

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title

Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon

Region Gabon	GEF Project ID 11512
Country(ies) Gabon	Type of Project GBFF
GEF Agency(ies): WWF-US	GEF Agency Project ID G0054
Project Executing Entity(s) The Nature Conservancy	Project Executing Type CSO
GEF Focal Area (s) Biodiversity	Submission Date 4/1/2024
Type of Trust Fund GBFF	Project Duration (Months) 48
GEF Project Grant: (a) 1,364,496.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 122,804.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 1,487,300.00	Total Co-financing 0.00
PPG Amount: (e) 29,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 2,610.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 1,518,910.00	

Project Tags :

Support IPLC, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 4, GBF Target 19, GBF Target 21, GBF Target 22, GBF Target 23

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Gabon is the world’s 2nd most forested country, harboring rich biodiversity. Insufficient long-term protected area (PA) financing and reduced public support for PAs due to the impacts of human wildlife conflict (HWC) are two key barriers to achieving Target 3. The GEF-7 Enduring Earth (“EE”) project (GEF ID 11014) is developing a Project Finance for Permanence (“PFP”) in Gabon to secure long-term PA funding. Reducing HWC is a top priority for the Government of Gabon (GoG), and this GBFF project will integrate HWC management into the PFP to remove key barriers to achieving Target 3.

Almost all communities living in or near Gabon’s PAs experience HWC, eroding Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) support for PAs. New PAs or the extension of existing PAs may exacerbate HWC and increase distress in communities.^[1] This GBFF project will help deliver Target 3 by developing a national HWC strategy and integrating HWC into the Gabon PFP (Component 1) and supporting IPLC-designed HWC action and coexistence approaches in four PAs (Component 2). TNC will co-deliver the project with the GEF-7 EE project and incorporate HWC management into the PFP’s conservation and finance plans, and implementing mechanisms (the PFP Conservation Trust Fund), to ensure funding flows to this important issue.

The co-design and delivery of HWC management with IPLC is expected to improve IPLC input to management decisions and increase communication and trust between IPLC and PA managers, compared to the current baseline, increasing management effectiveness (measured by METT) of terrestrial and marine PAs (1,023,700 and 96,500 ha respectively). IPLC-led HWC management will improve management in at least 14,000 ha of areas outside of PAs that are key for connectivity with the PA system. TNC will execute both projects.

[1] Gross E, Jayasinghe N., Brooks A., Polet G., Wadhwa R. and Hilderink-Koopmans F. (2021)

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To improve protected and conserved area management in Gabon by integrating a national HWC strategy into the PFP financial mechanism and managing human wildlife conflict at key sites.

Project Components

Component 1. Enabling Conditions for improved Protected Area conservation and HWC Management in Gabon.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
260,406.60	

Outcome:

1.1 Evidence-based, stakeholder-driven, and gender-responsive National Strategy on HWC in and around PAs

1.2 PFP / CTF Strengthened for Protected Area Based Conservation and HWC Management

Output:

1.1.1 Evidence-based, stakeholder -driven, and gender-responsive national strategy on HWC in and around PAs informed by scientific studies, stakeholder engagement.

1.1.2 Support the establishment of a national commission to manage HWC with stakeholder panel to advise.

1.2.1 HWC management integrated into PFP and CTF, and Protected Area governing instruments -- incl. conservation plan, finance plan, operations manual(s), institutional capacity plans, and fundraising plans.

Component 2. IPLC led HWC Solutions

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
874,465.80	

Outcome:

2.1. Improved coexistence between humans and key wildlife conflict species in select areas, through gender responsive, IPLC-led evidence-based approaches.

Output:

2.1.1 Strategy-based, gender responsive HWC preventative measures, and approaches for human wildlife coexistence are tested, piloted, and scaled with IPLC in target geographies.

2.1.2 Strategy-based, gender responsive HWC responsive measures and human wildlife coexistence measures tested, piloted and scaled, e.g., micro-insurance, relief, rewards-based mechanisms.

Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications

Component Type	Trust Fund
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Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
51,642.60	

Outcome:

3.1 Lessons Captured and Disseminated

Output:

3.1.1 Case studies and other materials to showcase and share lessons learned

Project M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
53,936.00	

Outcome:

4.1 Project monitoring and evaluation data contributes to efficient decision making and to adaptive project management

Output:

4.1.1. Regular reporting and independent project evaluation

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. Enabling Conditions for improved Protected Area conservation and HWC Management in Gabon.	260,406.60	
Component 2. IPLC led HWC Solutions	874,465.80	
Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications	51,642.60	
Project M&E	53,936.00	
Subtotal	1,240,451.00	0.00

Project Management Cost	124,045.00	
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,364,496.00	0.00

Please provide Justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:

- Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);
- The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;
- The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;
- Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and
- Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

There is one significant change between this Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) CEO Endorsement document and the PPG Request submitted to GEF.

- Research conducted as a part of the development of this CER found that the population in communities surrounding the PAs is lower than initially estimated. Accordingly, the number of project beneficiaries has been reduced from 10,000 to 7,000 (50% men and 50% women). More precise population data will be gathered as a part of a socioeconomic study that will be carried out under project Component 2 as a part of project startup.

B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; 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. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

Environmental Problem

Tropical rainforests, part of the Congo Basin forest biome, cover approximately 85% of Gabon's land area. Gabon is known for iconic and threatened wildlife, such as forest elephants, western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, and various bird species. Gabon has established a network of national parks and protected areas to conserve its biodiversity and natural heritage. Almost all communities living in or near the National Parks are subject to conflict with wildlife. Human-wildlife conflict threatens both wildlife populations and the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, negatively impacting income and food security in affected communities and producing negative perceptions towards wildlife. HWC is increasingly common in Gabon

as its human population grows. Since 2021, the Gabonese Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife has recorded 5,000 HWC complaints a year as well as 30 deaths and 60 physical attacks.

The creation of new parks or the extension of existing parks and conserved areas, and management of parks, if not carefully undertaken, may exacerbate these conflicts and increase distress and frustration in communities. Failure to address HWC threatens to diminish efforts to protect species which often require large areas, often outside Protected Area (PA) limits, to survive, as well as public support for PAs and conservation writ large. The Government of Gabon and TNC are developing a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) (under the GEF-7 project “Enduring Earth,” GEF ID 11014) to secure longer-term, sufficient, and predictable financial resources to support conserved area management at the site and system level. However, the issue of human wildlife conflict is a top priority of the GoG, and needs to be more fully addressed in the PFP and associated work, as ongoing impacts from wildlife to life, property and livelihoods has contributed to loss of the IPLC constituency for area-based conservation. As such, this GBFF project is proposed to help address that outstanding barrier, and more effectively deliver Target 3 goals.

There are barriers to the adoption and implementation of HWC management at numerous levels:

- traditionally, there has been limited consultation with/inclusion of communities in conservation decisions and actions undertaken in elephant-prone areas;
- poor spatial planning has resulted in farming and other development activities in areas that clash with wildlife patterns; and
- available financing and human resources capacity for PA management and HWC is limited while conservation objectives are not a government priority.

Trends in HWC and community experiences around PAs indicate further attention and analysis are needed to address these challenges, including data on specific wildlife species associated with HWC in order to ensure the achievement of Target 3 goals.

Future Narratives

The following drivers of change could affect the rates of human wildlife conflict, and therefore the public support for achieving Target 3 goals, in Gabon over the medium- to long-terms:

1) **Climate change.**^{[1]²} Temperatures are already observed to be increasing, and there appear to be more extreme weather events occurring in Gabon’s near- to medium term future; changes in precipitation patterns are expected, resulting in the possibility of increases in droughts and wildfires. Together, these changes have the potential to impact agriculture, water availability and the health of the wider population. Gabon is also at risk of sea-level rise which could lead to coastal area flooding (increasing vulnerability in coastal communities, generally, but potentially complicating efforts to pursue subsistence agriculture in affected areas). Climate change could impact food supplies for wildlife, including elephants and others involved in HWC, potentially contributing to increases in the number of conflicts with humans. Overall, climate change could exacerbate or accelerate the other drivers noted below.

2) **Increasing wildlife numbers.** Relatively healthy (and growing) populations of endangered wildlife, including elephants (due to improvements in PA management, e.g. associated with this project’s interventions

and those of the GEF-7 EE, PFP project) could result in an increase in the incidence of human-wildlife conflicts.

1) **Urbanization.** The country has one of the highest urbanization rates in Africa (89.7%) and this is expected to rise to 92% and 95% by 2030 and 2050, respectively, thus resulting in population decreases in rural areas, which could increase the burden of HWC falling to those remaining in urban areas. If urbanization is not as intense as projected, there would be further incentive to find HWC solutions, as it would mean an increase in the risk of conflict affecting even more people, all things being equal. In any event, there will always be conflict with those who remain, making it a critical issue no matter the population dynamics. It is noted that with a comparatively small rural agrarian population that is comprised mainly of women, children, and elders (as many men and young couples migrate to urban centers for employment) it may be more difficult to administer to large-area HWC management structures (e.g., fencing).

2) **Increase in agribusiness in rural areas.** Growth in economic sub-sectors like agribusiness and wood manufacturing show promise of ultimately generating more jobs (in rural areas). This could counteract (to a degree) the impacts of urbanization on human populations in target areas and introduces the possibility of a new source of conflicts between humans and wildlife.

All of the future scenarios described below assume that PA management effectiveness will increase with the deployment of the GEF 7 project (Enduring Earth, GEF ID 11014) and the Gabon Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) resources, and therefore it is likely that key wildlife populations will be maintained and possibly increased thereby increasing the opportunity for human-wildlife interface and HWC.

Narrative 1

Lower population in rural areas attributable to urbanization, more wildlife, minimal climate change. With a lower populations / lower levels of population increase, the pressure on the ecosystem remains steady, including grazing, firewood collection, poaching of wildlife. This allows some opportunity to develop sustainable practices with the local communities living near the target protected areas. Slower increase in climate projections (hotter, drier) may place some, slowly increasing pressure for out-migration to the cities and coast, resulting in even lower populations. Fire intervals and intensity may remain steady. In any event, there will always be conflict with those who remain despite human migration patterns, making it a critical issue with respect to the integrity of PAs, the local constituency for conservation no matter the population dynamics. Indeed, in this scenario, the burden of HWC may fall to a smaller number of individuals, who may struggle to address it with fewer human resources. Of note, with a comparatively small rural agrarian population that is comprised mainly of women, children, and elders (as many men and young couples migrate to urban centers for employment) it may be more difficult to administer to large-area HWC management structures (e.g., fencing) if urbanization continues as expected. On the other hand, lower human population pressure coupled with a relatively stable climate may allow PAs to thrive and provide food and habitat for wildlife that are involved in HWC. This could result in less intrusions into human settlements, and therefore costly or labor intensive HWC management infrastructure required to avoid conflicts.

The prospect of new job opportunities in the agribusiness sector could introduce a new front for human wildlife conflict, increasing the number of incidents.

Narrative 2

Lower population, increase in wildlife, increase in climate change including severe flooding and droughts. While Gabon imports much of its food from neighboring countries, an increase in the impacts of climate change could reduce food supplies as well as economic opportunities and may force people who have moved to urban centers to return to their communities or rural areas. On the other hand, it may also result in increased urbanization as a result of the pressures in rural areas, and a migration away from flooded coastal areas in the event of sea level rise. Meanwhile, climate change could impact food supplies for wildlife, including those involved in HWC. All things being equal, climate change will increase pressures on rural communities, increasing the need for working with them to develop and implement more robust HWC management strategies. In this scenario, there is significantly higher risk that continued conflicts will frustrate conservation efforts, including efforts to meet Target 3, and risks overwhelming GoG efforts to address the critical issue of HWC.

Conclusions

In both scenarios, addressing human wildlife conflicts remains critical to efforts to improve protected area effectiveness, and to achieve Target 3 ambitions. With respect to the resilience of project measures to future changes in drivers of HWC, consideration will be given to the demographic make-up of local communities (including gender composition and capacities) when developing HWC measures to account for possible challenges with respect to maintenance / sustainability of interventions contemplated under Component 2. The integration of HWC into the PFP operating instruments will enable funding to flow to the HWC theme over time, promoting the sustainability of project-funded measures and their replication / scaling. The instruments governing the use of these funds (e.g. the conservation plan; relevant governing instruments of the CTF) will allow for the periodic reassessment to account for changes occasioned by the above-noted drivers.

Project Baseline

Protected Areas Baseline

Gabon has pledged its support to the 30x30 biodiversity agenda under the High-Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and has recently indicated its interest in ensuring protection in perpetuity of 30% of its oceans, lands, and freshwater ecosystems by 2030 (known as 30x30x30). Gabon is also poised to maintain a leading role as a high forest and low deforestation nation and is taking a leading role in the fight against climate change at the continental and international level. In 2019, Gabon became the first African country to receive payment for reducing CO₂ emissions through the multi-donor UN-hosted Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) for a total of \$150 million over ten years.

Since 2002 Gabon has progressively developed national policy and implementation capabilities for conservation of its biodiversity assets. The country has a network of terrestrial PAs consisting of 13 national parks, the Wonga-Wongué Presidential Reserve, nine Ramsar sites, hunting and wildlife reserves and arboretums, covering 22% of the country's land surface. Additionally, a network of aquatic PAs composed of marine parks and aquatic reserves, covering nearly 25% of Gabon's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) has been established by the Government of Gabon. The last audited figure for government budget contributions to the PA system was US\$5.3 Million in 2020. The most recent allocation from the national budget reported by Government (2021) was US\$9.4 Million/year, reflecting an increase in allocations to the Parks Agency. The three primary agencies mandated with the protection of Gabon's biodiversity are MINEF, ANPN and DGFAP. Analysis of the budgets of these agencies shows: 30% of the budget covers the salaries of MINEF/ANPN/DGFAP agents; 15% of the budget covers the basic functioning of the structures. Investments granted from state budgets represent less than 10% of the budget. External sources of financing (donors) represent about 40% of the overall budget. The combined staff of the three structures is about 2,500 agents, with a strong

centralization in Libreville. State budgets made available to field teams are very low, and do not allow them to be fully operational (lack of vehicles, operating costs, minimum maintenance of premises and mission equipment). Most investments are made via non-state financing, showing the system's dependence on this type of external financing. Only the national parks (13 terrestrial parks and the 9 marine parks) have dedicated budget support from the government, and this support is far from sufficient to pay for management, community relations, surveillance and monitoring, among other needs.

PFP Baseline

The Government of Gabon (GoG) together with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is now developing a Project Finance for Permanence initiative under the Enduring Earth Partnership^[2] supported with GEF-7 funding, as well as philanthropic donors. The PFP will support long term protected area conservation. While the incidence of HWC is increasing in Gabon with some 5,000 incidents reported annually, the PFP does not directly contemplate HWC.

The GEF 7 PFP project (and its significant philanthropic co-financing), “Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation,” will support Gabon to meet its world-first 30x30x30 goals by protecting an additional 5,030,000 ha in terrestrial PAs, 480,300 ha of freshwater (rivers), and 1,856,100 ha of ocean; improving management of 6,115,713 ha; securing an estimated 3.3M tCO₂e tons of carbon; and benefiting 60,000 people through inclusive conservation and livelihood activities. The PFP will establish a transition fund that will support capacity-building of government institutions, fund the creation of new PAs, and invest in improved management across the PA network (above what is listed above in the protected areas baseline) while providing a 10-year “on ramp” toward the goal of a self-sustaining financial model. After this transition period, the PFP will unlock an endowment fund capitalized by both public (GEF) and private donors to supplement enhanced government budget commitments and sustainable finance mechanisms, ensuring an estimated \$25M in annual funding for Gabon’s PA network and conservation activities. Both the transition and endowment funds will be managed by a new *Fond pour la Préservation de la Biodiversité du Gabon*-FPBG/Conservation Trust Fund (CTF), headquartered in Gabon and registered in the US, that will provide oversight and accountability for the conservation, management, and safeguards commitments agreed under the PFP. The PFP is expected to reach single close in late 2025. Of note, early in the GEF-7 project, TNC will assess the current conservation management status in 28 existing terrestrial PAs with no or expired management plans and work with stakeholders to develop site specific conservation management plans to achieve PA management effectiveness.

Gabon’s long-running history and commitment to environmental protection has made the country a model for conservation in Africa, and this commitment has been sustained through recent political events. On August 30, 2023 hours after Gabon’s election commission announced that President Ali Bongo Ondimba had been elected to a third term, a group of Gabonese military officers seized power and named Brice Oligui Nguema as President. Since transitioning into power, the new government has maintained staff in several Ministries, and has maintained support to developing the PFP.

Baseline of HWC Management in Gabon

The current government is dedicated to finding solutions to the HWC situation. President Nguema has voiced concern about HWC, mentioning the topic in his first address to the nation as president. Given that elections will be held in 2026, the President is anxious to find solutions to HWC as it is a high priority for the county’s rural population.

HWC affects both human and wildlife populations and several GoG agencies are involved in the issue. Over the last few years, Gabon’s National has focused on the following priorities which implicate HWC:

- Achieving Target 3 objectives

- Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity
- Supporting rural development of IPLCs
- Efficient management of human-wildlife conflicts
- Inclusive park management.

A number of Ministries are associated with HWC management in Gabon, at the national level:

- HWC is managed at the national level by the Ministry of Environment and Climate and HWC, and by the Minister of Water and Forest.
- Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux—National Park Agency (ANPN) is appointed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate as the implementing agency for HWC management. ANPN oversees the development, socializing, and implementation of HWC measures. ANPN has a Scientific Unit with a dedicated department and a research lab dealing with elephant related issues, including conflict.
- Ministry of Water and Forest appointed DGFAP (General Directorate of Wildlife and PAs) and DGAPBC (General Directorate of PAs, Biodiversity and HWC) as the responsible regulatory bodies related to HWC.
- At the national level, the Ministries are cooperating in an ad-hoc and needs-based way, but there is no structured cooperation mechanism in place, and no formal regulations or coordination group.

At the subnational / PA level:

- Each PA manager is in charge of IPLC relations and HWC.
- The Provincial Directorate of Water and Forests and the Wildlife Brigades are in charge of reporting incidents of HWC.
- At the provincial level, the Ministry of Agriculture (MAEP) coordinates with Ministry of Water and Forests regarding HWC incidents affecting crops.
- Each PA has a local management advisory committee (CCGL), which represents the community living around the PA and has representatives elected by the community. They work closely with ANPN.

Many communities feel that it is the government's responsibility to implement and maintain HWC management measures, and the GoG and NGOs have utilized a number of measures: electric (solar) fences, bees, lights, and hot (pili-pili) peppers to deter wildlife, as well as some efforts to provide monetary compensation to mitigate conflicts. Compensation and insurance programs have proven difficult to sustain. The NGO, Space for Giants, has an office in Mouila that covers operations in southern Gabon, including in two of the target PAs, Loango and Mayumba. Space for Giants is now installing/supporting installation of electric fences (500 in 2023) to prevent crop-raiding by elephants. Their fence units are relatively inexpensive, though their effectiveness tends to decline as elephants learn how to disable them. While fencing large areas is more economical, it has proven difficult to secure community buy-in for their maintenance. (Weeding around fencing is imperative as electric fencing stops working when it comes in contact with vegetation.) People are more likely to maintain fencing around their own fields, though overall, this is costlier and requires more fencing.

WWF is in the process of developing an HWC framework approach known as Conflict to Coexistence (“C2C”), based on a series of pilots in a number of countries, and which aims to facilitate systematic planning, implementation and monitoring of HWC management in an integrated and holistic manner and through a step-wise approach. The goal of the framework is to promote long-term management of HWC and moving towards coexistence while achieving short-term and intermediate results. The framework provides a template for effective HWC management with the flexibility to be tailored to different scales and contexts across diverse regions. The approach is characterized by a holistic view, considering drivers of HWC beyond the location where conflict occurs, an integrated nature, recognizing that HWC is a system requiring multiple managed actions and collaborations on various levels, and participatory implementation with multiple stakeholders, especially including those directly affected by HWC. WWF Gabon has been requested by the Gabon President to convene a meeting to develop an HWC action plan as early as mid-April 2024.^{[3]³}

A number of NGOs are working with GoG agencies on HWC management at PA sites, including the four NPs included in this GBFF project, as listed in Table 1 below. These approaches may be scaled up and different approaches may be delivered, based on the process of community co-development of interventions under Component 2.

Table 1 provides an overview of projects and initiatives in Gabon that form the baseline of this project. The GBFF PMU will coordinate with partners/projects listed below to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Table 1: Summary of ONGOING HWC initiatives in Gabon

Project/ Initiative (Lead Institution)	Short Description (objectives & main interventions)	Relationship to GBFF Project	Dates (Beginning-End)
Government of Gabon	In 2012, the GoG published its Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan (PSGE) that seeks to turn Gabon into an emerging economy by 2025. The PSGE has a chapter on 'Green Gabon', that focuses on Gabon’s natural resources. In 2014, Gabon adopted the General Law on Sustainable Development that requires companies to offset damage to forests or community land by buying sustainable development credits (carbon, biodiversity, ecosystem, and community capital credits) through a national credit trading scheme.	The GoG has been a good global actor in terms of protecting forests and carbon stocks for the last several decades, and the country falls into the classification of <i>High Forest-Low Deforestation (HFLD)</i> . Initiatives such as Green Gabon are aligned with the PFP and this GBFF project, as it seeks to augment GoG capacity to effectively manage its PAs and develop sustainable finance mechanisms (e.g. ecotourism) that support 2030 goals.	Ongoing
Human-Elephant Conflict: a database for Gabon	Made possible thanks to funding from the World Bank under the GEF (project ID 9212), the database is a computer management system responsible for processing and storing information, survey results and field studies to resolve conflicts between humans and elephants across the country for years.	The database will provide reliable, traceable information related to complaints from populations, including victims of devastation to crops.	2022-and forward

	The database will help in the installation of electric fences and facilitate compensation following the destruction of crops by animals, in particular elephants.		
GEF 7 GEF ID 11014 Enduring Earth Project Finance for Permanence for Gabon	The PFP under development in Gabon builds upon the Government of Gabon's ongoing collaboration with TNC to secure the protection of the country's important biodiversity and carbon stocks over the long term and close land and freshwater protection gaps in furtherance of its ambition to protect 30% of its terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems by 2030. The PFP (expected to close at the end of 2025) will be supported by both transition and endowment funds. The \$97M Transition Fund (to which the GEF project will contribute US\$3.7M) will cover the costs of establishing new PAs and effective management of the full network of these PAs during a 10-year transition phase. Payments from the transition fund will diminish over time as the Government institutionalizes in-country sustainable finance mechanisms that will help ensure permanence for conservation of 30% of its land, waters, and ocean. The endowment fund—with a target initial capitalization of \$27M (of which GEF will contribute \$5M)—will support capacity-building needs (of both government agencies and local communities) over the long term, maturing only after the end of the 10-year PFP transition phase, while the PA system operational costs are expected to be covered with revenues generated through the operation of the sustainable finance mechanisms and over time increased government budgetary allocations to the PA system.	This HWC project will be implemented in tandem with the PFP project. It will seek to integrate HWC into the core operations of the PFP, including a) conservation and finance plans; and b) its financing mechanisms (transition and endowment funds) to help guarantee the integrity of investments in the expansion and maintenance of the PA system.	2024-2030
Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) (MEF, Presidency and the Sovereign Wealth Fund)	TNC and the government are working together to develop a Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) to manage conservation revenues and associated investments. This will include returns from an endowment fund that will generate funds to support marine conservation over the medium- to long-term under the blue bond program. The CTF is being designed to capture, and deliver on, multiple funding streams, including the ability to channel	This HWC project will be implemented in tandem with the PFP/CTF project. It will seek to integrate HWC into the core operations of the PFP (and its financing mechanism), including a) conservation and finance plans; and b) its financing mechanisms (transition and endowment funds) to help guarantee the integrity of investments in the expansion and maintenance of the PA system.	Ongoing

	the resources secured through the PFP project (both transition and endowment funds).		
Central African Forest Initiative's (CAFI) funds.	In 2019, Gabon became the first African country to receive payment for reducing CO2 emissions through the multi-donor UN-hosted (CAFI) for a total of \$150 million over ten years. The GoG put the first payment towards activities that further decrease CO ₂ emissions through investments into community forestry, scientific research, forest management practices, PA system and government capacity, and that further enhance the income, livelihoods, and wellbeing of communities in Gabon.	This HWC project, through the GEF 7 PFP project may seek to leverage CAFI funds to expand IPLC-led HWC strategies in communities within/ surrounding other PAs.	2019 and ongoing
Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in the Lower Ogooué - Lower Nyanga Landscape Corridor GEF-7, GEF ID 10729	This UNDP project is a child project under the GEF-7, UNEP-led Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP). The area focuses on two major watersheds --the Lower Ogooué and Lower Nyanga. The project aims to conserve high conservation value and high carbon stock (HCV/HCS) forests and forest-wetland complexes to conserve high biodiversity, high carbon stock landscapes and to achieve this in concert with a strengthening of livelihood opportunities and resulting socioeconomic benefits for the forest dwelling and other forest dependent local communities in the project area. The project will focus on a landscape corridor composed of protected and conserved areas (GBFF PAs are not listed among the project PAs) and surrounding community areas. Reducing human wildlife conflict and human encroachment on natural forest ecosystems is a key objective, to reduce fragmentation and increased risk of zoonoses. The Project document notes in the Risk table that the project will develop and implement a human-wildlife conflict mitigation program, following widely-recognized IUCN Best Practices guidelines or similar, to ensure that efforts to manage human-wildlife conflicts are pursued through well-informed, holistic and collaborative processes that take into account underlying social, cultural and economic contexts.	It is noted that while the project works in the overall landscape, the communities around Loango (a focal PA of this GBFF project) are not explicitly included as a target in the project document. With respect to the HWC mitigation program, preliminary consultations with the UNDP team have resulted in an agreement to share and coordinate as HWC plans evolve. As of May 7, 2024, an HWC mitigation plan has not been developed for the UNDP GEF project.	2023-2027
Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in	This UNEP-led project aims to support better land use planning in transboundary landscapes in the	Geographic overlap with this project is limited to the Monts de Cristal PA, which will benefit from the development of an	2021-2026

<p>Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin</p> <p>GEF-7, GEF ID 10269</p>	<p>Congo Basin based on enhanced integrated land use management plans (ILUMPs) developed in a consultative manner and based on natural capital accounting and systems thinking. It also will fund targeted management interventions to provide safe and extensive habitat for stable and/or increasing populations of endangered species. A third component will support local communities, forest-dependent people and private sector to implement and scale up SFM investments in the Congo Basin</p>	<p>integrated land use development plan, and the implementation of a zoonotic disease surveillance system. This GBFF project will communicate with UNEP, ANPN, DGFAP, DGF, NGOs, and CSOs within the project to share learnings and promote the incorporation of HWC management into transboundary land use plans developed through the GEF-7 project. The GBFF project will also seek to leverage data gathered on illegal elephant-killings, to support science-based HWC management interventions.</p>	
<p>Gabon Forest Program – WCS</p>	<p>This program applies a multi-faceted approach to conserving Gabon’s forest elephants, inclusive of conducting scientific research for developing appropriate elephant conservation solutions (i.e., acoustic monitoring of elephants) and building national capacity for implementing science-informed strategies, including in Mayumba and Loango NPs. WCS does not currently operate in Monts de Cristal or Minkébé NPs.</p>	<p>This WCS program focuses on activities complementary to HWC management such as forest elephant conservation, including training in conservation, elephant population monitoring, and protected area management. This program presents opportunities for the GBFF project to complement and expand upon WCS’ existing socio-economic studies and technical assistance for elephant conservation with GBFF-funded HWC management strategies.</p>	<p>1985 - Ongoing</p>
<p>Human Wildlife Coexistence – Space for Giants (SfG)</p>	<p>Space for Giants applies three main approaches to increasing elephant-human coexistence in Gabon: national level strategic planning with the GoG, smart elephant fences in communities inclusive of Loango and Mayumba NPs, and M&E for adaptive management and informed policies and solutions.</p>	<p>TNC has an established relationship with SfG for installing mobile fences. The GBFF project will coordinate to leverage experience, learnings, and activities for assessing and incorporating fencing as a HWC management strategy, prospectively in management plans as well as implementation based on assessments at project-start. The GBFF project may also consult with SfG for monitoring results related to the installation, impact, and longevity of fences as deterrents.</p>	<p>2014 - Ongoing</p>
<p>Ecotourism & cultural protection – Multiple NGOs and CSOs</p>	<p>The broader initiative to support sustainable wildlife ecotourism and protection of IP and local culture in the northern and southern regions of Loango NP helps improve perception of and retain wildlife in habitat suitable to coexistence. This includes capacity building for behavior change (e.g., new agricultural techniques) and application of deterrents (e.g., electric fencing). Several NGOs and CSOs including Ibonga, Homleph, Hommes Batants, Terre et Communautés, and WWF engage in this activity</p>	<p>The GBFF project will communicate and cooperate with key NGOs, CSOs, and park managers promoting ecotourism and cultural protection in Loango NP to align similar activities, such as community engagement and capacity building, and leverage learnings for the most effective pursuit of Component 2 HWC preventative and responsive measures. Learnings reported by ecotourism stakeholders and organizations described here may inform recommendations for HWC and PA management plans. The ANPN will be engaged for effective multi-stakeholder</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

		coordination across the applicable organizations.	
Crop devastation management - ANPN, Ayebe Environnement (CSO), Land and Communities (NGO)	This initiative by ANPN and key CSOs and NGOs, particularly Ayebe Environnement, Space for Giants, and Land and Communities, supports management and reduction of crop devastation through the construction of electric barriers, beekeeping, and capacity building in agricultural techniques. The initiative takes place in several NPs, including Monts de Cristal, Minkébé, Mayumba, and Loango NPs. For example, TNC works with Ayebe Environment through the Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) project. The project is funding 10 mobile fences in the peripheral villages of the Monts de Cristal National Park, and also previously trained Ayebe Environnement personnel on beekeeping and the manufacturing of beehives.	This GBFF project will work with this project to ensure coordination in communities in and around the park on aligned activities such as electric and biological fencing (e.g., beehives) and community engagement. For example, the GBFF project will help extend activities to new sites and will support capacity building in agricultural technology, along with potential for other new activities. Activities will be carried out on the outskirts of the predefined national parks (Mayumba, Loango, Minkebe, Monts de Cristal). The ANPN is the manager of national parks in Gabon and all activities require their involvement. For example, the ANPN can provide support in monitoring activities because they are present on each site. TNC will conduct a review at project start up to determine with more detail about how the project will interact with local organizations individually and on a site-by-site basis.	Ongoing

This baseline presents a strong case of protected area coverage and 30x30x30 goals in Gabon, as well as government and TNC commitment to develop long-term sustainable financing for the protected area system through the Gabon PFP, and some government and NGO partner efforts towards managing HWC. While the PFP does not include a HWC focus, the PFP and its associated CTF provide an unprecedented opportunity to fortify Gabon’s PA network and further demonstrate the value that biodiversity conservation offers to the people of Gabon. This GBFF project is being proposed as the PFP project rolls out and will work in parallel with the PFP and the GoG to incorporate HWC management and coexistence into the PFP instruments and operations (including the PFP conservation and finance plan; transition and endowment funds). Furthermore, this GBFF project, with its focus on HWC, can ensure that HWC strategies build on knowledge derived from existing HWC efforts in country, the C2C approach, and from other HWC projects such as those under the recently closed GEF-6 *Wildlife and human-elephant conflicts management*^[4] project under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP), with the World Bank as the GEF Agency and ANPN as the Executing Agency (see annex N for key lessons). In particular, the GBFF project will incorporate some key lessons noted from the ICR of the GEF-6 project, including:

- Ensuring participation of the multiple government agencies responsible for HWC from the outset and make efforts to clearly delineate responsibilities and promote good communication/decision-making throughout the implementation phase (e.g. by ensuring all agencies are consulted in the course of HWC strategy development;
- Sharing key communications broadly across agencies; and

Convening a well-composed PSC, with clear TOR, as recommended by the ICR for the WB project.

Furthermore, with respect to policy coherence, the involvement of multiple ministries and agencies in the development of the HWC strategy and the IPLC interventions, will help to ensure that the HWC policy does not function at cross purposes (and ideally functions synergistically) with other government policy or initiatives. Technically, the World Bank project deployed electrified fencing to deter elephants in a number of communities, to great effect. This is relatively costly and must be maintained. For sustainability of impact, the ICR for the World Bank suggested “The government of Gabon should reconsider the establishing a conservation endowment fund to secure long-term, sustainable financing to ensure outcomes of this and other projects are maintained ...” This GBFF project is directly responsive to this recommendation, as it will include HWC management in the PFP instruments (including an endowment fund), so that the CTF fund activities related to HWC each year, including the costs of eco-rangers among other things, promoting sustainability over the medium- to long-terms.

A further key lesson taken from the ICR is the importance of engagement with women at regular intervals during implementation, including women-only meetings during consultations and adaptively managing the project in response to those perspectives as needed.

The GBFF project may help to mitigate potential degradation of GoG commitment to the PFP that may arise from declining public support for wildlife conservation/protected areas measures due to HWC impacts. The GBFF project will be co-delivered with the GEF-7 EE project to leverage global support for delivery of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 3 – Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas – by integrating a HWC element to the Gabon PFP. This project will develop a national HWC strategy and will co-design and implement HWC management and coexistence approaches in 4 PAs to help protect the livelihoods of affected communities. The project will contribute to Target 3 by promoting integrated HWC management (understanding, prevention, mitigation, response, strategy, monitoring and overall measures to support co-existence), reducing threats to biodiversity including numerous endemic and threatened species, and potentially reducing habitat degradation including forest, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems of national, regional and global significance.

Project Stakeholders

This project will work with the stakeholders (noted in the table below) to deliver this project with an inclusive, integrated approach that recognizes that the concerns of all affected parties—especially IPLCs—should be reflected in the national policy and the importance of IPLC-leadership for implementing effective HWC strategies.

Government is a key stakeholder. HWC is a top priority of the national government. This includes Ministries, Regulatory Authorities and Agencies, e.g. Ministry of Waters and Forests (“MEF”); Ministry of Environment, Climate and HWC; National Parks Agency (ANPN), and Local Government Authorities at the Province and Prefecture level, e.g. Provincial Directorates of Water and Forests and others with interest in the Project. Government leads HWC through the Minister of Environment, Climate and HWC and through the Minister of Water and Forest. The Ministry of Water and Forests (MEF) includes two directorates that are working on HWC regulation, the *Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées*— (the Directorate General of Fauna and Protected Areas--DGFAP) and the *Direction Générale des Aires Protégées Biodiversité et Conflit Homme Faune*—(the Directorate General of Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conflict –DGAPBC). The *Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux*—(National Park Agency--ANPN) works under the *Direction Générale de l’Environnement et pour la Protection de la Nature*--Directorate-General for the Environment and Nature Protection—DGEPN) and has been appointed by the Ministry of Environment, Climate, and HWC as the HWC strategy implementation agency. ANPN works at the site level and employs PA rangers and has a unit

dedicated to IPLC and HWC as well as a scientific unit that has a dedicated department and a lab dealing with elephant-related issues.

Local stakeholder meetings as a part of the development of this project (and the associated GEF-7 EE project) found that there are two main classifications of residents living in or near the four project PAs: the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the mainstream local communities (non-indigenous; LCs). This project will actively involve residents of local communities and IP communities who live within or near the four project PAs and their buffer zones (men, women, and youth) who are directly affected by HWC.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operate in the target protected areas. This includes non-state actors both internationally (e.g. WWF, TNC, Space for Giants, Wildlife Conservation Society) and locally (associations).

Academic institutions and governmental research institutes (e.g. ANPN's research institute working on HWC) will play an important role in the articulation of the HWC national strategy.

Private Sector engagement will vary depending on the site, and the knowledge, experience, and perspective, as well as resources, could add value to the project.

Fond pour la Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon (FPBG) is the Conservation Trust Fund established in 2023 that will administer the Gabon PFP's Endowment and Transition Funds. The FPBG will be an important partner for integrating HWC approaches into PFP governance and operations.

Stakeholder	Mandate/Role/Interest	Interest in the Project
Government		
Ministère des Eaux, des Forêts (MEF) – Ministry of Water and Forests	MEF is responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of Indigenous People in Gabon along with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Cultural Heritage.	MEF will engage on development of a national HWC Strategy
Direction Générale de l'Environnement et pour la Protection de la Nature (DGEPN) - Directorate-General for the Environment and Nature Protection	<p>Under Ministry of Environment, Climate, and HWC, DGEPN is tasked with implementing the government of Gabon's (GoG) environmental and conservation policies.</p> <p>Provincial services under DGEPN are organized into provincial brigades, grouped according to three zonal divisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North zone: Estuary, Ogooué-Ivindo, and Woleu-Ntem provinces. • South zone: Moyen-Ogooué, Ngounié, Nyanga, and Ogooué-Maritime provinces. • East zone: Haut-Ogooué and Ogooué-Lolo provinces. 	Provincial brigades will be engaged in HWC reporting; DGEPN will be engaged on national HWC strategy development
Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux—National Park Agency (ANPN)	<p>Under DGEPN's leadership, ANPN provides execution support for Gabon's National Parks and other PAs. ANPN engages with IPLCs primarily through "community co-management" in the peripheral areas of its national parks, supported by CCGLs (<i>Comités Consultatifs de Gestion Locale/Local Management Advisory Committees</i>).</p> <p>Related to HWC, ANPN is responsible for proposing measures for the prevention and management of human-wildlife conflicts.</p>	<p>ANPN is the primary partner of the PFP, which is under development with GEF-7 support, and will be a key partner in development of a HWC Strategy (Output 1.1.1), and integration of HWC into the PFP (output 1.2.1).</p> <p>ANPN will be a core member of the HWC commission proposed under Output 1.1.2</p> <p>ANPN will be the key partner in output 2.1.2 on exploring and testing compensation, such as micro insurance.</p>
Direction Générale de la Faune et des Aires Protégées-- Directorate-General for the Environment and Nature Protection (DGFAP)	DGFAP, under MEF, is responsible for ensuring the knowledge, protection, and restoration of wildlife resources and protected areas (PAs), developing strategies to combat poaching and enhance wildlife management, and implement national plans for wildlife management and PA development. DGFAP revises technical standards for PA management, and negotiates international agreements for wildlife management and conservation.	DGFAP will be a core member of the HWC commission proposed under Output 1.1.2
Direction general des Aires protegees biodiversity et conflit homme faune - General Directorate of Protected Areas Biodiversity and Human-Wildlife Conflict (DGAPBC)	Under MEF, a newly created department in response to call from local populations by the transition government. The department is responsible for addressing HWC, mainly at the regulatory level.	DGAPBC is likely to be engaged in the development of the national HWC strategy

Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF) - Directorate-General for Forestry	Under the MEF, the <i>Direction Générale des Forêts</i> (DGF) is responsible for implementing Government policy in the forestry sector.	DGF may be consulted or engaged in the development of the national HWC strategy
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Élevage et de la Pêche --Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP)	With respect to HWC, MAEP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes appropriate crop protection practices against problem animals; and • Promotes efficient management of farmland to reduce crop and livestock depredation and intensification of agricultural and fish farming production. 	MAEP will be a core member of the HWC commission proposed under Output 1.1.2 and at the provincial level will be engaged in component 2
PA Managers	The Deputy PA Manager is in charge of working with IPLC and on HWC.	PA Managers and staff will be key partners in component 2, working with communities to identify HWC problems and drivers and co-design and implement interventions
CCGLs (Comités Consultatifs de Gestion Locale/Local Management Advisory Committees)	CCGLs operate at each PA and represent the local community. They work closely with the PA management.	CCGLs are anticipated to be part of team working with affected communities to identify HWC problems and drivers and co-design and implement interventions
Local Communities		
Local communities (non-indigenous, LCs)	While HWC in Gabon manifests at a national scale, it primarily affects the livelihoods of small-holder agricultural communities as well as hunter-gatherers.	This project will actively involve residents of local communities who live within or near the four project PAs and their buffer zones (men, women, and youth) who are directly affected by HWC. Community co-development of HWC approaches is critical to developing coexistence and delivering project goals.
Indigenous Peoples	There are numerous Indigenous communities in Gabon with different languages, cultures and geographical locations. While they live both in urban centers and in rural areas and in and around PAs, their livelihoods and cultures are inextricably linked to the forest. According to official data there are some 16,162 Indigenous People living across the national territory.	This project will focus on working with HWC affected communities of Indigenous people living in or near the four PAs including Baka who live in Woleu-Ntem near Minkébé and Monts de Cristal national parks in northern Gabon and the Bakoya living in or near Minkébé National Park. Gabon's largest Indigenous group is the Babongo, and they reside in several provinces including Nyanga near Nayumba National Park. Community co-development of HWC approaches is critical to developing coexistence and delivering project goals.
NGOs & CSOs		

NGOs	TNC, Space for Giants, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF Gabon and smaller and national NGOs are working in the four project areas on interventions related to HWC. There are a number of other local NGOs and village community associations that may be involved in the project and as their area of operation is very localized, engagement will depend on the site of activity.	Potential site-based project partners; may also provide inputs on the development of the national strategy.
Local associations	<p>Association Gabonaise des Femmes Indigènes (AGAFI) Gabonese Association of Indigenous Women (AGAFI) (Minkebe NP) aims to gradually strengthen their autonomy within the framework of REPALLEG (<i>Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Communautés Locales du Gabon</i>/Gabon Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities).</p> <p>Association Culture Nature EDZENGUI (Minkebe NP) is an association of indigenous people. It was created in June 2002, and officially recognized in 2003. The general aim of EDZENGUI association is to promote and encourage, in partnership with private or public bodies and national or international institutions, cultural, scientific and tourist activities in the north-east of Gabon.</p> <p>Association IBONGA (Loango NP) is a well-known environmental NGO based in Gamba and operates in the southern area of Loango National Park and Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. IBONGA focuses on conservation, environmental education, monitoring of sea turtles, and stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>Association KOUSSOU (Loango NP) is an environmental NGO based in Gamba and operates in the southern area of Loango National Park and Moukalaba-Doudou National Park. Their activities involve conservation, environmental education, and monitoring sea turtles.</p> <p>Association OBANGAME (Minkebe NP) is an environmental NGO based in Minvoul. The NGO regularly acts as Representative of Indigenous Communities during negotiations with forestry companies in in the Woleu-Ntem region.</p>	The local associations will potentially be engaged in the co-design of HWC approaches with communities at the 4 PAs
Other		
Academia/research institutes	e.g. ANPN's research institute working on HWC	Academic institutions and governmental research institutes will play an important role in the articulation of the HWC national strategy, e.g. through the completion of studies; provision of data and information on solutions/approaches, etc.

Private Sector	This includes companies and firms with an interest in the project’s objectives and will vary depending on the site. For example, a number of private sector constituencies (in particular in the extractives sector) are operating inside the four project national parks and are affected by HWC. They invest in fences and other measures.	Potential private sector stakeholders' knowledge, experience, and perspective, as well as resources, could add value to the project; depending on their locations, could be relevant in the design of HWC interventions developed under Component 2.
Fond pour la Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon (FPBG):	FPBG is an independent Conservation Trust Fund established in 2023 to manage the proceeds of a blue bond/debt swap transaction in Gabon, and that is expected to administer the Gabon PFP’s Endowment and Transition Funds.	FPBG will be an important partner for enabling the long-term sustainability of the National HWC strategy developed under the project, which will undertake to incorporate elements of the national strategy into PFP governance and operations.

A full statement of project stakeholders appears in ANNEX J: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

[1] [Gabon - Summary | Climate Change Knowledge Portal \(worldbank.org\)](#)

[2] <https://enduringearth.org/>

[3] Zoom interview with Allard Blom Vice President for WWF Global Integrated Programs – African Forests and Nathalie Nyare, National Director, WWF-Gabon; 21 March 2024

[4] [GEF 6 project ID 9212](#); <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9212>

C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. 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 E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

While there is broad stakeholder consensus that HWC is a critical issue, under the current baseline

Scenario, the available financial resources (i.e., budgetary allocations, self-generated resources) are insufficient to enable appropriate investment in PA management, including HWC management. By promoting HWC management, along with PA management action through the Gabon PFP, GBFF & GEFTF funding will improve management in a significant area of Gabon’s national PAs and buffer areas that include important biodiversity, numerous endemic and threatened species, forests, and freshwater ecosystems, and ecosystem services of national, regional and global significance. While conflict between people and wildlife is dynamic and cannot be eliminated completely, a well-planned and integrated approach can reduce conflicts and promote coexistence. This GBFF project proposes to improve protected and conserved area management practices in Gabon through:

- the participative articulation and implementation of a national HWC strategy;

- the incorporation of a HWC strategy into the PFP financing mechanisms (transition and endowment funds) created under the GEF-7 PFP project; and
- support for IPLC-led HWC management in four key sites.

This project will leverage the GEF-7 PFP project's execution structure, safeguards procedures, inter alia, to expand the scope of PFP/CTF fund-able activities to include a stakeholder-driven, evidence-based HWC strategy, thus enabling access to PFP financial resources and promoting sustainability of the strategy over the medium- and long-terms. The PFP governance instruments (e.g. operations manual) will ensure provision is made for adjustments to the HWC strategy over time, to respond to new threats, pressures, and priorities. The PFP's transition fund, and later, endowment fund will support capacity building activities to complement PA investment from other sources (e.g. government budget allocations, sustainable finance mechanisms), and enhance the efficiency of resource use (through improved absorption capacity, better project planning and sequencing, etc.). Capacity building is among the key focal themes of the PFP Conservation Plan which includes training and skills development, personnel, and mentorship for both government agencies and local communities. Ultimately, this GBFF project will provide and institutional basis for the management of PAs and intangible cultural heritage and strengthen the PFP Fund Administrator/CTF capacity to finance HWC interventions and thus improve management practices in target PAs and promote the sustainability of the national HWC strategy.

The Theory of Change for this project is:

GIVEN an ongoing PFP project is in development,

IF an **EVIDENCE-BASED, STAKEHOLDER- DRIVEN, AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON HWC IN AND AROUND PAS IS INFORMED BY SCIENTIFIC STUDIES, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT (1.1.1); and there is SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO MANAGE HWC WITH STAKEHOLDER PANEL TO ADVISE (1.1.2);**

THEN this will lead to the development of an **EVIDENCE-BASED, STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN, AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON HWC IN AND AROUND PAS (1.1).**

Additionally, IF HWC MANAGEMENT IS INTEGRATED INTO THE PFP AND CTF, AND PROTECTED AREA GOVERNING INSTRUMENTS - INCL. CONSERVATION PLAN, FINANCE PLAN, OPERATIONS MANUAL(S), INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY PLANS, AND FUNDRAISING PLANS (1.2.1)

THEN the PFP and CTF will require improved HWC management, further creating the incentives to address HWC for IPLCs living in and around PAs.

And IF these enabling conditions for protected area conservation and HWC management in Gabon are provided, along with HWC assessments and solutions identification,

THEN the stage will be set for **improved HWC management including:**

-STRATEGY-BASED, GENDER-RESPONSIVE HWC PREVENTATIVE MEASURES, AND APPROACHES FOR HUMAN WILDLIFE CO-EXISTENCE TESTED, PILOTED, & SCALED WITH IPLC IN TARGET GEOGRAPHIES (2.1.1); and

-STRATEGY-BASED, GENDER-RESPONSIVE HWC RESPONSIVE MEASURES AND HUMAN WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE MEASURES TESTED, PILOTED, AND SCALED, E.G. MICRO-INSURANCE, RELIEF, REWARDS-BASED MECHANISMS (2.1.2).

And IF these management measures are implemented, THEN there should be a reduction in HWC; and THEN this should lead to IMPROVED COEXISTENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND KEY WILDLIFE CONFLICT SPECIES IN SELECT AREAS, THROUGH GENDER-RESPONSIVE, IPLC-LED EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES (2.1)

And consequently greater IPLC tolerance for living around wildlife and protected areas, which should in turn lead to a reduction in retaliatory killing of wildlife, support to the mission of the PAs (and therein contributing to Target 3/30x30) as well as reduced loss of human life, property and crops.

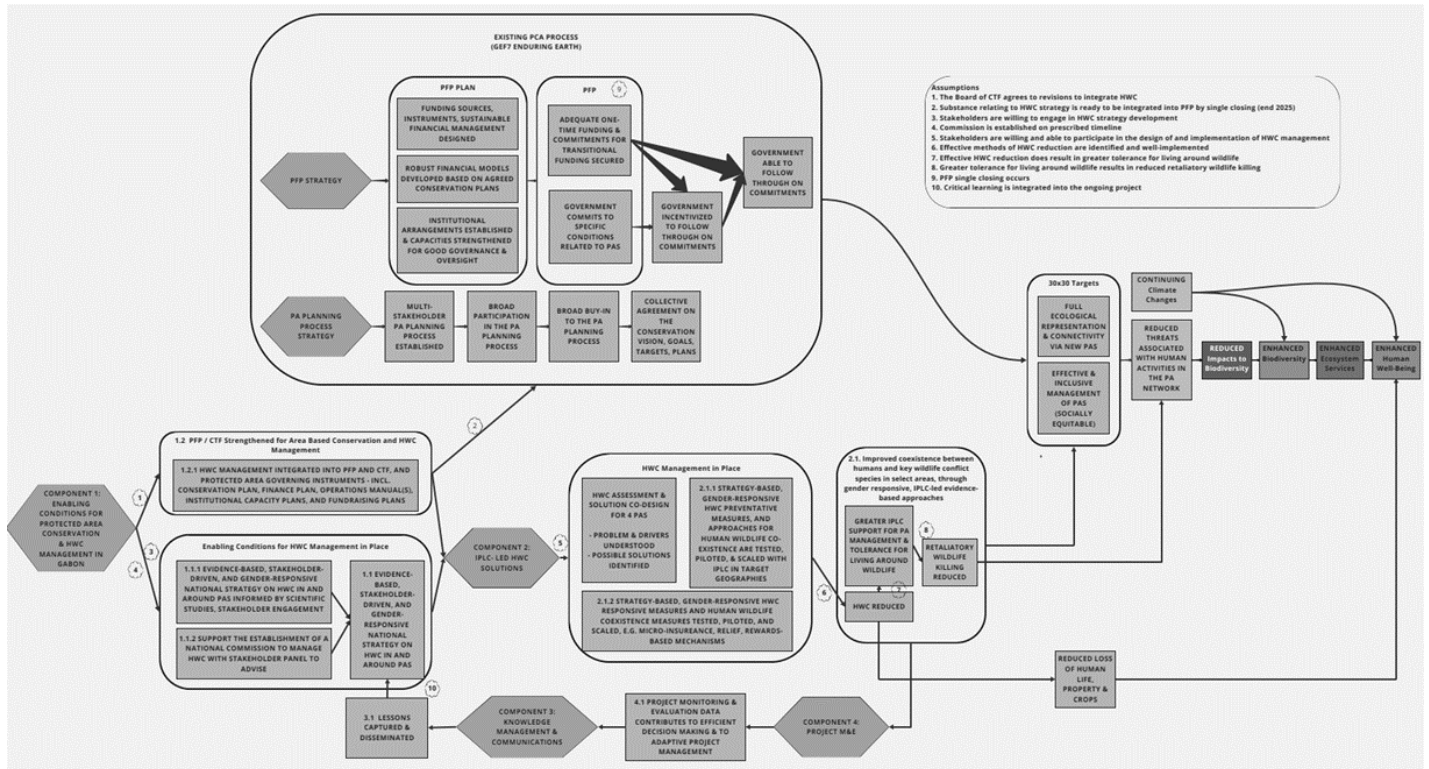
Finally, IF there is effective project monitoring and evaluation, THEN PROJECT MONITORING & EVALUATION DATA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO EFFICIENT DECISION MAKING & TO ADAPTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT (4.1), and via effective knowledge management and communications, and

IF LESSONS ARE CAPTURED & DISSEMINATED (3.1) back to the project managers and implementers, THEN the overall project will be improved.

Assumptions (the connection to causal pathways is clarified in the ToC diagram)

1. The Board of CTF agrees to revisions to integrate HWC
2. Substance relating to HWC strategy is ready to be integrated into PFP by single closing (end 2025)
3. Stakeholders are willing to engage in HWC strategy development
4. Commission is established on prescribed timeline
5. Stakeholders are willing and able to participate in the design of and implementation of HWC management
6. Effective methods of HWC reduction are identified and well-implemented
7. Effective HWC reduction does result in greater tolerance for living around wildlife
8. Greater tolerance for living around wildlife results in reduced retaliatory wildlife killing
9. PFP single closing occurs
10. Critical learning is integrated into the ongoing project

1: GBFF Gabon HWC Project theory of change



The project objective is to improve protected and conserved area management in Gabon by integrating a national HWC strategy into the PFP financial mechanism and managing human wildlife conflict at key sites. The project will address HWC as an outstanding barrier and threat to effective PA management, and leverage the PFP as a mechanism to achieve KMGBF Target 3-Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas. At the national level, under Component 1, the project will:

- Work with the GoG and other relevant stakeholders to develop a national-level HWC strategy and capacity for improved PA management through managing HWC;
- support the GoG in the establishment of a national commission to manage HWC;
- Design and deliver a public awareness plan to promote human wildlife coexistence and socialize the preventative and responsive measures of the national strategy and ways to engage with it; and
- integrate the HWC strategy into the PFP funding mechanisms operations (transition and endowment funds) to ensure resource availability and government capacity to address ongoing HWC management challenges.

At the site level, under Component 2, the project will focus on HWC management in communities in and around four Gabon PAs and in areas of connectivity and other high human-wildlife interface. The project will undertake a community-driven approach to first identify and then implement appropriate and priority interventions to manage HWC and improve coexistence, or community tolerance of wildlife. An overview of each park is provided below. More information on each PA can be found in ANNEX E: Project Map and Coordinates, while more information including maps can be found in ANNEX O: Initial Information on Project PAs and Corresponding Communities. Additional information will be gathered on communities during project start up.



Figure 2: Map of Project PAs (in red)

The GoG has supported the country's national parks and PAs financially, though in recent years the amount of funding allocated has waned. As a result, the management plans for all four project PAs are outdated, but will be actualized as a part of the PFP project. A synopsis of the situation in each of the four project national parks and surrounding area is provided below.

Project Sites

The project will focus on HWC management in communities in and around four Gabon PAs (Loango National Park, Mayumba National (Marine) Park, Monts de Cristal National Park, and Minkébé National Park) and in areas of connectivity and other high human-wildlife interface. Specific sites will be identified in impacted community-based on the socioeconomic survey and consultations that will occur early in project execution.

Loango National Park encompasses 115,100 ha and is one of thirteen national parks created in Gabon in 2002. The park's diverse coastal habitat protects part of the 22,000 ha Iguéla Lagoon. The area is a relatively pristine landscape where large mammals wander onto the beaches and even enter the Atlantic Ocean. The park employs 38 workers, and the most recent management plan dates from 2007 (this plan will be updated as a part of the PFP project). The park has the world's second largest concentrations and varieties of whales and dolphins. There are approximately 1900 people—primarily farmers and fishers—living near the park. Women fish and weave mats that they sell to park tourists. Hunting is practiced in this area, mainly by men. Area farmers regularly complain about damage caused by elephants as well as buffalo, porcupines, and monkeys that destroy plantations. Encounters with elephants are particularly difficult to solve, and some 1,300 HWC encounters have been reported in the area over the last three years. These incidents are a source of conflict between the communities and ANPN and while both permanent and temporary fences have been installed both within the park and surrounding areas, due to the size of the PA, they are inadequate for successfully managing HWC. As a part of project preparation the METT Score for Loango NP was calculated to be 71.

Mayumba National (Marine) Park encompasses 96,500 ha and is located in southwest Gabon in Nyanga province. The park is home to some of the world's densest leatherback turtle nesting sites, extending for 15 km into the ocean, protecting important marine habitat for dolphins, sharks, and migrating humpback whales. While the park is classified as an MPA, it includes approximately 6500ha of terrestrial area that includes populations of elephants, elephants, buffalo, gorillas, sitatungas (antelope), and crocodiles. This project will focus on the terrestrial area. The park employs 28 people, and its most recent management plan expired in 2018 (this plan will be updated as a part of the PFP, under the transition funding). This area was visited during the project development, and baseline data indicate that there are approximately 150 people living around the park—including IPLC populations—primarily fishers and farmers. Fishing is vital to the local economy and nutrition. Uncontrolled industrial fishing in and around the park threatens the longterm sustainability of these resources, and thus the future of everyone living in the area. With its healthy wildlife populations, HWC has long been an issue in communities surrounding the park, and Mayumba was one of the first sites where ANPN experimented with HWC management using electric fencing, hot pepper cartridges, and HWC-related planning and awareness in elephant movement corridors. HWC challenges persist in the area with 330 HWC complaints between 2022 and 2024. Presently, there is a 9 km-long electric fence intended to buffer 309 ha of community areas from elephants or other wildlife that present risk of conflict. As a part of project preparation the METT Score for Mayumba NP was calculated to be 62.

Minkébé National Park is located in the extreme northeast of Gabon covering some 753,500 ha. Minkébé was gazetted as a Forest Reserve in 1998, and the government upgraded its status to a PA in early 2000. Minkébé National Park itself was officially recognized by the GoG in August 2002. The park employs 47 people, and its most recent management plan expired in 2018 (this plan will be updated as a part of the PFP project). IUCN recognized Minkébé as a critical conservation site and it has been proposed as a World

Heritage Site. Preliminary research finds that there are approximately 3400 people living around the park—almost all of whom are members of Indigenous groups. There are currently no human settlements inside the park, however, some communities, including gold miners live outside the PA. Local populations, including the Baka once resided inside the park area, and some of their cultural heritage sites are still there. Nearby communities have experience HWC with buffalo, chimps, boars, and porcupines. Incidents of HWC have not been officially documented, and there is currently a lack of infrastructure in place to support communities. As a part of project preparation the METT Score for Minkébé was calculated to be 53.

Monts de Cristal National Park covers an area of 119,200 ha in northern Gabon and includes large blocks of rainforest. This is one of Gabon’s most remote parks, and many botanists consider the park to contain some of the greatest plant diversity in all of Africa. The park has 28 employees. The most recent park management plan expired in 2020 (the plan will be updated as a part of the PFP). There are no communities located inside the park, and local populations living in nearby villages rely on fishing and agriculture for their livelihoods. This region has long been targeted for exploitation by logging companies that have secured government permission for large (30-70,000 ha) logging concessions. In more recent years, cobalt and iron ore mines have been established and have led to rapid infrastructure investments (mainly roads), increased numbers of illicit mining camps, and increased farmers, miners, and business interests and migration into the area. Main threats to the park include logging, gold extraction, ivory poaching, and commercial hunting for the local bush-meat trade. HWC is a challenge in the villages on the outskirts of the park and its buffer zone with over 1000 HWC with elephants reported over the past three years. Some electric fencing has been installed in the communities of Andock and Foula. As a part of project preparation the METT Score for Monts de Cristal was calculated to be 60.

Project Approach

The project will focus on addressing human wildlife conflict as an outstanding barrier to effective and inclusive PA management, and leveraging and enhancing the PFP as a mechanism to achieve Target 3. The project will use an integrated HWC management approach, based on addressing the six elements of conflict management: understanding the interactions between people and wildlife that can lead to conflict, mitigation, preventions, response, strategy, and monitoring.^{[1]⁵} This integrated approach aims to help manage HWC so that people’s tolerance of and attitudes of co-existence with wildlife improves, the constituency for conservation remains, and incidents of non-tolerance and retaliation are reduced, such that critical wildlife, like forest elephants, have improved protection, and the integrity of Gabon’s PAs is sustained. Importantly and given the growing incidence of HWC in Gabon, this project will provide field-based evidence, training, and documentation of lessons learned for the expansion of HWC management across Gabon’s PA network.

This project is transformative in that it will address integrated HWC management at the national strategy and field level simultaneously—raising awareness of HWC nationally and integrating it into the PFP operations and goals, while at the same time working with communities (men, women, youth, and IPLCs) to define, implement, monitor, and evaluate appropriate site-based HWC management strategies based on best practice^{[2]⁶} and lessons learned from other HWC projects. The informed IPLC leadership gained through this project will help sustain support for Gabon’s extensive biodiversity, and this project will provide learning for other HWC initiatives in Africa and beyond.

Project Components

Four components will deliver the project's objective: To enhance effective management of conserved areas in Gabon by integrating a national HWC strategy into the PFP financial mechanism and managing human wildlife conflict at key sites.

Component 1. Enabling Conditions for HWC Management in Gabon: Developing a National HWC Strategy & Strengthening PFP/CTF Capacities to Finance HWC

This component will support the development of a Stakeholder- and evidence-driven National Strategy on HWC for Gabon and its integration into the PFP/CTF operations to support the sustainability of the strategy and the integrity of PA system and management interventions.

Outcome 1.1: Evidence-based, stakeholder-driven, and gender-responsive National Strategy on HWC in and around PAs.

Output 1.1.1 Evidence-based and gender responsive stakeholder-driven national strategy on HWC in and around PA informed by scientific studies, stakeholder engagement.

Together with GoG and stakeholders, the project will support development of a GoG holistic HWC strategy that focuses on:

1. Understanding HWC interactions
2. Policy and governance regarding HWC
3. Prevention
4. Response
5. Mitigation; and
6. Monitoring for adaptive management.

Strategy development will consider the diverse drivers of HWC and the differentiated responsibilities of stakeholders to address it. It is foreseen that the strategy will call for multiple managed actions and collaborations on various levels, and participatory implementation with multiple stakeholders, especially those directly affected by HWC. Strategy goals will focus on: ensuring people can experience positive coexistence with wildlife; that wildlife thrives alongside humans; that livelihoods/assets are secured against presence of wildlife; and that habitats are sufficient to maintain viable wildlife populations.

Activities under this output will include:

- Conducting and compiling scientific studies to inform HWC interventions and strategy, including surveys of best practices/lessons learned and innovations;
- Engaging stakeholders through consultative workshops to develop and finalize the national strategy to manage HWC; and
- Validating and completing the National HWC Strategy.
- Developing a strategic communications plan to disseminate the national strategy and key information about managing HWC.

A communications specialist with experience in gender and social inclusion, attitude and behavior change approaches will help develop the gender-responsive and socially inclusive National HWC Strategy and associated communications and dissemination plan.

To ensure that the strategy development process incorporates gender dimensions, the following specific activities will be undertaken:

-Training to government, PFP, CTF staff on the importance of rural women's perspectives in the national HWC strategy;

-Socioeconomic studies and mapping - including gender dynamics, representation of both women and men, including allies and supporters of women and girls. The results of these will be fed into the national HWC strategy; and

-Active participation/input in the consultative workshops by IPLC women and other marginalized groups' in the development of the national HWC strategy.

Note that it may be required to conduct separate workshops with women and men to ensure that women can voice their opinions freely, this may be different from PA to PA.

Output 1.1.2 Support the establishment of a national commission to manage HWC with stakeholder panel to advise.

HWC cuts across multiple sectors of life and government. Therefore, the project will support the relevant GoG and stakeholder entities to form and sustain a national commission that allows for integration of plans and measures taken by different entities (further to the strategy elaborated under Output 1.1.1) as well as assess national-level progress. It will be comprised of government and civil society actors and will include a stakeholder panel. It will also support accountable interaction with the PFP and CTF to integrate HWC management into the PFP architecture. The structure and process of the commission will be developed as part of start-up phase work.

Activities under this output will include:

- National HWC commission launch workshop and event.

The project-funded HWC & Project Management Specialist will provide expert input to the Commission, support facilitation, etc. Some travel budget will be available to support participation in meetings, visits to key sites.

The PMU will ensure equal opportunity for women and men to participate actively in National HWC commission launch workshops and events.

Outcome 1.2: PFP/CTF strengthened for PA-based conservation and HWC management

Output 1.2.1 HWC management integrated into PFP and CTF, and PA governing instruments, including conservation, plan, finance, plan, operations, manual, institutional capacity, plans, and fundraising plans

This GBFF project is being proposed as the PFP project rolls out and will work in parallel with the PFP proponents and stakeholders and the GoG to incorporate HWC management and coexistence into the PFP instruments and operations (including the PFP conservation and finance plan and its transition and endowment funds), in furtherance of the strategy elaborated under 1.1.1, and its medium- and long-term sustainability. The PFP governance instruments (e.g. operations manual) will ensure provision is made for adjustments to the HWC strategy over time, to respond to new threats, pressures, and priorities. By ensuring that the PFP's conservation and finance plans, as well as its implementing mechanisms (the CTF), incorporate HWC as a priority conservation strategy, the project funding will enable flow over the medium- and long-terms from the PFP financing mechanisms to HWC, which is central to the achievement of Target 3. This means that the PFP development process (including extensive consultations with government agencies, communities) will integrate a focus on HWC management, financing projections, and fundraising objectives into its architecture so that CTF funds can support communities facing HWC challenges. To further enhance the integration process, the advisory body for the PFP (or a technical subcommittee) will also be the steering committee for the HWC project.

Throughout 2024 and 2025 (when the PFP transaction is expected to close) TNC will work with stakeholders to finalize the conservation and finance plans that will articulate, respectively, the conservation actions the PFP will prioritize to achieve its 30x30x30 ambition and how to fund them. This output will ensure that HWC is more fully addressed in the PFP to address the concern that wildlife impacts on human life, property, and livelihoods may lead to loss of Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IPLC) support for PAs and inhibit achievement of Target 3 goals. Specifically, this project will support the incorporation of HWC themes and relevant elements of the HWC strategy developed under 1.1.1 in the following instruments:

- PFP operations manual;
- PFP Institutional capacity building plan;
- PFP Conservation and Finance plans; and
- CTF budgets (post close, once transition and endowment funds are operational).

Of note, early in the GEF-7 PFP project, TNC and ANPN will assess the current conservation management status in 28 existing terrestrial PAs with no or expired management plans and work with stakeholders to develop site specific conservation management plans to achieve effective management these of PAs. Through this GEF-7 + GBFF process, elements of the HWC strategy developed under 1.1.1 as well as insights on how to manage HWC locally (gathered during community consultations that will happen as part of the process to develop HWC measures in local communities under Component 2) will be incorporated in the management plan revisions for the four PAs targeted by this project under Output 1.2.1 and more broadly in the management plans of other PAs, as appropriate.

Gender mainstreaming and gender response modalities will be included in the conservation plans, CTF instruments as relates to HWC, e.g. management plans, operating manual(s), as appropriate.

Component 2. IPLC-led HWC Solutions

Component 2 will deploy funding to implement HWC management and build a coexistence approach in communities impacted by HWC with a focus on areas of connectivity and other high human-wildlife interface in and around the four national parks.

This component will be initiated at project start up and will inform the development of the HWC Strategy and integration into the PFP (Component 1). Funding for this component will be direct funding over the life of this project and over the medium-term (following PFP close), through the PFP Transition and Endowment Funds of the FPBG. After consultations (including FPIC), the project will work with communities surrounding/within the four project PAs to co-identify the specific HWC problems and drivers, and co-identify appropriate species-specific HWC strategies for each community. Some targeted support for areas outside of the PAs and their buffer areas in particularly high conflict areas will also occur (currently estimated at 14,000 ha but subject to change based on the selection process). Identification of these highly impacted community areas outside of the PA will follow from socioeconomic survey and consultations.

The development of these interventions will include a focus on community ownership and community responsibility for maintaining, evaluating, and reporting on the effectiveness of HWC management action. Where possible, funds will be sub-granted to local and expert organizations, including IPLC-led organizations,

to carry out activities and contribute to the local leadership of the project [3]. Strategies for addressing HWC will include behavior change and coexistence and will be led by resident IPLCs and especially women and youth populations, who tend to be the primary residents in rural areas as men and young couples tend to migrate to urban centers.

Initial consultations with communities at the four PAs show that HWC is a critical and priority issue to address. During consultations with community representatives in March 2024, during the development of this project, communities in three of the four PAs said HWC is the number one threat to community/household livelihoods. Communities said they did not see any value in living near PAs, and they noted that incidents with wildlife result in crop and infrastructure destruction and threaten their safety. There is a perception that wildlife is more protected than humans and that conservation efforts provide no value. In affected communities, men cultivated pineapple, bananas, coffee and cocoa while women tend to cassava, banana, peanut, taro, potato, yam, other tubers, sugarcane, and watermelon. Consultations carried out in March 2024 found that over the past three years there have been:

- 330 HWC incidents at Mayumba NP, from elephants, and additional incidents with buffalo and cephalopes;
- 1,320 HWC complaints at Loango NP, related to elephants, with additional incidents from buffalo, and hippopotamus;
- Around 1,000 HWC complaints at Mont de Cristal, related to elephants; and
- A non-reported number of incidents at Minkébé, but the communities mentioned devastated crops from buffalo, hedgehogs, and porcupines.

A socioeconomic study will be conducted in communities in and around each PA to further understand the baseline context in each community and identify specific affected communities to work with. The study will gather and validate information on:

- # and name of communities around each PA
- Ethnic makeup (groups and predominant languages)
- Population and % men/women
- Age categories disaggregated by gender
- % women speaking/reading French; % men speaking/reading French
- Primary income sources disaggregated by gender
- Crops grown by men; crops grown by women
- # of HWC conflicts per species over the last 3 years
- HWC management measures undertaken over the last 3 years
- Rank of HWC as a threat to community/household livelihoods (as perceived by men and women)
- Perceived benefits/disadvantages of living near a PA (as perceived by men and women).

The socioeconomic study will document IPLC and women's perspectives on HWC risks and management. It will be published and shared with government stakeholders as well as PFP, CTF, and ANPN staff.

One of the first actions during implementation will be to conduct consultations with the local communities and Indigenous Peoples who will be affected by the project. Once the specific target communities are better identified, based on the socioeconomic study and these consultations, the project will proceed to seek free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) if deemed necessary. If the project will be engaging with Indigenous communities to implement some of the tools identified (which is anticipated), then Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) will be developed. Once communities, project staff and partners co-design HWC approaches, the project will apply the Safeguard Eligibility and Impacts Screening (available in Appendix 1 of the project's ESMF), which will yield information on what the likely environmental and social risks are and, consequently, shed light on which management plans are needed, for example, ESMPs as well as the IPPs. Once those plans have been drafted by the executing entities, approved by WWF GEF Agency and disclosed, implementation of interventions and activities can commence.

Along with community workshops to identify HWC problems and drivers, the socioeconomic study will inform the co-development of HWC behavior change tools with communities in collaboration with community, government, experts, and specialist project staff to understand the conflict and drivers of the conflict (e.g. drivers of crop destruction by wildlife species) and identify possible interventions, including behavior change strategies, use of certain tools and technologies, and technical assistance, to deliver prevention, mitigation, and response, such that communities become better able to manage and prevent HWC, and are more tolerant of wildlife and human wildlife, resulting in increasing coexistence.^[4] The project will then work directly with the affected communities to develop and incorporate HWC behavior change and deliver other interventions to reduce HWC incidents or increase tolerance for coexistence.

Interventions are expected to yield socioeconomic benefits, including increased food security and increased income, as well as improved physical and emotional security. Previous projects show that socioeconomic benefits are achievable and significant. Under the WB project "Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management" (GEF ID 9212), electric fencing around a community field yielded important socioeconomic benefits. A community leader noted "Before, the elephants destroyed everything, and we had no food to eat; now we have food. Now we can eat." That project also noted that additional agricultural income to households due to reduced or zero elephants' intrusion is about 80,000 FCFA per month (or about US\$134), close to a 40 percent increase in monthly income in these areas.

Finally, stakeholder consultations conducted to inform the CER indicated the project will likely serve an equal (50/50) ratio of men and women in the project sites. Agriculture is a common sustenance and income-generating activity in all project sites, and the project's gender analysis confirmed that women are more likely than men to be involved in agriculture in the four project sites. Agricultural activities pose a greater risk of HWC, through exposure and resource devastation, as compared to other common income generating activities - such as fishing, which is more likely to be conducted by men. The greater risk may hinder women's ability to access natural resources for farming and handicrafts, another common income-generating activity for women, e.g., those that require passage into or through forested areas or other areas of human wildlife interface. Low access to information about human wildlife conflict and/or effective management strategies, demonstrated in part through the gender gap in access to information and communication technology, may also limit women's access to natural resources through inability or reduced ability to apply management measures. The project acknowledges the improving representation of women in local governance councils, and access and discretion over use of income is relatively gender-balanced. The measures implemented under this project (under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) will jointly improve access to natural resources that are integral to the livelihoods and well-being of women through increasing access to information on and building capacity in HWC management, with emphasis on the agricultural sector. Also, project-funded interventions -- and those enabled over the medium- to long-terms through the PFP -- are expected to yield socioeconomic benefits in affected communities, including increased food security and increased income, as

well as improved physical and emotional security. These benefits will extend to both women and men living around the project's target PAs. As the populations of many rural communities around the project's four target PAs have relatively higher proportions of women, youth, and elders, women may benefit disproportionately, depending on the demographic makeup of the community in question.

Outcome 2.1: improved coexistence between humans and wildlife complex species in select areas, through gender-responsive IPLC-led evidence-based approaches

Output, 2.1.1 strategy – based, gender-responsive HWC preventative measures, and approaches for human wildlife coexistence are tested, piloted, and scaled with IPLC in target geographies.

Under Output 2.1.1, the project will invest in HWC management to promote coexistence between humans and key wildlife conflict species in select areas surrounding the four identified PAs through stakeholder-driven, evidence-based approaches and based on the socioeconomic study carried out in communities during project startup. Project staff and affected communities—including vulnerable IPLC populations—will work together to identify the drivers of HWC and co-develop solutions, following best HWC practices of: understanding the conflict; and developing interventions that span mitigation, preventions, response, strategy, and monitoring^[5]⁷. Solutions to HWC will vary as they will be designed for both the context of each community and the HWC drivers.

Relevant Output 2.1.1 activities will depend on the co-design with each community, and could include solutions such as:

- Hotspot mapping and driver analysis
- Behavior change: this can include identifying actions and activities that may increase risk of human wildlife conflict and making changes, understanding elephant behavior and warning signals to look out for and how to stay safe around elephants^[6]⁸
- Wildlife barrier construction--- such as trenches, solar-powered electric fencing, noisemakers, lighting, beehives, and peppers around crops. All construction will be IPLC-led with an emphasis on the importance of assuming local ownership of and maintaining HWC structures
- Alternatives to wildlife palatable crops, or ways to hide palatable crops
- HWC material and equipment acquisition
- Additional preventative tools such as early warning systems, including alert systems
- Operational rapid intervention/response teams (with portable equipment for wildlife friendly ways to drive animals out of fields/property)
- Monitoring and adaptive management at the site- level.

The PMU will ensure that the co-design and delivery of activities increases and shares knowledge about IPLC women's perspectives, strategies, and limitations to HWC management in project sites, and promote equal opportunity and access for women and men to developing and maintaining HWC solutions in the PA sites.

Behavior change will be instilled through the six levers described in the STAP resource, Why behavioral change matters to the GEF and what to do about it^[7], including: introducing information about what the desired behavior is, why it matters and how to achieve it; emotional appeals for a changed behavior; community-developed rules; social influences; material incentives; and/or new choice architecture. HWC management behavior changes could include improving selection of agriculture sites to reduce likelihood of encounters with destructive animal actions; varying protein sources or protein harvest activities to reduce dangerous wildlife encounters from hunting; increasing participation of IPLCs in HWC prevention methods through IPLC-led initiatives and representation; increasing community participation in initiatives perceived as new or risky through financial incentives; and transitioning participants out of conflict-prone hunting and agricultural activities through training in wildlife-compatible income-generating activities. The GEF-6 World Bank/GWP in Gabon concluded that the effectiveness of (HWC) measures increased when multiple approaches were pursued at the same time. This project will consider the use of multiple, complementary approaches where appropriate and assess change in a manner consistent with the project Results Framework. The GBFF project will receive direct support from TNC's dedicated Gabon MEL Specialist with access to TNC's regional MEL team.

Activities that communities wish to apply will be tested to verify appropriateness before further scaling. Likewise, when developing HWC measures, consideration will be given to possible challenges with respect to maintenance / sustainability of interventions contemplated under Component 2 in light of likely population scenarios / demographics and other drivers of change. Learnings will be documented and disseminated via Components 3 and 4.

Output, 2.1.2 strategy based, gender-responsive HWC, responsive measures and human wildlife coexistence measures, tested, piloted and scaled, e.g., micro insurance, relief, rewards-based mechanisms.

Based on the expectation that incidents of HWC will continue to occur during and after the project lifetime, and assuming that the Gabon PFP will provide further longterm sources of support to communities and PAs to manage HWC with an integrated and human-centered approach that supports co-existence, Output 2.1.2 will use analysis and stakeholder consultation to improve the socioeconomic situation in communities dealing with HWC by (a) exploring financial mechanisms to compensate or support IPLCs at risk of HWC, such as micro-insurance, and compensation for crop loss as well as other financial mechanisms to support IPLCs by providing relief or rewards; and (b) developing approaches to increase tolerance of living near wildlife, such as livelihood support. Example activities that could be undertaken under this output include:

- Selection, development, and testing of appropriate HWC responsive measures based in the national strategy (Output 1.1.1)
- Analysis of intended and unintended results of the mechanisms
- Further application of promising mechanisms
- Financial sustainability plans for the mechanisms developed and integrated into the PFP architecture
- Livelihood and socioeconomic support to ensure that people feel that HWC represents a lower/manageable risk to their lives and livelihoods.

Where appropriate, research collaborators from Gabonese, African, and other institutions may contribute to the review and analysis of the effectiveness of different responsive mechanisms, collaboratively with communities. Learnings will be shared with communities and stakeholders.

As a part of Component 2 and to further IPLC-to-IPLC learning, exchanges and visits will be organized between communities surrounding PAs to learn about successful and unsuccessful HWC strategies. IPLC women will participate in HWC-focused visits to other communities in their area and around other PAs experiencing HWC to learn about and exchange management strategies. Moreover, IPLC women will be actively engaged in community-level HWC strategy development, implementation and maintenance, and their perspectives will be integrated into community HWC plans. Special accommodations (women-only meetings, timing of meetings, etc.) may be required to ensure women's active participation.

Component 3: Knowledge Management

Under this component, the project will capture and disseminate messages supporting HWC management, and lessons learned to a broader, and diverse public audience.

Outcome 3.1 lessons captured and disseminated

Output 3.1.1 case studies and other materials to showcase and share lessons learned

The project will work with the PFP project to design and integrate messaging about ways to prevent and respond to HWC, as well as positive messages to promote human-wildlife coexistence, into commonly used media and communications including posters, radio spots, social media platforms, and other vehicles. Listening sessions will be held in communities to gather information on IPLC women's HWC perspectives and strategies. Content will be developed and tested in communities to ensure that the intended messaging is clear and transmitted in languages spoken by and understood by project beneficiaries and especially women and youth. The project community-based socio-economic study carried out during the first 6 months of the project will inform the design and content of communications for project communities including focal language(s), crops, and species. In Year 4, HWC success stories and learning derived from the four pilot sites will be synthesized into a formal document that will be made available on the Gabon PFP website and disseminated across networks focused on approaches to manage HWC and promote human-wildlife coexistence. This formal document will also capture and disseminate good practice and lessons learned from a gender perspective and the role of women in the national HWC strategy and PA management at all levels (government and community) will be widely acknowledged in all project documents (reports, M&E, studies/surveys).

Lessons and experience will also be shared through the Global Wildlife Program's global platform on lessons learnt which will recognize this HWC project as a "cousin" project, and as such, invite project representatives to join GWP webinars and share information and learning.

Component 4: Project M&E

Under this component, the project will monitor and evaluate project data and information according to GEF M&E protocols to ensure efficient decision making and promote adaptive project management.

Outcome 4.1: project monitoring and evaluation, data contributes to efficient decision-making, and to adaptive project management

4.1.1. Regular reporting and independent project evaluation

The Project will be monitored through (a) delivery against annual work plans and (b) the Results Framework (see Annex C), which includes targets and indicators for all project outcomes and provides the baseline for most indicators. Baseline information for any data that were not available will be carried out within the first six months of project startup or as soon as possible thereafter. The results framework provides a method and source for measuring indicators, which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) and disaggregated by sex where applicable. Component 3 of the Results Framework is dedicated to M&E, knowledge sharing and coordination. Relevant Core indicators have been included to provide a portfolio-level understanding of progress towards the GEF Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). The project results framework includes an indicator to help ensure that the Gender Action Plan is monitored and the PMU is accountable for its contents. Annual workplans and budget will capture gender-related activities and metrics as per the GAP.

The project Monitoring & Evaluation System will be delivered by the project management unit in close collaboration with government and executing partners and includes the following elements:

Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) – Towards the end of each project year, TNC will work with project partners to develop a detailed AWPB that includes targets for key activities to achieve the outputs. When possible, the development of the annual work plan should consider suggestions for adaptive management and lessons learned, and attention to gender responsive activities and gender disaggregated targets will be made.

Project Results Framework (PRF) - The Project Results Framework includes core and additional indicators at the objective and outcome level along with a methodology for data collection and analysis. It defines responsible parties and frequency of data collection, provides baseline information, outlines yearly or mid-term targets and addresses key assumptions or related risks that should be monitored or mitigated. Importantly, the monitoring and reporting framework also includes specific provisions for monitoring the gender dimensions of the project. Throughout the project's duration, the data collected on these indicators will be analyzed to determine if the project strategies are working towards achieving its expected results including gender-related outcomes. Progress against the indicator targets, including gender-related ones, will be reported on at the end of each project year.

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) - The METT will be used to measure progress in management effectiveness improvement in the 4 supported PAs, as well as on the project's achievement of impacts and contribution to the GEBs. The METT will be completed two times during the course of the project: at midterm, and at the end of the project.

Project Progress Reports (PPRs) – TNC, in coordination with partners, will complete a PPR after 6 months and 12 months of each project year. The PPR will report on the progress against the AWPB and the PRF. PPRs will also monitor achievements on the Gender Action Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The 12-month PPR will include the project results delivered, tracked under the AWPB and the PRF.

Project Close Report (PCR) - TNC, in coordination WWF, will develop a PCR. The report will outline the same areas as the PPRs, but will be cumulative for the whole project period, and will also include information on project equipment handover, an assessment of WWF GBFF performance, an exit and sustainability plan, and will focus on key lessons from the project. This report is due within one month after project close.

Terminal Evaluation Report – An independent Terminal Evaluation will take place at project mid-term and within six months of project completion, providing an external evaluation of the overall project effectiveness and efficiency. The Terms of Reference for the terminal evaluations will be drafted by the WWF-GEF Agency

and TNC in accordance with GEF requirements and the consultant will be contracted by the WWF-GEF Agency. The funding for the evaluations will come from the project budget.

Integration of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) – The recommendations of the GAP have been and will be incorporated into the above M&E elements. Development of the AWPB each year will be coordinated with the Community Engagement & Social Inclusion Officer and MEL Specialist to facilitate gender responsiveness across the planned project activities, and to include gender targets. The Project Results Framework includes specific gender indicators, and also indicators with targets disaggregated by gender. These will be tracked throughout the project implementation, and reported on as part of monitoring and evaluation. The 6 month and 12 month project progress reports will include subsections on implementation of the gender action plan, reporting on gender inclusion, and reporting against the specific gender indicators. TORs for the terminal evaluation will include specific provisions for evaluation of progress and results regarding gender inclusion in implementation of the project. Overall, the monitoring of the gender action plan has been accounted for through integration into the overall project and integration into the project’s M&E systems and budget.

A list of project reports and their frequency is included below.

Table 2: reporting and Frequency for this project

M&E/ Reporting Document	How the document will be used	Timeframe	Responsible
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize decisions made during inception workshop, including any changes to project design, budget, Results Framework, etc. 	Within three months of inception workshop	TNC/PMU Project Manager and MEL Specialist
Quarterly Field Report [optional]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform PMU PM on progress, challenges and needs of activities in field. 	Every three months	Field team
Quarterly Financial Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess financial progress and management. 	Every three months	PMU Finance officer
Project Progress Report (PPR) with RF and workplan tracking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform management decisions and drafting of annual workplan and budget; Share lessons internally and externally; Report to the PSC and GEF Agency on the project progress. 	At six months and 12 months of every project year (RF and work plan tracking at 12 months)	PMU Project Manager and MEL Specialist
GEF METT Tracking Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform GEF SEC on progress towards outcomes/impact relating to protected areas; Assessment of the project contribution to Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) targets. 	CEO endorsement, Mid-term and Final	PMU Project Manager and MEL Specialist
Project Close Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informs of project progress and outcomes by close, and includes <u>final Results Framework tracking</u> 	Project close	PMU Project Manager and MEL Specialist
Terminal Evaluation Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External formative evaluation of the project; 	Project close	External expert

[1] https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcomprod/files/Publication/file/8zhcgahmt_A_future_for_all_the_need_for_human_willdife_coexistence.pdf?_ga=2.126747085.1144899196.1709176807-1434317051.1642601050

[2] <https://ste-coexistence-toolbox.info/en/>;
https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcomprod/files/Publication/file/8zhcgahmt_A_future_for_all_the_need_for_human_willdife_coexistence.pdf?_ga=2.126747085.1144899196.1709176807-1434317051.1642601050

[3] **Partner Subgrants** will be managed by TNC. TNC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be applied by in-house Grants Management, Contracts, Operations, and Legal staff to ensure transparent, inclusive, and consistent partnering practices. TNC will utilize existing networks and pool of implementing partners, and will follow procurement policies and SOPs for identifying prospective partners, who will undergo due diligence and criteria review by the TNC project team as well as aforementioned teams to consider level of: technical expertise; organizational management, safeguards, fiscal capacity and integrity;

and potential conflicts of interest. TNC subgrants use standard templates and flow down donor regulations to ensure compliance with the source of funds. TNC will monitor compliance and achievement of project goals and outcomes through financial and technical reports submitted quarterly. All partners are required to comply with the flowed down WWF GEF requirements on safeguards, which are aligned with TNC's GCF-accredited policies on environmental and social safeguards and gender discrimination. Safeguards compliance will be monitored by the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer. Further information on subgranting appears in the section on Institutional Arrangements.

[4] With respect to human elephant conflict, specifically, management techniques typically used elsewhere and in Gabon include chili cartridges, firecrackers, gas lamps, scarecrows, noise, different types of fences, farmers' sensitization on elephant behavior and all-night surveillance. These measures have proven to be ineffective when implemented alone. However, combinations of several of them, including the use of fences together with community rangers for all night surveillance, have been successful so far in some countries in east Africa (e.g., Kenya). (Source: WB GEF-6 GWP project ID 9212)

[5] WWF. 2019: Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Lessons learned from global compensation and insurance schemes ANNEX REPORT; https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_human_wildlife_conflict_mitigation_annex.pdf

[6] <https://ste-coexistence-toolbox.info/en/download/elephant-aware-behaviour/>. Where pursued, which behavior change strategies to utilize will follow from consultations with IPLCs undertaken early in the project. Through the inclusive, consultative process, the following will be identified:

- targeted behavior(s), i.e. those exposing communities to risk of HWC.
- goals
- stakeholders
- interventions to be trialed. Specific interventions will be based on the six levers for behavior change. Multiple behavior change strategies will be pursued, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for assessing behavioral change will be established.

[7] <https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/why-behavioral-change-matters-gefand-what-do-about-it>

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. 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)

GEF Project Agency --WWF-US will:

- (i) provide support and oversight to ensure Project Objective and Results are achieved and provide other assistance upon request of the EA;

- (ii) liaise between the project and the GEF Secretariat providing reporting; ensuring GEF and WWF policy and standards are met; approving workplans and budget revisions, certifying fund availability and transferring/ensuring proper use of GEF funds; organizing the final evaluation and reviewing project audits; certifying project operational and financial completion; and arbitrating/resolving any conflicts that cannot be resolved by the EA.

Lead Executing Agency – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) leads the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project that supports GoG and stakeholders in the development and establishment of the Gabon PFP and will be the lead executing agency for this GBFF project.

Project Management will be conducted by TNC-Gabon and Gabon PFP staff with some cost sharing with the GEF-7 EE Project Management Unit (PMU).

Partner Subgrants will be managed by TNC. TNC has completed the WWF GEF Agency Due Diligence (DD) and has been assessed to have no deficiencies in their financial and operational policies and procedures. TNC's well-documented Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be applied by in-house Grants Management, Contracts, Operations, and Legal staff to ensure transparent, inclusive, and consistent partnering practices. TNC will utilize existing networks and pool of implementing partners, and will follow procurement policies and SOPs for identifying prospective partners, who will undergo due diligence and criteria review by the TNC project team as well as aforementioned teams to consider level of: technical expertise; organizational management, safeguards, fiscal capacity and integrity; and potential conflicts of interest.

TNC subgrants use standard templates and flow down donor regulations to ensure compliance with the source of funds. TNC monitors compliance and achievement of project goals and outcomes through financial and technical reports submitted quarterly. In case of any amendments, those follow the required process of prior approval in needed. DD and Risk ranking is conducted by subrecipient monitoring team (SRM) which is a department of Internal Audit. The WWF GEF safeguards requirements and policies will be flowed down to sub-grantees, and their compliance will be monitored by the Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer.

Project Steering Committee

The PFP Advisory body, or a HWC-focused subcommittee of this body, will serve as the Project Steering Committee for this project. Terms of Reference for the PSC, prescribing **membership and participation, *inter alia*, will be finalized during project start-up. Members will include:** representatives of TNC at the global and country levels; the Government of Gabon; and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The participation of a women's organization will be sought. The PSC will oversee technical and financial execution of the project: reviewing and approving annual workplans and budgets, project reports, and any adaptive management measures required during project execution, and generally provide strategic direction over the course of project execution. The GEF Agency for the project will participate as a non-voting observer.

Project Management Unit

The project management (PMU) will be based in TNC Gabon and include the following positions:

The **Gabon PFP Director (20% time, co-funding)** is responsible for project oversight, ensuring the project meets its goals and objectives and providing leadership for Gabon GBFF staff and the associated GEF-7 PFP project. The Director will maintain partnerships-- overseeing agreements and monitoring partner progress, and liaise with the WWF GEF Agency on TNC's behalf. This position will be fully funded by the GEF-7 EE project and associated co-financing. Amongst other responsibilities, the PFP Director, with support of the

Human-Wildlife Coexistence Project Specialist and Gabon PFP Coordinator, oversees staff management, government relations, reporting (including 6-month and 12-month PPRs), the development of AWPBs, and quality control of consultant and partner deliverables.

The **Human Wildlife Coexistence Project Specialist (100% time)** will work under the direction of the Gabon PFP Director and be responsible for technical direction and delivery in the HWC theme to the project across all components. The Specialist will provide day-to-day support and monitoring of stakeholder engagement in HWC management strategies, and assist with integration of HWC management into PFP and CTF instruments and administration, project M&E, preparing reports for the GEF Agency, and preparing knowledge products.

The **Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer (100% time)** will work under the direction of the GEF Project Manager/HWC Specialist and lead community engagement work under Component 2. Work will include: facilitating workshops and discussions with project communities to collaboratively identify HWC problems and drivers and co-design solutions; facilitating community engagement by subgrantees; and leading the implementation and monitoring of the Environmental and Social Management Framework/Process Framework/Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (ESMF/PF/IPPF), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the Gender Action Plan (GAP), including by subgrantees and other project partners. They will also contribute to HWC strategy development under Component 1.

Grants Specialist (20% time) is responsible for project financials and compliance, and works with project staff to ensure financial oversight to ensure that budgets and agreements are handled according to WWF & TNC policies, procedures, systems, and donor requirements. Together with the Gabon PFP Director, the Grants Specialist will oversee budgets across all partners.

The **Gabon PFP Coordinator (10% time, co-funding)** will support the Gabon PFP Director and Human Wildlife Coexistence Specialist in government relations and the development and delivery of project reports.

Further part time support will be provided by the following roles (and will be funded by the project):

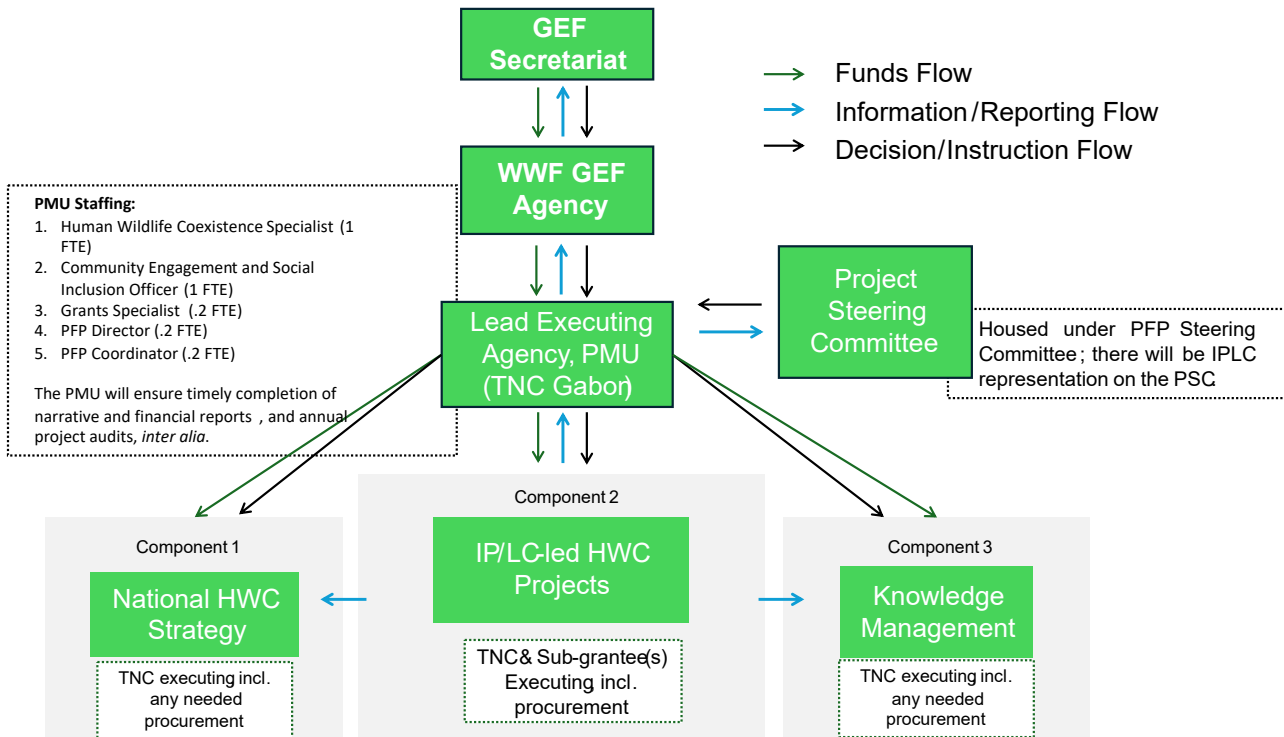
The **Gabon Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Officer** will support project M&E and the development of knowledge products (Components 3 and 4).

The **Gabon Communications Officer** will support the development of the public awareness plan under 1.1.3, as well as knowledge products under Component 3 and capturing and communicating key messages derived from and supporting 2.1.1, 2.1.2.

A **Gabon GIS Specialist** will support the strategy development under 1.1.1.

A **Gabon Finance and Operations** staff will support sound financial management and compliance.

GABON GBFF Institutional Arrangements



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

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

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)

This project will be co-delivered with the GEF-7 project which is developing a PFP for Gabon, and will be driven by government demand to address a pending barrier to effective PA management—human wildlife conflict. This GBFF project will expand the scope of the PFP to better address HWC management work on the ground.

Through cooperation with the same government agencies and private actors on current results and shared objectives, the project will also coordinate with three additional GEF projects detailed in Table 1.

As noted, HWC is a complex issue that seeks the well-being of people and wildlife. As such, there is a further group of government, NGO, private sector entities, and community organizations involved in HWC strategy development and implementation. For example, Space for Giants is a key NGO contributing to HWC management across Gabon, both through community engagement and management methods (e.g., installation of electric fencing) and support to the GoG as it develops a national HWC strategy. The GBFF project will coordinate with SfG's Gabon HWC project to align with their current engagement, activities, and lessons.

Listed below is a sample of additional entities working in the four project PA sites with existing initiatives supporting biodiversity conservation and human-wildlife coexistence:

- Conservation NGOs, e.g., WCS’ Gabon Forest Program, SfG’s Human-Wildlife Coexistence project;
- CSOs with projects or missions supporting conservation, worker livelihoods, and IPLC representation, e.g., Ibonga (Loango NP), Association des Planteur de Ndini (Mayumba NP), Ayebe Environnement (Monts de Cristal NP) and Assistance to Indigenous Women (Minkébé NP);
- Ecotourism operators, e.g., Yambissi (Loango NP); and
- Industrial private sector operators e.g., Asonha Energy (Monts de Cristal NP), Assala (Loango NP), Tropical Timber Industry Board (Minkébé NP)

The project will assess, coordinate with, and mobilize current efforts by these groups and other actors. Specific cooperations will vary based upon the respective missions and locations of the entity, but prospective examples include the access and application of data gathered from WCS and Space for Giants’ forest elephant monitoring programs as well as studies conducted under the Wildlife and Human-Elephants Conflicts Management (GEF ID 9212) project (further detailed in Table 1), and consultation with IPLC CSOs already pursuing representation of IPLCs in conservation to ensure the GBFF project advances and preserves IPLC voices in community-level HWC discussions.

The project will coordinate with the GEF Global Wildlife Program (GWP) addressing illegal wildlife trade, unsustainable wildlife trade, human-wildlife conflict (HWC), and zoonotic spillover risk. Per an informal discussion and agreement with the World Bank, this Gabon GBFF project will be a “cousin” project of the GWP, and as such, representatives will be invited to join GWP webinars and share information and learning, especially related to HWC management and Target 3.

This project will seek to include all relevant actors in project discussions. The participation of majority groups will be balanced to ensure that their presence does not inhibit or restrict IPLC, women, youth, and other marginalized group participation.

Further details on collaboration with existing projects are available in Table 1. An extended list of stakeholders is additionally available in the Project Stakeholders section.

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines.

As per the GBFF Programming Directions, the GBFF performance will be monitored using the GEF Trust Fund Core Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and all their sub indicators as well as 9 and sub-indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming Directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from the project in other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

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)
0	1120200	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)
0	1120200	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)
Loango National Park	303874	National Park		151,000.00			71.00		
Mayumba (Marine) National Park	301850	National Park		96,500.00			62.00		
Minkébé National Park	72324	National Park		753,500.00			53.00		
Monts de Cristal National Park	306237	National Park		119,200.00			60.00		

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)
14000	14000	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)
14,000.00	14,000.00		

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 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	3,350		
Male	5,000	3,350		
Total	10,000	6,700	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)

The project will deliver results against:

- GEF Core indicator 1.2: Terrestrial PAs under improved management (hectares (ha)): This project will promote IPLC-focused HWC management in three fully terrestrial PAs and in the terrestrial portions of one MPA, and, along with the Gabon PFP, is improving the effective management of, approximately, 11% of the total terrestrial PAs (approximately 1,120,200 ha in Loango, Monts de Cristal, Minkébé, and Mayumba national parks).
- Core indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity: At least 14,000 ha of areas outside of PAs that are key for connectivity with the PA system will be under improved management by promoting IPLC-lead HWC management. Areas will also include lands specifically targeted for direct HWC measures such as community-led response units, fencing, and other deterrence methods. Identification of these highly impacted community areas outside of the PA will follow from socioeconomic survey and consultations.
- Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex. Approximately 7,000 people will benefit from the project. Initial surveys and assessments suggest an approximately equal balance of 50% male, 50% female (some beneficiaries will include youth). The majority of beneficiaries will be IP and LCs who will lead and benefit from measures to reduce pressures for HWC and the measures to support better coexistence and co-benefits for humans and wildlife including improved planning and wildlife management and conflict deterrence approaches, the installation of deterrence structures (fences), and financial mechanisms to support benefit and relief to IPLCs. Other beneficiaries will include PA and environment

ministries staff, small landowners who depend on subsistence agriculture in and around the four project PAs, and community groups. Preliminary analyses suggest the following breakdown of beneficiaries:

- 1,896 government officials to be trained in CHF management/community involvement
- 385 people who will be attending workshops or participating in the development of the national HWC strategy
- 30 people who will be directly involved in the revision of the FP instruments and who are not project staff.
- 4,412 people in/around the 4 project sites who will be directly involved in workshops, co-design or deployment of interventions (i.e. IPs involved in co-design of interventions) or who will directly benefit from HWC management interventions (i.e. people in a community with a new fence, but not all members of villages located on land under new contracts).

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	<p>RISK: Climate-related risks have been identified, assessed, and planned for through the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project, yet a low risk from the climate change acceleration at a degree unanticipated through prior analyses remains. Acceleration and intensification of drought/flood cycles, sea level rise and acidification, and decline in biomass may accelerate changes in wildlife habitat and migration channels, rendering the project’s location-based protections and mitigations less effective. Drought, flooding, and soil deterioration may enhance crop/livestock losses or reduced yields, contributing to compensatory agricultural or pastoral spread and increased defensive or retaliatory killings from human-wildlife interaction and lead to increases in hunting as the primary source of household food security and/or income</p> <p>Mitigation: Promoting sustainable management of established PAs (National Parks) through a national HWC strategy and integration into the PFP is central to the project. Outcome 1.1 and improved co-existence measures under Outcome 2.1. Locally- and indigenous-led solutions compounded with national level support will create enabling conditions and incentivize transition to alternative, climate-responsive livelihood factors compounded with improved tolerance and reduced tension points for wildlife coexistence.</p>
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) reduction and mitigation activities intend to reduce and avoid adverse risks to people and the environment. Such activities may produce unintended risks to affected communities and ecosystems. Policy or physical barriers establishing protections for</p>

wildlife movement or village insulation may impact sites of cultural or livelihood importance, such as smallholder agriculture plots. Mitigation: The project will not propose or support involuntary relocations of human settlements. The project's geographic scope is focused on existing PAs with low-density and dispersed populations, where new conflict or involuntary relocation is not expected. The project also seeks to improve long-term sustainable financing for effective PA management and biodiversity conservation, which will strengthen long-term durable outcomes for human-wildlife coexistence. Over a longer term, the project seeks to strengthen science- and stakeholder-based planning and management of biodiversity in and around PAs so that wildlife can thrive alongside people, helping to reduce related environmental and social impacts. The project also maintains the importance of ensuring that IPLCs not only have rights and benefits from conservation initiatives, but are positioned as leaders under Outcome 2.1 to advise on and implement solutions for improved coexistence through evidence-based solutions that fully engage IPLC throughout the project planning and implementation activities that seek to support coexistence with wildlife with the right local and cultural frameworks. Additionally, there are rigorous GEF standards for upholding rights of IPLC, that are overseen by WWF as GEF Agency. This project will coordinate with the GEF 7 PFP and its safeguards and gender expertise to leverage regional and multi-regional in-house experts at TNC. TNC will align existing internal safeguards systems, including dedicated safeguard staffing, and uphold the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) (including the use of TNC's Human Rights Guide and principles of Voice, Choice and Action framework), in correspondence with both national requirements, WWF policy and GEF requirements. RISK: Gabonese civil society and rural populations do not have a recorded robust history of financial, technical, and management capacity to engage in conservation, livelihoods, and HWC initiatives. Low population levels in remote areas in the four project areas will make it more difficult to coordinate and convene with civil society and community stakeholders. Women, IPs and other marginalized groups may face further challenges to participate and contribute to decisions for engagement in the project in ways that support their desired outcomes. Mitigation: This project will use the Gabon PFP project and the stakeholder engagement plan, community engagement plan, and gender plan, along with project start-up activities for that project to establish the baseline of civil society and community capacity for engagement and leadership for activities associated with both projects. The Gabon PFP project's Outcome 2.1 activities will strengthen the capabilities (skills and knowledge, equipment, technologies, etc.) of civil society to better enable them to fulfill their role as stakeholders and participate in activities on terms that help them achieve their self-determined outcomes. Furthermore, the PFP endowment will channel resources to capacity building activities over the medium- and long-term,

		<p>incl. training and skills development, personnel, mentorship for both government agencies and local communities. Finally, TNC’s project-level community engagement staffing, Human Rights Guide, and Voice, Choice and Action framework will foster a rights-based approach to community and civil society decision-making and participation in project activities. RISK: Initial consultations with communities at the target 4 PAs highlighted that HWC is a critical and priority issue to address due to the risks it presents to human well-being; that many communities did not see any value in living near PAs or in conservation efforts; and a widely held perception that wildlife is more protected than humans. In this context, if project-funded interventions fail to meet community expectations, there is a risk of further deteriorating community attitudes toward conservation and further potential risks to wildlife. Mitigation: The project will make efforts to ensure a strong, inclusive, and participatory process is undertaken to co-design the project interventions with communities, investing in community engagement and safeguards capacity to facilitate this. Interventions will be co-developed and thus “co-owned” by local communities, and less likely to result in frustrated expectations.</p>
<p>Political and Governance</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>RISK: Following the 2023 coup, there is moderate risk that GoG Ministers and Agencies do not remain actively engaged and do not support the development and implementation of either the Gabon PFP and/or this GBFF project. Mitigation: Gabon’s national leadership is in transition following the August 2023 post-presidential election coup d’état. While daily administration has stabilized and the transition government continues to uphold conservation-related national and international agreements, the politically dynamic situation could affect support and decision-making about the PFP. However, the GoG has prioritized addressing HWC and realizing near-term material change for IPLC from their 30x30 commitments. The project is mitigating degradation of GoG commitment to the PFP and leveraging global support for delivery of KMGBF Target 3 by integrating a HWC element to the effort. The project has secured initial endorsement from the GoG at the PPG request stage. TNC will continue regular stakeholder engagement with appropriate ministerial/governmental representatives throughout implementation, to include mobilizing GBFF resources to support the DGFBP in advancing the HWC National Strategy. Even if government support for the GBFF project or the PFP were to falter, the project could adjust the scope and develop other fundraising approaches and business models to secure project financing.</p>
<p>INNOVATION</p>		
<p>Institutional and Policy</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>RISK: Approaches to HWC may not be appropriate or effective. Mitigation: The possible tools and approaches applied to deter HWC and improve perceptions and behaviors between humans and wildlife will be based on studied practices from Gabonese and Sub-Saharan African</p>

		<p>contexts, such as chili fences, better planning, and positive incentives. The project will only engage in technological approaches that have already been tested or will be tested before further scaling, and will be accompanied by Component 4 MEL. The technological approaches will only be conducted based on a co-design process and agreement by involved and affected IPLC and stakeholders.</p>
Technological		
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	<p>RISK: The integration of HWC into the PFP through the proposed project presents a new strategic focus for the PFP/CTF. Beyond political buy-in, the PFP/CTF theory of change relies on major philanthropic and private investments. Many of these investments are conditioned on government support for the PFP transaction. If the transaction does not go forward, there may be significant delay or weakening of the PFP/CTF affecting this project, particularly as it relates to the sustainability of financial support for the national HWC strategy over the medium to longterm. Mitigation: Were this to happen, the project team would effectively adjust the scope of this project to develop other fundraising approaches and business models to build financial sustainability into the delivery of the HWC strategy, as led by Gabonese stakeholders, and deliver the Component 2 strategy directly rather than through the transition fund after PFP close.</p>
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	<p>RISK: Lack of Executing Agency ability to implement the project. Mitigation: The Nature Conservancy is a science-based conservation INGO with 16 years of impact in Africa, including 11 in Gabon, and is well-equipped for implementation of this project to integrate human-wildlife coexistence into the Gabon PFP to better achieve Target 3. As such, there is low risk of capacity gaps within TNC. As part of the CTF set-up and steps to single-close, the project will fund the design and set up of governance structures, including: defining the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and organizing a series of webinars, case studies and workshops to present best practices on management of protected and conserved areas; establishing the endowment, sinking and/or transition fund; and developing necessary financial information and planning systems.</p>
Fiduciary	Low	<p>RISK: Poor financial management by the Executing Agency and/or project subgrantees. Mitigation: TNC maintains high standards for financial management with demonstrated success regularly managing public and private awards of up to and exceeding \$10 million within Africa, including subgrants and subcontracts to local organizations or other independent bodies. Potential challenges are prevented and/or mitigated through TNC's Standard Operating Procedures guiding financial management which are monitored and enforced by regional and global teams to ensure compliance with donor, government, and TNC</p>

		financial regulations and commitments. TNC conducts due diligence on potential local partners to determine their financial capacity to deliver. TNC maintains financial ethics through internal and external Conflict of Interest processes, annual external audits and a dedicated, independent Ethics and Compliance team respond to reports of financial abuse.
Stakeholder	Low	<p>RISK: As detailed above, the project requires stakeholder consultation and co-design with local affected communities, including indigenous populations and groups that do not speak French or have limited literacy. There is low risk of insufficient engagement with these groups.</p> <p>Mitigation: Field-based HWC measures will be co-designed, implemented, evaluated, documented with communities in concert with sensitive and expert staff who have an understanding of IPLC groups in Gabon. TNC and implementing partners will collaborate with local and international research institutions and NGOs engaged in HWC, IPLC, and PA management in Gabon to secure their support and buy-in for project activities. Component 3 will build from this broader body of research and knowledge to transmit learnings and adapt approaches where needed.</p>
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	

D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the GEF-8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);

The project will deliver results against:

- GEF Core indicator 1.2: Terrestrial PAs under improved management (hectares (ha)): This project will promote IPLC-focused HWC management in three fully terrestrial PAs and in the terrestrial portions of one MPA, and, along with the Gabon PFP, is improving the effective management of, approximately, 11% of the

total terrestrial PAs (approximately 1,120,200 ha in Loango, Monts de Cristal, Minkébé, and Mayumba national parks).

- Core indicator 4.1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity: At least 14,000 ha of areas outside of PAs that are key for connectivity with the PA system will be under improved management by promoting IPLC-lead HWC management. Areas will also include lands specifically targeted for direct HWC measures such as community-led response units, fencing, and other deterrence methods. Identification of these highly impacted community areas outside of the PA will follow from socioeconomic survey and consultations.
- Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex. Approximately 7,000 people will benefit from the project. Initial surveys and assessments suggest an approximately equal balance of 50% male, 50% female (some beneficiaries will include youth). The majority of beneficiaries will be IP and LCs who will lead and benefit from measures to reduce pressures for HWC and the measures to support better coexistence and co-benefits for humans and wildlife including improved planning and wildlife management and conflict deterrence approaches, the installation of deterrence structures (fences), and financial mechanisms to support benefit and relief to IPLCs. Other beneficiaries will include PA and environment ministries staff, small landowners who depend on subsistence agriculture in and around the four project PAs, and community groups. Preliminary analyses suggest the following breakdown of beneficiaries:
 - 1,896 government officials to be trained in CHF management/community involvement
 - 385 people who will be attending workshops or participating in the development of the national HWC strategy
 - 30 people who will be directly involved in the revision of the FP instruments and who are not project staff.
 - 4,412 people in/around the 4 project sites who will be directly involved in workshops, co-design or deployment of interventions (i.e. IPs involved in co-design of interventions) or who will directly benefit from HWC management interventions (i.e. people in a community with a new fence, but not all members of villages located on land under new contracts).

This project aligns to the following GBFF Action Areas:

1. Action Area 1. Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning (Targets 1, 2, and 3). This project (under Components 1 and 2) will support delivery of GBFF Target 3 goals-- Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas--through improved management within and near four existing PAs in Gabon through investment in HWC management. HWC is among the principal outstanding barriers to achieving Target 3 in Gabon, which was not previously incorporated in the design of the PFP (under development through the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project). This project will integrate HWC management into the PFP to ensure sufficient and predictable financial resources are available over time to address HWC which erodes public support, particularly among IPLCs, for conservation writ large, and thereby threatens conserved area integrity.

2. Action Area 2. Support for IPLC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters. (Targets 1, 2, and 3). The project will provide (under Component 2) direct support to IPLC groups for HWC management and coexistence approaches in and around protected where HWC threatens harmonious coexistence between IPLCs and wildlife. This support along with development of a national strategy and integration of HWC management into the PFP structure, will address the following GBFF priorities:

- 1) strengthening organizational and individual capacity to sustainably manage areas and territories under indigenous peoples and community stewardship and governance
- 2) supporting site-based conservation along with the development of sustainable financing strategies to increase access and availability of resources for IPLCs;
- 3) strengthening governance and organizational capacity of IPLCs at local and regional levels; and
- 4) enhancing effective indigenous governance systems to manage lands, territories and waters.

3. Action Area 4: Resource mobilization (Targets 18 and 19). The project will integrate HWC management into the PFP structure that will finance protected and conserved areas in Gabon, to deliver GBFF Target 3.

The recently adopted global targets for nature, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets guide worldwide actions through 2030 to protect and preserve nature and essential services to people, prioritize the protection of ecologically-representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of PAs and other effective area-based conservation, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories and practices. This proposed GBFF project contributes to the following KMGBF targets:

- **Target 3: the effective conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's land, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans.** This project will support delivery of Gabon's Target 3 goals by addressing a critical barrier to protected area management: HWC. The project will articulate a national HWC strategy (under Output 1.1.1) that will, *inter alia*, help to guide the investments made by the PFP to help to manage HWC and thereby improve the level of community support for PAs; integrate HWC management into the Gabon PFP (under development through the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project) to help to ensure sufficient and predictable financial resources for HWC and thus enhance conserved area management (under Output 1.2.1); and design and implement, along with affected indigenous people and local communities, HWC measures (Output 2.1.1, 2.1.2) that may be scaled or replicated elsewhere in Gabon to address this critical issue that threatens to undermine a critical conservation constituency in the country / community support for protected areas.
- **Target 4: the end of human induced extinction of threatened species.** This project will implement IPLC-led HWC activities in and around four national parks that are home to IUCN-red listed species, including critically endangered species, like the western lowland gorilla and the forest elephant, as well as endangered, threatened or vulnerable species like chimpanzees, mandrills, and leatherback turtles. Management activities (undertaken under Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) are expected to lead to a reduction in retaliatory killings, or at least prevent an increase in the number of retaliatory killings of critical, threatened wildlife species. Management planning and actions and strengthened collaboration with local communities may further contribute to general positive attitudes and approaches to coexisting with wildlife. Moreover, by integrating HWC management into the Gabon PFP the project will help to ensure the availability of financial resources to replicate and scale such measures over time (under Output 1.2.1).
- **Target 19: increase financial resources to increase total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries.** The GEF-7 Gabon PFP project does not specifically address HWC. Through this GBFF project, HWC will be integrated into the PFP (under Output 1.2.1), and enabling the mobilization of additional resources and PA management and HWC through the medium- and long-terms.

- **Target 21: the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management.** This project is based in the understanding that the national strategy and community co-led activities must be based in lessons learned from other HWC projects implemented in Africa and on other continents.^{[1]⁹ HWC learning from this project and its IPLC-focused initiatives will be monitored, evaluated, documented and published (Under Component 3).}
- **Target 22: ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by IPLCs.** Many communities around the four project PAs include Indigenous groups. Women, youth, and elders also play a major role in these communities as younger men and young couples are increasingly migrating—temporarily or permanently—to Gabon’s urban centers to gain their livelihoods. Rural communities now consist of large percentages of traditionally marginalized groups. The success of this project will be based on their active participation and engagement. Further insights as to how to best engage with youth will be determined as a part of the socioeconomic study to be carried out in communities as a part of project startup, however, at a minimum, women and women’s organizations, when possible, will actively participate in and provide input to the consultative workshops in the development of the national HWC strategy (Output 1.1.1); and women and men will have equal opportunities/access to participate in the design, construction, application and monitoring/ management of measures in pilot sites (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2). The participation of a suitable women’s organization will be sought for the PSC.
- **Target 23: ensure gender through a gender responsive approach.** Women’s perspectives and concerns as relates to HWC will be reflected in the national HWC strategy (Output 1.1.1) and the PFP and CTF governing instruments (1.2.1) as well as in the HWC management measures undertaken under Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2. Under Output 1.1.1, to ensure that the strategy development process incorporates gender dimensions, the following specific activities will be undertaken:
 - Training to government, PFP, CTF staff on the importance of rural women’s perspectives in the national HWC strategy;
 - Socioeconomic studies and mapping - including gender dynamics, representation of both women and men, including allies and supporters of women and girl. The results of these will be fed into the national HWC strategy; and
 - Active participation/input in the consultative workshops by IPLC women and other marginalized groups’ in the development of the national HWC strategy.

Under 1.1.2 The PMU will ensure equal opportunity for women and men to participate actively in National HWC commission launch workshops and events. Under Output 1.2.1, gender mainstreaming and gender response modalities will be included in the conservation plans, CTF instruments as relates to HWC, e.g. Management plans, Operating manual(s), as appropriate. With respect to the measures to be developed under Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2, women will actively participate in the decision-making on the selection and design of those measures; IPLC women will participate in HWC- focused visits to other communities in their area and around other PAs experiencing HWC to learn about and exchange management strategies. Special accommodations (women only meetings, timing of meetings, etc) may be required to

ensure women's active participation. For Output 2.1.1 The PMU will sensitize and improve knowledge and understanding of IPLC women's perspectives, strategies, and limitations to HWC management in the project site, and ensure that women and men have equal opportunities/access to participate in the design, construction, application and monitoring/ management of measures to developing and maintaining these measures, in pilot sites.

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Gabon's NBSAP - dated 1999 - expresses Gabon's vision to "by 2025, ... ensure the conservation of biodiversity and guarantee satisfactory sharing of the socio-economic and ecological benefits from biological resources by raising awareness of the importance of its biological resources and by developing human and institutional capacities." The project will contribute to the achievement of this vision by promoting human-wildlife conflict management, reducing threats to biodiversity including endemic and threatened species, and potentially reducing the degradation of habitat (incl. forests, and freshwater ecosystems) of national, regional and global significance.

The new president of Gabon, Brice Oligui Nguema, spoke of HWC in his first address to the nation, a clear sign that he recognizes HWC as a threat to rural peoples and their livelihoods. While the PFP supported by the GEF7 project seeks to improve Gabon PA management, there is no specific HWC-focus in that project. Developing an IPLC-focused national HWC strategy that can be incorporated into the PFP, and delivering strategies with communities will result in more comprehensive PA management that will benefit IPLCs and ensure the long-term protection of endangered wildlife in Gabon.

Gabon's National Land Use Plan (PNAT) is Gabon's reference plan for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) its climate commitments and incorporates climate change considerations into the country's sectorial development strategies. Gabon has been an active participant in UNFCCC negotiations, and the PNAT is Gabon's primary cross-ministerial tool for the implementation of the country's sustainable development policy and for optimizing management of its national territory that promotes development while protecting Gabon's natural heritage and contributing to international commitments to prevent climate change.

Forests are regulated by the **2001 Forestry Code** which introduced sustainable management plans for forestry concessions (CFADs); the 2007 National Parks Law; the Environment Code of 2014 as well as the Sustainable Development Law adopted in 2014.

Under the **Green Gabon Plan**, developed in 2017, the country promised to adopt an integrated approach for the development of agricultural sub-sectors and its value chains in order to achieve food self-sufficiency by 2025. This requires the development of 205,000 hectares of land as well as the intensive and eco-friendly exploitation of plant, animal and fish farming sub-sectors.

HWC strategies are essential elements to the success of these initiatives, and this project will work with these representatives to ensure that IPLC-led HWC strategies are aligned with and incorporated into their workstreams.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

To our knowledge, this project does not conflict with any country policies. Should any conflict become known during GBFF project implementation or through the implementation of the PFP project, project staff will discuss alternative strategies that are in line with the policy and adjust project programming accordingly.

Explain how the project will generate global biodiversity benefits which would not have occurred without the GEF project (additionality). The GEF-7 PFP project seeks to strengthen PA management and integrity in Gabon, however, that project does not include a specific focus on HWC. Meanwhile, HWC is perceived as a major issue by the GoG and rural populations—especially IPLCs residing within and around the county’s PAs. Failure to specifically address HWC has the potential to degrade Gabon’s PA network and put human and wildlife populations—including threatened and critically endangered species at risk. This project will deliver the following, which would not have occurred without this GBFF project support:

- work in conjunction with the PFP and incorporate HWC into its programming;
- establish a multi sectoral and stakeholder commission on HWC;
- work with the GoG to develop a national HWC strategy, that can be integrated through PFP support into national policy and PA management training; and
- improve PA management by working with highly HWC affected communities (IPLCs including men, women, and youth) to develop effective and sustainable HWC strategies; and feed lessons from this into the development of the national HWC strategy and implementation of the PFP.

3) Please describe how the project meets the following criteria:

The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support.

This project will support HWC policy coherence and coordination across GoG Ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture in particular will be a key partner as conflicting conservation and agricultural policies and approaches may exacerbate HWC. Smallholder farmers—IPLCs—are frustrated by HWC and need effective, pragmatic, and sustainable management strategies. Crop selection and technical methods are not sufficiently developed in Gabon resulting in inefficient yields and poor HWC investments. The private sector—mining and logging—is operating under government concessions in several project PAs. Some of their operations have also been impacted by HWC, so they may also desire to be involved in finding HWC management strategies.

Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies.

The Gabon PFP, now in development, has catalyzed several major philanthropic commitments to invest in transition and endowment funds which, following this project, will integrate HWC as an additional strategic focus for improved area-based conservation. Existing efforts to prevent and respond to HWC are underway by NGOs Space for Giants, WWF-Gabon, and other NGOs. Details of their programming will be assessed and mobilized to the appropriate extent during project startup). Private sector companies operate within some of the PAs, and as their operations may be threatened by HWC, they may wish to participate in the project and/or provide funding for IPLC-focused activities under Component 2.

Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

At least \$700,000 of Component 2 will support IPLC-focused HWC management and coexistence approaches designed and adopted by IPLCs at risk of HWC. The communities will be invited to engage in HWC actions and co-define the priorities to address. If the interventions are effective, the IPLCs participating in the project will have higher tolerance of wildlife and see greater benefits to the presence and coexistence of wildlife. They will also benefit from financial mechanisms that will be designed to improve outcomes for IPLCs and biodiversity (Component 1). IPLCs will lead in the design and execution of the interventions, but will not manage financial resources as this is the responsibility of the lead executing agency.

[1] WWF. 2019. Chrome https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_human_wildlife_conflict_mitigation_annex.pdf

E. 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 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 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 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 have been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B), and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; **Yes**

Other (Please explain)

Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:

Amount (\$) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	700,000.00	700,000.00

If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:

Resources to support IPLCs have been estimated as \$700,000, making up the majority of work under component two. This includes support, including technical assistance and procurement of goods for co-design and co-implementation of HWC management actions by IPLC on the ground at four protected areas.

Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?

No

Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?

Yes

Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?

Yes

Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?

Yes

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section C project description?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed 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		

F. 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.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

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

Socioeconomic benefits derived from this project include:

- Improved leadership and analytical skills developed by IPLCs through the development of HWC strategies;
- Improved knowledge about HWC and other cultures through participation in community exchanges organized by the project;
- Behavior change among IPLC that results in a sense that HWC coexistence is possible and that HWC represents a lower/manageable risk to their lives and livelihoods.
- Increased food security and increased income, as well as improved physical and emotional security.

These benefits will extend to both women and men living around the project's target PAs. As the populations of many rural communities around the project's four target PAs have relatively higher proportions of women, youth, and elders, women may benefit disproportionately, depending on the demographic makeup of the community in question.

Socio economic indicators have been included in the SEP, and will be duly incorporated in Annual Workplans and Budgets for the project. The project results framework, in turn, includes an indicator to ensure that the SEP itself is being tracked. The relevant SEP indicators read as follows:

- SEP Indicator 1: Number of people (sex disaggregated; organization/stakeholder disaggregated) that have been consulted in national HWC strategy development (cumulative) Reports of trainings, stakeholder engagements, workshops, etc.
- SEP Indicator 2: # of IPLCs (people-men and women) trained and/or participating in the design, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of HWC management interventions.
- SEP Indicator 3: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

Total GEF Financing Table

Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
WWF-US	GBFF	Gabon	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	540,086.00	48,607.00	588,693.00
WWF-US	GBFF	Gabon	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	824,410.00	74,197.00	898,607.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,364,496.00	122,804.00	1,487,300.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

29,000.00

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

2,610.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
WWF-US	GBFF	Gabon	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	11,479.00	1,033.00	12,512.00
WWF-US	GBFF	Gabon	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	17,521.00	1,577.00	19,098.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					29,000.00	2,610.00	31,610.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
Total GEF Resources					0.00

Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	540,086.00	
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	824,410.00	
Total Project Cost		1,364,496.00	0.00

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(\$)
Total Co-financing				0.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
	3/31/2024	Dr. Renae Stenhouse		Renae.stenhouse@wwfus.org
	3/31/2024	Robbie Bovino		Robbie.bovino@wwfus.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)
Monsieur Stanislas Stephen Mouna Olouna	GEF Operational Focal Point	l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature	2/29/2024

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 copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

Results Framework: Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon

GEF Project ID: TBD

Indicator / unit	Definition (note if cumulative)	Method/ source	Responsible	Disaggregation	Baseline	YR1	YR2	YR3	YR 4	Notes/ Assumptions
Project Objective: Improve protected and conserved area management in Gabon by integrating a national HWC strategy into the PFP financial mechanism and managing human wildlife conflict at key sites.										
<p>Objective indicator 1: # of ha of PA under improved management.</p> <p>(Core indicator 1.2)</p>	<p>See link for definition and guidance</p> <p>(non-cumulative)</p>	METT	TNC	Loango	71	-	(midterm; targets will be set following consultations)	-	+2	<p>Targets reflect the incremental benefits of this project.</p> <p>METT analyses will be completed at mid-term and end of project.</p> <p>Note: by project close, 1,120,200 HA of terrestrial PA will be under improved management as a result of measures financed by this project.</p> <p>Midterm targets to be set within 6 months of project launch.</p>
				Minkebe	53			+3		
				Monts de Cristal	60			+3		
				Mayumba	62			+3		
<p>Objective indicator 3: # of ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p> <p>(Core Indicator 4.1)</p>	<p>See link for definition and guidance</p> <p>(non-cumulative)</p>	Report and/or survey of land managers showing where management practices (incl. number of hectares) have been implemented, with description of env'l benefits. Should include relevant GIS data/files.	TNC		0	-	(midterm; targets will be set following consultations)	-	14,000	<p>Stabilized or reduced HWC incidences will reflect the results of multiple management activities across project components, including planning, training, and integrated livelihood and coexistence skills and inputs.</p> <p>Analysis to measure progress will be completed at midterm and at project close.</p> <p>Midterm targets to be</p>

											set within 6 months of project launch.
Objective indicator #4: # of people benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex. (Core Indicator 11)	See link for definition and guidance (cumulative)	Based on project documentation of IPLC-led interventions, incl. community HWC trainings.	TNC	50% male/50% female	0	Annual Target Amount TBD in YR1 as a part of GoG consultations	Annual Target Amount TBD in YR1 as a part of GoG consultations	Annual Target Amount TBD in YR1 as a part of GoG consultations	7,000	Initial community surveys suggested beneficiaries will be 50% male /50 % female. Numbers may be refined based on results of the socio-economic study to be carried out during project startup. Y1 – Y3 targets to be set within 6 months of project launch.	
Stakeholder Engagement Indicators											
% of SEP indicator targets met on an annual basis.	(non-cumulative)	Review of SEP + AWPB Tracking Tool	TNC	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Assumes targets in SEP are realistic
Gender Related Indicators											
% of GAP indicator targets met on an annual basis.	(non-cumulative)	Review of GAP + AWPB Tracking Tool	TNC		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	Assumes targets in GAP are realistic
Component 1: Enabling Conditions for improved Protected Area conservation and HWC Management in Gabon.											
1.1 Stakeholder and evidence driven National Strategy on HWC											
Outcome 1.1 indicator : # of stakeholder and evidence-driven National Strategies to enable better management of HWC	Enable better management of HWC includes: (cumulative)	Review of national strategies for stakeholder involvement , use of evidence base pertaining to HWC and qualitative assessment of whether it enables better management of HWC	TNC		0	1	0	0	1		
Outcome 1.2: PFP / CTF Strengthened for Protected Area Based Conservation and HWC Management											
Outcome 1.2 indicator #1: HWC	(non-cumulative)	See step approach below: 1 – PFP	TNC		PFP does not currently	1, 2, 3		4,5	6		Assumes PFP close at the end of 2025; that the GoG

<p>management integrated into PFP and CTF instruments and operations – incl. conservation plans, finance plans, operations manual(s), institutional capacity assessments</p>		<p>operations manual updated to incorporate HWC as focal theme for PFP financing/eligible for Transition and Endowment Funds; 2- PFP Institutional capacity building plan incorporates HWC, HWC-related needs; 3 – PFP Conservation and Finance plans integrate elements of national HWC strategy appropriate to or aligned with CTF/PFP mandate 4– HWC mentioned in CTF communications, incl. annual reports, calls for proposals (if applicable) 5 – Budget allocation from PFP financial mechanism(s) for activities to prevent and respond to HWC, and activities to promote coexistence 6 - HWC interventions funded by the CTF (PFP transition or endowment funds)</p>			<p>contemplate HWC</p>				<p>and CTF Board will agree with allocation of PFP financial resources to support HWC prevention and response measures across and around the Gabon PA network.</p> <p>On Scorecard Item 3, to receive credit, the conservation and finance plans should incorporate material elements of the HWC strategy with a view to allocating resources to its implementation.</p>
<p>Outcome 1.2 indicator #2: PA management plans have improved articulation of</p>	<p>(cumulative)</p>	<p>Review of PA management plans for the four target PAs (Loango, Mayumba,</p>	<p>TNC</p>		<p>0</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>4</p>		

HWC and coexistence objectives, activities, information gathering, and monitoring reflected that is aligned with the national HWC strategy.		Minkebe, and Monts de Cristal)								
Component 2: IPLC-led HWC Solutions										
Outcome 2.1. Improved coexistence between humans and key wildlife conflict species in select areas, through IPLC-led evidence-based approaches										
Outcome 2.1 Indicator 1:	(non-cumulative)	Review reports against a well-informed baseline to determine if a reduction of incidences of HWC in areas surrounding the four project PAs is occurring; official government information	TNC		TBD – baseline to be prepared as a part of project stakeholder engagement plan and baseline	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	<p>The results will factor in that rate of reporting incidents may increase based on increased awareness and attention from the project. It is assumed that reporting may not include consistent variables such as severity of incident, supporting evidence, etc.</p> <p>Note: The number of incidents should be tracked and included in reporting as well.</p> <p>Baseline and Y1 – Y4 targets to be set within 6-9 months of project launch.</p>
Outcome 2.1, Indicator 2:	(cumulative)	Project financial statements	TNC		0				700,000	<p>Y1- Y4 targets will be set within 6-9 months of project start following start-up activities and confirmation of activity timeline with</p>
Amount of project funding going toward IPLC-led HWC actions (in \$US)										

										IPLCs and other project partners.
Outcome 2.1 Indicator 3: Number of survey respondents reporting a positive shift in community attitudes, knowledge and perceptions/practices towards wildlife and habitat conservation and/or willingness to coexist with wildlife	(non-cumulative)	Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions /Practices Survey (KAP) (to be developed early in implementation) pre and post project activities (year 1 and year 4)	TNC	Disaggregated by PA, as well as by stakeholder (IPLC, PA staff, others)	# TBD – baseline KAP survey to be conducted as a part of project stakeholder engagement plan and baseline	-	-	-	TBD	Includes sufficient representation from IPLC in targeted communities of the four PAs. Baseline and Y4 target to be set within 6-9 months of project launch.
Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications										
Outcome 3.1: Lessons Captured and Disseminated										
Outcome 3.1 indicator: Number of case studies and other materials disseminated that share lessons learned	Other materials could include: virtual and physical documents including social media and written/delivered in French and local languages showcasing the benefits of HWC to humans, wildlife, and PAs in communities in and around the four project PAs and in national policy dialogue and venues Disseminated : (Non-cumulative)	Review of tracking tool and communications and knowledge management plan	TNC		TBD – baseline to be prepared as a part of project stakeholder engagement plan	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Where possible, materials will be available in French and English to support broader dissemination in African countries. Baseline and Y1 – Y4 targets to be set within 6-9 months of project launch.
Component 4: Project M&E										
Outcome 4.1: Project monitoring and evaluation data contributes to efficient decision making and to adaptive project management.										
Outcome 4.1 indicator: # of reflection	(non-cumulative)	Meeting minutes from workshop to	TNC		0 – workshops to begin in	1	1	1	1	One project annual report submitted to

workshops where project data and TOC is reviewed to contribute to decision making and adaptive management		detail what data was reviewed (M&E, qualitative feedback, contextual indicators or external knowledge products) against the project theory of change and how that informed project strategy, the RF and preparation of upcoming workplan.			project Y1				GEF per year, including a results framework and AWPB tracking.
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Note on targets to be set following project launch:

A select number of indicator baselines and targets require additional surveys, consultations, and research which must be conducted with the capacity and resources unlocked by the project launch. For effective monitoring and evaluation, The Nature Conservancy will establish all undetermined baselines and annual targets within 6-9 months of project launch.

Baselines and select annual targets for Outcome 2.1 Indicators 1-3, as well as Outcome 3.1 Indicator 1, will be prepared through implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) under the oversight of local TNC staff through Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perceptions/Practices (KAP) surveys as well, as desk research into reports of HWC incidences and resources available to the government, conservation sector, and general public capturing past case studies and lessons from previous HWC interventions. The finalized baselines will be reported to the GEF no later than the second Project Progress Report.

The Y1 – Y3 annual targets for Objective Indicators 1, 2, and 3 require consultation with the Government of Gabon (GoG) and park management agencies. Targets will therefore be collaboratively determined with the GoG within the first 6 months of the project, and will be reported to the GEF no later than the second Project Progress Report. Baselines are currently reflected in the Results Framework.

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
Safeguards / Stakeholder Engagement	9,000.00	9,000.00	
Lead project development consultant	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Total	29,000.00	29,000.00	0.00

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
Loango National Park	-2.170722	9.610217	

Location Description:

Located in Ogooue-Maritime province, Loango National Park includes diverse coastal habitat and protects part of the 22,000 ha Iguéla Lagoon. Hippos, elephants, buffalos, gorillas, and leopards can be found along these beaches.

Activity Description:

- Development of sustainable income sources and value chains
- Support for IPLC-focused HWC management
- Identification of wildlife protection practices for IPLCs
- Awareness raising and education on coexistence between humans and wildlife
- Raising awareness on hunting, legislation for PA management

Signing of land management contracts

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mayumba (Marine) National Park	-3.811145	10.946087	

Location Description:

Located in Nyanga province, Mayumba National Park includes important nesting habitat for leatherback turtles and protects marine habitat for dolphins, sharks, and migrating humpback whales.

Activity Description:

- Support for IPLC-focused HWC management
- Capacity building for sustainable fishing
- Development of income source and value chain activities

Application of HWC-mitigative structures and activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Crystal Mountains	0.5	10.25	

Location Description:

Located in the Estuaire province, Monts de Cristal is one of Gabon’s most remote parks, it is largely intact and many botanists consider it to contain some of the greatest plant diversity in all of Africa. The mountains are home to a wide array of fauna including rare butterflies, orchids, begonias, mandrills and elephants.

Activity Description:

- Support for IPLC-focuses HWC management
- Identification of HWC protection practices for IPLCs
- Construction of electric fencing
- Development of sustainable income sources and value chains
- Capacity building for sustainable economic activities
- Support for beekeeping
- Awareness for sustainable biodiversity management
- Awareness raising and education on coexistence between humans and wildlife

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Minkébé National Park	1.728943	12.566682	

Location Description:

Minkébé NP spans the Woleu-Ntem and Ogooue-Ivindo provinces and is recognized by IUCN as a critical site for conservation and has been proposed as a World Heritage Site. Minkébé is located in northeast Gabon at the joint border with Cameroon and the Republic of Congo and is a unique, semi-evergreen lowland rainforest and mixed swamp-forest.

Activity Description:

- Understanding of IPLC HWC knowledge and know-how of
- Awareness raising awareness for sustainable gold panning and fishing
- Development of sustainable income sources and value chains
- Support for HWC management

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

Annex H ESMF

ANNEX I WWF GBFF Gabon_GAAP_VF

ANNEX J Gabon GBFF SEP

ANNEX F ESS GBFF_Gabon_Categorization_Memo

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Addressing Outstanding Barriers and Leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to Achieve Target 3 in Gabon												
Project Budget by Output												
Expenditure Category	Detailed Description		Component 1: Enabling Conditions for Area based conservation and HWC Management in Gabon					TOTAL COMPONENT 1	Component 2: IPLC-led HWC Solutions			TOTAL COMPONENT 2
Goods	Elephant and wildlife deterrence materials	1			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,335.00		\$ 18,335.00	\$ 18,335.00
Goods	Laptop for HWC and CE specialist	2			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
goods	Inputs to support livelihoods promoting human wildlife coexistence	3			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,334.00		\$ 18,334.00	\$ 18,334.00
Total Goods					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,335.00		\$ 18,334.00	\$ 36,669.00
Total Vehicles					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Grants/Sub-grants	Subgrants and supports to local IPLC institutions & NGOs - Names TBC	4			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133,486.00	\$ 133,486.00	\$ 266,972.00	\$ 266,972.00
Total Sub-grants					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133,486.00	\$ 133,486.00	\$ 266,972.00	\$ 266,972.00
Sub-contract to executing partner/entity					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Sub-contract to executing partner/entity	Expert to prepare background information and scientific recommendations for HWC strategy decision-makers	5	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	\$ 10,000.00			\$ -	\$ -
Total Sub-contracts			\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual Services – Individual	Trainer(s) to strengthen communities' capacities on improved livelihoods and farming practices to support coexistence with wildlife	6			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
	HWC management solutions analyses such as Micro-insurance analysis	7			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Total Contractual Services - Individuals					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Contractual Services – Company	Communications specialist expertise for national strategy Communications Plan and related communications with target audiences including IPLCs and women.	8	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00		\$ -	\$ 45,000.00			\$ -	\$ -
Total Contractual Services - Company			\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00		\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
International Consultants					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
International Consultants	YR 1: Additional funds to support Ecological and socio-economic surveys, FPIC consultations and priority landscape mapping for new protected areas to include HWC issues and approaches, and data collection and analysis about attitudes and behaviors of communities and stakeholder groups affected by HWC.	9	\$ 41,690.00		\$ 41,690.00		\$ -	\$ 41,690.00			\$ -	\$ -
International Consultants	Final evaluation (WWF GEF Agency)	10			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Total International Consultants			\$ 41,690.00		\$ 41,690.00		\$ -	\$ 41,690.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Salary and benefits / Staff costs					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Human Wildlife Coexistence Project Specialist	11	\$ 26,690.00	\$ 13,345.00	\$ 40,035.00	\$ 13,345.00	\$ 13,345.00	\$ 53,380.00	\$ 80,075.00	\$ 80,075.00	\$ 160,150.00	\$ 160,150.00
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer	13	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Africa Grants Specialist (PMU Cost)	14			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon Fin/Ops (PMU cost)	15			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon MEL specialist	16			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon Communications Officer	17	\$ 14,361.60		\$ 14,361.60		\$ -	\$ 14,361.60	\$ 9,574.40	\$ 9,574.40	\$ 19,148.80	\$ 19,148.80
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon GIS Specialist	18	\$ 11,975.00		\$ 11,975.00		\$ -	\$ 11,975.00			\$ -	\$ -
Total Staff Costs			\$ 78,026.60	\$ 13,345.00	\$ 91,371.60	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 129,716.60	\$ 189,649.40	\$ 189,649.40	\$ 379,298.80	\$ 379,298.80
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	HWC strategy development workshop series	19	\$ 11,000.00		\$ 11,000.00		\$ -	\$ 11,000.00			\$ -	\$ -
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	HWC strategy partner roundtable meetings	20	\$ 11,000.00		\$ 11,000.00		\$ -	\$ 11,000.00			\$ -	\$ -
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	National HWC commission launch workshop and event	21		\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00		\$ -	\$ 12,000.00			\$ -	\$ -
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	PA manager & IPLC workshops meeting safeguards and FPIC needs and HWC planning and management	22			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Total Trainings, Workshops, Meetings			\$ 22,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
Travel					\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Travel	Travel for HWC and Community Engagement staff (2 persons)	23			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,763.00	\$ 30,763.00	\$ 61,526.00	\$ 61,526.00
Travel	Travel for Grants Specialist to meet with implementing partners	24			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Travel			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,763.00	\$ 30,763.00	\$ 61,526.00	\$ 61,526.00
Other Operating Costs	Project Audit	25			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -
Total Other Operating costs			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Grand Total			\$ 196,716.60	\$ 25,345.00	\$ 222,061.60	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 38,345.00	\$ 260,406.60	\$ 437,233.40	\$ 437,232.40	\$ 874,465.80	\$ 874,465.80

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications		TOTAL COMPONENT 3	Component 4: Project M&E		M&E Total	Subtotal	PMC	Total Project	[Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency] [1]
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$					
Goods	Elephant and wildlife deterrent materials	1	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 18,335.00		\$ 18,335.00	TNC
Goods	Laptops for HWC and CE specialist	2	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	TNC
Goods	Inputs to support livelihoods promoting human wildlife coexistence	3	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 18,334.00		\$ 18,334.00	TNC
Total Goods			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 39,669.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 39,669.00	
Total Vehicles			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Grants/ Sub-grants	Subgrants and support to local IPLC institutions & NGOs - Names TDC	4	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 266,972.00		\$ 266,972.00	Subgrantee(s)
Total Subgrants			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 266,972.00		\$ 266,972.00	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	Expert to prepare background information and scientific recommendations for HWC strategy decision-makers	5	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	TNC
Total Sub-contracts			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	
Contractual Services - Individual	Trainer(s) to strengthen communities' capacities on improved livelihoods and farming practices to support coexistence with wildlife	6	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	TNC
	HWC management solutions analyses such as Micro-insurance analysis	7	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 20,000.00		\$ 20,000.00	TNC
Total Contractual Services - Individuals			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00	
Contractual Services - Company	Communications specialist expertise for national strategy Communications Plan and related communications with target audiences including IPLCs and women.	8	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00	TNC
Total Contractual Services - Company			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 45,000.00		\$ 45,000.00	
International Consultants			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
International Consultants	YR 1: Additional funds to support Ecological and socio-economic surveys, FPIC consultations and priority landscape mapping for new protected areas to include HWC issues and approaches, and data collection and analysis about attitudes and behaviors of communities and stakeholder groups affected by HWC.	9	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 41,690.00		\$ 41,690.00	TNC
International Consultants	Final evaluation (WWF GEF Agency)	10	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	WWF GEF Agency
Total International Consultants			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 71,690.00	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs			\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Human Wildlife Coexistence Project Specialist	11	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Community Engagement and Social Inclusion Officer	12	13,345	\$ 13,345.00	\$ 13,345.00		\$ -	\$ 226,875.00	\$ 26,690.00	\$ 253,565.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Africa Grants Specialist (PMU Cost)	13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 250,000.00		\$ 250,000.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon Fin/Ops (PMU cost)	14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,113.00	\$ 41,113.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon Fin/Ops (PMU cost)	15	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,960.00	\$ 40,960.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon MEL Specialist	16	23,936	\$ 23,936.00	\$ 23,936.00		\$ -	\$ 23,936.00	\$ -	\$ 47,872.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon Communications Officer	17	14,362	\$ 14,361.60	\$ 14,361.60		\$ -	\$ 47,872.00	\$ -	\$ 47,872.00	TNC
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Gabon GIS Specialist	18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,975.00	\$ 11,975.00	TNC
Total Staff Costs			\$ 51,642.60	\$ 51,642.60	\$ 51,642.60	\$ 23,936.00	\$ -	\$ 23,936.00	\$ 584,294.00	\$ 108,763.00	\$ 693,057.00
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	HWC strategy development workshop series	19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 11,000.00		\$ 11,000.00	TNC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	HWC strategy partner roundtable meetings	20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 11,000.00		\$ 11,000.00	TNC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	National HWC commission launch workshop and event	21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 12,000.00		\$ 12,000.00	TNC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	PA manager & IPLC workshops meeting safeguards and FPIC needs and HWC planning and management	22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 90,000.00		\$ 90,000.00	TNC
Total Trainings, Workshops, Meetings			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 124,000.00	\$ -	\$ 124,000.00	
Travel			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Travel	Travel for HWC and Community Engagement staff (2 persons)	23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 61,526.00		\$ 61,526.00	TNC
Travel	Travel for Grants Specialist to meet with implementing partners	24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 6,400.00	TNC
Total Travel			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 61,526.00	\$ 6,400.00	\$ 67,926.00	
Other Operating Costs	Project Audit	25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,883.00	\$ 5,883.00	TNC
Total Other Operating costs			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,883.00	\$ 5,883.00	
Grand Total			\$ 51,642.60	\$ 51,642.60	\$ 51,642.60	\$ 23,936.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 53,936.00	\$ 1,240,451.00	\$ 124,043.00	\$ 1,364,494.00

Budget Notes and Assumptions											
1	Specific materials and technologies applied will be determined based on further baseline review and co-design of activities with local communities. TNC will work with and oversee partners on delivery of outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 and will take on some goods and materials purchases. These will also be purchased by the subgrantees for conducting work with communities.										
2	Laptop purchased under TNC purchasing SOPs and vendors										
3	Specific materials and technologies applied will be determined based on further baseline review and co-design of activities with local communities. TNC will work with and oversee partners on delivery of outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 and will take on some goods and materials purchases. These will also be purchased by the subgrantees for conducting work with communities.										
4	To contribute to Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, executed with and by local IPLC institutions and NGOs that will be determined through TNC's due diligence process. Specific subgrants and their activities and input needs will be determined through co-design with communities. Subgrants will include costs of the sub-grantee staff time, travel, workshops with the community, procurement of goods/materials /equipment /tools for HWC management and coexistence.										
5	Funding reserved to hire a relevant entity for research and production services.										
6	Additional short-term support needed for specific training activities										
7	To analyse feasibility and potential delivery of micro-insurance to improve families' resilience to the potential effects of HWC										
8	Communications specialist support for Output 1.1.1, communications plan for national strategy and education support. These funds will contribute with other funds from GEF-7 EE award to provide key baseline deliverables for effective and inclusive delivery. The funds will support Ecological and socio-economic surveys, FPIC and gender-focused consultations, priority landscape mapping for new protected areas to include HWC issues and approaches, and data collection about attitudes and behaviors of communities and stakeholder groups affected by HWC.										
9	It is expected that some evaluation activities will be conducted in conjunction with evaluation activities of the GEF-7 project, to reduce overall costs.										
10	TNC staff supporting Gabon PFP and related TNC conservation and CTF support activities will contribute time to this project, including Project Management, with their time already expected to count towards GEF-7 Enduring Earth award co-finance. These staff supporting partial time (less than 0.5 FTE) are Gabon PFP Director (part of PMU), PFP Coordinator (supporting PMU), Conservation Planner, Stakeholder and Community Engagement Specialist, and CTF Advisor will support this project under GEF-7 funds.										
11	1 FTE for co-development and delivery of HWC focused activities. Based in Gabon. Works across components, focused on Components 1 and 2, 5% time allocated to Component 3 and 10% time allocated for PMC (under PMC supervision of Gabon PFP Director and Gabon PFP Coordinator).										
12	1 FTE focused on co-design and delivery of activities with local communities and IPLC, ensuring successful local-level safeguards and monitoring with subgrantees; implementation of and reporting on project's ESMF, SEP, and GAP. Based in Gabon. Works across components, focused on Outputs 1.1.1, 2.1.1 and 2.1.2										
13	0.2 FTE. Oversees financial reporting and compliance, including of subrecipients. Based in TNC Africa office. PMC.										
14	0.2 FTE. Oversees financial management and systems of TNC Gabon program work. Based in TNC Africa office. PMC.										
15	0.2 FTE. Advises and supports delivery of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) of project, and KM and learning products (Component 3, M&E) Based in Gabon.										
16	0.2 FTE. Advises and supports delivery of HWC national strategy communications plan in Outputs 1.1.1, as well as targeted community awareness and strengthening of capacities under outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and for the KM case studies and other materials. Based in Gabon.										
17	0.05 FTE. Provides spatial data and mapping products to Project team for delivery of Output 1.1.1. Based in Gabon.										
18	Costs cover venue, workshop learning resources, translator and/or facilitator services, refreshment, and reasonable transport and lodging costs for participants where needed.										
19	Costs cover venue, workshop learning resources, translator and/or facilitator services, refreshment, and reasonable transport and lodging costs for participants where needed.										
20	Costs cover venue, workshop learning resources, translator and/or facilitator services, refreshment, and reasonable transport and lodging costs for participants where needed.										
21	Costs cover venue, workshop learning resources, translator and/or facilitator services, refreshment, and reasonable transport and lodging costs for participants where needed.										
22	Costs cover venue, workshop learning resources, translator and/or facilitator services, refreshment, and reasonable transport and lodging costs for participants where needed.										
23	Based on assumed travel of two staff-persons for 5 day trips up to 8 times per year to sites as far as 1400km round-trip, inclusive of lodging, fuel/driver, Meals & Incidentals Expenses. Trips to visit field sites and to meet with stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries in Gabon sites.										
24	Based on assumed travel of 6 day trips up to 2 times during project lifetime, inclusive of lodging, fuel/driver, Meals & Incidentals Expenses.										
25	Assumes \$4,000 for final project audit.										

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.

ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.