



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

Review PPG Request and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11512

**Countries**

Gabon

**Project Name**

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

**Agencies**

WWF-US

**Date received by PM**

3/5/2024

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Mark Zimsky

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Project Type**

GBFF

## GEF-8 Project Preparation Grant request Review Sheet

### 1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GBFF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

#### Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

While the concept appears solid to tackle human-elephant conflict, which is undeniably an important issue in the context of Gabon, Human-Wildlife Conflict management as an explicit and targeted activity is not included in the GBFF Programming directions, and thus not eligible for support, per se. Therefore, please reframe the project as indicated below to be more closely aligned with GBFF Action Area 1.

First, please more clearly articulate that the proposed sinking fund is meant to remove a key barrier to the success of the on-going efforts to achieve 30x30 in Gabon. This would involve changing the project title and objective, reframing the project rationale to align with Action Area 1, and making explicit, in the log-frame and project description, the project's complementary contributions to the on-going PfP process supported by the GEF-7 project ID 11014 Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation and the project's contribution to ensuring financial sustainability of the protected area system.

As part of this reframing, please explain why an additional sinking fund, on top of the endowment fund and sinking fund already planned as part of the PfP, is necessary. Alternatively, please consider using GBFF funding to strengthen the sinking fund already plans as part of the on-going PfP effort so that it is to tackle pressing issues such as the one this PPG request proposes to address.

Second, as part of this reframing, please be sure to emphasize how the sinking fund will contribute to building individual and institutional capacity of the protected area administration

and protected area managers to manage the targeted protected areas to meet their conservation objectives (this is also a key element of Action Area 1.

Third, while the proposed sinking fund is currently designed to focus on the current management challenge of the human-wildlife conflict, please indicate that there will be some flexibility in the sinking fund's design for the future evolution of the fund to address unanticipated management challenges that may arise, contingent of course on the fund's capitalization.

Finally, with regards to the title, based on the changes requested above, we believe a more appropriate title could be: "Addressing outstanding barriers and leveraging Durable Financial Mechanisms to achieve Target 3 in Gabon".

Please revise accordingly. Please note that changing the title will require a new LoE showing the new title of the project.

Please remove the tag on KMGBF target 1, which does not appear to the focus of the project.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

### Agency's Comments

03/11/24

The project has been reframed to more closely align with GBFF Action Area 1; show that HWC management is required to remove a key, outstanding barrier to effective management of conserved areas; elaborate how HWC will be integrated into the PFP through this project; show how this GBFF project is complementary to the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project.

This includes a revised objective, adjustments to the Table B, project rationale adjusted, and project description adjusted.

Component 1 has been revised, to focus on participative development of a HWC strategy and institutional capacity for HWC, and integration of HWC into the PFP that is currently in development (through the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project). Component 2 is focused on improved conserved area management through HWC management with IP&LC.

In this revision, reference to a standalone sinking fund has been removed. To clarify: this project will support: development of a HWC strategy, integration of HWC to strengthen the existing PFP instruments (both endowment and transition fund, as well the institutional capacities, operational and governance structures), and funding for site-level HWC management with affected IP&LC groups, at first with the funding managed by the EA (TNC) and after the PFP close, through the transition fund that will be managed by the conservation trust fund.

2. Language has been added in the Project Rationale to clarify how capacities will be improved of protected area administration and protected area managers to manage the targeted protected areas to meet their conservation objectives. It reads as follows: Of note, the PFP's 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 itself is among the key focal themes of the Conservation Plan, incl. training and skills development, personnel, mentorship for both government agencies and local communities.

3. The comment speaks to the sinking fund's capacity to adapt its strategies, policies, etc. to unanticipated management challenges. The text of the project rationale has been reworked and now addresses this point by clarifying that the financial mechanism for the HWC strategy is the PFP in development (both endowment and transition funds, housed within a new CTF) which will be established in accordance with globally recognized good practices concerning Trust Funds, which include flexibility to adapt to new management challenges.

-A new LoE, including the project's new title, has been signed and will be uploaded to the portal.

-The tag for KMGBF Target 1 has been removed.

## II. Indicative Project Overview

**a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?**

**b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Please see comments provided in the first comment box above and revise the objective accordingly.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

03/11/24

Adjustments to the project overview have been made, per previous comment.

**e) Are the components adequately funded?**

**d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional (only for Multi-trust Funds PPGs with BD from the GEF Trust Fund)?**

**e) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for projects of more than \$2 million or 10% for projects of less than \$2 million? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Based on revisions requested above, please reformulate this section if needed.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

03/11/24

Adjustments to the project overview have been made, per previous comment.

### **III. Project Rationale**

**a. Does the project adequately describe the: (i) current situation/baseline conditions within the project geographic area or project thematic area; (ii) problem(s) that the project will address; (iii) goal and objectives of the project; and (iv) justification for the project intervention; and (v) expected results including the Global Environmental Benefits and an estimate of the project's contributions to the relevant biodiversity core indicators.**

Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Based on revisions requested above, please reformulate this section accordingly.

The project rationale refers to the on-going effort for a debt swap for ocean conservation in Gabon as the first one in Africa. But Seychelles could be considered a precedent. Please reformulate or delete.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

03/11/24

The section has been revised in accordance with changes to the objective and logframe. Textual changes are marked in red. The reference to the debt swap was corrected to read "the first of its kind in continental Africa."

#### IV. Project Description

**a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?**

**b) Are the project components and activities identified in the theory of change adequately described.**

**c) Is a list of stakeholders that will be involved in the project and their roles in the design and implementation of the project provided?**

**d) Are the Specific Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with identified and an explanation provided on and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).**

#### Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Based on revisions requested above, please reformulate this section as needed.

Please briefly clarify why the project believes a sinking fund is the most effective means by which to address management challenges within protected areas, including addressing issues related to relations between humans and wildlife. Once the sinking fund will have spent down its resources, is there a plan to seek additional investments to the fund, or will it be closed permanently. Please clarify how this fits within the broader strategy of the PfP in Gabon. In addition, given the small amount of resources available, is there a strategy to crowd in other donors to the sinking fund so that it can be more ambitious in terms of what it can support financially with regards to protected area management.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

03/11/24

The reference to the development of a resource mobilization plan for HWC has been removed as it will be integrated into the overall PFP, which includes transition and endowment funds for long term sustainability. Reference to creation of a new sinking fund has been removed, as the existing PFP structure (under development) will be used, and GBFF funding will strengthen the transition fund (already in development) after PFP close. The PFP under development has, and continues, to crowd in other donors. Once the PFP transition fund has spent down, funding will come from the endowment fund and other sustainable finance mechanisms that are being developed under the GEF-7 Enduring Earth project and its associated co-finance.

#### **V. Does the proposal adequately describe how the project meets the following criteria:**

**a) Potential to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GEF-8 Core Indicators for biodiversity);**

**b) Alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;**

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

**d) Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and**

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

#### Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

#### **VI. Project results indicators**

**Is the table correctly populated and consistent with the Project Description?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

1,000,000 ha is reported under core indicator 1. Please clarify how management effectiveness, as measured by the METT, would significantly increase in targeted PAs given the project's limited budget and narrow scope of interventions (entirely focused on HWC management). Another core indicator may be a more appropriate choice, such as CI 4 given that the interface of protected areas and productive landscapes may be the area where most actions are taking place.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

03/11/24

1M ha has been retained as the target for core indicator 1. The METT score will increase as a result of both the direct HWC management interventions and the increased management interventions overall from the PFP (from GEF-7 funding and other donors), with the sites initially targeted by this GBFF project as a sub-set of sites under the PFP in the GEF-7 project. For Core Indicator 4, we have retained the 14,000 ha area as an estimate of farmland around PAs/connectivity areas that will be targeted.

**VII. Project Financing Tables**

**a) Are all the tables correctly populated?**

**b) Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines (only for projects with GEF TF components)?**

Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

From the elaboration under subsection ?e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.? of the project description, it seems that at least part of the



\$900,000 of GBFF financing reported as ?amount to support action by IPLCs [for] biodiversity? encompasses project activities that will benefit IPLCs but not support their actions. Please ensure that the entire amount reported as ?amount to support action by IPLCs [for] biodiversity? corresponds to project activities supporting action by IPLCs. Please clarify in the PPG request to what the \$900,000 correspond, with cross reference to anticipated outcome / outputs. Whether the project as a whole or certain project activities support action by IPLCs could entail a number of circumstances including but not limited to: IPLCs directly receive resources through the GEF agency for execution of project components/activities; IPLCs lead the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources; the project provides in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity, etc.

3/12/2024

Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

03/11/24

The majority of the Component 2 funding (\$700,000 of \$908,583) will support IP&LC actions at the site level. This includes the engagement of consultants and travel expenses for government officials to collaborate with HWC affected IP&LC at target sites. Together, they will analyze the drivers of HWC, identify its specific impacts, and collaboratively design interventions aimed at prevention, management, response, or mitigation of HWC. Subsequently, the funding will be utilized for procuring essential equipment, supplies, and technical assistance to build capacities for IP&LC, enabling IP&LC to effectively implement the solutions derived from this collaborative effort. The \$700,000 figure (reduced from \$900,000 in the first submission to be conservative) refers to the amount of project funds that will be used for these direct interventions, designed with and delivered with IP&LC to address HWC (Outcome 2.1; Outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2). IPLCs will lead in the design and execution of the interventions but will not manage financial resources (the responsibility of the lead executing agency).

#### VIII. Project Endorsement

- a) Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) OFP and has the OFP at the time of PPG request submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?**
- b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**
- c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

1. Letter of Endorsement (LoE) said that the project will be executed by The Nature Conservancy? however, Fonds de Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon is also included in Portal as another Anticipated Executing Entity (in red underline below), but not included in the LoE. Please correct Portal accordingly by removing Fonds de Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon (this can be added during the preparation phase).

<b>Project Title:</b> <b>Leveraging Durable Finance Mechanisms to Manage Human-Elephant Conflict in Gabon</b>	
<b>Region:</b> <b>Gabon</b>	<b>GEF Project ID:</b> <b>11512</b>
<b>Country(ies):</b> <b>Gabon</b>	<b>Type of Project:</b> <b>GBFF</b>
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b> <b>WWF-US</b>	<b>GEF Agency Project ID:</b> <b>G0054</b>
<b>Anticipated Executing Entity(s):</b> <u><b>Fonds de Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon</b></u> <b>The Nature Conservancy</b>	<b>Anticipated Executing Type:</b> <b>CSO</b> <b>CSO</b>
<b>GEF Focal Area (s):</b> <b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Submission Date:</b> <b>3/2/2024</b>

to  
**Dr Renae STENHOUSE,**  
**Executive Coordinator, WWF GEF Agency**  
**World Wildlife Fund, Inc.**

**Subject :** Endorsement for GBFF Project : « Leveraging Durable Finance Mechanisms to Manage Human-Wildlife Conflict in Gabon »

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Gabon, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities including the priorities identified in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and our commitment to the Convention of Biological Diversity ; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Implementing Agency (ies) listed below. If approved, the preparation of the proposal will be supported by and the project executed by The Nature Conservancy\*. I request the GEF Implementing Agency (ies) to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement.

Please remove the Co-financing figures from the Indicative FA elements table (below in red underline) because co-financing in the Indicative co-financing table *and* Component Balances tables are blank (below in green underline):

**Indicative Action Area Elements**

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	340,712.00	<u>40,935.00</u>
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	1,023,784.00	<u>122,804.00</u>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>1,364,496.00</b>	<b><u>163,739.00</u></b>

**Indicative Co-financing**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**Component Balances**

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Enabling Conditions for HWC Management in Gabon : Developing a National HWC Strategy	250,000.00	
2. Implementing HWC Solutions: Establishment & Operationalization of HWC Sinking Fund within FPBG	908,583.00	
Component 3: Knowledge Management & Communications	40,934.00	
M&E	40,934.00	



<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,240,451.00</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
Project Management Cost (PMC)	124,045.00	
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>1,364,496.00</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

3/12/2024

Cleared.

## Agency's Comments

03/11/24

1. The reference to the Fonds de Preservation de la Biodiversite du Gabon as another "Anticipated Executing Entity" has been removed, in line with clarifications in the document about the relationship between this project's outputs (incl. a national HWC strategy and pilot interventions to directly address HWC , and the integration of the strategy in the operating rules and procedures of the Gabon PFP) and the FPBG. The FPBG will finance the implementation of the HWC strategy via the PFP after PFP single close / transition fund capitalization.
2. The error noted has been corrected: co-financing figures have been removed from the Indicative FA elements table.

### **IX. GEFSEC Decision**

**a. Is the PPG recommended for technical clearance?**

**b. Additional comments to be considered by the Agency during project preparation**

## Secretariat's Comments

3/7/2024

Please make the requested revisions and resubmit as soon as possible.

3/12/2024

PPG is recommended for technical clearance.

We noticed one typo. Most parts of the proposals, including the core indicator table, still refer to 1 million hectares of PA with improved management effectiveness, except the last paragraph of the project rationale refers to 468,000. Please ensure this is fixed in the CEO endorsement package.

## Agency's Comments

### **Review Dates**

**PPG Request  
Review**

**Agency  
Response**

**First Review**

**3/7/2024**

**PPG Request  
Review**

**Agency  
Response**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**3/12/2024**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**

**Additional Review (as  
necessary)**