

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Strengthening restoration and conservation of the ecological corridor of Mount Nimba (Bossou) and Ziama National Park in Guinea

Region	GEF Project ID
Guinea	11146
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Guinea	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	GEF Agency Project ID
IUCN	
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
Nzerekoré Forestry Centre (CFZ)	Government
Bossus Environmental Research Institute (IREB)	Government
Guinean Parks and Reserves Office (OGUIPAR)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	6/27/2024
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)
5,201,681.00	468,151.00
PPG Amount: (c)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)
149,999.00	13,499.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
5833330	16,280,945.53

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the

broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project summary has been re-written as shown below. Aspects of knowledge management, coordination with the RCP and transformation have been added and are highlighted below in yellow.

In Guinea, forests provide vital ecosystem services such as fresh water, climate regulation, and resources for food and medicine, which local communities depend on for their livelihoods. However, the country faces severe challenges due to rapid deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in the Guinean Forest Biome driven by over-exploitation of forest resources from agricultural expansion, unsustainable timber extraction, charcoal production, artisanal and industrial mining, and unsustainable hunting, all exacerbated by climate change. Key underlying drivers include poverty, wealth inequality, economic development pressures, population growth, unclear land tenure, and gender inequities in resource management.

In response to these challenges, the project aligns with the GEF Guinean Forests Integrated Program, and aims to protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods, and conserve biodiversity in the Mount Nimba and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves. Key actions involve developing enabling policies, sustainable finance mechanisms, and managing transboundary landscapes while fostering stakeholder collaboration.

The project will also create knowledge management products (e.g. policy briefs, land use plans, fact sheets, project progress reports, success stories, lessons learned, best practices, etc.) for dissemination among local, national, and regional stakeholders and collaborate with child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia via the Regional Coordination Project. Transformative measures include developing gender-sensitive policies, leveraging sustainable finance opportunities, and promoting inclusive land use planning.

Ultimately, the project will generate global environment benefits including 7,000 hectares of degraded forests restored, 115,000 hectares of land under improved practices, 1.5 million tCO₂e mitigated, and benefit 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women).

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mt Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziamassif (ZMBR) in Guinea.

Project Components

Component 1: Enhancement and creation of enabling, gender sensitive and inclusive policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziamassif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves

Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
419,287.00	3,184,376.53

Outcome:

1.1: Improved gender sensitive and socially inclusive management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)

Output:

1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves.

1.1.2: Gender sensitive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations.

1.1.3: Gender sensitive sustainable conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves and adjacent communities investigated and supported

Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity (including the Mt Nimba-Bossou corridor) and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development around MNBR and ZMBR

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,291,641.00	5,050,802.00

Outcome:

outcome 2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience

outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities

Output:

2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and social inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities.

2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR).

2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions.

2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and green and inclusive SMEs.

2.2.3: Joint ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities

Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mt Nimba complex (Cavally RB: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d' Ivoire) and Ziamawonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Moa-Makona/ Mano RB: Guinea, Liberia)

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
521,274.00	1,048,640.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins

Output:

3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive, transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighbouring countries revitalized and operationalized.

3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive, forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins.

3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts

Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration, and communication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
573,910.00	4,156,585.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: *Enhanced gender sensitive capacity learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development*

Output:

4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities & institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.

4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed.

Output 4.1.3: Regional and International collaboration and gender sensitive, knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.

4.1.4: Capacity is built, and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels.

4.1.5: Gender sensitive Knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
161,103.00	2,049,840.00

Outcome:

Outcome 5.1: Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation

Output:

5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation.

5.1.2: Gender sensitive project technical and financial reports produced.

5.1.3: Independent and gender sensitive evaluations conducted

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enhancement and creation of enabling, gender sensitive and inclusive policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mont Nimba (MNBR) and Ziamia Massif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves	419,287.00	3,184,376.53
Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity (including the Mt Nimba-Bossou corridor) and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development around MNBR and ZMBR	3,291,641.00	5,050,802.00
Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mt Nimba complex (Cavally RB: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d' Ivoire) and Ziamia-Wonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Moa-Makona/ Mano RB: Guinea, Liberia	521,274.00	1,048,640.00
Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration, and communication	573,910.00	4,156,585.00
M&E	161,103.00	2,049,840.00
Subtotal	4,967,215.00	15,490,243.53
Project Management Cost	234,466.00	790,702.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	5,201,681.00	16,280,945.53

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Guinea is among the poorest countries in the world in terms of its income per capita (\$1,020). With 10.9 million people (65% rural), adult literacy is low (59%), child mortality is high (125.8/1000 live births) and the country's Human Development Index (0.355) ranks at 178 among 185 countries. Despite this, Guinea is rich in natural resources that provide various ecosystem goods and services that supports the livelihoods of more than 80% of its population in form of fresh water, climate regulation, soil maintenance, food, fuel, and medicine (PNIASA 2013-2017). Guinea's exceptional ecosystems and biodiversity are internationally

recognized and is part of the Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot characterized by high species richness and endemism (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, 2015).

Despite this, there is rapid and widespread forest loss, habitat degradation and loss of forest biodiversity across the Guinea Forest biome. For instance, Guinea lost 1.32 million hectares (16%) of its tree cover from 2001 to 2018, which contributed 306 Million tons of carbon dioxide emissions (Global Forest Watch, 2024) and land productivity losses costing the country about 12% of its GDP (UNDP, 2020). Other threats include over-exploitation of natural (forest) resources, especially due to agricultural expansion, unsustainable timber extraction and charcoal production, over-fishing, artisanal and industrial mining, unsustainable hunting (bushmeat and wildlife trade) and infrastructure development, all exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.

The underlying drivers of these threats include high levels of poverty and wealth inequality, pressure for economic development, population growth and migrations leading to expanding infrastructure and settlements, inadequate definition and recognition of land tenure and resource rights, and gender inequities in natural resource rights and management. Further contributing factors include high population growth rates, and weak governance of natural resource use and management. Governance issues reflect the fact that Guinea and its neighbouring countries face many competing priorities with limited financial resources, and conservation and forest management are rarely a top government priority. The resulting under-investment leads to limited human, technical and financial capacity for sustainable natural resource management.

Failure to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation in the Guinean Forests will result in continued loss of habitats and wildlife and decline in the supply of ecosystem services on which people depend. This loss of natural capital damages the socioeconomic well-being of forest-dependent communities in the short-term and limits the options for future environmentally and socially sustainable economic development. The situation is compounded by the following barriers:

- Weak governance, conflicting national institutional mandates for management of Protected Areas and sustainable use of natural resources; lack of long-term management plans and resources for the 2 Biosphere Reserves in Guinea
- Absence of integrated land use strategies and functional, consultative village Land Use Plans integrated with local development planning formal Protected Areas management
- Lack of clarity and good governance – issues of land tenure and land rights and lack of integrated approaches in wider landscapes
- Inequalities, lack of inclusive community engagement and gender balance, women not represented in decision-making and planning
- Insufficient technical capacities, resources and partnerships (government and civil society)
- Lack or limited sustainable financing conservation and management of natural resources,
- Unsustainable land use and local community sustainable development
- Weak information base despite decades of research and lesson-learning – data is hard to access and not used in decision-making at all levels
- Weak cooperation and lack of common policies, regulations and agreements for joint working between countries sharing the Upper Guinea forest ecosystems and transboundary landscapes

Against that backdrop, this child project's objective is to protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mount Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziamassif (ZMBR) in Guinea. The outcomes that this child project seeks to achieve include: enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience; improved management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves, improved livelihoods of local communities; enhanced capacity learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development; and improved project delivery, and monitoring and evaluation

The project aims to guarantee institutional and financial sustainability through several developed strategies:

1. It will enhance the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations via training and collaboration.
2. A National Conservation Trust Fund, supported by the World Bank, will secure long-term financial resources for protected areas and government agencies will be trained in fundraising activities.
3. Governance structures are strengthened to ensure management continuity beyond the project.
4. Local communities are capacitated in sustainable land and resource management, ensuring ongoing support and implementation of project objectives.

To achieve the above, requires engagement of multiple stakeholders. As such, several stakeholders were selected based on stakeholder analysis and mapping that was conducted to identify specific individuals, groups, and organizations who will be affected or be interested in the project, and subsequently understanding their power and influence on the project considering:

- The expected project area and impact, that is the geographical area over which it may cause impacts (both positive and negative) over its lifetime, and therefore the localities within which people and businesses could be affected;
- The nature of the impacts that could arise and therefore the types of national/local government entities, NGOs, academic and research institutions and other bodies that may have an interest in these issues.
- Geographical presence in the target landscape
- Mandate and/or role in biodiversity conservation and other activities proposed by the project.

The main stakeholder types identified include:

- **Government:** Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRSI), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Mines and Geology, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning, Ministry of Culture,

Tourism and Crafts, Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Vulnerable People, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises.

- **Civil society:** Guinée Ecologie, Association-Consultant for Development Actions, Guinean House of Entrepreneurs (MGE), Natural Resources without Poverty (RENASP), United Actors for Rural Development (AUDER), Association pour le développement du café macenta (ADECAM), Cooperatives Woko and Diani (Ziama- Macenta Coffee) , Regional Federation of Oil Palm and Rubber Planters of Forested Guinea (Féréppah), Association for Community and Agro-Pastoral Development (ADCAP), Centre Agropastoral Sainte Ursule du Mont Ziama, and Initiative de base pour la gestion
- **Local communities** in Ziama and Nimba
- **Private sector:** The Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG), Nimba Development Company (NDC), and Rio Tinto.
- **International organizations:** Conservation International, IUCN, BirdLife International, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Fauna & Flora International, Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), GRET, APDRA, and Biotope.
- **Research institutions:** Agronomic Research Institute of Guinea (IRAG), Bossou Environmental Research Institute (IREB), General Directorate of Scientific Research, and Scientific Station of the Nimba Mountains (SSMN)
- **Bilateral and multi-lateral agencies:** UNDP, UNOPS, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Bank, USAID, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), European Union (EU), and Netherlands Enterprise Agency.
- **Regional bodies:** ECOWAS, AFR100, and Mano River Union

These stakeholders were consulted during the PPG phase through meetings, emails, workshops etc, and will have a role to play in the implementation of the child project (see stakeholder engagement plan for details) including:

- a) Providing co-financing,
- b) Providing strategic direction and oversight
- c) Monitoring and evaluation
- d) Technical backstopping
- e) Lesson sharing
- f) Contributing to research
- g) Providing local knowledge, etc.

The child project aligns well with the following national policies among others including

- The National Environmental Policy (2011)
- The National Action Plan for the Environment (PNAE).
- The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biological Diversity (2011-2020) whose are
- The National Sustainable Development Strategy (SNDD)
- Environmental Protection and Development Code
- Law L/95/51/CTRN of August 29, 1995 relating to the Pastoral Code
- Law L/95/046/CTRN of August 29, 1995 on the Livestock and Animal Products Code
- Law L/97/021/AN of June 19, 1997 on the health code
- Law L/2017/060/AN of December 12, 2017 relating to the Forestry Code
- Law L97/038/AN of December 9 Adopting and promulgating the Wildlife Protection Code and Hunting Regulations,
- Law L/94/005 CTRN of February 14, 1994 relating to the Water Code
- Decree D/2011/ No. 295 / PRG / SGG of December 6, 2011, establishing the special status of the Paramilitary Corps of Nature Conservationists
- Decree D/N° 008 / PRG / SGG of January 18, 2012, restructuring the administration of Biological Diversity, Protected Areas and Water and Forests

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The Theory of Change for the Guinea Child component (of the Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP)) is based on the premise that:

IF enabling policies, governance, partnerships and sustainable finance for the conservation management of forest landscapes and PAs, (the Biosphere Reserves: MNBR and ZFBR) are created or improved,

AND ecosystem connectivity is restored in and around the 2 Biosphere Reserves including Mount Nimba-Bossou ecological corridor and other key forest adjacent areas,

AND sustainable livelihoods and green development for communities around the Biosphere Reserves are enhanced, based on maintenance and sustainable management of ecosystem functions and services,

AND forest and watershed management is coordinated and enhanced regionally in transboundary landscapes and PAs/ OECMs (notably within the Moa/ Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Basins)

AND learning, knowledge sharing, management, collaboration and communication are improved through the 3 national and 1 regional Child projects and other Guinea Forest conservation and sustainable development initiatives,

THEN there will be a reduction in forest habitat loss and degradation (and the accompanying loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity) and increases in extent and connectivity of forest in Guinea and sub-regionally in

Guinea Forest landscapes, which will benefit community livelihoods, improve human wellbeing and contribute to mitigating climate change nationally, in the sub-region and globally.

The theory of change has the following underpinning assumptions:

- Government (of Guinea) has the political will to review and strengthen national policies and governance, develop partnerships and source sustainable finance for effective forest and wildlife conservation, restoration of ecological corridors and sustainable community livelihoods
- Effective partnerships (government, civil society/ NGO, private sector) can be created which adopt best practices and learning for sustainable forest and wildlife management, with gender-inclusive, equitable community development and benefits
- Individual and institutional capacity can be strengthened, resourced and sustained (government and civil society) for successful implementation of the Child project and beyond
- Private sector partners and other donors are willing to engage during implementation and support the development of sustainable finance solutions for long-term impact and sustainability (conservation and development) beyond the life of the project
- Government (of Guinea) has the political will to collaborate and share in policy commitments to support regional alignment and the GFIP whole-of-biome approach to forest governance and coordinated management (including multi-country collaboration in shared transboundary conservation areas and forest landscapes)
- Capacity development, communications, learning and knowledge sharing will enhance local and national capacity (individual and institutional) to manage forest, land and wildlife sustainably in and adjacent to PAs and OECMs and in the targeted landscapes

THEN the Guinea Forest Child project will create an enhanced enabling environment for conservation and sustainable management, through effective partnerships, gender-responsive policy changes and sustainable financing solutions, which will result in improved forest landscape management and governance, reduced forest habitat loss and degradation, (and the accompanying loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity). This will help to maintain the integrity of Guinean Forests (specifically in the 2 targeted Biosphere Reserves: Nimba (MNBR) and Ziamba (ZMBR)), support the mitigation of climate change and help to maximise the multiple global environmental benefits related to Carbon, biodiversity, and human wellbeing in Guinea and the Guinea Forest region.

Transformation

In line with the GFIP PFD, this project's transformative measures include:

- i. development of gender sensitive and socially inclusive policies to support and inform National Commission for Land and Housing Reform processes.
- ii. leveraging innovative and sustainable finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves.
- iii. development of Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs).
- iv. strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins.

The above transformative measures directly correspond to the PFD four principal levers of transformation identified including:

- i. Strengthened national policies, governance and partnership for forests and wildlife
- ii. Enhanced ecological restoration, connectivity, conservation management and sustainable livelihoods/ green development
- iii. Effectively managed transboundary watershed and forest landscapes (regional policy alignment & collaboration)
- iv. Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication

Diagram 1: Theory of Change diagram

To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mount Nimba and the Bossou corridor and Ziama Massif in Guinea

Problems/barriers	Components/ activities	First level Outputs	Outcomes	Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak governance, conflicting national institutional mandates for management of Protected Areas and sustainable use of natural resources; lack of long-term management plans and resources for the 2 Biosphere Reserves Absence of integrated land use strategies and functional village Land Use Plans Lack of clarity and good governance – issues of land tenure and land rights (in wider landscapes) Inequalities, lack of inclusive community engagement and gender balance, women not represented in decision-making Insufficient technical capacities, resources and partnerships (government and civil society) Insufficient or poorly managed financial resources for management of land and resources No security of long-term finance for conservation management, sustainable land use and local community sustainable development Information base weak despite decades of research and lesson-learning; data hard to access Weak cooperation and lack of common policies, regulations and agreements for joint working between countries sharing the Upper Guinea forest ecosystems 	Component 1: Enabling policies, partnerships & sustainable finance - for the governance and management of MNBR and ZMBR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy discussions, analysis - national context, local issues (governance, land use planning, sustainable finance) Support to local technical multi- stakeholder platforms & partnerships 	1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender responsive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves 1.1.2: Policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender issues 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported	1.1 Improved gender responsive and socially inclusive, management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs) ★ Governance	Enhanced forest landscape connectivity and ecosystem integrity maximise global environmental benefits (GEBs) relating to human development and wellbeing, Carbon and climate change mitigation, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in Guinea Forests
	Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity & enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development in MNBR and ZMBR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory, gender-inclusive stakeholder consultation workshops (land use planning - LUPs) Participatory, gender-inclusive stakeholder training events Field inventories, cartography/ digital mapping (socio-economic; biodiversity, forest ecosystems) Identification and mapping of priorities for forest landscape restoration, riparian ecosystem protection, biodiversity corridors Validation of LUPs with Commune level Local Development Plans & BR Management Plans Implementation of initiatives with local communities + all stakeholders: A: FLR/ habitat restoration B: sustainable land use, green enterprise C: Monitoring (socio-economic & biodiversity/ ecosystems) 	2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities 2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNBR) 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities	2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience ★ Innovation & learning 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities ★ Financial leverage	
	Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary (TB) forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: 'Mano' and Cavally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support, training, meetings to revitalise and operationalise TB committees, platforms, joint activities case studies and exchange visits to share experience with Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire (Child projects) pilot (freshwater) ecosystem services and Nature-based projects implementation (TB communities) 	3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive, inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts.	3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins ★ Innovation and learning	
	Component 4: Capacity building, learning, collaboration & communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical workshops and field training to support implementation of Guinea Child Components C.1-C.3 virtual webinars, training events coordinated by Regional Child project (RCP) with focus on social inclusion and gender elaborate/ implement project Communications, engagement strategies (gender-inclusive) sustainable finance solutions investigated (national and regional with support, coordination, guidance from the RCP (Regional Child Knowledge & Learning Project) 	4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender responsive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems. 4.1.4: Build capacity and share experience for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels 4.1.5: Gender responsive, knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels	4.1 Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with GFIP/ MRU countries ★ Governance	
	Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and Implement a comprehensive gender-sensitive M&E system Produce and share with stakeholders quarterly, annual and end of project reports Conduct mid-term and terminal project evaluations 	5.1.1: Gender-sensitive M&E system 5.1.2: Project technical and financial reports produced 5.1.3: Independent evaluations conducted	5.1: Improved project delivery and gender responsive M&E ★ Innovation & learning	

Key assumptions:

- Government of Guinea has the political will to review and strengthen national policies and governance, develop partnerships and capacity and source sustainable finance
- Effective partnerships (government, civil society/ NGO, private sector) can be created which adopt best practices and learning for sustainable forest and wildlife management, with gender-inclusive, equitable community development and benefits
- Individual and institutional capacity (government and civil society) can be strengthened & sustained for successful implementation of the Child project and beyond
- Private sector partners, donors engage and support development of sustainable finance solutions (PA management and community green development) for long-term impact beyond the project
- GoG will share in policy commitments and collaborate to support regional alignment and the GFIP whole-of-biome approach to forest governance and management (including multi-country collaboration in restoration of shared transboundary forest landscapes)
- Capacity development, communications, learning and knowledge sharing will enhance local and national capacity (individual and institutional) to manage forest, land and wildlife sustainably in the targeted Biosphere Reserves and transboundary landscapes

Key: ★ Lever of transformation linked to the PFD

Threats to biodiversity and ecosystems:

- Intensity of land and resource use - agricultural expansion (including 'slash and burn'), unsustainable logging and fishing, over-exploitation of wild animals and plants (bushmeat hunting, trade), industrial and artisanal mining
- climate change
- Root causes/ drivers:**
 - High levels of poverty and wealth inequality
 - Intense pressure for economic development, expanding infrastructure and settlements (population growth + inward migrations)
 - Inadequate definition and recognition of land tenure and resource rights

Project components.

The child project has 5 components as detailed out below:

Component 1: Enhancement and creation of gender sensitive and inclusive enabling policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas: Mount Nimba (MNBR) and Ziamassif (ZMBR) Biosphere Reserves

Component 1 of the child project entails enhancing conservation and management of the two Protected Areas –MNBR and ZMBR by the responsible agencies and through partnerships established with stakeholders including civil society (forest-adjacent communities, local NGOs, CSOs and other representative community groups). Also, an enabling policy framework and multi-stakeholder platform will be established, as well as exploring sustainable financing options for effective and long-term management of the two Biosphere Reserves.

Outcome 1.1 Improved gender sensitive and socially inclusive management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)

The child project will clarify the roles and responsibilities of various entities involved in the conservation and management of Mount Nimba and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves, especially in government agencies with overlapping mandates. Also, a multi-stakeholder platform will be established not only to foster coordination among the various stakeholders and with ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector (World Bank (2021-27) Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management Project (PGRNME)) and other programmes such as (EU-NaturAfrica starting in MNBR in 2025 and in ZMBR in 2026, but also align communications between State agencies and adjacent communities (for example about regulations, boundaries, permitted land use activities in different Biosphere Reserves zones, and enforcement).

In addition, the child project will ensure that an interministerial decree is signed for the management of Mount Nimba and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves; Policy briefs on land use planning are developed and submitted to the National Commission for Land and Housing Reform; and sustainable financing options are harnessed for effective conservation and management of the two Biosphere Reserves.

Output 1.1.1 Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves

The child project will establish multi-stakeholder platform for each Biosphere Reserve for coordination, communication, policy advocacy and implementation of joint programmes (e.g. external donor or other investment, including transboundary programmes and existing transboundary agreements developed under different initiatives including the GEF-5 MRU project, with PAPFor and WABiLED programmes. In addition, the multi-stakeholder platforms will be used to resolve conflicts caused by unclear roles and responsibilities among stakeholders and overlapping mandates by government agencies involved in the implementation of management plans of the Mount Nimba and Ziamassif Biosphere Reserves.

Further, the child project will facilitate the development and signing of an inter-ministerial decree by the government departments responsible (CEGENS-IREB-MAB-SSMN) for the Nimba BR and (MAB-CFZ) for the Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves.

Output 1.1.2 Gender sensitive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform

A National Commission for Land and Housing Reform was set up by a presidential decree dated May 15, 2024 (Mamadou Saliou Diallo pers. comm.) to review Land use planning (LUP) issues and constraints such as land tenure, clarification of land and resource rights, certification of private and community land ownership. The child project will establish a local level working group in each site (MNBR and ZMBR) to not only ensure that the local level stakeholders and civil society not only participate in the review processes, but also that gender and the views of local communities are considered in the Land and Housing Reform. As such, the child project will support the development of at least one policy brief on land use planning based on expert advice and best practices.

Output 1.1.3 Gender sensitive sustainable conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported

The child project will consider various models of sustainable finance including a mix of ongoing and planned future investments in Mount Nimba and Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves funded by various international donors such as the next stage of EU regional forest funding (NaturAfrica – West Africa Forests), support from the French Cooperation (AFD) for implementation of the ZMBR management plan and potential future USAID investments (follow-on to WABILED and Conservation Works programmes). At the national level the World Bank is supporting the development of a Conservation Trust Fund (an endowment fund to be capitalized from various public and private sources) which will provide long-term sustainable funding for Protected Areas management and local development.

In addition, there is also huge potential for private sector investment in conservation and local development. This might come principally from the mining sector, through both regulated biodiversity offset and community development programmes (currently under negotiation with government) and voluntary CSR/ ESG type programmes including 'Nature-based' or 'Nature Solutions' (SMFG – Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée - around the Nimba concession; and Rio Tinto around Zياما).

The child project will develop coordinated approaches to sustainable finance for the long-term implementation of Biosphere Reserve Management Plans and associated rural development initiatives. Specifically, the child project will support the development of the Conservation Trust Fund, particularly in attracting capital and ensuring that the governance and sustainable finance options in Mount Nimba and Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves are linked to transboundary approaches – including the development of a three-country Mount Nimba Master Plan (Guinea-Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire) and transboundary agreements and plans for Zياما-Wonogizi-Wolegizi (Guinea-Liberia).

Component 2: Restoration of ecosystem connectivity and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods around MNBR and ZMBR

Component 2 prioritizes the protection and restoration of habitat connectivity alongside the improvement of local livelihood options. Embracing the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach, the project intertwines ecosystem function restoration with the enhancement of livelihoods in degraded forest and agricultural landscapes. The child project will prioritize sustainable agricultural practices such as agroforestry and agroecology, establishment of woodlots, the development of small-scale businesses, particularly those related to forest restoration (e.g. tree nurseries for native forest tree species and livelihoods – agroforestry), non-

timber forest products (NTFPs) and ecotourism where relevant. Also, the child project will provide value chain support and the introduction of new technologies to further augment local livelihoods and promote green development in Mount Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves.

Outcome 2.1. Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience

The child project will integrate sustainable land management practices that support conservation of biodiversity while promoting local livelihoods by developing and implementing Village Land Use Plans for Mount Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. These plans are expected to integrate sustainable land management practices that support conservation of biodiversity while promoting local livelihoods. Additionally, they prioritize forest restoration efforts, aiming to rehabilitate degraded areas, restore or strengthen connectivity, and enhance ecosystem resilience.

By carefully zoning areas for conservation, restoration, agriculture, and development, the child project will ensure the protection of critical habitats, enhance landscape connectivity, enhance livelihoods of local communities and promote responsible natural resource use. The zoning will follow and operationalize agreements on land use types for core, buffer, and transition zones, as elaborated in the management plans for both Biosphere Reserves. The planning process for the development and implementation of LUPs will be gender-responsive and inclusive, actively involving all local stakeholders to ensure that diverse perspectives are respected and incorporated. The elaboration and formalization of the LUPs will support a sense of ownership and encourage community-driven conservation efforts. Also, the child project will coordinate with other ongoing land use planning initiatives, notably the GEF-funded FAO project 'Integrated Management of Degraded Landscapes for Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea'^[11].

Output 2.1.1 Integrated, gender sensitive and social inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities

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Village Land Use Plans (LUPs) for the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve (MNBR) will be developed and agreed upon using participatory and gender-sensitive best practices with forest-adjacent communities in four municipalities. These communities were selected based on their significant overlap with the Biosphere Reserve buffer zones and their crucial role in protecting and developing connectivity with the core areas. For Nimba, the 3 cores areas are: Mt Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Bossou Hills Strict Nature Reserve, Déré Classified Forest. Based on this selection, there are around 15 priority communities with which the project will work to develop LUPs around MNBR (targets and locations to be further refined at inception stage).

In the case of the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve, the AFD-supported 'Project for the Management and Development Plan of the Ziama Biosphere Reserve (2024–2029)' will sustain 32 forest-adjacent communities across five 'Communes Rurales' in developing Land Use Plans (LUPs). The Child Project will offer additional support to address a financial shortcoming, ensuring the comprehensive and coordinated development of the LUPs and especially transboundary coordination and liaison with the 'sister' Liberia Child project and target communities around Wonegizi PPA (Proposed Protected Area) in Liberia (see Component 3). With the combined efforts of the AFD investment and the complementary Guinea Child support, this means a total of at least 32 communities will be supported to develop integrated LUPs.

The LUP development process will involve raising awareness at the village level about the purpose of land use plans, organizing workshops and community meetings to facilitate discussions and gather input from residents. Collaboratively, the communities will participate in developing these plans, engaging in activities such as land use mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation (see Output 2.1.2), and for restoration and development (see Outputs 2.2.1 – 2.2.3; plus, Outputs under Component 3 (transboundary)). Digital mapping and recording tools (and training for mandated authorities, local government and civil society stakeholders) will be used to ensure accuracy and efficiency in the planning process.

Subsequently, the developed LUPs will be aligned with and integrated into the Local Development Plans (LDPs) of the various rural communities and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves. This integration will ensure coherence and synergy between different planning frameworks, enhancing the effectiveness of conservation and development initiatives while reflecting the priorities and aspirations of the local communities.

Output 2.1.2 Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities

An inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones of the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve will be conducted to assess values and prioritize areas for protection, restoration, and the development of ecological corridors. This is crucial for identifying key areas that support high biodiversity and provide essential ecosystem services. By mapping these zones, the child project will prioritize areas for conservation and restoration, ensuring the protection of critical habitats and enhancing landscape connectivity. Where applicable, areas that meet Key Biodiversity Area criteria will be assessed and proposed. This activity will also link into national and regional GBIF^[2] (Global Biodiversity Information) processes and training and capacity development for technicians, scientists and community (village) monitors. In addition, this project will transform Local Development Plans (LDPs) developed under the EU funded project: Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor) into village land use plans and to integrate conservation efforts in territorial planning taking into account the broader transboundary context.

To support this effort, workshops and local stakeholder consultations will be organized to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services specifically for the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve and solicit input for corridor development and integrate inventory data into the formulation of LUPs at the village level. This participatory approach ensures that conservation priorities and values become an integral part of the LUPs and are aligned with local needs and knowledge, bio-cultural values (sacred forests, water sources and streams, animals, plants etc.), fostering community engagement and local ownership.

Outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities

This outcome focuses on fostering sustainable livelihoods and economic resilience in forest-adjacent communities by promoting green businesses such as developing, transforming, and marketing non-timber forest products (NTFPs), supporting value chains, and connecting local entrepreneurs, cooperatives and associations with financial institutions. Other initiatives include enrichment planting, corridor development, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry, and other nature-based solutions to restore degraded landscapes and enhance ecosystem services. Also, the child project will promote ecological and socio-economic monitoring by local communities adjacent to Mount Nimba and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves.

Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions

To improve biodiversity, strengthen habitat connectivity, and enhance ecosystem health and resilience,

the child project will restore degraded forest and agricultural lands identified during land use planning processes. For Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve, implementation will start at sites already identified and agreed upon in the Local Development Plans developed under the EU PAPFor project, including the Bossou corridor, Bossou Hills Strict Nature Reserve, and various sites in the 'Communes Rurales' of N'Zoo and Tounkarata. If possible and feasible, the same approach will be applied in the Ziamia Massif Biosphere Reserve (in close collaboration with other programmes supporting similar initiatives to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication). Restoration activities include reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry, habitat enhancement, and invasive species management. Tree nurseries will be established (to produce both native forest trees for enrichment planting and connectivity and 'socio-economic' species, e.g. for agroforestry purposes).

Further, the child project will not only establish and train Village Monitoring Committees in technical aspects and monitoring, but also strengthen and expand Farm Field Schools^[33] to support restoration initiatives in Mount Nimba and Ziamia Massif Biosphere Reserves.

Furthermore, this project will leverage the multi-stakeholder and intersectoral framework established by FAO to facilitate the scaling up of forest landscape restoration in the two biosphere reserves. Specifically, this project will incorporate lessons learned in mainstreaming gender into restoration activities during the implementation of the FAO project and harmonize approaches with respect to village land use plans and work towards joint capacity building of various stakeholders in both landscapes.

Also, the Child Project will collaborate not only on forest restoration and the development of land use plans with the GEF funded: Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea, implemented by FAO in Nimba and near Ziamia Biosphere Reserves, but also synchronize efforts to ensure alignment of tools and approaches, enhancing complementarity in geographical intervention areas, as well exchange knowledge and lessons learned.

Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises

The child project will support forest adjacent communities in sustainable smallholder agriculture and enterprise development. Specifically, local communities will be trained in sustainable agricultural techniques, including agroecology, organic farming, and soil conservation practices. crop diversification, integrated pest management, and soil and water conservation methods to enhance productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Additionally, efforts will be focused on the establishment and management of community-based enterprises centered on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) including providing training on sustainable harvesting techniques, value addition, and market access. Business planning workshops on market research and financial management will be conducted to assist local community members to develop sustainable business models.

The child project will collaborate with the GEF funded: Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea, implemented by FAO in Nimba and near Ziamia Biosphere Reserves, on promotion of sustainable local livelihoods and synchronize efforts to ensure alignment of tools and approaches. The child project

will also explore opportunities for mutual learning, exchange, and direct cooperation on related thematic issues with the GEF-funded project: Strengthening the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Local Communities in the Guinea Forest Region to Climate Change.

Further, the child project will build on experiences gained by former interventions with respect to sustainable and climate resilient food production initiatives including AFD -funded SARA project - food security, resilience and agroecology in Guinea, implemented by GRET, Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development - Terre Solidaire (CCFD-TS), Fédération des Paysans du Fouta Djallon (FPFD) and Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur (MGE).

Output 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities

The child project will engage forest-adjacent communities in collaborative ecological and socio-economic monitoring of initiatives including forest restoration, conservation, sustainable agriculture, with a strong emphasis on gender and inclusion. By ensuring that both men and women, as well as marginalized groups, are represented and have a voice, the monitoring activities promote equitable participation, ownership and empowerment of disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes that affect their environment and livelihoods, leading to sustainable and equitable outcomes.

Component 3: Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins.

Component 3 responds to the regional and transboundary landscape objectives of the Guinea Child project and builds on the results of the GEF-5 (IUCN/ Mano River Union (MRU)) 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project' implemented by IUCN and MRU in the Upper Guinea Forest region (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) with the objective of strengthening the management of transboundary natural resources for sustained ecological benefits and improved livelihoods for the forest adjacent communities.

Component 3 of the child project will revitalise and implement the transboundary framework agreements and technical committees set up under the IWRM and other regional forest conservation programmes, as well as the new three-country Mount Nimba Master Plan being prepared by the 3 countries. The Child project will operate in the two MRU Water Basins and transboundary landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins: Mount Nimba complex (Cavally River basin: Guinea, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire) and Ziamawonegizi-Wologizi landscape (Moa-Makona/ Mano River basin: Guinea, Liberia).

Outcome 3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins.

The Guinea Child project will strengthen capacity of Guinean stakeholders (State and civil society) to: collaborate on transboundary watershed management, working with the other national Child projects and the RCP to: revive and operationalize Transboundary agreements, plans and committees established under the MRU at ministerial, national and community level, namely the MRU Ministerial Council, the National Consultative Platform for Water Users and the community-based Basin Management Committees; support the application of applied research on decision-making for transboundary management; and trial Nature-based solutions targeting improvements in freshwater and riparian ecosystem health and community resilience in transboundary river basin forest ecosystems. This builds on the transboundary collaboration aspirations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia outlined in the Strategic

Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins (MRU, 2023)^[4] and the GEF-8 Programming directions under the International Waters (IW) Thematic Area (Objective 3: Enhance water security in shared freshwater ecosystems)^[5].

Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized.

Two international multi-lateral agreements have been signed relating to the wider transboundary landscapes and Water Basins within which the MNBR and ZMBR are the key Guinea Protected Areas. These are the trilateral Nimba Mountains Governance Platform (2012)^[6] and the bilateral Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Forest Landscape Framework Agreement (2019)^[7]. Other transboundary agreements and protocols are under development (Nimba 3-country 'Master Plan' between Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) to improve management of shared transboundary forest landscapes and ecosystems. As such, the child project will support the revitalisation and capacitation of transboundary local level platforms and committees established under the IUCN-led GEF5 IWRM Project through recruitment of committee members, review of wording or drafting of terms of reference/ operational procedures; regular meetings, training, convening of technical committees and workshop technical discussions, coordinate consultation/ gap analysis and reviews to determine priority community level watershed management interventions; develop strategies and guide management, implementation and monitoring (with transboundary counterparts) at local levels - for effective transboundary collaboration and operations in the Nimba and Ziama transboundary landscapes.

Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins.

The child project will provide technical and institutional capacity building to stakeholders on using applied research results in decision-making for collaborative transboundary natural resource management, by incorporating lessons learned and best practices from other initiatives including the SAVEUR-GF, and AFD-funded project: Facilitate the adaptation and local implementation of the Biodiversity Engagement Facilitation (BIODEV2030) in Guinea; AFD+ FFEM funded: Conservation, Minimisation des impacts et compensation au titre de la Biodiversité (COMBO & COMBO+), 2016-2025, implemented by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to improve national policy and its application, particularly through cross-sectoral coordination; USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA-BICC) and West Africa Biodiversity Low Emissions Development (WaBiLED) on transboundary forest management.

Key activities include capacity needs assessment for government and civil society, stakeholder participation in tailored and gender-sensitive training events, knowledge and lesson sharing between child projects, training on applying research to decision-making in transboundary landscapes and watersheds. The Guinean Forests RCP will address this regionally by providing technical assistance and capacity building content and tools to meet the needs of the three Mano River Union (MRU) countries participating in the GFIP. This will likely include protocols and operations for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement, technical guidance and tools for transboundary management and monitoring, sharing of country and basin-level information for IWRM and national water plans, and strategies to target women for technical assistance and capacity building.

Output 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts.

The child project will identify and implement nature-based solution pilot projects with communities, targeting improved riparian (riverbank) or wetlands management for enhanced ecosystem health and services. To achieve this, key zones for ecosystem services provision and protection, such as water sources, forests, and wetlands will be identified, and stakeholder consultations will be held to review priorities/proposals for transboundary strategies and protected area plans to develop collaborative, community-led projects. The Guinean Forests RCP will provide regional technical assistance and capacity building support for the 3 Mano River Union countries participating in the GFIP.

The Child Project will collaborate with the EU NaturAfrica initiative aimed at supporting biodiversity conservation in Africa using an innovative people-centred approach. Specific areas of collaboration will be on job creation, improved food security and sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening transboundary cooperation.

Component 4: Capacity building, knowledge management, collaboration and communication.

This component focuses on building the capacity of state and non-state actors on implementing collaborative forest conservation and management, and enhancing knowledge management, communication and collaboration among State and non-State actors/civil society in Guinea and other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development. This component also links the Guinea child project to the Guinea Forest Integrated Regional Child Project (RCP), that supports and connects the three national child projects in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia by providing advice, guidance, and expertise on topics determined during implementation. Additionally, the RCP facilitates regionally coordinated events, supports regional policy and sustainable finance initiatives, and connects the national child projects to external opportunities and institutions. This component also establishes links between the initial three national child projects, future participating countries, and other projects and countries under related integrated programs.

The project will foster learning through development of knowledge management products (e.g., Policy briefs, Land use plans, Fact sheets, documentaries, Project progress reports, Success stories, Lessons learned, best practices, etc.) that will be disseminated to stakeholders at local, national and regional levels via the GEF-8 Regional Coordination Project. In addition, the project will collaborate with other Child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP) on technical and capacity building initiatives, knowledge exchange and dissemination of innovations, and facilitation of transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogues.

Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development

The child project will build and enhance the capacity of stakeholders (government and civil society) to implement collaborative conservation and development programs for sustainable forest and ecosystem management, green development, and community resilience in Guinea and across transboundary river basins as well as contribute to enhanced learning, knowledge, communication, and dissemination of results and information in Guinea and the wider region. The project will integrate environmental education

and awareness programs at all levels of formal education as well as through wider community outreach to foster responsibility and awareness, especially among youth.

Through the regional coordination project (RCP), the child project will support the exploration and development of sustainable solutions for ecosystem and community resilience at national and regional levels, as well as sustainable financing and innovation for targeted protected areas and adjacent communities. The RCP will establish a Guinean Forests knowledge-sharing portal to facilitate peer-learning, information-sharing, and coordination with other GEF Integrated Programs, including on topics like social inclusion and gender. The Guinea child project will contribute knowledge and expertise and benefit from these regional platforms.

Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Ziama communities and responsible government authorities and institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.

The child project will build the capacity among Nimba and Ziama communities, government authorities, and institutions on conservation, forest restoration and connectivity, sustainable land and ecosystem management for green enterprise and business, ecological and socio-economic impact monitoring, and on social inclusion, equity, human rights, and gender. A combination of virtual (webinars) and in-person training events will be offered and coordinated by the Regional Child Project (RCP), with a particular focus on social inclusion and gender, as well as other topics and needs identified by stakeholders and the Guinea Child Project Management Unit. The RCP will also coordinate regional 'learning and exposure trips' for exchange visits between GFIP countries, projects, and stakeholders.

Output 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed.

The child project will develop and implement an inclusive and gender sensitive Communications and Education Strategy, along with associated materials (website, publications, case studies, etc.) to target project communications, and implement specific environmental education programs to raise awareness, promote mutual understanding, and share/disseminate information and learning from the Guinea Child project at the local and national levels in Guinea, as well as with neighbouring countries and stakeholders in transboundary water basins, with support and guidance from the Regional Child Project (RCP). In-country training and support will be provided to the Guinea Child PMU staff and partners by the RCP, through virtual and in-person training, with a focus on social inclusion and gender in effective communications, information dissemination, and lesson learning.

At the project sites (MNBR and ZMBR), where environmental awareness is relatively low, the project will implement tailored educational programs for primary and secondary schools, focusing on environmental stewardship, conservation, and sustainable practices. Public awareness will also be raised through radio broadcasts, village events, and social media campaigns, to foster a culture of sustainability and ownership among the youth and local communities.

Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.

To share knowledge, the Child Project stakeholders will participate in regional training events and attend relevant international and regional fora (including conferences and conventions), coordinated by the RCP. The child project will be linked to regional knowledge platforms and institutions - CBD, IUCN-WPC, MAB/ UNESCO; BIOPAMA/ OBAPAO^[8] etc.), contribute to and learn from national Child projects, MRU countries and other Critical Forest Biome Integrated Programmes (e.g. the Congo Basin IP; the Ecosystem Restoration IP).

Output 4.1.4: Capacity is built, and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities for men and women at national and regional levels.

This output focuses on building the capacity of stakeholders, including men and women to identify and develop sustainable finance opportunities at both national and regional levels. Through targeted training sessions, workshops, and knowledge-sharing platforms, participants will gain essential skills and insights to access funding, implement sustainable practices and foster inclusive financial solutions that promote economic resilience and environmental sustainability

Output 4.1.5: Gender sensitive knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels.

A gender-sensitive communications and education strategy will be developed for the project at the very beginning of the project and will: identify the different target groups and the type of information the project needs/wants to communicate to them; comprehensively review of existing knowledge and knowledge created by the project; peer-review of communication tools (factsheets, radio talks, etc.), and communication channels specially adapted to the target audience (radio, written support, social networks, etc.)

Good practices and lessons learned from the project will also feed into the GEF Integrated Program global platform, will critically serve to leverage South-South cooperation with other Integrated Program beneficiary countries in West Africa and beyond. Synergies will be sought especially with the regional coordination project and other child projects in Liberia, and Sierra Leone

The project will engage with global, regional and national networks, platforms and initiatives of relevance to share experiences and allow for cooperation and networking among peers, awareness raising and ultimately upscaling. Networks and initiatives such as Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) will be targeted, thus, the project will benefit from a wealth of learning opportunities (regional / global workshops and trainings, online Communities of Practice) on selected topics.

Several tools and approaches will be used to foster learning, knowledge exchange and cooperation among practitioners. At landscape level, the project will use proven methods for participation and engagement of local stakeholders, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in developing integrated landscape management plans. The project will also rely on participatory, people-centered methods for learning, e.g. Farmer Field Schools (FFS), and for disseminating information. More classic approaches, like exchange visits, will be used to strengthen linkages with ongoing efforts (baseline projects) within and outside Guinea.

Lessons learnt from local implementation will be institutionalized in the integrated program planning processes and will feed into the national cross-sectoral platforms and into the regional and global online Communities of Practice, that will uptake and further disseminate within their own countries the fruits of those exchanges.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

This component entails the establishment of a Project Management Unit and the development and roll-out of a gender-sensitive M&E system to track progress of project implementation.

Outcome 5.1: Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation

This outcome focuses on ensuring effective delivery of the project and implementation of a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation frameworks. By incorporating gender-specific indicators and participatory approaches, the project will ensure that the diverse needs and perspectives of both women and men are integrated into all the stages of the project cycle. This will include regular assessments of project progress, stakeholder feedback mechanisms, and adaptive management practices.

Output 5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation

The child project will develop a gender-sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation system to serve as an accessible repository for data and information and other knowledge products. The M&E system will also track progress of the project, as well as generate the materials that will inform knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and with interested parties within and outside of Guinea.

The quarterly and annual project implementation reports will provide information on the status of implementation of the gender action plan and other relevant dimensions.

Output 5.1.2.: Project technical and financial reports produced

The child project will produce quarterly, annual and end of project implementation reports that will be shared with stakeholders, especially the government OFP, IUCN-GEF Agency and GEF. Also, success stories, best practices and lessons learned will be documented.

Output 5.1.3: Independent and gender sensitive evaluations conducted.

Independent mid-term and terminal evaluations for the child project will be conducted to assess the extent of achievement of project objective and outcomes.

[1] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10600> - GEF 7 - FAO 'Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea'

[2] <https://www.gbif.org/>

[3] Farm Field Schools were set up under the GEF5 (IUCN/ MRU) 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project' (2016-2023: GEF ID: 4953) and are also part of the GEF 7 - FAO 'Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea' (2022 -2026; GEF ID 10600)

[4] Mano River Union, 2023. Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins. The Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management Project implemented by IUCN, with the Mano River Union (MRU) as the executing agency. Project GEF ID 4953.

[5] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_Programmeming_Directions.pdf

[6] (2012) 'Platform for the Transboundary Governance of the Nimba mountains: Framework Agreement on the trinationl and sustainable conservation of the Nimba mountains between the Governments of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia'.

[7] (2019) 'Bilateral Framework Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi Transboundary Forest Landscape between the Governments of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Liberia'.

[8] Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO) - https://biopama.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/OBAPAO_Brochure_V-Eng.pdf

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The child project will establish several management structures to ensure effective implementation and oversight. The key ones are:

Project Steering Committee (PSC): This will comprise representatives from various stakeholder groups. The PSC will provide guidance to ensure the project's alignment with national policies and laws, as well as best practices. It will also ensure coordination and collaboration with other related programs to avoid duplication.

Implementing Agency: The IUCN (PACO/Forest Programme HQ) will serve as the GEF Implementing Agency. In this role, IUCN will:

- Execute administrative and financial matters
- Provide technical and scientific guidance
- Consolidate results
- Facilitate key workshops and stakeholder convenings
- Secure additional financial resources to complement project activities
- Supervise and oversee project implementation
- Monitor and evaluate performance
- Provide technical backstopping to executing agencies
- Ensure quality control of work plans, budgets, and reports

Executing Agency: The IUCN Guinea Project Office will be the Executing Agency, working in direct partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) through its specialized entities - CEGENS for Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve and CFZ for Ziama Biosphere Reserve.

Other Ministries, Departments, and Research Agencies: The project will also engage other government bodies involved in conservation, research, forest restoration, and community engagement in and around the two Biosphere Reserves. This includes clarifying roles, responsibilities, and partnerships, particularly in relation to implementing the new Biosphere Reserve Management Plans and the forthcoming Nimba Massif Master Plan.

Project Management Unit (PMU): A dedicated PMU will be established by IUCN to provide management structure for the project's development and implementation. The PMU's responsibilities will include:

- Planning project activities, budgets, monitoring, evaluation, and communication
- Ensuring proper financial management and reporting
- Facilitating communication with executing and implementing agencies
- Ensuring compliance with GEF and IUCN procedures and standards
- Preparing bid documents, procuring equipment, administering contracts, and consolidating reports
- Providing reimbursements for project-related expenses

The PMU will directly implement some activities, but most will be implemented by a range of partners, including government entities, national/local organizations, as well as regional or international consultants and service providers. Tenders and contracts will be managed by the PMU according to IUCN/GEF procedures, with funds flowing from the IUCN Guinea office to the PMU and appointed contractors.

Decision making at the regional level

At the regional level (Guinea forest countries and forest landscapes), the Guinea Child Project is part of the GEF8 Guinean Forests Integrated Programme (GFIP) – one of the biome-specific IPs under the global Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP (one of 6 global IPs in 2023 *Work Programme for the GEF Trust Fund*).

Under GFIP, Guinea Child will respond to and collaborate with the other 2 country projects in the immediate region and transboundary landscapes (Sierra Leone and Liberia Child projects) and will contribute to and be coordinated by the Regional Child Project (RCP) for some elements of implementation. This is relevant especially for Guinea Child Component 3 (activities in shared transboundary landscapes and regional Water Basins - with Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire Child projects – the last under the separate *Ecosystem Restoration IP*). Secondly, for Guinea Child Component 4 and the RCP which coordinates elements of GFIP regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and learning (e.g. joint regional communications; ensuring coherence and synergy; sustainable financing guidance; regional policy harmonization).

Decision making and planning at the national level

The majority of decision making for the Guinea Child is at the national level (see organogram for details). Regional coordination with RCP at the oversight and strategic level will be achieved at the level of the Guinea Child Project Steering Committee and at the operational level via the respective Project Management Units PMUs (e.g. coordination and logistics for regional training or guidance proposed by the RCP or requested by the Guinea Child project from the RCP). Transboundary activities (Component 3) will be coordinated via existing or new transboundary agreements and committees in the 2 Guinea landscapes (Mount Nimba (trilateral) and Ziama-Wonegizi-Wologizi (bilateral) and managed at the level of the 2 respective sub-offices of the Guinea Child PMU.

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 National Project Coordinator and the Project Management Unit (PMU) when needed, and validating reports, financial and technical reports in particular. Chaired by a representative of the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD), proposed PSC members will include Directors of the relevant Ministry divisions (environment, forests, Protected Areas and conservation, GEF focal point), representatives of other ministries (including Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Public Works, Ministère de l'Administration du Territoire et de la Décentralisation (MATD), Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (MESRSI), Ministère

de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (MAGE), representatives of local government (Prefectural and Commune level) 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 (in particular in the framework of the Guinean Forests Integrated Programme).
- 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, private sector or other ministry representatives – will be invited to participate on an *ad hoc* basis when their input is deemed necessary.

-

Implementing Agency: IUCN (PACO/ Forest Programme HQ) is the GEF 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, CI). 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 Guinea Project Office as the Executing Agency. The EA will work directly in partnership with the following MEDD entities:

Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD), through:

- CEGENS: the Centre for the Management of the Environment of the Nimba and Simandou Mountains - for Mt Nimba Biosphere Reserve (BR),
- CFZ: Nzérékoré Forestry Centre – Ziama BR (*forêts classées de la région forestière*),
- OGPRNF Guinean Parks and Reserves Office - all National Parks and Reserves.

Other Ministries, departments and research agencies currently involved in conservation management, research, forest restoration and community engagement in and around the 2 Biosphere Reserves are listed below. At the PPG stage, these have various statutes, overlapping mandates, and responsibilities (at national and transboundary levels) and in relation to the 2 landscapes. Some existing sub-agreements for collaboration exist^[19]. Activities are proposed in the project (under *Outcome 1.1*) to help clarify roles, responsibilities and partnerships (including in relation to implementation of the new BR Management Plans and the forthcoming Nimba Massif (trilateral/ 3-country) Master Plan). Other institutions, Ministries and NGOs/ CSOs identified as potential co-executing partners are listed below under project management unit on page 28.

Potential Institutional arrangements were discussed extensively during project preparation, through the development of the Child Project Concepts and the PPG phase. Stakeholder consultations, including with Government partners, highlighted some critical risks which could be a constraint on good project progress and the achievement of objectives during implementation. The following identified risks (detailed in Section 4.5 Risk analysis and risk management) were taken into consideration in selecting the most appropriate institutional arrangement for this project:

- the high level of fiduciary and corruption risk.
- the limited choice and number of reliable partners on the ground with capacity to guarantee the adequate execution of the project with secure financial management and reporting.
- the weak institutional capacity for implementation at both national and local levels.

The main challenge to address was to select an agency that is willing and has the capacity to undertake the lead executing function. IUCN, the Guinea Government and the project design team explored various options, with the final recommendation to propose 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 proposal to include IUCN as EA (executing agency) is 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 Implementing 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 Implementing Agency). The executing function for this project will be hosted in the IUCN Guinea country programme based in Conakry, Guinea. The oversight function for this project (Implementing 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:** IUCN and the GEF Child project will support strengthening the capacity of government institutions as well as civil society; including technical capacities for project and financial management at various levels. This has been discussed with other major programmes of donor support which also include capacity development with many of the same institutions (including World Bank, EU, AFD, UNDP). The RCP also brings regional support to capacity building under various components (with CI as the overall GEF Implementing Agency). Within these national and regional frameworks, for the Guinea Child project management, IUCN and the Government of Guinea will jointly recruit the PMU staff members (see proposed list below). The staff hired for the purpose of this project will have IUCN contracts and will be hosted or seconded to CEGENS or CFZ. The PMU staff will be based in Guinea Forestière as part of the PMU under the overall supervision of the IUCN programme in Guinea (Head of Programme).

Project management and coordination.

The project coordination and management include the Implementing and Executing Agency roles as laid out above. A variety of potential partners, including local partners, are proposed for involvement in project implementation and carrying out project activities, under supervision and in collaboration with the PMU, as presented here (see also Diagrams 2 and 3 for the project implementation and execution arrangements on pages 29 and 30 respectively).

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 Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The PMU will be located in Nzérékore, hosted by CFZ, or in Lola (Zalia) hosted by CEGENS. The National Coordinator will be recruited by IUCN and GoG/ MEDD and seconded to (CEGENs). All other PMU staff will be recruited jointly by IUCN and the National Coordinator? And will be based in either the central Guinea Child Project Office or one of 2 satellite offices (for Ziam (Sérédou) and Nimba – see below).

The PMU will consist of six permanent staff including:

1. **National Coordinator:** He/she is responsible for the overall management of the project, strategic planning, coordination of the different components and liaison with national and international partners. He/she supervises activities, guides actions according to national priorities in terms of biodiversity and sustainable development, monitors results and ensures compliance with national policies to achieve objectives within the set deadlines. For this position, an ideal profile would combine solid experience in environmental project management, leadership, as well as in-depth knowledge of national and international policies on biodiversity and sustainable development
2. **Finance and Administrative Officer:** He/she guarantees rigorous and transparent financial management of the project. He/she is responsible for developing budgets, monitoring expenses, and preparing financial reports in accordance with GEF and IUCN requirements. In addition to financial management, he/she ensures the proper administration of human resources, equipment and documents. This position is essential to ensure efficiency in the use of resources and facilitate the logistical and contractual management of the project. The ideal profile for this position would include solid experience in financial and administrative management in projects with international organizations, preferably knowledge of GEF and IUCN procedures, with mastery of budget management tools, accounting standards, as well as excellent organizational and priority management skills.
3. **Biodiversity and Environmental Management Expert:** He/she is a key position to provide technical expertise on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. He/she designs and implements conservation strategies adapted to local contexts, supports partners in ecological restoration initiatives and ensures compliance with the project's environmental standards. Its expertise is essential to guarantee solid and relevant scientific results in terms of environmental protection. The ideal

profile for this position would include advanced training in environmental science, ecology or natural resource management, with practical experience implementing conservation and restoration strategies. In-depth knowledge of local and international environmental standards, as well as an ability to work with local communities and diverse stakeholders, is also required.

4. **Gender and Safeguards Officer:** He/she ensures the integration of gender issues in all stages of the project, ensuring the active participation of women and marginalized groups. He/she is responsible for developing economic activities to improve the living conditions of communities, by implementing inclusive strategies that particularly benefit households headed by women. This role is crucial for promoting women's economic empowerment, reducing gender inequalities and strengthening household resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges. The profile of the Gender and Household Economics expert requires a degree in social sciences or development economics, with 5 years of experience in gender mainstreaming and community economic development. The expert must have expertise in inclusive economic strategies, particularly for the empowerment of women, and skills in monitoring and evaluation. Fluency in French and good communication and collaboration skills with local partners are essential.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:** He/she plays a crucial role in monitoring the progress of the project, evaluating its impact and proposing necessary adjustments to improve performance. He/she finetunes and implements an effective monitoring and evaluation system, analyses performance data and qualitative feedback and produces regular reports to guide strategic decisions. This position is also responsible for knowledge management, ensuring lessons learned are documented and shared. The ideal profile for this position would include expertise in project management, monitoring and evaluation, with strong experience in data analysis and report writing.
6. **Drivers:** These play an important role in the smooth running of activities in the field. They are responsible for the safety and efficiency of team travel, ensuring that experts, partners and project members can reach intervention sites safely and on time. This position is essential to facilitate field missions, ensure smooth logistics and contribute to the coordination of actions on the various project intervention sites.

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 with 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 activities will be implemented directly by the PMU, but most will be at least partly implemented by partners. Executing partners include government entities and national/ local partners, as well as regional or international external consultants and service providers (e.g. NGOs, consultancy groups). Tenders (including single tenders) will be put out for these by the PMU, according to IUCN/ GEF procedures. Contracts will be signed between IUCN and the

partners implementing activities. The funds for implementation will flow from the IUCN Guinea office to the PMU and to the appointed contractors, according to IUCN procedures. See Organogram and *Project execution diagram 2 below (potential responsibilities for executing specific activities)*.

Some other institutions, Ministries and NGOs/ CSOs identified as potential co-executing partners (at the final PPG stage and validation workshop) included:

Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche Scientifique et de l'Innovation (MESRSI) through:

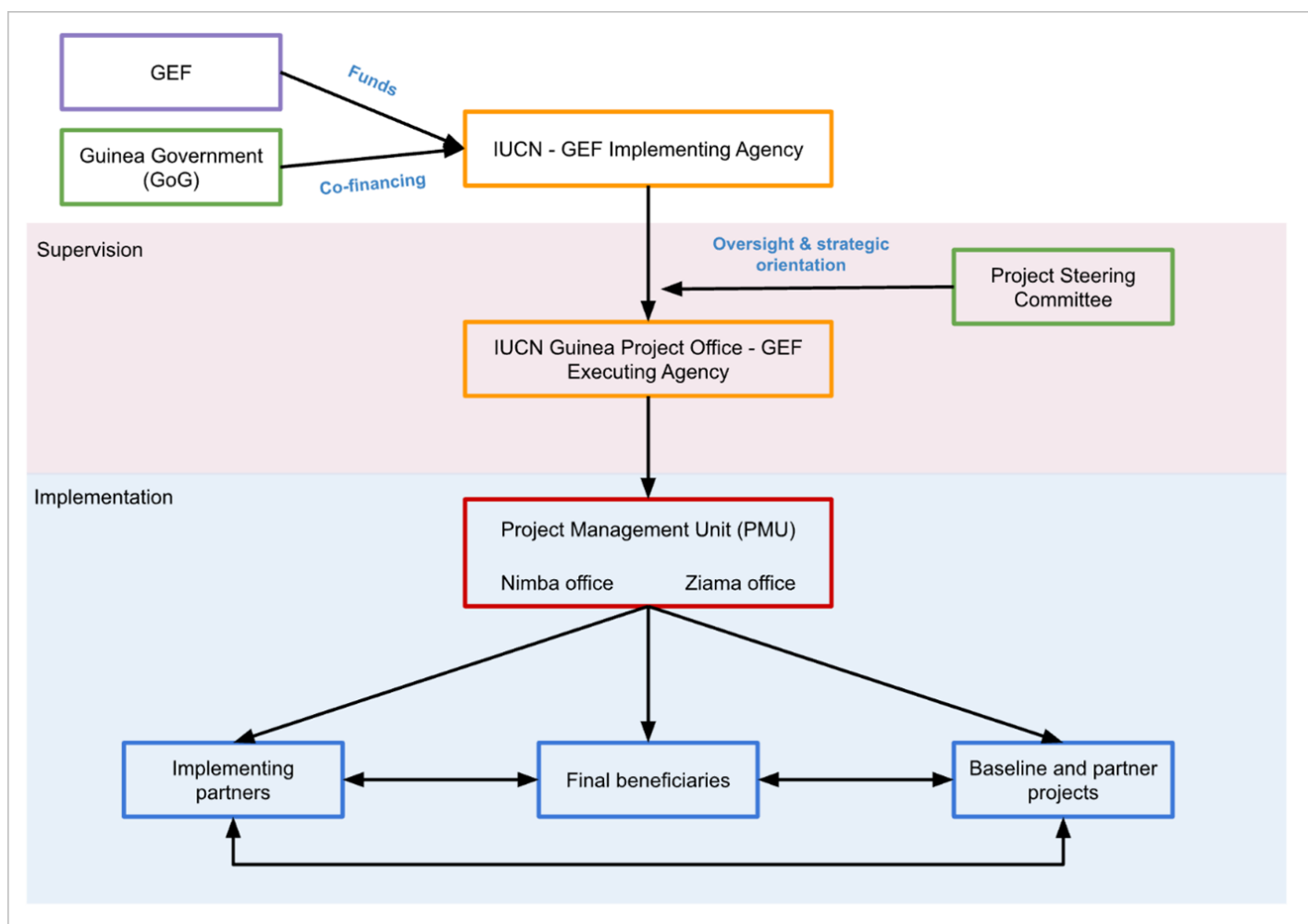
- IREB: the Bossou Environmental Research Institute - Mt Nimba landscape (Bossou corridor only)
- SSMN: the Station Scientifique des Monts Nimba - Mt Nimba Biosphere Reserve
- MAB (Man and Biosphere): Both Biosphere Reserves: (MAB: service attached to the DG Scientific Research/ MESRSI)

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Élevage (MAGE):

- Ziama landscape: IRAG/ CRRA-S: Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée/ Centre Régional de Recherche Agronomique de Sérédou.

Diagram 2: Project implementation and execution arrangements

[1] e.g. (2023) 'Convention de partenariat tripartite' between MEDD and MESRSI – to establish and reinforce fruitful collaborations between Guinean and international research institutions (on the one hand) and those of other Ministries with similar missions (on the other hand). *Signed by CEGENS/ IREB/ SSMN*



Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project? Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

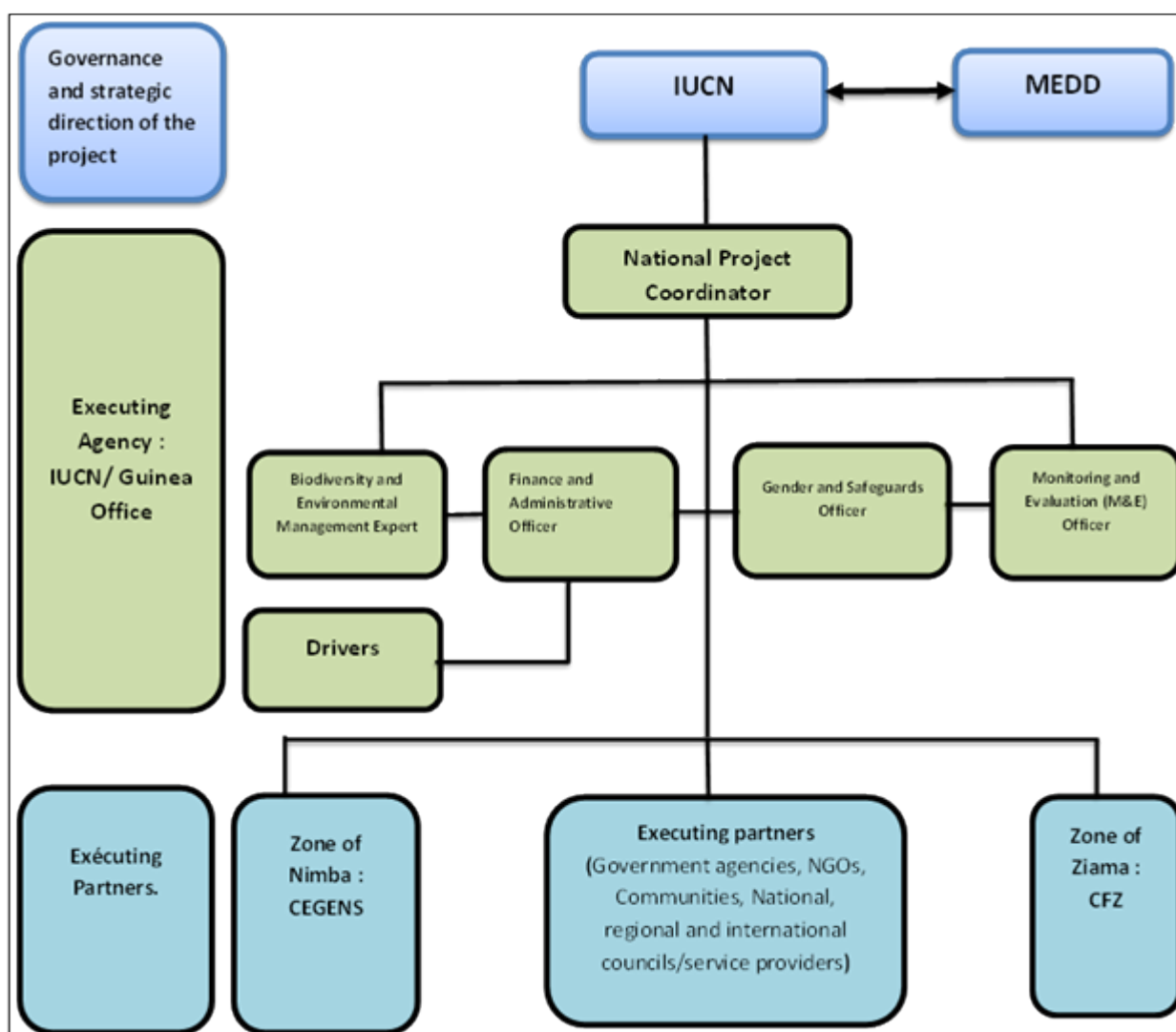
Potential Institutional arrangements were discussed extensively during project preparation, through the development of the Child Project Concepts and the PPG phase. Stakeholder consultations, including with Government partners, highlighted some critical risks which could be a constraint on good project progress and the achievement of objectives during implementation. The following identified risks (detailed in Section 4.5 Risk analysis and risk management) were taken into consideration in selecting the most appropriate institutional arrangement for this project including the high level of fiduciary and corruption risk, the limited choice and number of reliable partners on the ground with capacity to guarantee the adequate execution of the project with secure financial management and reporting, and the weak institutional capacity for implementation at both national and local levels.

As such, IUCN was designated as the Executing Agency (EA) due to the following:

1. **Adequate Fiduciary Controls:** As a partner agency of the GEF, IUCN upholds robust and transparent fiduciary standards. It has a proven track record of managing complex projects in the region, including handling project grants for other GEF agencies before achieving accreditation as a GEF Implementing Agency.
2. **Firewall Implementation:** In accordance with GEF policy, IUCN has the capacity to establish a firewall between the division that will act as the Executing Agency and the division responsible for oversight as a GEF Implementing Agency. The executing function for this project will be based in the IUCN Guinea country program in Conakry, while the oversight function will be shared between IUCN Headquarters and the Regional Office for Western and Central Africa (PACO) located in Dakar, Senegal. This clear distribution of responsibilities ensures that both operational and fiduciary expertise is adequately addressed for both the executing and oversight functions.

3. **Capacity Building:** IUCN in collaboration with the GEF Child Project, will focus on strengthening the capacities of government institutions and civil society, including enhancing technical skills in project and financial management at various levels. This initiative has been coordinated with other major donor programs, such as those from the World Bank, EU, AFD, and UNDP, all of which also emphasize capacity development with many of the same institutions. The RCP provides additional regional support for capacity building across various components, with CI serving as the overall GEF Implementing Agency. Under these national and regional frameworks, IUCN and the Government of Guinea will jointly recruit staff for the Project Management Unit (PMU), as detailed in the proposed list below. The hired staff will have contracts with IUCN and will be based in Guinea Forestière, working under the overall supervision of the IUCN program in Guinea (Head of Programme).

Diagram 3: Project execution arrangements.



Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The child project will coordinate and leverage several ongoing initiatives in the Nimba and Ziama Biosphere Reserves as well as others in Guinea:

- ***A GEF-funded project on strengthening climate change resilience of vulnerable local communities in the Guinea Forest Region (2023-2027, \$8.85M)***. This UNDP-implemented project will introduce climate-smart agricultural practices, improve access to adaptation financing, and enhance the use of climate information by local actors. While the project sites do not directly overlap with the Nimba and Ziamas Biospheres, there will be opportunities to share lessons on engaging vulnerable groups.
- ***A GEF-funded project on integrated landscape management for sustainable food systems in the Guinea Forest and Upper Guinea regions (2022-2027, \$9.5M)***. Implemented by FAO, this project focuses on deforestation-free palm oil production landscapes. The child project will synchronize efforts with this initiative to ensure alignment of tools, approaches, and shared learning.
- ***The Management and Development Plan for the Ziamas Biosphere Reserve (2024-2029, €5M)***, funded by the French Development Agency and implemented by FFI. This project aims to implement the reserve's management plan, involving local communities and promoting climate-resilient agro-ecological development. The child project will align land use planning and aggregate local outputs for integrated landscape management in Ziamas.
- ***The West Africa Nature Transformation initiative (WANTi, 2024-2025, £70,000)***, implemented by the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. This will assess biodiversity threats and livelihoods in the Guinean Forests, establishing a foundation for catchment-based conservation approaches. The child project will establish a research partnership with WANTi.
- ***The EU's NaturAfrica program (2025-2030, €85M)***, which will support biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Africa, including in the Nimba and Ziamas landscapes. The child project will align with this work and add a land use planning lens to optimize livelihood options.
- ***The COMBO & COMBO+ project (2021-2025, €11M with €1.67M for Guinea)***, funded by AFD and FFEM and implemented by WCS. This supports countries in balancing biodiversity conservation and economic development through improved policies, tools, and capacity building. The child project will complement this by pursuing additional sustainable finance mechanisms.
- ***The USAID-funded West Africa Biodiversity Low Emissions Development (WABiLED) project (2023-2025, \$49M)***, which aims to combat wildlife trafficking, reduce deforestation, and promote low-emissions development. The child project will contribute to the project's emissions reduction and private sector engagement goals.
- ***The World Bank's Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Management (PGRNME) project (2021-2027, \$65M)***, which supports integrated management of mineral and natural resources in Guinea. The child project will reinforce these efforts by securing €1M for the Conservation Trust Fund.

The Nimba Iron Ore Project (2023-2050), operated by ***Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG)***, which aims to establish a sustainable mining operation integrated with the local economy and environment. The child project will complement this by incorporating land use planning into the project's operations.

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
264539	264539	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
264539	264539	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Mont Nimba Biosphere Reserve (Bossou)		National Park	145,520.00	145,520.00					
The Zياما Reserve		National Park	119,019.00	119,019.00					

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
7000	7000	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Rangeland and pasture	3,500.00	6,200.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,500.00	800.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
254530	115000	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
254,530.00	115,000.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	1500000	1500000	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	1,500,000	1,500,000		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2025		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	5,000	5,000		
Male	5,000	5,000		
Total	10,000	10,000	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Each of the Core Indicators listed will be achieved through implementation of specific components and activities under the Guinea Child Project. See also Chapter 2 (Project Results Framework) for full analysis of the more detailed indicators of success and targets under the Guinea Child Project.

Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas (PA) created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use.

This indicator will be met through support (under Project Component 1) to the improved management of the two Biosphere Reserves (MNBR: (<https://www.protectedplanet.net/3027>) and ZMBR: <https://www.protectedplanet.net/29066>), with a combined total area of 264,539 ha. Management effectiveness will be monitored using the IMET management effectiveness tool, already deployed under other programmes in the same sites. This core indicator will contribute to the achievement of about 34% of the PFD core indicator one target of 781,389 hectares.

Core Indicator 3: Area of land restored (hectares) (broken down into 2 sub-indicators for agricultural and forested lands).

A total of 7,000 ha will be restored (6,200 hectares of degraded agricultural land and 800 ha of degraded) forest land. This will contribute to the achievement of about 29% of the PFD target of 24,433 hectares.

Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices.

The target for this indicator will be achieved through forest restoration and enhancement activities across the projects sites, identified as priorities through integrated land use planning (LUP) and implemented as community-led activities under Component 2 (Outcome 2.1: Land Use Plans supporting Mt Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves benefitting nature and local communities). And secondly, (Outcome 2.2: Implementation of Land Use Plans through Forest Landscape Restoration Activities and Green Business Development), also as community-led activities and Component 3 (transboundary collaboration and coordination with other Guinea Forest stakeholders for enhanced conservation management of the Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins).

A total of 115,000 ha will be achieved through restoration and promotion of nature-based solutions and green enterprise development. This will contribute to the achievement of about 45% of the PFD core indicator 4 target of 257,308 hectares.

Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

This target will be achieved as an indirect consequence of the successful achievement of activities under components 1 – 3, and specific targets for improved management of protected areas; land and forest restoration and conservation, more sustainable land management in agricultural and community areas, resulting in increased forest cover and maintenance, forest loss avoided (and Carbon sequestered) and more sustainable land management practices on farmland, lowering the levels of GHG emissions.

As such, 1.5 million tCO₂e will be mitigated, contributing about 43% to the PFD core indicator 6 target of 3.5million tCO₂e.

Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment. Community, civil society and government personnel beneficiaries will benefit under all Guinea Child Project with specific targets achieved under components 2 and 3 (Forest landscape restoration, green business development, land use planning, transboundary activities and targeted relevant training and capacity building) and all categories of direct beneficiary under component 4 (farmers, communities, students and government agency personnel) under specific programmes of education, awareness raising, training, sensitisation, communication)

As such, 10,000 (5,000 women and 5,000 men) will directly benefit from the project, thus contributing about 12% of the PFD core indicator 11 target of 85,667 (42,290 women, 43,377 men).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrate climate risks into landscape-level conservation, land-use planning (e.g. climate resilient agriculture), and Biosphere Reserve management. This will ensure that local land use plans and Biosphere Reserve management plans include climate considerations (Outcomes 2,3,4) ● Enhance the capacity of institutions responsible for the conservation and management of ecosystems and natural resources, such as CEGENS and CFZ, enabling them to effectively incorporate climate change into their activities (Outcomes 2, 3 & 4). ● Promote habitat connectivity in the landscape: protect extensive, intact landscapes and key representative habitats within these landscapes to ensure their preservation and resilience against climate change impacts. (Outcomes 2&3). ● The project will ensure compliance with labor standards by selecting service providers based on strict criteria, providing training on best practices, and diligently monitoring working conditions. (Outcomes 2 & 4 + PMU)
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gender aspects will be integrated into all project outcomes, supported by a gender analysis and action plan (Inception phase). This analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of gender issues in the targeted areas, including the participation of women and men in agriculture and community decision-making. It helps address women's specific challenges and priorities in designing alternative livelihoods and identifies opportunities for greater equality and empowerment. (outcomes 2, 3 &4) ● Activities targeting women and women's groups are designed as to guarantee equal participation and benefit sharing. The PMU will make use of a Gender Specialist to develop and manage the effective implementation of the Gender Action Plan. All further screenings, assessments, and management during implementation will consider this risk. (Outcomes 2, 3, 4 +PMU) ● Continue and enhance the existing positive collaboration with SMFG (Nimba Ore Project) and explore partnerships with NDC (potential newcomer). (Outcomes 1 &4) ● Dedicate resources to support a thorough and compliant Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). and invest in mitigation measures (Outcomes 1,2,3, 4) ● Raise awareness local communities on mining-related changes through forums and feedback mechanisms. (Outcome 4)
Political and Governance	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invest in training and capacity building for government officials to ensure consistent and effective policy implementation. (Outcomes 1 & 4) ● Promote multi-stakeholder cooperation in the reserves to enhance ownership of the project by various actors (Outcome 1, 3 & 4) ● Invest in local structures and organizations, as they are typically more resilient to changes in national political leadership. (Outcomes 1, 2,3 & 4). ● Promote adaptive management and development of contingency plans
INNOVATION		

Institutional and Policy	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will collaborate with and complement ongoing national programmes of institutional reform in the sector and other programmes to help reduce conflicts of attribution between the structures that share the roles and responsibility for managing Nimba and Zياما BRs. (Outcome 1) • It is crucial for project management to maintain close communication with high-level political contacts and, along with other partners such as GEF, the World Bank, the EU, and AFD, advocate for a pragmatic change process. • In capacity building, it is important to involve all potentially competing governmental agencies. This also applies to their participation in multi-stakeholder platforms. (Outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4
Technological	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, awareness, and incentives built into project design
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine engagement • Provide trainings on sustainability • Produce business case for sustainable production

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By encouraging cooperation and working through consortia, knowledge and expertise will be pooled. Proper coordination and alignment with similar projects (e.g. UNDP, FAO, WB) that rely on the same agencies and organizations is essential to avoid overburdening existing capacities and to use resources (human, financial, technical etc.) as efficiently as possible. • Active support for capacity building through training, education, exchange programs, and coaching is crucial. Where necessary, consulting firms can be hired to fill gaps that cannot be addressed nationally or locally.
Fiduciary	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will be executed directly by the IUCN, adhering strictly to IUCN procedures for fund disbursement, monitoring and transparency. • Stakeholders responsible for implementing activities will receive funds in stages, contingent upon justifying expenses and presenting completed work. • Additionally, project staff will be hired independently by the IUCN. • Yearly audits and the midterm evaluation are additional procedures for control and adjustment • Training of staff and partners on ant-fraud and anti-bribery, conflict of interest and GEF prohibited practices
Stakeholder	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project design recognizes at the outset that capacity development is a long-term endeavor requiring long-term support throughout the right implementation process. The Farmer field schools' continuous coaching of farmers through highly qualified peers, with the support of experts and decentralized officers, who can follow on the interventions well after the project ends, will help consolidate the long-term adoption of project interventions • The fact that the project interventions are clearly aimed at improving the rural economy and creating business opportunities for the communities will encourage involvement of the grassroots beneficiaries

Other		
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Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	See annex I on page 58 below for how the overall risk rating was determined
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C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The Guinea Child project is a component of the GFIP (The Guinean Forests Integrated Program), which is part of the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program under the GEF-8 Programming Cycle. The overarching goal of the IP and its component projects is to protect and maintain intact forest landscapes, with a focus on corridor and landscape-level interventions, expansion and improved management of protected areas and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

The program will channel investments in sustainable land use outside protected areas to improve connectivity, promote sustainable livelihoods and ensure better delivery of ecosystem services. Transboundary corridors and innovative financial mechanisms are particular priorities. The strategy is to address drivers of forest loss and degradation, protect and restore critical ecosystem services and habitats, and enhance national and regional capacity for more sustainable, resilient economies.

The Guinea Child project aligns with several GEF-8 Focal Area strategies, including improving conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems under the Biodiversity Focal Area, and nature-based solutions under the Climate Change Focal Area. The project also converges with the Land Degradation Focal Area by promoting regenerative/climate-smart agriculture and restoration of degraded lands.

The Government of Guinea has demonstrated commitment to forest protection through various initiatives, including capacity-building for sustainable land management, anti-poaching programs, reforestation campaigns, and updated legal frameworks. The Guinea Child project will support the country's National Environmental Action Plan and National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

The project will contribute to several Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by advancing goals and targets related to conservation, sustainable use, climate change, ecosystem services, policy and planning, capacity building, financing, data availability, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and gender including: Target 1: Plan and Manage all Areas To Reduce Biodiversity Loss; Target 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems; Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas; Target 4: Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts; Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry; Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People; Target 19: Mobilize \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance; Target 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity; and Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action; Target 22: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and

Information Related to Biodiversity for all; and Target 23: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action.

The project also aligns with the regional AFR100, and Bonn Challenge aims to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030, with Guinea committing to restore over 27,400 hectares.

The Guinea Child project was selected based on criteria that ensure investments help maintain the integrity of the Guinea Forest Biome's globally important critical forests, maximize multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), leverage co-financing, contribute to Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and support the IP's goals, including transboundary/regional connectivity.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).

Yes

1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

Yes

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B “Child project description”?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

The child project will deliver various socio-economic benefits at the local and national levels that are expected to generate significant global environmental benefits, including restoring 7,000 hectares of degraded forests and degraded agricultural land, putting 115,000 hectares under improved practices, mitigating 1.5 million tCO₂e tons, and benefiting 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women).

Improved management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves will contribute to maintenance of key environmental provisioning services that generate a range of socio-economic benefits including enhanced food security, livelihoods, and water availability and quality etc. With respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation, this project will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon stocks through forest conservation, restoration, and land use planning to a tune of 1.5 million tCO₂e tons.

At the national level, food insecurity affects around 1.9 million people in Guinea, which corresponds to 13.7 per cent of the country's population of 13.9 million, compared with an average of 10 per cent in West Africa (WFP, 2024). As such, Guinea is ranked 99 out of 113 countries by the 2022 Global Food Security Index published by The Economist Intelligence Unit. Through improved management and conservation of Mount Nimba/ Bossou and Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves, and enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience, the child project will maintain critical reservoirs of bushmeat supply those accounts for 20-30% of total animal protein consumed in Guinea (Choudhury et al, 2022) and up to 80% of dietary animal protein for local communities in remote forested regions of Guinea (UNEP, 2022).

The child project will tackle unemployment especially among the youth who make up almost half the population of Guinea by creating jobs/direct employment through capacity building, development of green businesses, promotion of sustainable value chain, improving access to credit, establishment of tree nurseries to supply seedlings for restoration activities, and the establishment of Village Monitoring Committees that will conduct joint monitoring with government agencies, thus, improving household incomes and livelihoods that further contribute to improved food security.

The child project will contribute to rural development and natural resource governance through participatory land use planning. The child project will ensure that local communities and all relevant stakeholders are engaged, and their views considered in the various planning processes especially on the development of not only the 47 Village land use plans, but also in the development of a policy brief for the National Commission for Land and Housing Reform. By engaging all the relevant stakeholders in these collaborative planning processes, the child project will ensure that local communities have a voice in the governance of forests and empower them to negotiate future land and resource uses, helping to reduce power asymmetries between local people and other stakeholders, thus, enhancing local capacity and ownership in their development trajectory.

The child project will develop a gender-sensitive knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation system that will benefit both local and national stakeholders through generation of information, sharing of success stories, lessons learned, and best practices in the restoration and conservation of Mount Nimba and Zياما Biosphere reserves. Ultimately, this will not only reduce the time spent on research and development, but also and facilitate learning and sharing of innovative ideas at local, national and international levels, thus, possibly influencing program and policy formulation at different levels.

The child project will also create an enabling environment that includes institutions and coordination mechanisms with a stronger capacity to plan and implement initiatives. For instance, the child project will establish and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms for action planning, dialogues and conflict resolution, thus, improving social cohesion in the local communities. In addition, policy briefs that will be developed and submitted to the National Commission for Land and Housing Reform will be critical for local communities' land tenure security.

The child project has a strong focus on inclusion of the vulnerable and marginalized groups in implementation of project activities, thus, creating gender and youth equity that is expected to strengthen social sustainability. With equal rights and opportunities to participate and benefit from the project, women, men and the youth can become agents of change for sustained socio-economic development in their communities.

The child project is expected to benefit about 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women) through education and awareness, capacity building and training on enterprise/value chain development, livelihoods and income-generation, financial management, post harvest handling, marketing, forest restoration, etc. Through these trainings and awareness, the project beneficiaries will become empowered and support the development of sustainable local economies.

By exploring two sustainable financing options, the child project will generate at least one million Euros (€) that will have additional direct socio-economic benefits for the local communities and stakeholders involved in the conservation and management of Mount Nimba and Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserves.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
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IUCN	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,337,576.00	120,382.00	1,457,958.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	445,859.00	40,127.00	485,986.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,783,433.00	160,509.00	1,943,942.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	445,859.00	40,127.00	485,986.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	Grant	148,619.00	13,376.00	161,995.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	594,477.00	53,503.00	647,980.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	Grant	445,858.00	40,127.00	485,985.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						5,201,681.00	468,151.00	5,669,832.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 149999

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 13499

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	38,571.00	3,471.00	42,042.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation: IPs	12,857.00	1,157.00	14,014.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	51,429.00	4,629.00	56,058.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	12,857.00	1,157.00	14,014.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC IP Matching Incentives	4,285.00	385.00	4,670.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	17,143.00	1,543.00	18,686.00

IUCN	GET	Guinea	International Waters	International Waters: IW IP Contributions	12,857.00	1,157.00	14,014.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					149,999.00	13,499.00	163,498.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,500,000.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	500,000.00
IUCN	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,000,000.00
Total GEF Resources					4,000,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CFB Guinean Forests IP	GET	5,201,681.00	16280945.53
Total Project Cost		5,201,681.00	16,280,945.53

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Civil Society Organization	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and it's Guinea in-country partners	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	922881
Civil Society Organization	BirdLife International and its Partner in Guinea, Guinée Ecologie	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7300000
Recipient Country Government	MEDD Centre Forestier de N'Zerekore (CFZ)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5312642
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (MESRI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	334720.53

Recipient Government	Country	MEDD DG-CEGENS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	490702
GEF Agency		IUCN -SIGNTS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Civil Organization	Society	APDRA Fish Farming	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1620000
Total Co-financing					16,280,945.53

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

N/A

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/18/2024	Tea Garcia-Huidobro		tea.garcia-huidobro@iucn.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/18/2024	Rebecca Welling	0041787939588	rebecca.welling@iucn.org
Project Coordinator	6/18/2024	Tanya Merceron	00222216496	tanya.merceron@iucn.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Fodé TOURE	General Director of Environment and Natural Capital Fund	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	4/6/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

	Outcomes and outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Target(s)	Source of verification	Assumptions / Risks
Project Objective: To protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods and green development and conserve biodiversity in and around the Biosphere Reserves of Mount Nimba and the Bossou corridor (MNBR) and Ziama Massif (ZMBR) in Guinea						

Component 1 - Enhancement and creation of gender sensitive and inclusive enabling policies, partnerships and sustainable finance mechanisms for the conservation management of forest landscapes and Protected Areas	Outcome 1.1: Improved gender sensitive and socially inclusive, management and conservation of Mount Nimba/Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves (BRs)	Indicator 1.1: Number of hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness	Baseline 1.1: Zero (0) hectares	Target 1.1: 264,539 hectares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> METT tool Project progress reports 	<u>Assumption (A):</u> Commitment by all stakeholders and notably by government agencies to improve coordination and cooperation <u>Risk (R):</u> Unclear political developments alongside competition undermine and delay cooperation.
	Output 1.1.1: Inter-ministerial agreement signed for inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves	Indicator 1.1.1a: Number of inter-ministerial agreements/decrees on inclusive and gender sensitive management of Mount Nimba/Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves. Indicator 1.1.1b: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive, site-level multi-stakeholder platforms agreed for MNBR and ZMBR	Indicator 1.1.1a: No (zero) inter-ministerial agreements/decrees on the management of Mount Nimba/Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves. Target 1.1.1b: Zero (0) site-level multi-stakeholder platforms (MNBR or ZMBR)	Target 1.1.1a: One gender sensitive, inter-ministerial agreement/decrees on the management of Mount Nimba/Bossou and Ziam Massif Biosphere Reserves. Target 1.1.1b: Two site-level, gender sensitive and inclusive, multi-stakeholder platforms for local coordination, communication and implementation (MNBR and ZMBR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed inter-ministerial agreement Multi-stakeholder platform ToRs/constitution and meeting minutes Project progress reports 	<u>A:</u> Sufficient political support exists at all levels for clarifying and agreeing on mandates and roles <u>R:</u> Competition and conflicts among stakeholders could delay or prevent reaching agreements

	Output 1.1.2: Gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations	Indicator 1.1.2: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	Baseline 1.1.2: No gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	Target 1.1.2: At least one gender sensitive and inclusive policy brief developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender sensitive and inclusive policy briefs • Project progress reports 	<u>A</u> : Strong policy commitment and willingness from local communities and stakeholders to support and engage in inclusive, participatory land-use planning. <u>R</u> : Policy resistance and lack of community participation
	Output 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported	Indicator 1.1.3a: Number of sustainable, gender sensitive finance options identified Indicator 1.1.3b: Amount of funds generated from sustainable finance options	Baseline 1.1.3a: No (zero) sustainable options in place Baseline 1.1.3b: No funds generated from sustainable finance options	Target 1.1.3a: At least two new, gender sensitive sustainable finance opportunities under investigation for each of MNBR and ZMBR Target 1.1.3b: About one (1) million € raised for the Conservation Trust Fund in which gender dimensions have been taken into account		<u>A</u> : Strong interest and commitment from stakeholders and financial institutions to explore and support sustainable finance opportunities for both Reserves <u>R</u> : Limited stakeholder engagement/interest to explore and/or provide financial support

Component 2 – Restoration of ecosystem connectivity and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods and green development around MNBR and ZMBR	Outcome 2.1: Enhanced forest ecosystem connectivity and resilience	Indicator 2.1a: Number of hectares of forest under restoration Indicator 2.1b: Number of tons of CO ₂ e mitigated.	Baseline 2.1a: No (zero) hectares of forest and forest land under restoration. Baseline 2.1b: Zero (0) tons of CO ₂ e mitigated	Target 2.1a: 800 hectares of degraded forests restored Target 2.1c: 1.5 million tCO ₂ e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS reports • ROAM reports • FAO EXACT tool • Project progress reports 	<u>A</u> : Collaborative effort among stakeholders to create and implement LUPs. <u>R</u> : Conflicts of interest and inadequate stakeholder cooperation around LUPs.
	Output 2.1.1: Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs) collaboratively developed with forest-adjacent communities	Indicator 2.1.1: Number of integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans	Baseline 2.1.1: Zero (0) integrated village land use plans	Target 2.1.1: 47 Gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (32 in Ziama and 15 in Nimba developed		<u>A</u> : Communities and relevant stakeholders collaborate, and adequate resources and expertise are available to support the development LUPs. <u>R</u> : Conflicts of interest, lack of cooperation, limited funding, and technical expertise.

	Output 2.1.2: A gender sensitive inventory and mapping of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones, (MNB R)	Indicator 2.12: Number of gender sensitive inventories and maps of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones (MNB R) developed	Baseline 2.1.2: Zero (0) gender sensitive integrated inventory and map of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones	Target 2.1.2: One gender sensitive and comprehensive inventory report and map of biodiversity & ecosystem services in the buffer and transition zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory • Biodiversity & ecosystem services map 	<p><u>A</u>: Sufficient technical expertise and resources are available to conduct a comprehensive study</p> <p><u>R</u>: Technical challenges, and lack of stakeholder cooperation</p>
	Outcome 2.2: Improved gender inclusive and responsive, livelihoods of local communities	<p>Indicator 2.2a: Number of hectares of degraded agricultural land restored.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2b: Number of hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Indicator 2.2c: Number of tons of CO₂e mitigated.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2d: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) benefitting from project activities</p>	<p>Baseline 2.2a: Zero (0) hectares of degraded agricultural land restored.</p> <p>Baseline 2.2b: Zero (0) hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Baseline 2.2c: Zero (0) tons of CO₂e mitigated.</p> <p>Baseline 2.2d: Zero (0) people</p>	<p>Target 2.2a: 6,200 hectares of degraded agricultural land restored</p> <p>Target 2.2b: At least 115,000 hectares under sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Target 2.2c: 1.5 million tCO₂e</p> <p>Target 2.2d: At least 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS reports • ROAM reports • FAO EXACT tool • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Local communities will actively engage and support land use plans</p> <p>Government policies and regulations are supportive of land use plans (LUPs)</p> <p><u>R</u>: Resistance from community members or stakeholders to proposed changes.</p> <p>Government policy or regulatory changes may obstruct the implementation of LUPs.</p>

	Output 2.2.1: Degraded agricultural land restored, incorporating gender dimensions	Indicator 2.2.1: Number of hectares of degraded agricultural land restored	Baseline 2.2.1: Zero (0) hectares of degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions	Target 2.2.1: 6,200 ha of degraded agricultural land restored incorporating gender dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS reports • ROAM reports • FAO EXACT tool • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Local communities will participate in and support forest restoration activities.</p> <p><u>R</u>: Insufficient community involvement or opposition to restoration activities.</p> <p>Insufficient quality and quantity of seeds and/or seedlings for restoration</p>
	Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Indicator 2.2.2: Number of people (disaggregated by sex) from improved gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Baseline 2.2.2: Zero (0) people benefitting from improved sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises	Target 2.2.1: At least 6,000 individual beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) of improved agricultural practices and green community-based businesses: 2,500 (Ziama) and 3,500 (Nimba) of which 40% women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Local communities are willing to adopt sustainable agriculture and business practices</p> <p><u>R</u>: Resistance from community members to change traditional practices. Economic instability or market fluctuations affect business viability</p>

	Output 2.2.3: Joint, gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities	Indicator 2.2.3: Number of joint and gender sensitive monitoring and gender sensitive evaluation sessions	Baseline 2.2.3: No (zero) joint and gender sensitive ecological and socio-economic monitoring by forest-adjacent communities	Target 2.2.3: At least 2 joint and gender sensitive monitoring and 1 evaluation session per year per	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project progress reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Community members are willing to participate in ecological and socio-economic monitoring.</p> <p>Adequate training and resources are provided for effective monitoring activities.</p> <p><u>R</u>: Inconsistent participation or lack of commitment from community members.</p>
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Component 3 - Strengthened management of transboundary forest landscapes in the shared Guinea Forest River Basins	Outcome 3.1: Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Indicator 3.1: Number of gender sensitive transboundary collaboration mechanisms strengthened conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Baseline 3.1: No strong transboundary collaboration mechanism for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins	Target 3.1: At least four gender sensitive transboundary collaboration mechanisms for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memo randa of Unders tanding (MoUs) • ToRs for collabo ration mecha nisms • Project progres s reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Participatin g countries are committed to transbound ary collaboratio n and coordinatio n.</p> <p><u>R</u>: Political instability or policy changes in one or more countries disrupt coordinatio n. Communica tion (language) barriers and logistical challenges hinder effective collaboratio n.</p>
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	<p>Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of local level , gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms/, technical committees</p>	<p>Baseline 3.1.1: Weak local level transboundary platforms/, technical committees</p>	<p>Target 3.1.1: At least four, (4) gender sensitive transboundary Committees/ technical sub-committees strengthened and capacitated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToRs and minutes of committee meetings and training events • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Stakeholders are committed to revitalizing and operationalizing local transboundary platforms.</p> <p><u>R</u>: Political or administrative changes disrupt the commitment to transboundary agreements .</p> <p>Logistical and/or financial challenges hinder the effective functioning of platforms and committees</p>
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	<p>Output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.2: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive trainings/ capacity building events on use of applied research results in gender inclusive transboundary decision-making</p>	<p>Baseline 3.1.2: Zero (0) trainings on use of applied research results in transboundary decision-making</p>	<p>Target 3.1.2: At least three gender sensitive (3) training events for at least 30 people (disaggregated by gender)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training/ capacity building reports • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A:</u> Guinea stakeholders are committed to using applied research results for decision-making. Adequate training and resources are available to interpret and implement research findings.</p> <p><u>R:</u> Limited interest by stakeholders to use relevant research data</p>
	<p>Output 3.1.3: Gender sensitive and inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.3: Number of gender sensitive and inclusive NbS pilot initiatives implemented successfully</p>	<p>Baseline 3.1.3: Zero (0) NbS initiatives with Ziama and Nimba communities targeting transboundary freshwater ecosystem health and restoration</p>	<p>Target 3.1.3: At least 3 gender sensitive and inclusive NbS initiatives achieving measurable benefits for transboundary ecosystem health, communities and climate change mitigation/ adaptation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A:</u> Local communities are supportive of implementing nature-based solutions (NbS).</p> <p><u>R:</u> Insufficient community engagement or resistance to NbS initiatives. Unpredictable environmental changes impact the effectiveness of NbS interventions and stakeholders lose interest.</p>

Component 4 - Capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication	Outcome 4.1: Enhanced gender sensitive, capacity building, learning, collaboration and communication among State and non-State actors/ civil society in Guinea and with other Guinea Forest (GFIP)/ MRU countries and stakeholders for conservation and development	Indicator 4.1: Number of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender)	Baseline 4.1: Zero (0) beneficiaries	Target 4.1: 3,000 people of which 50% women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender sensitive Project progress reports Capacity building reports Trip reports 	<p><u>A</u>: Stakeholders are committed to participating in capacity-building and collaboration activities. Effective communication channels are established among State and non-State actors.</p> <p><u>R</u>: Insufficient engagement or collaboration among key stakeholders. Communication barriers (language; education level) hinder effective knowledge sharing and cooperation.</p>
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	Output 4.1.1: Technical capacity built among Nimba and Zياما communities and responsible government authorities and institutions on topics such as conservation, management, social dimensions of conservation, rights-based approach and gender, etc.	Indicator 4.1.1a: Number of gender sensitive capacity building events. Indicator 4.1.1b: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) benefiting from gender sensitive capacity building	Baseline 4.1.1a: No capacity building events. Indicator 4.1.1b: Zero people benefitting from gender sensitive capacity building.	Target 4.1.1a: At least eight (8) gender sensitive capacity building events. Target 4.1.1b: At least 1,000 Guinea beneficiaries total (including: 500 government personnel & staff from the sectorial ministries at the national level plus community stakeholders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender sensitive capacity building reports Project progress reports 	<p><u>A:</u> Nimba and Zياما communities are eager to enhance their technical capacities. Government authorities and institutions are receptive to guidance from RCP</p> <p><u>R:</u> Inconsistent support or engagement from government authorities and other stakeholders. RCP coordination is not aligned with local needs and conditions</p>
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	Output 4.1.2: Inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategy developed	Indicator 4.1.2a: Number of inclusive and gender sensitive communications and education strategies developed. Indicator 4.1.2b: Number of students (disaggregated by gender) participating in environmental education and awareness programmes	Baseline 4.1.2a: Zero (0) Project communications and education strategy. Baseline 4.1.2b: Limited number of students participating in environmental education and awareness programmes	Target 4.1.2a: One (1) inclusive and gender-sensitive communications and education strategy. Target 4.1.2b: 2,000 students (disaggregated by gender) involved in environmental education and awareness programmes of which at least 40% women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and education strategy document • Project reports • project websites • RCP portal • Information, Education and Communication materials 	<p><u>A:</u> Stakeholders are receptive to and actively engage with project communications. Communication channels are effective in reaching all relevant audiences.</p> <p><u>R:</u> Key stakeholders do not engage with or act on the information shared. Communication strategies fail to effectively reach or resonate with target audiences.</p>
	Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.	Indicator 4.1.3: Number of stakeholders participating in regional and international (RCP-coordinated) gender sensitive events and fora (including GEF International Waters/transboundary component)	Baseline 4.1.3: Zero (0) Guinea Child project stakeholder participation in regional and international (transboundary watersheds) fora	Target 4.1.3: About 20 Guinea Child project stakeholders participate in regional and international (transboundary watersheds) fora / of which at least 30% women. At least eight collaboration and gender sensitive knowledge events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip reports • Project progress reports 	<p><u>A:</u> Regional events provide valuable opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing.</p> <p><u>R:</u> Limited participation or interest from staff, stakeholders, and partners. Political influence in selection process participants</p>

	Output 4.1.4: Capacity is built and experience shared for the development of sustainable finance opportunities at national and regional levels.	Indicator 4.1.4: Number of regional exchange, learning and cooperation opportunities focused on sustainable finance	Baseline 4.1.4: Zero (0) regional and international exchange and learning opportunities on sustainable finance	Target 4.1.4: (Co-organize and support four multi-stakeholder dialogues / learning events with governments, regional institutions, donors, and the private sector to develop and implement sustainable finance mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event reports • Sustainable finance case studies explored 	<p>A: Stakeholders are open to exploring sustainable finance solutions and innovations. RCP provides effective support and coordination for finance initiatives.</p> <p>R: Sustainable finance initiatives do not align with local, national, or regional needs.</p>
	Output 4.1.5: Gender sensitive, knowledge management products developed and disseminated at local, national and regional levels.	Indicator 4.15: Number of gender sensitive, knowledge products developed and disseminated.	Baseline 4.1.5: No gender sensitive knowledge products developed	Target 4.1.5: At least 10 gender sensitive knowledge products developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy briefs • Land use plans • Fact sheets • documents • Project progress reports • Success stories • Lessons learned • Best practices 	<p>R: Inadequate knowledge capture and documentation during the project lifecycle. A: There is effective knowledge capture and transfer</p>

Component 5 – Program management, monitoring and evaluations	Outcome 5.1: Improved project delivery, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation	Indicator 5.1: Number of satisfactory Project progress reports				A: Project governance and M&E system works effectively R: Staff turnover, delays and external conditions
	Output 5.1.1: A gender-sensitive M&E system developed to collect, analyze and synthesize data and information generated during project implementation	Indicator 5.1.1: Number of gender sensitive Project M&E systems operational	Baseline 5.1.1: No project M&E system	Target 5.1.1: One Gender sensitive Project M&E system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&E system 	A: Adequate information is available and information sharing is effective. R: IT, training or capacity constraints impact effectiveness of M&E system.
	Output 5.1.2.: Project technical and financial reports produced	Indicator 5.12: Number of technical and financial reports produced in which gender and inclusion are integrated.	Baseline 5.1.2: No quarterly and annual project reports	Target 5.1.2: 12 quarterly and four annual technical and financial reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project progress reports Audit reports 	A: Adequate information is available and information sharing is effective. R: IT, training or capacity constraints impact effectiveness of M&E system.
	Output 5.1.3: Independent and gender sensitive evaluations conducted	Indicator 5.1.3: Number of independent, gender sensitive evaluations conducted	Baseline 5.1.3: No independent evaluations	Target 5.13: One gender sensitive mid-term and terminal evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-term evaluation reports Terminal evaluation reports 	A: Suitably qualified and experienced evaluators can be secured. R: Evaluator faces challenging accessing key stakeholders / documents

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Consultant firm contract	110,000.00	37,000.00	73,000.00
Inception and Validation workshop	22,000.00		22,000.00
Travel/Missions	14,000.00	452.00	13,548.00
Translation	4,000.00		4,000.00
Total	150,000.00	452.00	112,548.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bossou	7.65	-8.51667	

Location Description:

MNBR- third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
N'Zoo	7.67944	-8.31417	

Location Description:

MNBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tounkarata	7.61667	-8.35	

Location Description:

MNBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lola	7.83333	-8.33333	

Location Description:

MNBR - second-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
N'Zébéla	8.08333	-9.1	

Location Description:

ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fassankoni	8.03333	-9.36667	

Location Description:

ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ourémai	8.43333	-9.43333	

Location Description:

ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sengbédou	8.56667	-9.31667	

Location Description:

ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

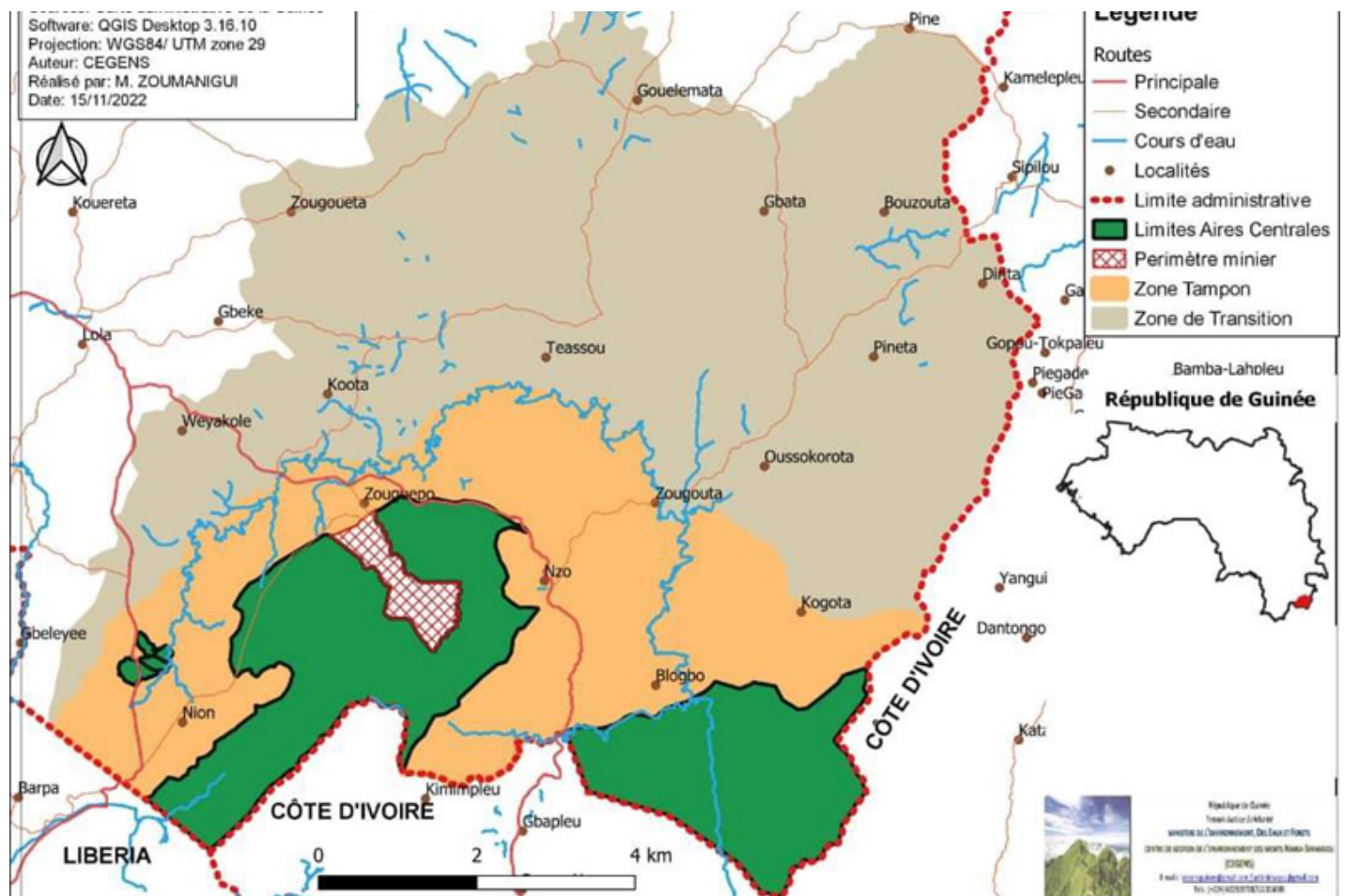
Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sérédou	8.38333	-9.3	

Location Description:

ZMBR - third-order administrative division

Activity Description:

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



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

GEF11146_Guinea ESMP 29102024

GEF ID 11146 Guinee esms preliminary screening_June 2024

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-total	M&E	PMC	Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity
National Consultant	National Consultant for facilitation and Strategic Guidance in Reviewing and Harmonizing Government Mandates and Protocols for BR Management (15 days @ 280 USD)	4,200.00	-	-	-	4,200.00	-	-	4,200.00	IUCN
	National Consultant to provide guidance and develop policy briefs on national land use issues and reform processes (50 days @ 280 USD)	14,000.00	-	-	-	14,000.00	-	-	14,000.00	IUCN
	National Consultant to develop the gender inclusive Project Communication and Education Strategy (25 days @ 280 USD), further supporting integration of environmental education into primary and secondary schools at MNBR and ZMBR to raise awareness among youth about conservation and sustainability (50 days @ 280 USD)	-	-	-	26,000.00	26,000.00	-	-	26,000.00	IUCN
	M&E System Implementation and Plan Development: M&E System Design and Implementation 10 days + M&E Plan Development 10 days + Capacity Building	-	-	-	-	-	25,760.00	-	25,760.00	IUCN
	Facilitator & speakers fees @ 200	-	-	4,000.00	-	4,000.00	-	-	4,000.00	IUCN
International Consultant	Expert Consultancy on Sustainable Financing for Biosphere Reserves: To provide expert advice on sustainable finance mechanisms and assist in the management of both the Mount Nimba Biosphere Reserve (MNBR) and Ziam Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR). The consultant will support the development of proposals, strategic plans, and moderate discussions among stakeholders to ensure the alignment of sustainable finance strategies with national and transboundary initiatives - consultancy package of 70 days over 3 years at \$1,100 USD per day, including operational costs, such as travel expenses	104,650.00	-	-	-	104,650.00	-	-	104,650.00	IUCN
Staff Cost	Communication and outreach officer (700\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 48 months)	-	11,310.00	9,048.00	15,834.00	36,192.00	-	-	36,192.00	IUCN
	Gender and Safeguards Mainstreaming Officer (700\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 48 months)	-	11,310.00	9,048.00	15,832.00	36,190.00	-	-	36,190.00	IUCN
Travel	International travels (flight)	-	-	8,050.00	72,200.00	80,250.00	-	-	80,250.00	IUCN
	National travels (flight)	7,560.00	-	8,120.00	18,770.00	34,450.00	320.00	-	34,770.00	IUCN
	Experience exchange and/or training trips for protected area managers and staff involved in the management of the Ziam and Nimba biospheres to facilitate learning and exposure through visits to other GFIP countries or landscapes for sharing experiences and best practices in protected area management, exchanging knowledge with peers from other countries or landscapes and bring back new ideas and strategies to enhance the management of the Ziam and Nimba biospheres. x2 @14,000USD	-	-	-	66,100.00	66,100.00	-	-	66,100.00	IUCN
Trainings, workshops, meetings	Inception workshop and annual steering committee meetings (conducted back-to-back with other holistic meetings or as hybrid events with in-person and virtual participation) at \$5,000 per meeting.	-	-	-	-	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	IUCN

	Workshops & Technical Meetings with Stakeholders and Partners [1,000 USD per event]	21,000.00	-	35,000.00	20,350.00	76,350.00	5,650.00	-	82,000.00	IUCN
	Annual meeting involving all local stakeholders (communities, local associations, local authorities), partners in Guinée Forestière, representatives of prefectural and national authorities, international NGOs, and other interested experts [15,000 USD per event]	45,000.00	-	30,000.00	-	75,000.00	-	-	75,000.00	IUCN
	Local Level Workshops and Consultations, including venue hire, materials, and facilitation [80 USD/meeting]	3,200.00	-	8,400.00	-	11,600.00	-	-	11,600.00	IUCN
	Workshops and Training Sessions @ Learning and Exchange Programs @	-	-	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	-	-	15,000.00	IUCN
	Training of teachers to raise awareness and understanding, share, and disseminate project information and learning in schools across 60 villages @ 2 sessions/village x \$500 per session, all inclusive.	-	-	-	60,000.00	60,000.00	-	-	60,000.00	IUCN
	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues and Round Tables 2 events @ 15,000 USD per event [in Guinea - Conakry or Nzérékore]	-	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00	-	-	30,000.00	IUCN
Goods	Materials (smartphones, laptops, drones, field equipment) for Village Monitoring Committees \$50,000 for Ziama and \$150,000 for Nimba	-	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00	IUCN
	Materials for (joint) patrols: Eco-guards uniform & kits (50 x425S), GPS, smartphones, & trackers (20 x180S), Photo & video equipment (4 x500S)	-	-	26,850.00	-	26,850.00	-	-	26,850.00	IUCN
	Restoration Equipment and Materials @	-	-	9,000.00	-	9,000.00	-	-	9,000.00	IUCN
	4x4 vehicle e.g., Toyota Hilux Double Cab	6,000.00	48,000.00	13,600.00	12,400.00	80,000.00	-	-	80,000.00	IUCN
	Motorbike e.g., Yamaha DT125 @ 4,000	-	40,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	IUCN
	Drones and Remote Sensing Equipment	-	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	IUCN
	GIS/Mapping Software Licenses and Tools	-	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	IUCN
Contractual services	Consulting Firm for Midterm Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	IUCN
	Consulting firm for final evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	40,000.00	-	40,000.00	IUCN
	Legal Advisory and Documentation Services [lumpsum 5,000 USD to draft and review legal documents and protocols to clarify mandates and responsibilities, ensuring they are legally sound and enforceable & prepare the legal framework and required documentation to facilitate the issuance of an inter-Ministerial decree by the responsible government departments.]	5,000.00	-	-	-	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	IUCN
	Feasibility studies for sustainable financing on the most relevant options and/or specific studies identified to unlock financing mechanisms [20,000 USD x 2 sites]	40,000.00	-	-	-	40,000.00	-	-	40,000.00	IUCN
	Technical Assistance for CFZ Mapping Service and Physical Reproduction of Maps for Ziama and further integrating developed LUPs into Local Development Plans (LDPs) and the Management Plans for both Biosphere Reserves	-	70,000.00	-	-	70,000.00	-	-	70,000.00	IUCN
	Development and maintenance of online resource portals: IT Consultancy to develop an online archiving system for storing all documentation related to Nimba/Ziama and providing access to key stakeholders, develop a protocol and monitoring system for proper filing and archiving of anticipated reports during the implementation of the management plan, and ensure all high-level documents are available on the CFZ website (https://cfzguinee.org/)	-	-	7,000.00	-	7,000.00	-	-	7,000.00	IUCN
	Communication Supports & Guidance Document on results of applied research to support decision making processes for transboundary forest management & ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins, including protocols for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement	-	-	20,000.00	-	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00	IUCN
	Training program development and execution, focusing on SMART and other joint monitoring protocols, field identification methods, skills development, and training on technologies (e.g., fire reporting/control, detection of hunting activities) using drones, remote sensing, and GIS/mapping time equivalent: Program Development (15 days @ \$500/day) & Training Delivery (20 days @ \$500/day). Includes preparation, on-site training, and follow-up sessions.	-	-	17,500.00	-	17,500.00	-	-	17,500.00	IUCN
	Implementation of Nature-based solutions e.g., Restoration of gallery forests, Rehabilitation/protection of forests around water sources, Wetland protection (basis for three initiatives that will be	-	-	174,000.00	-	174,000.00	-	-	174,000.00	IUCN
	Radio broadcast & social media campaign for public awareness	-	-	-	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	-	3,000.00	IUCN
Other operating costs	Law Enforcement Patrol Stipends & Patrol Incentives, including food rations and additional equipment/consumables	-	-	80,000.00	-	80,000.00	-	-	80,000.00	IUCN
	Communication and outreach materials	-	5,000.00	4,000.00	7,000.00	16,000.00	-	-	16,000.00	IUCN

	Consumables	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,961.00	9,961.00	IUCN
	Vehicle maintenance & fuel	2,864.00	41,010.00	6,338.00	5,646.00	55,858.00	-	-	55,858.00	IUCN
	Vehicle insurance, licenses, and tariffs	399.00	5,865.00	906.00	826.00	7,996.00	-	-	7,996.00	IUCN
Grants	Sub-grant to NGO (or consortium of NGO) for raising awareness, gather community input through workshops and meetings, and develop land use plans (LUPs) with community participation, focusing on mapping and identifying priority areas for conservation, restoration, and development, focussing on Nimba Biosphere Reserve [Co-financing for Ziama BR] c. \$15,000 per LUP all-inclusive + \$5,000 per village awareness campaign + 13% Grant Management	-	452,000.00	-	-	452,000.00	-	-	452,000.00	Implementing Partner
	Sub-grant to Local Organization with International Technical Assistance (e.g., KBA Secretariat) for incorporating data into project frameworks (eq. 50 days x 280 USD + 20 days x 500 USD), conducting a comprehensive biodiversity inventory (\$20,000 USD), and organizing local level workshops and consultations, including expenses for 40 local/community meetings (auxiliary expenses @ \$80 per meeting), and workshops & technical meetings with stakeholders and partners (2 x \$1,000/meeting). Additionally, a lump sum of \$60,000 USD is allocated for the update of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) for Ziama and Nimba Biosphere Reserves, including moderation and convening of the National Coordination Group. + 13% Grant Management	-	123,396.00	-	-	123,396.00	-	-	123,396.00	Implementing Partner
	Sub-grant to a (consortium of) tree planting/restoration specialized NGO(s) to develop and implement comprehensive habitat monitoring and restoration activities. These activities include developing and validating a habitat monitoring protocol, implementing habitat monitoring with data analysis and report writing, identifying priority areas for restoration using monitoring results, assessing previous restoration efforts, and developing and validating an action plan for managing nurseries and conducting restoration activities. Additionally, the sub grant will ensure the regular evaluation of the success of these restoration efforts. This sub-grant covers transportation costs and all other operational expenses of the sub-grantee. Specifically, the sub-grant includes restoration activities such as tree nurseries and training at a cost of \$1,160 per hectare for 700 hectares and improved practices and community engagement with a lump sum of \$250,000 for Nimba. + 13% Grant Management	-	1,316,060.00	-	-	1,316,060.00	-	-	1,316,060.00	Implementing Partner
	Sub-grant to a consortium of local NGOs, supported by service providers, to enhance local capacity, foster sustainable business models, and develop value chains benefiting both the environment and local communities. This initiative leverages the expertise of an international NGO to support projects like the EU-CBI initiative for Ziama coffee. @average 450,000USD x 2 sites all-inclusive (lumpsum).	153,000.00	747,000.00	-	-	900,000.00	-	-	900,000.00	Implementing Partner
	Sub-grant to a national NGO to establish and conduct training and joint monitoring sessions using the Site-Support Group Approach - Establishment Phase (\$100,000): Biodiversity Surveys, Habitat Assessments, Socio-Economic Surveys, Participatory Mapping, Miscellaneous	-	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00	-	-	200,000.00	Implementing Partner
	Sub-grant to a consortium of local NGOs, supported by service providers, to enhance institutional capacity and local communities on human rights, social	-	-	-	203,400.00	203,400.00	-	-	203,400.00	Implementing Partner
Project Management Cost	National Project Coordinator (2,000\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 48 months)	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,443.00	103,443.00	IUCN
	M&E Officer (870\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 42 months)	-	-	-	-	-	39,373.00	-	39,373.00	IUCN
	Biodiversity and Environmental Management Expert (1,200\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 48 months)	12,414.00	20,690.00	12,414.00	16,552.00	62,070.00	-	-	62,070.00	IUCN
	Gender and Safeguards Officer (870\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 42 months)	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,373.00	39,373.00	IUCN
	Finance and Administrative Officer (500\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 42 months)	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,628.00	22,628.00	IUCN
	Drivers x2 (250\$ base salary in Y1, 5% inflation rate considered, 48 months)	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,861.00	25,861.00	IUCN
	PMU office supply (1,000 USD lumpsum x4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000.00	4,000.00	IUCN
	Computers & accessories (1,500 USD lumpsum x4)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	IUCN

Other equipments (dashshow, printer, scanner, etc.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,200.00	6,200.00	IUCN
System Audit at Inception [Conduct a comprehensive system audit at the beginning of the project to evaluate and ensure that all processes, systems, and controls are in place and functioning as intended. This includes reviewing project management systems, financial controls, and compliance with relevant regulations and standards in particular the IUCN-GEF procedures.]	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000.00	7,000.00	IUCN
Expenditure Audit at Project End [Perform an expenditure audit at the end of the project to verify that all expenses were incurred according to the project plan and budget. This involves examining financial records, ensuring proper allocation of funds, and confirming that expenditures comply with IUCN financial guidelines and GEF requirements.]	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	IUCN
Grand Total	419,287.00	3,291,641.00	521,274.00	573,910.00	4,806,112.00	161,103.00	234,466.00	5,201,681.00	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

Part I - General Project Information	GEF Sec Comments	Agency response
1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?	Addressed.	
b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p><u>Rio Markers</u></p> <p>The basic reasoning of the CFB IP is to propose a solution to the twin crisis of biodiversity and climate (BD and CCM being the two principal objectives). These ratings can be adjusted depending on the region and the local context of the project.</p>	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>The Rio Markers have been revised – indicating two principal objectives including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biodiversity (BD) through improved conservation of the Mount Nimba and Bossou Biosphere Reserve (MNBR; https://www.protectedplanet.net/3027) and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve (ZMBR;

	<p>1) Please, provide a reasoning for your selection.</p> <p>2) Revise the proposed ratings: having four objectives being principal is not convincing and may reflect a lack of focus.</p>	<p>https://www.protectedplanet.net/29066); and</p> <p>2. Climate Change Mitigation (CCM) through sequestration of carbon through forest landscape restoration.</p> <p>In addition, Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Land Degradation have been marked as significant contributions as the project will improve ecosystem resilience and livelihoods, and sustainable land use respectively</p>
<p>2. Project Summary.</p> <p>a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?</p> <p>b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?</p> <p>c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p><u>Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The summary missed the elements related to transformation and integration. Please, revise. - This summary missed the role of this project in terms of KM and learning and coordination with the RCP and the neighbouring countries, especially Liberia and Sierra Leone. Please, revise. 	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>The project summary has been re-written as shown below. Aspects of knowledge management, coordination with the RCP and transformation have been added and are highlighted below in yellow.</p> <p>In Guinea, forests provide vital ecosystem services such as fresh water, climate regulation, and resources for food and medicine, which local communities depend on for their livelihoods. However, the country faces severe challenges due to rapid deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in the Guinean Forest Biome driven by over-exploitation of forest resources from agricultural expansion, unsustainable timber extraction, charcoal production, artisanal and industrial mining, and unsustainable hunting, all exacerbated by climate change. Key underlying drivers include poverty, wealth inequality, economic development pressures, population growth, unclear land tenure, and gender inequities in resource management.</p> <p>In response to these challenges, the project aligns with the GEF Guinean Forests Integrated Program, and aims to protect and restore forest ecosystem connectivity, enhance sustainable livelihoods, and conserve biodiversity in</p>

<p>program goal and approach?</p>		<p>the Mount Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves. Key actions involve developing enabling policies, sustainable finance mechanisms, and managing transboundary landscapes while fostering stakeholder collaboration.</p> <p>The project will also create knowledge management products (e.g. policy briefs, land use plans, fact sheets, project progress reports, success stories, lessons learned, best practices, etc.) for dissemination among local, national, and regional stakeholders and collaborate with child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia via the Regional Coordination Project. Transformative measures include developing gender-sensitive policies, leveraging sustainable finance opportunities, and promoting inclusive land use planning.</p> <p>Ultimately, the project will generate global environment benefits including 7,000 hectares of degraded forests restored, 115,000 hectares of land under improved practices, 1.5 million tCO₂e mitigated, and benefit 10,000 people (5,000 men and 5,000 women).</p>
<p>3. Project Description Overview</p> <p>a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable ?</p> <p>b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of cofinancing is not clear. Please, elaborate. - The project amount is relatively low, also with a low cofinancing ratio. The additionality of GEF financed activities is not clear. Please, to be revised. 	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>An additional US\$ 1,620,000 has been received, bringing the total co-financing to US\$ 16,280,946, which is a ratio of 1:3.13 (One dollar of GEF funding to 3.13 for co-financing).</p> <p>In addition, there are discussions still ongoing with potential co-financiers including World Bank, Rio Tinto, Société des Mines de Fer de Guinée (SMFG), Fauna and Flora International (FFI), UNDP and FAO. Once co-financing from these entities is realized, this will enhance the co-financing figure and will be reported during the implementation phase.</p>

<p>program goal and approach? c) Are the component s, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change? d) Are gender dimensions , knowledge management, and M&E included within the project component s and budgeted for? e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional? f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable ?</p>	<p>Component 1</p> <p>- Several outputs and activities seem baseline activities. We do not see the role of the baseline financing, neither from other donors. Please, correct.</p> <p>- We are not seeing the needed elements of transformation: How will integration and collaboration among various sectors take place? To be revised.</p> <p>Component 2</p> <p>- Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop improved sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises: The identification of business enterprises and their empowerment is often a limiting</p>	<p>On the additionality of GEF-financed activities, texts highlighted in yellow have been added in description of project components, outcomes, and outputs in pages 14-23 of the CEO ER.</p> <p>Also, tables 7 - 10 in the ProDoc on pages 60 - 70 details how this project builds on and leverages synergies with past, ongoing and planned initiatives in Guinea and wider West Africa region aimed at enhancing the overall effectiveness of conservation efforts, contributing to sustainable development and conservation goals of Guinea, and the region at large</p> <p>Added the following text in the CEO ER form under the section: Transformation on page 12.</p> <p>In line with the GFIP PFD, this project's transformative measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. development of gender sensitive and socially inclusive policies to support and inform National Commission for Land and Housing Reform processes. ii. leveraging innovative and sustainable finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves. iii. development of Integrated, gender sensitive and socially inclusive village land use plans (LUPs). iv. strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins. v. establishment and strengthening of local, gender responsive multi-stakeholder platforms to ensure coordination, communication, and
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	<p>factor in projects. Please, share with us information gathered at PPG on this subject.</p>	<p>implementation of joint programmes; and</p> <p>vi. promotion of inclusive and gender-sensitive sustainable livelihoods of local communities around MNBR and ZMBR through the promotion of nature-based enterprises.</p> <p>For Nimba and Zياما Biosphere Reserves, the identification of SMEs was primarily based on previous interventions related to economic activities, particularly those developed by the mining company SMFG (Nimba), as well as FF, GRET (Zياما), and the GEF 5 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project (Nimba and Zياما).</p> <p>In the case of Zياما, we engaged in extensive collaboration with initiatives supported by the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries (CBI), particularly for promoting Zياما coffee. Additionally, the recently developed project documents under the AFD-supported program for managing the Zياما Massif Biosphere Reserve provided valuable references for supporting small and medium-scale green businesses. The main products involved include those from agroforestry (such as wood, palm oil, rubber, coffee, and cocoa), non-timber forest products (NTFPs), sustainable agriculture (e.g., rice-fish farming), and livestock farming (e.g., poultry and pig farming).</p> <p>During a visit to the Centre Agro Pastoral Ste Ursule du Mont Zياما training center in Seredou, which focuses on women and disadvantaged groups, we learned about a variety of practical training opportunities in sustainable production for agriculture and livestock, as well as product transformation and marketing (e.g., bakery, sustainable palm oil processing, coffee, and fruit juices). There are particularly promising opportunities in the sustainable transformation of products from agriculture, agroforestry, and NTFPs to support green and inclusive small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Therefore,</p>
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- Output 2.2.3: Joint ecological and socio-economic monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities
Forest-adjacent communities engaged in joint ecological and socio-economic monitoring: How is this activity connected to restoration or SLM activities? Are there elements to pursue these activities when the project will have closed?

this project will primarily support initiatives developed within the AFD-funded program for managing the Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserve, where green businesses are a key component.

The potential products for Nimba are similar to those for Ziama but have received less attention to date. A key player in Nimba is the mining company SMFG, which, in addition to supporting small-scale agricultural resource initiatives, aims to facilitate local development and land-use planning as necessary frameworks for future economic development, utilizing local and regional government funds generated from iron ore mining.

For Nimba, it is also vital to collaborate closely with the FAO and UNDP on their respective projects: 'Integrated Management of Degraded Landscapes for Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods in the Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea' (GEF ID: 10600) and 'Strengthening the Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Local Communities in the Guinea Forest Region to Climate Change' (GEF ID: 10160). Both projects explicitly aim to support green SMEs through training, microfinance, involvement of local banks, and specialized NGOs. Given the partial geographical and significant thematic overlap, strong collaboration and alignment regarding the support for green SMEs will enhance resource efficiency, outreach, economies of scale, and sustainable results

The basic idea is to integrate ecological and socio-economic monitoring as a core component of the proposed land use plans, which will form the basis for sustainable land management (SLM). Sustainable land management, in this context, refers to a combination of improving agricultural and animal husbandry production methods, promoting agroforestry, land and forest restoration, protection of water resources, biodiversity conservation,

	<p>Component 3</p> <p>- We welcome outcomes, outputs, and activities to improve the situation in transboundary basins. However, please, explain the non-duplication of these tasks with the GEF5 Mano River Union project, as well as the future GEF IW project to implement the Strategic Action Plan.</p>	<p>etc. Monitoring serves as a tool to track developments from a local perspective and make adjustments where necessary. This approach fosters local ownership and promotes the intended co-management of the buffer and transition zones.</p> <p>Sustaining socio-economic and ecological monitoring conducted by forest-adjacent communities after the end of project will be achieved through implementing the following strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Exploring sustainable funding mechanisms including options for (a) community-managed funds, such as those generated from sustainable forest products or eco-tourism, to finance ongoing monitoring efforts; and ensuring that joint monitoring activities are funded by the conservation Trust Fund currently being established. ii. Work with local governments to integrate monitoring activities into existing governance structures, ensuring that they are recognized and supported. iii. Establishing partnerships with NGOs and government agencies to secure ongoing funding or support for monitoring activities. iv. Providing ongoing training for community members in data collection, analysis, and reporting methods to empower them to continue monitoring independently. v. Implementing simple and low-cost technology solutions for data collection and management that can be maintained by community members, and vi. Training of communities to use remote sensing technology for ecological monitoring, allowing them to track changes over larger areas with less effort
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	<p>- Moreover, this project benefited of \$500,000 from IW to work with Liberia and Sierra Leone on the transboundary landscape these three countries share. Please, develop the specificities of these activities (Liberia and Sierra Leone also have additional resources from IW for these activities).</p>	<p>Description of component 3 and outcome 3.1 below shows how this project builds on and leverages the MRU and GEF IW.</p> <p>Component 3 responds to the regional and transboundary landscape objectives of the Guinea Child project, in the context of the broader objectives of the regional GEF8 GFIP (Guinean Forests Integrated Programme) and the component Regional Child Project ('Guinean Forests Regional Coordination and Learning Project'). In particular, Component 3 builds on the results of the GEF5 (IUCN/ Mano River Union (MRU)) 'Mano River Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project' (2016-2023: GEF ID: 4953) . This was implemented by IUCN and MRU in the Upper Guinea Forest region (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire) with the objective of strengthening the management of transboundary natural resources for sustained ecological benefits and improved livelihoods for the forest adjacent communities. The Guinea Child project will operate in the 2 MRU Water Basins and transboundary landscapes relevant to the Biosphere Reserves (MNBR and ZMBR) which are the focus of the Child project (respectively the Cavally and Moa-Makona/ Mano River Water Basins) (see below – section 4.3 Project Map) to revitalise and implement the transboundary framework agreements and technical committees set up under the IWRM and other regional forest conservation programmes, as well as the new 3-country Nimba Mountains Master Plan (in preparation by the 3 countries</p> <p>The Guinea Child project will strengthen capacity of Guinean stakeholders (State and civil society) to collaborate on transboundary watershed management, working with the other national Child projects and the RCP to revitalize and operationalize transboundary agreements, local committees and local plans; to support the application of applied research on decision-making for transboundary management and to trial</p>
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Nature-based solutions targeting improvements in freshwater and riparian ecosystem health and community resilience in transboundary river basin forest ecosystems. Interventions under this Component will build on the transboundary collaboration aspirations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia outlined in the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of Mano River Union Basins (MRU, 2023). They are also aligned with the GEF-8 Programming directions under the International Waters (IW) Thematic Area (Objective 3: Enhance water security in shared freshwater ecosystems). The Guinean Forests Regional Coordination Project (RCP), working closely with the 3 Child Country projects, will coordinate support to the revival of the Transboundary Committees established under the MRU at ministerial, national and community level, namely the MRU Ministerial Council, the National Consultative Platform for Water Users and the community-based Basin Management Committees. Each country will convene national and community level meetings to determine transboundary issues that are priority at local and national level based on the SAP, to inform regional engagements.

Two out of the three outputs under outcome 3.1 (Strengthened gender sensitive transboundary collaboration and coordination (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire) for enhanced conservation and management of the shared Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins), have specific activities including:

Under output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighboring countries revitalized and operationalized, the following activities are proposed including:

Activity **3.1.1.1:** Streamlining Transboundary Committees: recruitment

	<p>- We are not seeing the interest to finance meetings with other countries. We would prefer to see activities to support institutional change and a work on the evolution of institutions to work together at river basin scale. Please, modify.</p> <p>- output 3.1.3: Nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health & mitigate or help local communities adapt to climate change impacts: to be clarified. Unclear. What are you expecting from this output? please, clarify.</p>	<p>of committee members, review and drafting of terms of reference and operational procedures, convening initial and regular meetings, incorporating social inclusion and gender considerations.</p> <p><i>Activity 3.1.1.2:</i> Integrated, gender responsive training and capacity enhancement: combined workshops and training sessions for committee members, with technical assistance on transboundary management protocols, ensuring these are practical and directly applicable to their roles.</p> <p><i>Activity 3.1.1.3:</i> Enhanced gender responsive operational support: coordinate priority interventions based on technical committee discussions in watershed management, using and developing local capacities</p> <p>-</p> <p>Whereas under output 3.1.2: Support provided to Guinea stakeholders (government and civil society) to use results of applied research in decision making processes for transboundary, gender sensitive and inclusive forest management and ecosystem conservation in shared Water Basins, the following activities are proposed including:</p> <p><i>Activity 3.1.2.1:</i> Comprehensive, gender sensitive capacity assessment and training: conduct capacity needs assessment followed by targeted training sessions, designed to address identified gaps, and incorporating gender-sensitive approaches and practical applications of research in forest ecosystem management.</p> <p><i>Activity 3.1.2.2:</i> Gender responsive tool development and dissemination: develop and disseminate integrated technical guidance and monitoring tools, including protocols for joint transboundary patrols and enforcement,</p>
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<p>Component 4: We do not see the connection with the regional coordination project. Please, develop.</p> <p>- On the proportionality of the PMC: no co-financing has been selected for the PMC. As the costs associated with the project management must be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution</p>	<p>ensuring these tools are user-friendly and widely accessible.</p> <p>Meetings with other countries are included in output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender responsive knowledge sharing events held. Regional and International collaboration and knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.</p> <p>Specifically, under activity 4.1.3.1: Participation in Regional and International Events: Organize gender responsive participation of Guinea Child stakeholders in regional and international conferences, workshops, and forum</p> <p>On the evolution of institutions, the project focuses on supporting local governance committees established under the MRU project in Ziama and Nimba to consolidate and prepare for potential future GEF IWRM work (second phase MRU- IWRM).</p> <p>The project will use tools and methodologies that demonstrate the case for NbS infrastructure over grey infrastructure in the management of transboundary freshwater resources including Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions will be implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and mitigate or help local communities adapt to climate change impacts. Under this output, a sub-set of the projects identified and developed under Land Use Plans (see above Outcome 2.2; Outputs 2.2.1 & 2.2.2), will be identified and implemented with communities as 'Nature based solutions' (NbS) pilot projects. These will specifically target the achievement of improved riparian (riverbank) or</p>
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	<p>must be proportional, which means that the co-financing contribution to PMC should be around \$738,047 USD.</p>	<p>wetlands management for enhanced ecosystem health and maintenance of ecosystem services.</p> <p>These approaches will result in local community benefits (including for downstream stakeholders in the same catchment) including strengthened ecosystem and community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Activities to achieve this will include the identification of key zones for ecosystem services provision and protection (e.g. water sources, lowland gallery forests, riparian zones and wetlands, other identified vulnerable/ high value biodiversity sites (for animals, plants, ecosystem services). Secondly, stakeholder consultations (Guinea and Liberia) and review of priorities and project proposals in transboundary strategies and Protected Area plans including outputs from the GEF-5 MRU IWRM project (including the 2023 IUCN RAP - National Guinea Action Plan 37); and Ziama and Nimba Biosphere Reserve Management Plans).</p> <p>This will be followed by the development of collaborative community-led projects with a focus on transboundary ecosystem services, community benefits and resilience, (including attention to gender inclusivity and vulnerable groups). The Guinean Forests RCP will provide regional technical assistance and capacity-building support on NbS for the three MRU countries participating in the GFIP.</p> <p>Added the following text on the description of component 4 on page 21 of the CEO ER form.</p> <p>The project will foster learning through development of knowledge management products (e.g., Policy briefs, Land use plans, Fact sheets, documentaries, Project progress reports, Success stories, Lessons learned, best practices, etc.) that will be disseminated to stakeholders at local, national and regional levels via the GEF-8 Regional</p>
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		<p>Coordination Project. In addition, the project will collaborate with other Child projects in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP) on technical and capacity building initiatives, knowledge exchange and dissemination of innovations, and facilitation of transboundary forest landscape management and regional policy dialogues.</p> <p>Also, other links to the RCP have been highlighted in yellow throughout the description of component 4 on pages 20-22.</p> <p>This has been revised, and a total of US\$ 790,702 has been allocated to PMC from MEDD (US\$ 490,702) and IUCN (US\$ 300,000) as the Executing Agency and Executing partner respectively.</p>
4. Project Outline A. Project Rationale a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and	August 6, 2024 Addressed	

adequately addressed by the project design? b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier? c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?		
5 B. Project Description 5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic,	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 24, 2024</p> <p><u>Theory of Change</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please make the connection to the ToC approved in the PFD and adjust the result framework under the levers of transformation (also approved at PFD level). - The diagram is not readable. Please, modify. 	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>Theory of change has been revised and linked to the approved PFD (see page 13 of the CEO ER)</p>

<p>including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed? b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach? c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region? [If a</p>	<p><u>Gender</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender and equity issues are not enough integrated in the result framework. Please, revise. - Please upload the Gender Action Plan, which, if possible, should be budgeted. - As per GEF Guidance, and as entry points, please ensure that all the plans, frameworks and policies are gender responsive (e.g. Outputs 1.1.2, 3.1.1, 3.1.3). 	<p>Readable PowerPoint version of the ToC has been included as an attachment.</p> <p>Gender and equity issues have been integrated throughout the results-framework. The changes are highlighted in yellow in the results-framework on pages 43-54 in the CEO ER form)</p> <p>Gender Action plan has been developed with indicative budget provided and is now included as annex J on pages 63-64 in the CEO ER)</p> <p>Gender and equity issues have been integrated in all the plans and frameworks</p> <p>Considering the above, the following outputs have been revised to be gender sensitive/responsive including:</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 Gender-sensitive policy briefs developed for National Commission for Land and Housing Reform.</p> <p>Outputs 1.1.3: Sustainable, gender sensitive conservation finance opportunities for the MNBR and ZMBR Biosphere Reserves investigated and supported</p> <p>Output 2.2.2: Forest adjacent communities supported to develop gender sensitive and sustainable smallholder agriculture and business enterprises</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Local level, gender sensitive and inclusive transboundary</p>
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<p>child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach? d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options? e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project needs to ensure that the financial mechanisms are gender responsive, tackling the lack of access of women to these financial resources, ensuring trainings and capacity building activities and actively targeting women or women-led businesses (Outputs 1.1.3, 2.2.2, 4.1.3). - During project implementation, the PIRs, the MTE and the TE should include a review and reporting of the GAP and relevant gender dimensions of the project. - Please ensure that no comments provided at PFD approval are relevant for this child project 	<p>platforms, technical committees and plans under transboundary agreements with neighbouring countries revitalized and operationalized.</p> <p>Output 3.1.3: Gender inclusive, nature-based solutions (NbS) implemented to improve freshwater ecosystem health and help local communities adapt to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Output 4.1.3: Regional and international collaboration and gender responsive knowledge sharing events held on transboundary Water Basins and ecosystems.</p> <p>As indicated above, an indicative Gender Action plan has been developed (see annex J on pages 63-64 in the CEO ER), which shows key gender actions that will be undertaken during project implementation including among others conducting a gender analysis and hiring a Gender and Safeguard Specialist to oversee the mainstreaming of gender issues during project implementation</p> <p>On output 5.1.1: Project technical and financial reports produced, the following text has been added on page 24 of the CEO ER, 'The quarterly and annual project implementation reports will provide information on the status of the Gender Action plan and other relevant dimensions.'</p>
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<p>scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?</p> <p>f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?</p> <p>g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?</p> <p>h) How</p>		<p>Output 5.1.3: Independent evaluations conducted. The following text has been added on page 25 of the CEO ER form, 'In addition, the independent mid-term and terminal evaluations will assess the status of the implementation of the Gender Action plan and other relevant gender dimensions of the project.'</p> <p>These were addressed at the PIF stage.</p>
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does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?

i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?

j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?

k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge

<p>and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?</p> <p>l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?</p> <p>m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?</p>		
<p>5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing</p>	<p>November 13, 2024</p> <p>We clear the request for dual execution mode - the rationale is convincing. However, the technical clearance, before the Council circulation period cannot be given without the letter of support from the government. Please, provide the letter in the next round.</p>	<p>November 18th 2024</p> <p>This is noted, with thanks. We have now submitted the signed letter of support in</p>

<p>Initiatives and Project a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?</p> <p>b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?</p> <p>c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are taking note of the explanations provided about the project implementation and understand the request for the execution role from IUCN. Cleared. - We are seeing several lines of budget related to DSA for consultants, project team, ecoguards, communities, and government officials: please refer to the GEF guidelines (https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf) : Government salaries remain listed as ineligible expenses, to which associated benefits, bonuses and emoluments are added for clarity. Please, remove these budget lines and use the cofinancing to cover them. <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p><u>Institutional arrangements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To avoid a confusion with the GEF wording, we recommending using the expression “Executing partners” (in the implementation section) rather than “implementing partners” in the diagram. Please, modify. - Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project? Please, respond to the question. 	<p>the roadmap with the project documents in the portal.</p> <p>12th November 2024</p> <p>Noted on the DSA budget lines and GEF guidelines. Please note that we have now regrouped the eligible budget into other lines including consultancy, travel and workshops – removing the DSA. Please note we have removed DSA government lines completely from the budget.</p> <p>29th October 2024</p> <p>This has been addressed by using Executing partners instead of implementing partners. See revised institutional arrangements diagram on page 26 of the CEO ER form.</p> <p>Yes, IUCN will play an execution role due to the reasons provided below.</p> <p>During the project preparation (PIF and PPG phases), potential Institutional arrangements were discussed extensively during project preparation. Stakeholder consultations, including with Government partners, highlighted some critical risks which could be a constraint on good project progress and the achievement of objectives during implementation. The following identified risks were taken into consideration in selecting the most appropriate institutional arrangement for this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the high level of fiduciary and corruption risk;
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<p>project area, e.g.). d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the limited choice and number of reliable partners on the ground with capacity to guarantee the adequate execution of the project with secure financial management and reporting; the weak institutional capacity for implementation at both national and local levels. <p>The main challenge to address was to select an agency that is willing and has the capacity to undertake the lead executing function. IUCN, the Guinea Government and the project design team explored various options, with the final recommendation to propose 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.</p> <p>The proposal to include IUCN as EA (executing agency) is also supported by the following arguments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Implementing 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 Implementing Agency). The executing function for this project will be hosted in the IUCN Guinea country programme based in Conakry, Guinea. The oversight function
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		<p>for this project (Implementing 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building: IUCN and the GEF Child project will support strengthening the capacity of government institutions as well as civil society; including technical capacities for project and financial management at various levels. This has been discussed with other major programmes of donor support which also include capacity development with many of the same institutions (including World Bank, EU, AFD, UNDP). The RCP also brings regional support to capacity building under various components (with CI as the overall GEF Implementing Agency). Within these national and regional frameworks, for the Guinea Child project management, IUCN and the Government of Guinea will jointly recruit the PMU staff members (see proposed list below). The staff hired for the purpose of this project will have IUCN contracts and will be hosted or seconded to CEGENS or CFZ. The PMU staff will be based in Guinea Forestière as part of the PMU under the overall supervision of the IUCN programme in Guinea (Head of Programme).
5.3 Core indicators a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the	November 13, 2024 We discussed out of the review and agree with the GEF BD coordinator and the IUCN's GEF coordinator that 1) It is understood that METT scores are a requirement at CEO endorsement (https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-09/Results_Framework_Guidelines_2022_06_30.pdf), 2) IUCN will work with consultants and national partners to develop the METT scores for the considered protected areas, 3) the technical clearance will exceptionally be given without the METT score to allow the Council 4-week	November 18th 2024 This is noted with thanks. IUCN has already started the analysis work to obtain the METT scores, which will be provided at the end of the 4-week review period, as expected and agreed. We understand the signature of the endorsement letter is dependent on the provision of these scores.

<p>overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?</p> <p>b) Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?</p>	<p>information, and 4) the METT scores are expected before the end of the 4-week period and will condition the signature of the endorsement letter.</p> <p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>METT scores are requested, not IMETT. Please, correct.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p><u>Core Indicators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Core indicator 1: METT scores are expected at CEO endorsement. Please, complete <p>- Please provide the WDPA ID for the two PAs mentioned under indicator 1.2, as available.</p> <p>- Core Indicator 4.1: please explain better the type of land management you consider improving the benefits for Biodiversity (without certification system). The mention of "restoration and promotion of nature-based solutions and green enterprise development" is not enough.</p>	<p>12th November 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigations were conducted with government agencies and other partners involved in managing the two concerned landscapes, and it appears that METT evaluations were indeed carried out for these two protected areas in 2008 (see files submitted for both sites). However, these evaluations do not explicitly mention the METT scores, unlike the IMETT scores, which are available. In conclusion, we confirm that the METT scores are not available at this stage, as they were not included in the initial evaluations and have not been provided by any source. <p>29th October 2024</p> <p>Below are the 2023 IMETT scores for the two biosphere reserves according to the per the EU Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems (PAPFor) in West Africa, 2023 report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nimba: IMETT index of 39.15% distributed as follows: Management context : (74.4%); planning: (44.7%); inputs: (6.6%); process: (19.6%); Results: (36.1%); Effects/impacts: (53.5%) Ziama: IMETT index of 64.2% distributed as follows: management context : (78.2%); planning: (81.6%); inputs: (43.9%); process: (45.9%); Results: (63.7%); Effects/impacts: (67.4%) <p>WDPA IDs below have been included on pages 25 and 33 in the ProDoc under</p>
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	<p>- Core indicator 4.5: The document makes references to OECM. Please include the OECMs supported, if any, under Indicator 4.5 (you can include parts or all areas under CI 4.1 and CI 3).</p> <p>- Core Indicator 6: 1.5 million tCO₂e: please, explain the assumptions made.</p>	<p>section 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.1.2 respectively. In the CEO ER form, the IDs have been included in the core indicator table on page 26.</p> <p>i. Mount Nimba BR; https://www.protectedplanet.net/3027</p> <p>ii. Ziama Massif BR https://www.protectedplanet.net/29066</p> <p>Added the following to the description of core indicator 4 on page 31 of the CEO ER and page 121 of the ProDoc:</p> <p>The target for Core indicator 4 will be achieved through forest restoration and enhancement activities across the projects sites, identified as priorities through integrated land use planning (LUP) and implemented as community-led activities under Component 2 (Outcome 2.1: Land Use Plans supporting Mt Nimba and Ziama Massif Biosphere Reserves benefitting nature and local communities). And secondly, (Outcome 2.2: Implementation of Land Use Plans through Forest Landscape Restoration Activities and Green Business Development), also as community-led activities and Component 3 (transboundary collaboration and coordination with other Guinea Forest stakeholders for enhanced conservation management of the Moa-Makona/ Mano and Cavally River Water Basins).</p> <p>Without an accepted definition for OECMs by the Government of Guinea, there is no meaningful way to set a target. There is a risk that setting a target may elicit a negative reaction from some stakeholders. We propose that the project will track the results of CLF, land use planning, co-management agreements, etc., and identify which areas may reasonably be considered as OECMs – but as a post hoc assessment rather than subject to a target.</p>
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		<p>However, as per your suggestion, if all areas under core indicator 1: 4.1: 115,000 ha and core indicator 3: 7,000 ha are included as OECMS, the target will be 122,000 ha</p> <p>When calculating the tonnes of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions mitigated, the following assumptions were made including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Baseline Emission Level was established to determine what emissions would have occurred without the project. Details: This involved estimating current emissions from land use practices, deforestation rates, and other relevant activities. ii. Accounting period is 20 years (Four years for the implementation phase and 15 years for capitalization phase). iii. Conservation practices promoted by the project including restoration, sustainable land management, improved management of protected areas, reforestation etc, will be effective and lead to measurable reductions in GHG emissions. iv. The entire area under conservation practices contributes to GHG mitigation v. On avoided deforestation, it is assumed that the project effectively prevents deforestation or degradation that would have otherwise occurred. vi. Data used for calculations (e.g., land cover, biomass, emissions factors) are accurate and reliable.
	<p>- Core Indicator: 11: we take note of the perfect gender balance targeted under the CI11.</p> <p>However, with the current result framework and formulation of the outputs and activities, we do not see how this balance can be reached. Please, provide the specific measures and actions you will implement to reach this balance.</p>	

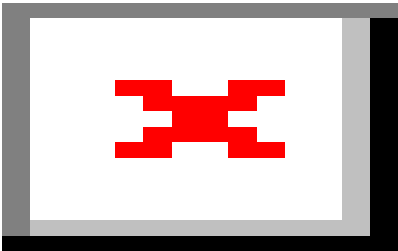
		<p>vii. On leakage, it is assumed that any potential increase in emissions in other areas due to the project is minimized or offset.</p> <p>viii. Socioeconomic conditions, such as community engagement and alternative livelihoods, are conducive to the success of the project.</p> <p>ix. Local communities will support and sustain conservation efforts, affecting the long-term viability of emissions reductions.</p> <p>Gender issues have been integrated into the revised results-framework on pages 43-54 in the CEO ER form)</p> <p>Also, an indicative Gender Action Plan and stakeholder engagement plan have been developed. (See annex J on pages 62-264 of the CEO ER form)</p>
<p>5.4 Risks</p> <p>a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?</p> <p>b) Is the rating provided</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p>- The narrative is very clear on the mitigation measures but does not summarize the risk assessment that led to identifying these mitigants. Consider adding text describing the nature of the risk to the project.</p> <p>- Under the Overall Risk category, please provide a summary that helps understand the identified rating.</p>	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>Texts describing the nature of risk have been added and highlighted in yellow in the risk management table on pages 29-31 of the CEO ER form</p> <p>The qualitative and quantitative determination of the overall risk category was conducting using a standard methodology for assessing risk: Likelihood x Impact = Risk.</p> <p>The project risk assessment followed a simple process including:</p>

<p>reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?</p> <p>c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying possible threats to the project-affected communities 2. Assessing likelihood of those threats materializing 3. Assessing impact to the project-affected communities 4. Determining risk and risk ratings for the project-affected communities 5. Identifying mitigation measures <p>For details see annex I on pages 57-62</p> <p>of the CEO ER that shows the qualitative and quantitative determination of the overall risk category.</p>
<p>5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?</p>		
<p>6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities</p> <p>6.1 a) Is the project adequately</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p>- We appreciated the reference of the CFB IP and the programming strategies.</p> <p>However, the text missed the explanation of the targets under the Core Indicators. Please, complete.</p>	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>Texts explaining the contribution of the child project's core indicators to the achievement of GFIP (PFD) targets are highlighted in yellow on pages 28-29 of the CEO ER form.</p>

aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy? b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?		
6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).	Yes	
6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the	Yes	

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?		
7 D. Policy Requirements 7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?	Yes	
7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?	Yes	
7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?	Yes	
7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Environmental and Social Safeguards</u></p> <p>- We understand that the project's overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and IUCN attached the preliminary ESMS screening. However, the preliminary ESMS screening said that "there is a possibility that two areas might be rated as high risk: risk issues triggered in the context of the Standard on Access Restrictions and on Indigenous Peoples." At the CEO Endorsement stage, please provide more detailed information about potential risk assessment and mitigation measures and Indigenous Peoples Plan related risks on Access Restrictions and on Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>The main risk issues identified in the screening relate to potential access restrictions. Additional risks include potential marginalization of vulnerable groups, including certain ethnic groups such as Fulani semi-nomadic herders, and women. Some potential safety and security risks linked to community workers were also identified, as well as human rights-related risks linked to working with law enforcement agencies. In fact, the project does not directly support law enforcement activities as such but does provide support in training to address social and human rights issues.</p> <p>To address these risks and mitigate impacts a number of activities are foreseen during the inception phase including:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the development of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAP), ii. the elaboration of an 'Access Restriction Mitigation Process Framework' followed by an 'Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction', and (3) set up of a 'Grievance Redress Mechanism' (or at least a design document). <p>This process will be further supported by the application of an 'Environmental and Social Management Plan' for the project and by including a gender/environmental safeguard specialist to the PMU.</p>
8 Annexes Annex A: Financing Tables 8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: I s the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply): STAR allocation?	Yes. addressed at concept and PFD level.	
Focal Area allocation?	Addressed.	
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?		
SCCF A (SIDS)?		

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?		
Focal Area Set Aside?		
8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG) a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?	November 8, 2024 Addressed. - On the utilization of the PPG: please request the agency to remove the category <i>PPG International Firm</i> and <i>Travel International Consultancy Firm</i> with the activities eligible with the PPG funds. 	29 th October 2024 This has been addressed
8.3 Source of Funds Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE? Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation	Addressed at PFD level.	

<p>8.4 Confirm ed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines? e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?</p>	<p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Addressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both co-financing letters from MEDD CFZ and MEDD CEGENS are provided in French. According to paragraph 7 of the GEF Guidelines on Co-financing (see GEF Cofinancing Guidelines), it is required to submit English translations of these letters. While a formal translation is not necessary, the agency should provide an acceptable English version in their capacity. - There is a discrepancy in the breakdown of the in-kind co-financing amount stated in the MESRI letter. The letter reflects a total of USD 298,812; however, the sum of the 11 project budget items equals USD 334,720.53. Please confirm and reconcile the correct co-financing amount. Additionally, the breakdown table is currently only provided in French. Kindly attach an English translation of the table. 	<p>29th October 2024</p> <p>Cofinancing letters from MEDD CFZ and MEDD CEGENS are now in English.</p> <p>The correct amount of USD 334,720.53 has been reflected in the cofinancing.</p>
<p>Annex B: Endorsements 8.5 a) If – and only if – this is a global or regional</p>		

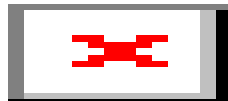
project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided: Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?		
b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?	Addressed at PFD level	
c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?		

Annex C: Project Results Framework 8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included? b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond /are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?) c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated? d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template? e)[If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework,	Yes	
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inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?		
Annex E: Project map and coordinates 8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?	Yes	
Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating 8.8 Have the relevant	Yes	

<p>safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?</p>		
<p>Annex G: GEF Budget template 8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line? b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)? c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?</p>	<p>November 19, 2024</p> <p><u>Quality Control</u>: Colleagues from PO found out a problem with the budget table in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view (which is the document that is circulated to Council – see the attached document): it has 64 pages, and it is no possible to understand the information included there. Please ask the Agency to present the budget table in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view in a comprehensible manner by (i) presenting the information per component (not per output); and (ii) including a brief project description in a reasonable manner, so one can understand what the activity entails.</p> <p>November 13, 2024</p> <p>All points are cleared. However, please, note there are multiple versions of the budget in the portal: include only one version and check the budget annex in the project document for consistency. Thanks.</p> <p>November 8, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We take note of the explanation provided for the vehicles (2 cars and 10 motorcycles) and find it acceptable. The request is cleared. - IUCN is the implementing agency and the main Executing partner, as IUCN will manage the budget and the different contracts/agreements. MEDD is not mentioned in the budget. Please, correct your response below. - All points are addressed. Thanks for simplifying the number of project related positions. <p>August 6, 2024</p>	<p>November 19th 2024</p> <p>The budget formatting issue has now been addressed and a revised version resubmitted based on the guidance provided.</p> <p>November 18th 2024</p> <p>This is noted and older versions of the budget have been removed in the portal. An updated Prodoc has been resubmitted to ensure alignment across documents.</p> <p>12th November 2024</p> <p>Please note that the indeed MEDD is not mentioned in the budget since IUCN is the implementing agency and the main Executing partner, as IUCN will manage the budget and the different contracts/agreements. We apologise that the answer we gave below was unclear and did not indicate appropriately.</p> <p>29th October 2024</p> <p>This has been addressed</p>

- The total for component 1 in Annex G =\$410,623 USD – there is a \$1 USD difference from what is provided in the Child Description Overview. Please request the agency to correct where necessary. The same comment applies to component 4 where there is a \$1 USD difference.



Budget

- We should see only one entity/institution in the last column: please, confirm who will execute the budget: IUCN or MEDD?

- Please, check the GEF policy on the purchase of vehicles. We would prefer if you would be able to find other sources of financing to purchase vehicles, especially from the GEF agency or cofinancing partners. First, please identify the number of existing vehicles of the main executing partner (MEDD) and the number of vehicles that should be acquired in the next 3 years. Second, identify the number of existing vehicles from other executing partners and/or cofinancing partners and the number of vehicles that should be purchased over the next 3-4 years. If there is still a need, then, we may consider the use of GEF resources for the proposed two 4x4 vehicles.

- Please, explain the rationale to use GEF resources for 10 motorbikes. GEF resources should be additional to baseline and cofinancing to generate Global Environment

IUCN is the Executing Agency (EA) and MEDD is the Executing Partner

Based on recent consultations with the Director General of CEGENS, below is the updated status of the use of Government vehicles and motorcycles.

Currently, there are: (a) two (02) pickup trucks - one for patrols and DGA monitoring tours and the other is assigned to the DG for its various trips; (b) 28 motorcycles donated by the World Bank for environmental monitoring activities. These motorcycles are assigned to the sector team leaders and a few curators. Thus, the current pool of motorcycles is insufficient.

While there are prospects for procuring or financing 12 motorcycles through the AfDB and one vehicle promised by the State, albeit without a solid guarantee, these resources will not meet all the agency's needs, especially when considering the requirements of the Child Project. This analysis indicates that relying on government support for the project's logistics will be challenging in this context.

Furthermore, the project locations are at two sites that are far apart, and the poor condition of the roads makes it necessary to have a vehicle and five motorcycles at each site.

	<p>Benefits. Very often, these items are baseline expenses and should be covered by cofinancing.</p> <p>Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We do not agree with the duplication of project positions. You need to revise the definition of staff positions and/or find other sources of financing (cofinancing?): - We do not see the need and the rationale for 1 national project coordinator + 1 deputy project coordinator. One of these positions, at least, should be financed by cofinancing. - Finance, Administrative, and Procurement Officer and a Technical Assistant Deputy Finance Officer? 	<p>This has been addressed as indicated below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Project Coordinator: He/she is responsible for the overall management of the project, strategic planning, coordination of the different components and liaison with national and international partners. He/she supervises activities, guides actions according to national priorities in terms of biodiversity and sustainable development, monitors results and ensures compliance with national policies to achieve objectives within the set deadlines. For this position, an ideal profile would combine solid experience in environmental project management, leadership, as well as in-depth knowledge of national and international policies on biodiversity and sustainable development. 2. Finance and Administrative Officer: He/she guarantees rigorous and transparent financial management of the project. He/she is responsible for developing budgets, monitoring expenses, and preparing financial reports in accordance with GEF and IUCN requirements. In addition to financial management, he/she ensures the proper administration of human resources, equipment and documents. This position is essential to ensure efficiency in the use of resources and facilitate the logistical and contractual management of the project. The ideal profile for this position would include solid experience in financial and administrative management in projects with international organizations, preferably knowledge of GEF and IUCN procedures, with mastery of budget management tools, accounting standards, as well as excellent organizational and priority management skills. 3. Biodiversity and Environmental Management Expert: He/she is a key position to provide technical expertise on biodiversity
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conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. He/she designs and implements conservation strategies adapted to local contexts, supports partners in ecological restoration initiatives and ensures compliance with the project's environmental standards. Its expertise is essential to guarantee solid and relevant scientific results in terms of environmental protection. The ideal profile for this position would include advanced training in environmental science, ecology or natural resource management, with practical experience implementing conservation and restoration strategies. In-depth knowledge of local and international environmental standards, as well as an ability to work with local communities and diverse stakeholders, is also required.

4. **Gender and Safeguards Officer:** He/she ensures the integration of gender issues in all stages of the project, ensuring the active participation of women and marginalized groups. He/she is responsible for developing economic activities to improve the living conditions of communities, by implementing inclusive strategies that particularly benefit households headed by women. This role is crucial for promoting women's economic empowerment, reducing gender inequalities and strengthening household resilience in the face of economic and environmental challenges. The profile of the Gender and Household Economics expert requires a degree in social sciences or development economics, with 5 years of experience in gender mainstreaming and community economic development. The expert must have expertise in inclusive economic strategies, particularly for the empowerment of women, and skills in monitoring and evaluation. Fluency in French and good communication and collaboration skills with local partners are essential.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:** He/she plays a crucial role

	<p>- We do not understand why consumables are assigned to technical components. Please, move this item to Project Management Costs? 9,600\$</p>	<p>in monitoring the progress of the project, evaluating its impact and proposing necessary adjustments to improve performance. He/she finetunes and implements an effective monitoring and evaluation system, analyses performance data and qualitative feedback and produces regular reports to guide strategic decisions. This position is also responsible for knowledge management, ensuring lessons learned are documented and shared. The ideal profile for this position would include expertise in project management, monitoring and evaluation, with strong experience in data analysis and report writing.</p> <p>6. Drivers: These play an important role in the smooth running of activities in the field. They are responsible for the safety and efficiency of team travel, ensuring that experts, partners and project members can reach intervention sites safely and on time. This position is essential to facilitate field missions, ensure smooth logistics and contribute to the coordination of actions on the various project intervention sites.</p> <p>Implementation partners (Government agencies, NGOs, Communities, National regional and international councils/service providers): Support the implementation of certain aspects of activities through conventions/contracts established with IUCN. These partners ensure the success of the project by providing complementary expertise, diversified resources and in-depth knowledge of local and global contexts. Their collaboration ensures that project actions are aligned with national and international priorities, while integrating local needs and realities. These partners also make it possible to mobilize additional resources, ensure effective implementation of activities on the ground, and strengthen the capacities of local actors to guarantee the sustainability and long-term impact of the project.</p>
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		Consumables (US\$ 9,600) has been moved to the Project Management Costs.
<p>Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes 8.10 a)</p> <p>Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.</p> <p>b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.</p> <p>c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concession al finance? If not, please provide comments.</p>		
Additional Annexes	November 13, 2024	

<p>9. GEFSEC DECISION</p> <p>9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation</p> <p>Is the project recommended for approval</p>	<p>All points are addressed, but the letter of support for dual execution mode from the government is missing and there are two versions of the budget. Once received a revised project package, the project will be recommended for technical clearance, quality control, and Council consultation.</p> <p>Please, remind that the METT scores will be expected before the end of the 4-week webposting period.</p> <p>November 8, 2024</p> <p>Thanks for the improvements. The project cannot be recommended yet. Please, address remaining comments.</p> <p>August 6, 2024</p> <p>The project cannot be recommended yet. Please, address the comments above.</p>	
<p>9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase</p>		