcome 1.2: Basic provisions of the Nagoya Protocol	a. By 2017, at least 9 of the COMIFAC countries have	a. By 2017, at least 9 of the	N/A	By June 2022, 10 of the COMIFAC	100%	All 9 countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad,	S

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
implemented in target countries	implementation strategies and actions plans and are executing activities;	COMIFAC countries have implementation strategies and actions plans and are executing activities;		countries have developed strategies and action plans and are executing activities.		Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tome & Princip (100%) that have developed their ABS strategy and action plan under this project.	
Outcome 1.3: Countries share information and gain from the experiences of the other members of the COMIFAC.	a. By 2016, 75% of stakeholders in COMIFAC countries share information liberally on ABS related topics.	The Groupe de Travail Biodiversité en Afrique Centrale (GTBAC) is one of the main platforms for exchange of information for COMIFAC countries on these matters.	N/A		80	Continuous information on ABS related topic sharing between COMIFAC member countries	S
	b. By 2017, at least 70 % of COMIFAC stakeholders indicate to regularly use the online regional platform for information gathering.				70%	Virtual regional online platform developed through GTBAC for ABS focal points, researchers, and jurists for exchange of information from the participating member countries	S

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

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. This component aims at carrying out all the necessary activities in the 8 countries that have not ratified or acceded to the Protocol yet, to put the request through the legislature or relevant national authority.	Output 1.1: Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	2020-09-30	100	100	Completed	S
	Output 1.1: Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	2020-09-30	100	100	Completed	S
	Output 1.3: Public awareness of key stakeholders on the obligations and provisions of Nagoya Protocol.	2020-30-30	100	100	Completed	S
	Output 1.4: Instruments for accession/ ratification deposited by relevant government departments.	2020-09-30	100	100	Continuous follow-up with the project country team of Equatoria Guinea on the confirmation of the deposit of its bill of the accession to the Nagoya Protocol in New York and by the SCD Secretariat. The instrument of accession has been successfully deposited on 2023-10-04 and Equatorial Guinea become Party to the Nagoya Protocol on 2024-01-02.	S
2 Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. This component will be carried out in all the COMIFAC countries, starting with Rwanda and	Output 1.1: Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	2020-09-30	100	100		S
	Output 1.1: Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	2020-09-30	100	100	Completed	S
	Output 1.1: Scoping study of the existing laws and regulation related to ABS	2020-09-30	100	100	completed	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Gabon that have already ratified the Nagoya Protocol, followed by the others as they ratify or accede to the Nagoya						
3 Sub regional Cooperation and coordination. Countries are expected to share information and gain from the experiences and improve knowledge and understanding of the other members of COMIFAC on the Nagoya Protocol. This will be achieved by means of regional and	Output 3.1: Experiences and Best Practices shared	2024-12-31	95	95	Continuous information sharing is performed via the virtual regional platform meetings of GTBAC or other regional meetings for national ABS focal points, researchers, and jurists from the participating countries in collaboration with COMIFAC Secretariat.	S

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
bilateral exchanges as appropriate.						

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

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

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

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

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

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

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

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Risk 1: Lack of political will and low in-country technical capacity.	All outcomes & outputs	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	No change
Risk 2: Private sector investors being driven from the COMIFAC countries if	Outputs 2.3	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	=	No change

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is carried out by building elaborate structure of laws and regulation that is virtually difficult to comprehend and is business-unfriendly needs also to be recognized.										
Implementation Schedule	All outcomes & outputs	N/A	L	L	L	M	M	M	=	We are missing the financial audit report from Rwanda and a pending planned regional knowledge and capacity building activities
Management structure	All outcomes & outputs	N/A	L	L	M	M	M	M	↑	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) which had promised cofinance of USD 6.000.000 did not contribute to the project and. many participating countries and the COMIFAC Secretariat as executing agencies have not reported on co-financing. In addition. many countries are not responsive for preparing national co-financing reports.
Low cofinancing rate	All outcomes and outputs	N/A				M	M	M	=	Request co financing reports from COMIFAC Secretariat and other participating countries. EA
		L	L	L	L	L		L	=	

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

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Risk 1 & 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Implementation schedule	N/A	Budget revision was completed recently which will allow to conduct and audit in Rwanda and one activity at regional level with COMIFAC	Financial Audit and one regional activity with COMIFAC Secretariat	Oct 2024	Project team and countries ABS teams
Low Cofinancing rate	N/A	Request increase co-finance of responsive partners/Law Division. Comifac Secretariat etc..	Increase cofinance of responsive partners including Law Division. COMIFAC Secretariat by addition their time. use of facilities. transport etc. And quantifying as in-kind cofinance	August -Dec 2024	EA. UNEP

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

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

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

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

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

Minor amendments

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

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

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
	Amendment & Extension	2020-12-16	2020-12-16	2024-12-31	implementation schedule changes
	Amendment & Extension				
	Extension				

GEO Location Information:

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Kigali	-1.9399	30.0622			
Malabo	3.7564	8.7777			
Yaoundé	3.8549	11.5104			

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

[Annex any linked geospatial file]