

Part I: Project Information

Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in the Lower Ogoou? - Lower Nyanga Landscape Corridor

Name of Parent Program
The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)
GEF ID
10729
Project Type
FSP
Type of Trust Fund
GET
CBIT/NGI
CBIT No
NGI No
Project Title
Transforming Forest Landscape Governance in the Lower Ogoou? - Lower Nyanga Landscape Corridor
Countries
Gabon
Agency(ies)
UNDP
Other Executing Partner(s)
Government of Gabon
Executing Partner Type
Government
GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Forest, Congo, Biodiversity, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Rivers, Wetlands, Lakes, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Learning, Adaptive management

Sector

AFOLU

Rio Markers Climate Change MitigationClimate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

12/13/2021

Expected Implementation Start

7/8/2022

Expected Completion Date

7/8/2028

Duration

72In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

590,986.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area	Trust	GEF	Co-Fin
	Outcomes	Fund	Amount(\$)	Amount(\$)
IP SFM Congo	Promoting effective coordination for sustainable forest management	GET	6,566,513.00	38,035,000.00

Total Project Cost(\$) 6,566,513.00 38,035,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To conserve forest landscapes and contribute to improved IPLC livelihoods in Gabon through enhanced governance, environmental monitoring, and private sector engagement

Project	Financin	Expected	Expected	Tru	GEF	Confirmed
Componen	g Type	Outcomes	Outputs	st	Project	Co-
t				Fun	Financing(Financing(\$
				d	\$))

Project Componen t	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$
Component 1. Enabling conditions for forest landscape conservation and IPLC livelihoods	Technical Assistanc e	Good enabling conditions for more inclusive conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity with strengthened institutional capacities in natural capital accounting and integrated (cross- sectoral) land use planning and enhanced commitment to community- friendly collaborations in governance and management of natural resources	1.1. Enhanced capacities for forest landscape conservation and IPLC livelihoods 1.1.1. Specialist training workshops 1.1.2. Learning-by-doing: Reviewing PA management plans 1.1.3. Learning-by-doing: in situ operations 1.1.4. Policy briefs, practical guidelines, teaching resources 1.2. Enhanced awareness about key approaches in integrated forest landscape conservation 1.2.1. Awareness raising: high level multistakeholder development dialogues 1.2.2. Awareness raising: regional (provincial) cross-sector coordination meetings 1.2.3. Awareness raising: production and dissemination of materials	GET	1,500,000.0	16,500,000.

1.2.4. Information

Project Componen t	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
Component 2. Landscape conservation supported by inclusive environmenta l monitoring	Investmen	Better conserved forest landscapes with strengthened environmental monitoring and more abundant and stronger IPLC collaborations	2.1. Conservation sector review: In-depth baseline assessment and opportunity analysis 2.1.1. SWOT analysis of environmental, social and land use contexts	GET	2,000,000.0	8,500,000.0 0
			2.1.2. Review of forest concessions? regulatory requirements and current operations			
			2.1.3. Review of the potential of inclusive forest conservation through community forests			
			2.1.4. Review of the potential of inclusive forest conservation through territories of life			
			2.1.5. Socioeconomic assessment of targeted communities			
			2.2. Environmental monitoring by public administrations and other relevant parties			
			2.2.1. Monitor environmental			

and social compliance in

Project Componen t	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
Community livelihoods improved with a more diversified wildlife economy	Technical Assistanc e	Community livelihoods improved through well managed and conserved community forest landscapes and other affiliated resources, and strengthened community entreprises and value chains	3.1. Community consultations mainstreamed within conservation and development 3.1.1. Community consultations and FPIC processes 3.1.2. Community mapping of land/territory and natural resources and their uses 3.1.3. Awareness of rights 3.1.4. Community organizational capacities 3.1.5. Study tours and peer-to-peer learning 3.2. Strengthened community fisheries plans and replicated in new lakes in Bas Ogooue Ramsar site 3.2.1. Support and strengthen the Oguemou? fisheries plan and ensuring its compliance with the SES 3.2.2. Replicate SES-compliant community fisheries management plan into 2-3 other lake areas	GET	2,000,000.0	10,000,000.

other lake areas

Project Componen t	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
Component 4. KM, gender mainstreamin g, coordination, and M&E	Technical Assistanc e	Strengthened communication, knowledge exchange, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and project M&E	4.1. Knowledge Management system 4.1.1. Knowledge Management (KM) system 4.1.2. Training in use of KM system	GET	754,713.00	1,000,000.0
			4.2. Communications strategy			
			4.2.1. Communications strategy			
			4.2.2. Project experiences / lessons learned			
			4.2.3. Conservation messaging			
			4.2.4. Series of short publications			
			4.2.5. Youth competition / participatory video			
			4.3. Coordination with other Congo IP projects			
			4.3.1. Regional exchanges focused on collaborative management with IPLCs			

Project Componen t	Financin g Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
Project Mana	gement Cost	(PMC)	Sub	Total (\$)	6,254,713.0 0	36,000,000. 00
	GET	,	311,800.00		2,035,00	00.00
Su	b Total(\$)		311,800.00		2,035,00	0.00
Total Proje	ct Cost(\$)		6,566,513.00		38,035,00	0.00

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co- financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co- financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rale de 1?Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature (DGEPN) under Gabon?s Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change (MEF)	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	35,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Direction G?n?rale de l?Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature (DGEPN) under Gabon?s Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change (MEF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	The Nature Conservancy Gabon	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	35,000.00

Total Co-Financing(\$) 38,035,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The ?investment mobilized? co-finance is related to the delivery based payments of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) programme to the Republic of Gabon in recognition of its national program of forest conservation and sustainable management of forests. This program is closely aligned in its objectives with the present GEF project, which will help the country achieve its targets under CAFI.

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

Agen cy	Tru st Fun d	Count ry	Focal Area	Programmi ng of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Biodiversi ty	BD STAR Allocation	2,771,189	176,885	2,948,074. 00
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	803,243	72,292	875,535.0 0
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Land Degradati on	LD STAR Allocation	803,243	72,292	875,535.0 0
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set- Aside	2,188,838	196,995	2,385,833. 00
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Biodiversi ty	BD STAR Allocation		72,522	72,522.00
			Total G	rant Resources(\$)	6,566,513. 00	590,986. 00	7,157,499. 00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required true

PPG Amount (\$)

183,463

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

16,512

Agenc y	Trus t Fun d	Countr y	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Biodiversit y	BD STAR Allocation	77,411	6,967	84,378.00
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	22,445	2,020	24,465.00
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Land Degradatio n	LD STAR Allocation	22,445	2,020	24,465.00
UNDP	GET	Gabon	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	61,162	5,505	66,667.00
			Total F	Project Costs(\$)	183,463.0 0	16,512.0 0	199,975.0 0

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	175,959.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of				Total Ha	otal Ha		
the			Total Ha	(Expected at	Total Ha	Total Ha	
Protecte	WDP	IUCN	(Expected	CEO	(Achieved	(Achieved	
d Area	A ID	Category	at PIF)	Endorsement)	at MTR)	at TE)	

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)
0.00	175,959.00	0.00	0.00

Nam e of the Prot ecte d	W DP A	IUC N Cate	Ha (Exp ected at	Ha (Expect ed at CEO Endors	Total Ha (Achi eved at	Total Ha (Achi eved at	METT score (Baselin e at CEO Endors	MET T scor e (Achi eved at	MET T scor e (Achi eved at
Area	ID	gory	PIF)	ement)	MTR)	TE)	ement)	MTR)	TE)

Nam e of the Prot ecte d Area	W DP A ID	IUC N Cate gory	Ha (Exp ected at PIF)	Ha (Expect ed at CEO Endors ement)	Total Ha (Achi eved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achi eved at TE)	METT score (Baselin e at CEO Endors ement)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at MTR)	MET T scor e (Achi eved at TE)	
Akula Natio nal Park Monts Birou gou NP	125 689 303 872	Selec tNatio nal Park		69,021.0 0			61.00			
Akula Natio nal Park Waka NP	125 689 303 880	Selec tNatio nal Park		106,938. 00			58.00			

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)
0.00	2100876.00	0.00	0.00

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)
	1,912,755.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
,	211401001110111)	,	. = /

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)
	188,121.00		
Indicator 4.4 Area of High	h Conservation Value Fores	t (HCVF) loss avoided	
Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title **Submitted**

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	24635710	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)		24,635,710		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2022		
Duration of accounting		20		

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

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

Total Target Deposit	(At	(At CEO	(Achieved	(Achieved
Total Target Benefit	PIF)	Endorsement)	at MTR)	at TE)

Duration of accounting

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

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

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

	Capacity		Capacity	Capacity
	(MW)	Capacity (MW)	(MW)	(MW)
Technolog	(Expected at	(Expected at CEO	(Achieved at	(Achieved
у	PIF)	Endorsement)	MTR)	at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female		9,000		
Male		21,000		
Total	0	30000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF

During the PPG phase, some restructuring and reformulation of the project outcomes and outputs were introduced in order to better meet the project?s intended objectives, as well as the strategic directions, approaches, and objectives of the overarching Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (of which this Gabon project is a ?child project?). These minor changes reflect the Gabon project?s focus on *forest landscape governance* and the transformations deemed necessary to ensure the *sustainable* utilization and the *conservation* of these biodiverse, carbon rich environments along with improvements in the livelihoods and wellbeing of forest dwelling and forest dependent local communities residing therein. As such, the revised project has adopted stronger emphasis on community-centred environmental conservation and rights-based approaches, building on emerging global consensus of the value and indeed the imperative to work in closer collaboration with Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to tackle the dual existential crises of loss of biodiversity and climate change. Gender and other aspects of social inclusion also have been significantly enhanced, described in more detail in the prodoc, highlighted within the fourth project component but with application across the entire project framework.

The area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) has been reduced from 2.8m ha to 0.3m ha. However, this reduction is counter-balanced by the project now including a large area of land in the project landscape as ?terrestrial protected area under improved management,? which represents primarily a conceptual reconsideration of how best to account for most of the land in the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site. More specifically, for the purpose of core indicators, the project now is more strictly limiting the focus of ?area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)? to only the forest concessions and community forests targeted by the project ? rather than including them in a more generic way across the region, even if by the end of the project the lessons learned from pilot activities in selected sites could very likely be applied much more widely.

In regard to land restoration *per se*, the land area indicated in the PIF is no longer included explicitly in the project (i.e., as core indicator) even though pertinent agroforestry projects could be requested and developed by community partners in the context of the development and strengthening of community forests (under the Output 3.3). Additionally, while the project still endorses and will proactively encourage and enable cooperative management of forest and forest-wetland landscapes (cf. ?lakes region? of the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site), the ?number of shared water ecosystems? is no longer counted explicitly amongst core indicators even though multiple social and ecological benefits will derive from their development and strengthening? in wetland/lakes areas, as well as more widely across Gabon?s forest landscapes.

Based on population estimates of the target districts where the project will engage with protected areas (national parks and Ramsar sites) and other forms of land use, both public and private, and where local communities and government authorities will be engaged through the project in environmental monitoring or strengthening community livelihoods, the number of project beneficiaries has been revised upward, now estimated at 336,219 people, of which 244,031 are rural residents. These are the project?s direct and indirect beneficiaries, women and men in approx. equal proportion.

These adjustments have been discussed and agreed with the Government of Gabon and the GEF has previously been notified about them.

The following Table summarizes the main changes made as a result of consultations conducted during the PPG phase, in terms of the project?s components, outcomes/outputs, and co-financing activities:

Output(s) as written in the PIF (old numbering)	Adjustment explained, and/or project Output(s) as revised or added during PPG development phase
Component 1. Evaluating ecosystem services provisioning to inform land use planning	Component 1. Enabling conditions for forest landscape conservation and IPLC livelihoods
Seven outcomes were included for Component 1 in PIF	Outcome 1. Good enabling conditions for more inclusive conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity with strengthened institutional capacities in natural capital accounting and integrated (cross-sectoral) land use planning and enhanced commitment to community-friendly collaborations in governance and mangement of natural resources
The number of project outputs in Components 1, 2 and 3 ranged between 5 and 8 outputs	Outputs consolidated into smaller numbers, with most of the elements remaining in project but as suboutputs (or activities), bringing greater clarity to project logic; additionally, the IP strongly requested such a streamlined structure, to aid in project implementation
Output 1.2. Characterize and prioritize watersheds according to the value of their ecosystem services?	The IP has already identified two main priority areas, namely the ?lakes region? within the vast Bas Ogooue Ramsar site and large intact forest areas of the DuChaillu Massif in vicinity of Waka NP (also recognized as buffer areas upstream from the aforementioned Ramsar site)? and the project has focused the majority of outputs and activities in these regions. At the same time, approaches and methodologies for valuing nature (e.g. valuation of ecosystem services) remain integral in training and awareness outputs and activities of the project
Output 1.3. Develop an integrated management plan for a target (priority) watershed? to guide future land use	Ramsar site management plan will be reviewed under the 2nd component of the project, and multistakeholder engagement now is central across all components of the project (not only here). Focus on Ramsar site ensures a watershed perspective remains. Significantly, the project also now involves community- based management plans for community forests, and forest concessions will be required (through gov?t environmental services) to conduct ESIAs and develop full Environmental and Social Management Plans together with application of modified FSC criteria in order to be accredited (as per new national legislation, Dec. 2020).

Output(s) as written in the PIF	Adjustment explained, and/or project Output(s)
(old numbering)	as revised or added during PPG development phase
Output 1.4. Establish trans-sectorial governance structure	No formal governance structure established, but cross-sector development dialogues and integrated land use plan reviews are now included in the project in outputs aiming to enhance awareness about approaches in integrated forest landscape conservation (1.2) and the conservation sector review (2.1), respectively.
Component 2. Protecting critical ecosystem services through improved environment and natural resources (ENR) service delivery	Component 2. Landscape conservation supported by inclusive environmental monitoring
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 2.3. Community biomonitoring for more effective and inclusive forest conservation (this output includes three sub-elements: local participatory monitoring of village land use, community biomonitoring of selected wildlife species, and documentation of local/traditional ecological knowledge)
Component 3. Enabling IPLCs to optimize benefits from stewardship of ecosystem services	Component 3. Community livelihoods improved with a more diversified wildlife economy
Output 3.7. Installation of NTFP riparian forest buffers in flood-prone areas for win-win livelihood / risk mitigation	Not explicitly included in revised project design, yet entirely feasible as a community (agro)forestry project if identified / selected by a community for implementation under revised outputs focused on community consultations and FPIC (3.1) and on developing/strengthening community forests (3.3.)
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 3.4. Community ecotourism strengthened (one of the 3 broad areas of income generation pursued through the project)
Component 4. Project coordination / transboundary cooperation	Component 4. KM, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and M&E
Output 4.2. Improve and share understanding of peatland complex that straddles Gabon and Congo Republic	The ecological (and economic) value of peatland will still be highlighted and explored/explained in awareness and capacity development activities and in intersectoral dialogues, however primary revised focus in regard to peatland is to ascertain its exent and the quantity of carbon in a sub-region of the project landscape (encompassing the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site as well as inland areas of Ogooue-Maritime province)
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 4.1. Knowledge management system
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 4.2. Communications strategy
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 4.4. Gender and social inclusion
Output not directly included in PIF	Output 4.5. Project M&E, with adaptive management

The above changes in the Output plan have <u>not</u> led to changes in the amount of GEF budget allocated to the project?s four main Components and their Outcomes; only the project?s co-financing has been adjusted? now coming mainly from the Government of Gabon (GoG), with some co-financing also from UNDP.

These changes are displayed in the table below:

Outcome	Amount budgeted in PIF	Amount budgeted in PPG phase
Outcome 1	GEFTF: 1,500,000	GEFTF: 1,500,000
	GoG: 18,400,000 (CAFI	GoG: 16,500,000
	via GoG)	
Outcome 2	GEFTF: 1,500,000	GEFTF: 2,000,000
	GoG: 8,950,000 (several	GoG: 8,500,000
	sources)	
Outcome 3	GEFTF: 1,500,000	GEFTF: 2,000,000
	GoG: 8,500,000 (several	GoG: 8,500,000
	sources)	TNC: 1,500,000
Outcome 4	GEFTF: 738,189	GEFTF: 754,713
	GoG: 1,000,000	GoG: 1,000,000
PMC	GEFTF: 328,325	GEFTF: 311,800
		GoG: 2,000,000
		UNDP: 35,000

In terms of co-financing, since the project was initially prepared at PIF stage significant changes have taken place? particularly with the first results-based payment coming to Gabon from CAFI for the maintenance (conservation) of forest resources, as part of a 10-year agreement in the amount of \$150 million (a first instalment of \$17 million was delivered to Gabon in 2021). From this, the government has committed a substantial co-funding for this project, as displayed in the table below:

Co-financing source	Amount budgeted in PIF	Amount budgeted in PPG
		phase
CAFI	18,400,000	
World Bank / FCPF	1,950,000	
The Nature Conservancy	1,500,000	1,500,000
Government of Gabon (including		
funds received and committed		
from CAFI)	5,000,000	36,500,000
Private sector (various)	10,000,000	
UNDP	-	35,000
TOTAL	36,850,000	38,035,000

1) Global environmental problem, root causes, and barriers that need to be addressed

Core development challenge

With nearly 90 percent of its 2.2 million people residing in towns and cities, mostly in Libreville, there remain marked difficulties to administer the vast sparsely populated spaces across most of the country. In the Lower Ogoou? and Lower Nyanga project landscape corridor, public sector presence and service delivery are both weak due to inherent difficulties for monitoring and provisioning such large areas, especially in light of ongoing macroeconomic concerns and fiscal shortfalls. Thus, one of most

significant bulwarks against a majority of environmental threats? which arise mostly through non-compliance with laws and regulations? is the local population, i.e. resident communities whose livelihoods and well-being are directly impacted by illegal and/or unregulated takings that degrade their forest environments.

The core development challenge this project aims to address is to build Gabon?s economy and to advance the country?s development *in more sustainable ways*, as endorsed in the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs and outlined in Gabon?s national plans and approach? namely, seeking to base the future development and prosperity of the country on its abundant natural wealth, viz. building a *green economy* broadly based on its tropical forests, still largely in good condition with low levels of deforestation, including a range of important *wildlife economy* [1] activities related to non-timber forest products, fishing, carbon markets, and ecotourism.

The particular challenge for strengthening its green economy is to secure broad and appropriate recognition across many different stakeholder groups, not only of the abundance of the country?s natural assets, but also their comprehensive value or worth. This requires recognition and then mainstreaming of the full value of the country?s forest and non-forest resources, with integration of these values (including, as possible, estimated economic values) into appropriate land use planning processes. Through this and in other ways, the project?s broad aim is to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to conserve the country?s forest landscapes? which are in fact integrated *socialecological systems*? for the benefit of all stakeholders, both now and in the future. Such long-range vision requires that narrow and oft competing sectoral interests be overcome, finding reasonable compromises that can meet societal goals at the same time as maintaining current and securing new investments.

Conserving the country?s high value forest landscapes has been tackled, in a first instance, by estabishing a suite of national parks.[2]² However, forest conservation also requires moving beyond traditional approaches in conservation, which have most often been based on networks of strictly regulated (exclusionary) protected areas, and shifting how development and conservation interventions are planned and designed. In particular, planning and operations must become more attuned and responsive to the *ecological realities* and the interests and *ways of living* of local forest dependent and forest dwelling communities, both women and men and all vulnerable groups, living in the project landscape. Currently, inclusion of women and indigenous peoples in planning and decision making processes is relatively weak in Gabon, yet there are existing legal and regulatory frameworks that provide a good supportive foundation upon which the project will build.[3]³

Gabon?s geographic location including its hydrographic outlay and the fact that the majority of its population and economic activities are located along the coast broadly determine its <u>vulnerability to climate change impacts</u>. Gabon is ranked 117 out of 181 countries in the 2020 ND-GAIN Index, which measures countries? vulnerability to climate change.[4]⁴ Increasing temperatures, rising seas, and changing precipitation patterns present significant pressure on vulnerable groups, urban infrastructure, and the economy. Furthermore, Gabon is reliant upon rainfed agriculture for its agriculture sector and thus food security. The country?s adaptation priorities include protecting its coastal zone, fishing agriculture, and the forestry sector.[5]⁵ Average temperatures in the country have increased by 0.6 ?C since the 1960s, with the frequency of hot days and nights increasing significantly over that time period. Simultaneously, monthly rainfall has decreased by 3.8 mm per decade over the same period. Climate projections under a business as usual (high emissions) scenario predict temperature increases of +2.7 to +4.8?C and annual rainfall anomalies of -12 to +87 mm.[6]⁶ Increasing rainfall along the

coast in combination with rising sea levels makes those zones particularly vulnerable to climate change. For its part, the region along the Ogoou? river is most vulnerable to flooding and this risk is projected to increase in the future with increasing rainfall intensities, whereas the increasing temperatures are expected to result in increased vulnerability to drought during the dry season. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall levels and intensities may also have negative health effects. especially in vulnerable population groups and in rural areas, including from water-borne diseases.[7]⁷ Following a synthesis of vulnerability studies for neighbouring Cameroon, [8]8 forest landscapes of the Congo Basin are thus most broadly affected by the phenomena of rainfall variability and extreme weather events triggered by climate change; but less from natural disasters such as erosion and landslides as in many drylands. Where the latter do occur, these are most commonly linked with anthropogenically driven vegetation loss, such as forest clearance and subsequent erosion into waterways, also with possibility of distant downstream impacts. Climate may also impact women and men in Gabon through ecological shifts affecting the country?s forest elephants, mediated by changing seasonal patterns in fruiting trees that are now leading to elephants searching for food elsewhere? increasing conflicts with humans as they search for novel sources, thereby increasing the potential for human-elephant conflict, [9]⁹ in turn affecting people?s perceptions and attitudes vis-?-vis wildlife conservation as well as greatly impacting houshold incomes.

Main problems and root causes

Recent analyses across Central Africa highlight how much of Gabon?s territory contributes substantially to the safeguarding of regional/global biodiversity, with strongholds for forest elephants, gorillas, and chimpanzees, particularly through its remaining large intact forests. Such forests, though, are increasingly being threatened by infrastructure, agriculture and land use changes, and unsustainable extraction of natural resources such as minerals, timber, and bushmeat? thus leading to deforestation and forest degradation, including overall loss of wildlife with consequent declines in biodiversity along with significant increase in total carbon emissions.[10]¹⁰

One of the root causes for unsustainable use of natural resources in Gabon is that current approaches in land use planning do not adequately account for the full economic value of ecosystem services, with many forests consequently degraded on the basis of shorter-term economic gains and/or with such gains accruing to only a subset of rightful beneficiaries. In short, there is often (inadvertently) a failure to optimally balance land uses across development sectors and multiple interests, i.e. a failure to seek optimal outcomes on the basis of all the stakeholders and rightsholders over a long planning horizon, as opposed to primarily favouring relatively short-term individual investor or sector interests.

Simultaneously, a complicated/incomplete land and resource tenure framework in Gabon is depriving forest-dependent people of their customary resource use rights, disincentivizing conservation and sustainable forest management at local level, thus weakening communities; despite the fact that they are in effect amongst the most important (potential) safeguards against large-scale illegal timber and wildlife extraction. Both national laws and prevalent attitudes and perspectives tend to exclude local communities from accessing important spaces and resources, often diminish the role of women, and at times create loopholes that permit private operators to exploit local communities to access (and degrade) their natural resources.

Absence of formal land titles or appropriate maps representing community areas of activity also means that rural communities cannot easily claim their legal rights to the lands and resources surrounding their villages, thus submitting them to environmental injustices such as expropriation of resources and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Additionally, beyond the strictly material loss, the loss of biodiversity and a general erosion of nature severely threaten *human rights*; as failure to protect biodiversity constitutes a violation of the fundamental right to a healthy environment, a right that is

legally recognised by 155 States[11]¹¹ and with special implications for IPLCs[12]¹² on basis of their close and long-standing ties to land/resources and the fact that their livelihoods and, often, culture and sense of identity are dependent on the natural environment.

In regard to the Government?s capacities to plan, manage, and sustain (conserve) forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services, there remain significant challenges. Although mandated with environmental oversight, the *Direction G?n?rale de l?Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature* (DGEPN) lacks both substantial presence much of Gabon?s rural areas and the professional and technical capacities to monitor the forest resources, ensure appropriate regulatory compliance by the private sector, and otherwise engage with primary stakeholders in the landscapes they are charged to manage and conserve.

The same is true of many other relevant agencies as well, such as the Direction G?n?rale des ?cosyst?mes Aquatiques (DGEA), Direction G?n?rale de la Faune et Aires Prot?g?es (DGFAP), and Agence d'Ex?cution des Activit?s de la Fili?re For?t-Bois (AEAFFB, which is mandated to provide support for community forests). All these institutions generally lack necessary environmental monitoring capacities and abilities to adequately assist local communities and/or emerging natural resource-based community-based private entreprises.

Presented in a different light, more succinctly, the underlying causes of unsustainable use (and consequent degradation) of natural resources in the project area relate to *inadequate governance systems*, including too little involvement of local communities (or representative stakeholders, cf. civil society) in pertinent review and decision-making processes, compounded by *inadequate capacities* of the Government?s environmental services to monitor environmental conditions, the use of natural resource, and enforcement of regulations.

Recognition of these root causes of unsustainable practices in forest landscapes also is explicit in Gabon?s commitment to achieve the desired outcomes outlined for its National Investment Framework,[13]¹³ namely sustainable, effective and equitable *Land Use Planning, Forest Monitoring*, and *Forest Governance*. These NIF outcomes also substantially overlap with the ?three pillars? outlined above as necessary to achieve integrated forest landscape management. National programs and activities surrounding deficits in these key areas seek particularly ?to address the major current and future drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Taken together, this will make a significant contribution to implement the country's INDC and upcoming NDC and the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015, as well as the 17 Sustainable Development Goals [SDGs] adopted in September 2015.?[14]¹⁴

Inadequate forest governance relates mostly to governance systems that remain insufficiently inclusive, both across development sectors and in regard to the representation of all relevant stakeholder and rightsholder groups, at multiple socio-administrative levels or scales. In parallel, monitoring of environmental conditions and of spatiotemporal patterns/intensity of natural resource use is challenged by inadequate government staffing and capacities. Both of these, however, are themselves arguably the result of deeper root problems, namely the disempowering of local communities? as most of the interconnected challenges could be almost entirely avoided if IPLCs were more greatly respected and engaged as partners in conservation (rather than being seen primarily as causal agents of degradation). When IPLCs are deprived of access and rights to use natural assets that have been part of their sociocultural heritage and basis of survival for many generations, social outcomes may develop that broadly hinder people?s interest, commitment, and proper (sustainable) use of resources? including negative consequences on livelihoods, income, health, educational, and more.

Specific threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services

Primary rainforest loss has more than doubled in the Congo Basin in the period from 2002 to 2019. In 2019 alone, 590,000 ha of rainforest were lost[15]¹⁵? an area around 14% of the size of Switzerland in a single year. Most of the deforestation across the Congo Basin is driven by small-scale farmers clearing forests to feed themselves and residents of nearby towns. In Gabon, however, such clearings are less prevalent due to the country?s smaller and largely urban-based population, which in turn is mainly the result of the country?s oil revenues mostly benefiting urban populations[16]¹⁶ as well as the history of resettlement of rural populations along development axes during colonial times.

Where it does occur in Gabon, forest clearing can occur for many different reasons, both direct and indirect, including the expansion of agribusiness, forestry operations, oil and mining explorations, and much more. The development of associated infrastructures is particularly problematic, especially expanding road networks to increase industrial access to previously undisturbed, pristine areas of tropical forests.[17]¹⁷ These networks lead to a fragmentation of forest landscapes, posing significant environmental risk through land use change and increased disturbance to wildlife as well as illegal off-take (poaching wildlife, illegal logging, potential over-harvesting of NTFPs) and associated wildlife trade, along with social risks such as increased incidence of conflict, exposure to disease vectors, and social marginalization.

According to IUCN?s Red List, about 130 animal species and 220 plant species are considered as threatened (in *Critically Endangered*, *Endangered* or *Vulnerable* categories) due to logging or other extractive industries in Gabon such as oil exploitation and mining; which can lead to destruction, degradation and fragmentation of habitats. Unsustainable use of fishery resources, diseases such as Ebola fever affecting non-human primates, illegal and large-scale commercial hunting, and releases of mercury into the air, land and water also may threaten wildlife and other natural resources, leading to the erosion of biodiversity and the ecological services normally provided by intact ecosystems. Although legal instruments and sustainability guidelines do exist (e.g., for the extraction of timber resources), a failure to comply with relevant regulations combined with inadequate monitoring and insufficient personnel and professional capacities to monitor and enforce compliance are amongst the main factors contributing to unsustainable outcomes. Negative environmental outcomes may present not only as habitat destruction, but also habitat degradation including fragmentation and contamination.

Second-tier factors that encourage and facilitate agricultural development and unsustainable resource use practices? such as high commodity prices, expanding road networks, and pervasive rural support payments that contribute to a delinking of rural livelihoods from sustainability / sustainable uses of natural resource? also are further accelerating deforestation in the project landscape.

Conversely, based on a global review of tropical forests and deforestation [18]¹⁸ several critical elements have been specially noted as directly associated with a slowing of forest loss; including the establishment and effective management of appropriately designed protected areas (more broadly, protected and conserved areas [19]¹⁹), effective law enforcement based on clear rules and their transparent application, the presence of indigenous peoples with tenure rights and functioning governance systems, and transfer payments for the maintenance of ecosystem services. Thus, any lack in the above? in Gabon as elsewhere? constitutes a known or anticipated threat for effectively sustaining biodiversity and associated ecosystem services.

Based on these mutually interacting socioeconomic, cultural, environmental and other contexts of the project area, a problem tree was developed during the project preparation phase that highlights the principal causal pathways contributing to sub-optimal conservation and development outcomes.

Barriers to addressing the problems

Several significant barriers stand in the way of the full adoption and effective implementation of integrated and landscape level approaches in sustainable development in Gabon, especially for its forest landscapes. In particular, the full (i.e. actual, comprehensive) value of the country?s forest resources and ecosystems must be adequately recognized in national land use planning processes and in all strategies for conservation and sustainable utilization of the country?s rich array of natural assets, i.e. biodiversity.

For this to occur, however, not only must assessments and critical dialogues be ?scientifically informed,? but also incorporating the interests, needs, aspirations, and indeed the societal and cultural value systems of all affected stakeholders and rights holders. Interests, needs and aspirations ? and fundamental human rights ? must, furthermore, consider realities at multiple geographic scales; from the local to national, regional and global levels.

At the most local level, the rights and interests of IPLCs must be respected. This scale of interest and concern, however, benefits not only IPLCs themselves, but also has a demonstrable track record of bringing benefit to global interests, e.g. through de facto conservation outcomes. And at the global scale, where reducing loss of biodiversity and mitigating and adapting to climate change are widely recognized as amongst, if not the, most pressing of our collective existential issues? any measure known to contribute to preserving primary forests of the Congo Basin (being the largest remaining forest carbon sink in the world, surpassing even the Amazonian rainforest) and protecting its biodiversity is deemed to be of global environmental benefit at multiple geographic scales.

Thus, inclusive forest governance? involving all stakeholders in assessments and decision-making? remains critical. In Gabon as elsewhere, greater engagement with all stakeholders and rights holders is of paramount importance. Additionally, good knowledge about the natural resources in the landscapes of interest is essential, including not only the current extent and conditions of resources but also their trends over time, requiring more than simple species inventories, since good resource management can only take place when and where there is suitable knowledge about both the state and trends of the areas and natural resources under consideration; failing which, following well-established precautionary principles,[20]²⁰,[21]²¹ the only sensible solution is to continue along routes and practices that have been shown empirically to lead to desired conservation outcomes (e.g., governance and management approaches that have demonstrably maintained the living forest environments over generations, cf. territories of life and other forms of IPLC-sensitive development and sustainable uses of nature) rather than embarking on new venture that, in effect, are untested large-scale social experiments. In terms of proactive conservation planning, good knowledge is necessary to inform collective assessments of available options, including possible trade-offs, and thus to support sound decision-making processes.

Taken together, the three pillars of *adequate knowledge* about forest ecosystem integrity, *good governance* including all stakeholders and rightsholders, and *good design and planning mechanisms* to produce informed and inclusive (integrated) land use plans will lead to well designed integrated forest landscape management, which will in turn help Gabon advance toward sustainable forest management and sustainable development

There are, however, several critical obstacles and challenges that must be overcome in order to ensure the conservation and continued benefits flowing from Gabon?s forest landscapes. Recognizing that Gabon?s long-term wealth includes its forest natural assets? not just hydrocarbons and minerals? and noting that good governance (cf. multiple stakeholders, including IPLCs) and good knowledge (of forest biodiversity and integrity of ecosystem services) also are pre-requisites for developing appropriate and viable plans for forest management and conservation leading to fair and equitable outcomes, four main barriers are identified:

Barrier 1: Inadequate institutional capacities at multiple administrative levels for integrated land use planning and operational management based on inclusive governance and landscape-level perspectives, compounded further by inconsistent/incomplete legal and regulatory frameworks, are limiting success of current strategies

Barrier 2: Institutional capacities in the environmental sector are insufficient to ensure lasting conservation outcomes from effective governance and management of protected and conserved areas in the landscape, including decentralized units? abilities to respond to threats and leverage opportunities? in particular, they do not currently adequately leverage the potential of community partnerships for forest conservation

Barrier 3: Low levels of socioeconomic development, persistence of subsistence-oriented livelihoods, and limited support for community mobilization and organization are hindering the development of sustainable nature-based income generation options for both women and men (cf. wildlife economy) and leading to unsustainable use and over-exploitation of natural resources

Barrier 4: Insufficient and inadequate knowledge management, communications, collaborations, and gender mainstreaming are limiting/hindering the scope of project conservation and development interventions and their outcomes

Addressing the first barrier will help strengthen institutions and create better enabling conditions for project interventions at all levels. Addressing the second barrier will enhance capacities at several important levels, including with public, private, and community stakeholders. Addressing the third barrier will help empower forest dependent and forest dwelling communities, strengthening their ability to steward forest landscapes while simultaneously contributing to improved socioeconomic conditions through a targeted diversification and strengthening of locally relevant income generating opportunities. Finally, addressing the fourth barrier will help improve conservation through greater inclusion and equity for women and for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, including a strategic communications strategy to raise awareness about these stakeholders and situations more broadly across Gabonese society.

2) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline scenario

Gabon is a large but sparsely inhabited country with just over 2 million people and an area of 267,667 km2. Average population density is \sim 7.7 inhabitants per km2, however with 59% of the people living in Libreville and an overall urbanization rate of nearly 90%, most of the country is sparsely populated. The population is young, with 54.6% under 25 years of age, and population growth rate is 2.6 %. The average life expectancy is 66 years at birth (2018); the average literacy rate is 83 % (2015); and the Human Development Index (HDI) has been assessed at 83.18 % (2015), placing Gabon in the 150th rank worldwide.

According to World Bank data, Gabon is an upper-middle-income country with a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 6,830, yet? paradoxically? the country also displays some social indicators that are more typical of Least Developed Countries. Additionally, 21% of the population lives below the poverty line, unemployment is at 28% (even higher among youth, 37%), and there are persistent income inequalities.[22]²²

For decades the national economy was fundamentally driven by the exploitation of oil, minerals and timber. In 2019, industry contributed 48.47% of Gabon's GDP, the services sector 40.11%, and agriculture 5.71%.[23]²³ The oil sector alone contributed nearly 80% of the country?s exports in 2018, corresponding to a quarter of Gabon?s GDP. The contribution of logging, on the other hand, remains at less than 10 % of Gabon?s exports; but with the timber sector continually increasing.

With such a strong dependence on hydrocarbons, the Gabonese economy remains exposed to fluctuations in oil prices and it is facing a decline in oil reserves? which is the basis for its strong intent and important initial steps taken in a transition away from oil toward other sectors, with emphasis on Gabon?s rich natural capital. With such diversification and a focus on nature based solutions and forest sustainability also comes national interest and commitment to mitigation and adaptation strategies in light of climate change.

Since 2011, Gabon has prioritized the diversification of its economy to increase non-oil revenues through the Emerging Gabon Strategic Plan 2011-2025 (French: Plan Strat?gique Gabon Emergent, PSGE), based on three core pillars: Industrial Gabon (Gabon Industriel) with a broad focus on the development of subsoil resources, Gabon Services (Gabon des Services) focused on development of the country?s human resources, and Green Gabon (Gabon Vert) focused on developing forest resources. A further parallel program, Blue Gabon (Gabon Bleu) specifically considers sustainable development of the country?s aquatic ecosystems, including marine.

As with the other pillars, achieving a ?Green Gabon? is recognized to require dedicated attention to at least four essential elements, namely natural capital, human capital, land use planning (including infrastructure), and governance.

Further, seven main industries or sectors related to the country?s natural capital are explicitly considered under the Green Gabon framework: timber production, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, fisheries, and bush meat.

This project recognizes the foundational nature of these assets as opportunities for Gabon?s future and seeks to build on and strengthen the Green Gabon model; with special attention given especially to a strengthening of the human capital and governance sub-systems, both of which contribute to improving land use planning processes. Through this strategic approach, the project will contribute toward greater protection of Gabon?s natural capital, especially its high conservation value forest landscapes.

The PSGE was further updated recently with adoption of an Economic Recovery Plan 2017-2019 that sought to adapt economic diversification to a context of sustained budget rebalancing in a situation of economic and financial crisis resulting from the drop in international oil prices. In broadest terms, it is the timber industry, fisheries, agro-industry and tourism that have been identified as most critical driving forces that can help to diversify and transform the national economy. Other supportive strategic programs as well as institutional and legal frameworks in Gabon are outlined in Annex 9. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

Gabon is also developing and operating under the strategic conceptual approach of areas recognized for their high conservation value (HCV)[24]²⁴ and in the case of forests also high carbon stocks (HCS).[25]²⁵ This dual approach is designed to facilitate identification of forest areas? large and relatively undisturbed primary forest areas? that contain important social and environmental values. It is this approach that has positioned the project landscape where it is, encompassing? at high level? one of the largest areas of remaining HCV/HCS forest regions in Gabon, broadly outlined (through earlier prioritizations) as the Lope-DuChaillu-Louesse landscape.

Further, Gabon has committed itself on the international stage to conserving its biodiversity through a range of agreements and conventions. It is a signatory to international and regional instruments including inter alia the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl habitat (Ramsar, 1987); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES, 1989); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, 1997); the Treaty on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems, aiming to establish the Central African Forestry Commission (2005); the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species (CMS, 2008); the Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (2012); the African Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa (CITES, 2015); and the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention, 2021).

Associated baseline projects

This GEF7 project equally draws lessons from other baseline interventions, including other child projects of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes (Congo IP) Impact Program and earlier GEF-supported endeavours. A full list of all GEF-supported projects from Phase 1 until the present day is presented amongst technical reports included in Annex 14, with key lessons learned from selected recent projects.

Previous GEF-supported projects in Gabon include the following:

- •Strengthening Capacity for Managing National Parks and Biodiversity (2006-14) (GEF-3, \$10.0 million, WB)
- •Sustainable Management of the Mbe River Forested Watershed through the Development of a Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) Mechanism (2012-17) (GEF-4, \$0.8 million, UNDP)
- •Sustainable Management of Critical Wetlands Ecosystems Project / Projet d?Appui ? la gestion durable des Zones Humides du Gabon (PAZH) (2013-19) (GEF-5, \$8.4 million, WB)[26]²⁶
- •Wildlife and Human-Elephant Conflicts Management / Projet de Gestion de la Faune et des Conflits Homme-El?phant, (GeFaCHE) (2017-21) (GEF-6, \$9.1 million, WB)

The Central African Forest Initiatives (CAFI) also has contributed (and continues to contribute) much valued support, both technical and financial, especially through the following important projects:[27]²⁷

- •National land use planning and forest monitoring to promote sustainable development strategies for Gabon (2018-22) (CAFI 1, \$18.4 million, AFD)? with one of the most recent activities being a national workshop to define methodological approaches in village participatory mapping across the country.
- •Emission reduction through better forest management: certification process at national scale in Gabon (CAFI 2, \$7 million, AFD)
- •Protected Area Expansion and Land-use Optimization for Food Crop Production in Gabon (CAFI 2, \$ 5.2 million, UNDP)
- •Gabon and Norway (through CAFI) also have signed a \$150 million agreement, through which Gabon shall be compensated over a 10-year period for reducing its greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation and capturing carbon dioxide through its natural forests (original agreement signed in 2017, addendum in 2019) (CAFI 3, \$ 150 million; first tranche of \$17 million transferred in 2021,[28]²⁸ administered through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP[29]²⁹)? with some of first tranche to be applied to further strengthening the initiatives begun under CAFI 1 and CAFI 2, above, including monitoring and certification.

Other significant initiatives, both current and past, include the following:

- •Gabon and the SDGs beyond Oil: Financing a rapid and sustainable transition from a Brown to a Green Economy (2020-22, \$ 1 million, UNDP); a project with two main streams: sustainable production and consumption, and advancing the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) approach.[30]³⁰
- •EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Facility (established in 2003, EU); contributes to combating illegal logging and strengthening forest governance while encouraging sustainable economic development in countries that produce or process timber and export to the EU.[31]³¹
- •Community Development Alternatives to Illegal Forest Exploitation (DACEFI) (2006-08, 2010-14, EU)[32]³²

•Specific International Programme of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; Third Round Applications: 2020-2021(2022-23; \$302,115)

These and other projects have thus contributed to a range of *proofs of concept*, which are now being taken up in this GEF7 project. In particular, the project will promote/strengthen (i) *landscape-level*, *area-based approaches* such as integrated watershed management (IWSM) that consider the values and interests of multiple stakeholders and development sectors in the project focal areas; (ii) *collaborative and inclusive strategies* that recognize the important roles of IPLCs as partners in conservation, empowering them as well as drawing on their rich experience/commitment to protecting the natural world; and (iii) *community-based entreprises* and associated value chains that build on local natural assets and community needs and interests.

3) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

Considering the three supporting pillars of sustainable forest management, good design and planning of land uses is already well underway in Gabon through on-going national land use planning processes. The two other pillars, however, still need substantial strengthening? i.e., good governance, and ecosystem integrity (and its monitoring)? and at a most fundamental level, it is their strengthening that constitutes the core outcome of the GEF alternative. CAFI and the Government of Gabon both agree these areas are critically important and that improvements in their application will lead to reduced emissions from forest degradation and improved sustainable development outcomes for the country as a whole.

Specifically, the project will catalyze the necessary transformations in forest landscape governance across the project landscape, both institutionally within government systems and across/throughout stakeholder groups including IPLCs, and will build capacities of government administrations, civil society and local communities (IPLCs) to collaboratively undertake environmental monitoring including biodiversity in forests and associated wetlands. In regard to project aims for SLM/SFM and land use planning, the project will establish and maintain contact with the CAFI representative in Gabon and identify potential synergies and overlaps and address these accordingly. This will especially include to closely coordinate land use planning elements of the project with CAFI in order to avoid duplication or conflicting advice. Regular coordination meetings between this project and CAFI, facilitated by MEF, will aim to ensure that the two initiatives are fully aligned and complementary and that any duplication of effort is avoided.

Through these two means, ? enhanced governance, and improved environmental monitoring ? the project will ensure that the forest landscapes are conserved and simultaneously that local communities derive greater benefits from forest landscape resources. These aims will be achieved through conservation interventions as well as with the strengthening of private sector partnerships and value chains, with substantial efforts to be made to ensure that the benefits are equitable, i.e. both women and men will be deriving similar levels of benefit.

The project will improve the conservation of Gabon?s forests and promote sustainable development inter alia by (i) balancing competing sectoral interests by assessing/comparing values and potential trade-offs through the lens of a comprehensive economics of biodiversity, natural capital accounting, and REDD+ outcomes, to inform and guide land use planning and decision making; (ii) broadening the focus of traditional conservation actions beyond formal protected areas, to include what are now broadly known as protected and conserved areas, along with adoption and mainstreaming of more participatory and inclusive conservation approaches; and (iii) supporting the development of nature-based private sector value chains for benefit to communities and indigenous women and men residing in the project landscape, ensuring equitable benefits for women and men.

Both forest dependent and forest dwelling communities in the landscape and the larger national population will benefit from enhanced governance approaches and mechanisms. This will help lead Gabon toward more comprehensive accounting and management of the nation?s wealth (including its natural capital, particularly its forest landscapes) along with more equitable sharing of benefits derived from national forest biodiversity and carbon stocks. Underlying principles of inclusivity, communication and access to information, respect for diversity and different ways of knowing, and

prioritization of area-based and integrated (multi-scale, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder) approaches will be supported and advanced under this project, through a suite of targeted outputs and activities and general mainstreaming of more participatory and inclusive approaches in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The challenge areas and the specific means by which the project will address them are outlined in Table 1, and a fuller explanation is provided in Section II. Project Strategy.

Table 1. Three challenge areas for development in the project landscape, and core responses for addressing them

Development challenge area	Means of addressing the challenge area	Administrative level
Narrow and often competing sectoral interests, both public and private	Sector interests to be balanced through the lens of natural capital accounting, with a comprehensive assessment of the full value of ecosystem services, and strengthening of the government?s capacity to monitor and implement conservation practices in private sector activities such as forestry, agriculture, and mining	National and landscape levels
Limited scope of protected areas, restrictions on community-based opportunities	Broadening of Gabon?s conservation estate with recognition and support for <i>de facto</i> conserved areas and promoting more <i>inclusive conservation</i> , including community based initiatives such as community forests	Landscape level
IPLC socioeconomic development interests are often overlooked	Investing and supporting <i>nature based community entreprises</i> with a strengthening of <i>partnerships</i> and <i>value chains</i> for businesses undertaken by and for IPLCs that avoid destroyng the environment	Site level

Based on the initial results framework presented in the concept note and guided by national government partners during the PPG project formulation, the outputs and activities were further elaborated through consultations with stakeholders, particularly local communities, local government and civil society, and a range of national/international organizations.

Through consultative and iterative processes, problem and solution trees were developed (see Prodoc, Figures 3 and 14), along with the project?s Theory of Change (see Prodoc, Figure 15) and Impact Pathways (Prodoc, Section II. *Solutions framework* and *Impact pathways*). On this basis, the project was further developed through the preparation phase? and is presented here with Outcomes and Outputs presented consecutively, as per project components.

Main impact pathways

Building on the barriers to transformational change that were previously identified and other elements of the theory of change, several mutually reinforcing impact pathways are noted here; one per barrier and parallel project component:

- •Impact Pathway 1: <u>Creating enabling conditions</u> for forest landscape conservation with technical trainings and other forms of *in situ* support for key institutions, supplemented by access to information and awareness, and improved legal and regulatory frameworks;
- •Impact Pathway 2: <u>Strengthening capacities and collaborative approaches</u>, especially with IPLCs, in protected and conserved areas for conserving forest and forest-wetland biodiversity through inclusive partnerships and the trialing of new approaches and technologies;

- •Impact Pathway 3: Encouraging, empowering and strengthening IPLCs in selected HCV areas for planning at the community level and simultaneously to strengthen value chains and build local capacities to engage effectively and productively with the private sector to enhance income generating opportunities
- o Impact Pathway 4: Improve knowledge management and project-based learning across the components, integrating gender dimensions, social and environmental safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation

Project outline

Project objective

To conserve forest landscapes in Gabon and contribute to improved IPLC livelihoods through enhanced governance, environmental monitoring, and private sector engagement.

Component 1. Enabling conditions for forest landscape conservation and IPLC livelihoods

(Total Cost: US\$ 18,000,000; GEF grant requested: US\$ 1,500,000; Co-financing: US\$16,500,000 from GoG)

<u>Outcome 1</u>: Good enabling conditions for more inclusive conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity with strengthened institutional capacities in natural capital accounting and integrated (cross-sectoral) land use planning and enhanced commitment to community-friendly collaborations in governance and management of natural resources

This component focuses on improving the *enabling conditions* for the effective conservation and sustainable use of Gabon?s forest landscapes and forest-wetland complexes,[1] considering both the economics of biodiversity (cf. natural capital) and broader value of nature (which is more than economic). In this regard, it is also noteworthy that not all stakeholders attribute the same values to nature, economic or otherwise; i.e., what is highly valued by one group may not be valued similarly by others, hence a need for multi-stakeholder and landscape perspectives, integrated land use planning, and especially rights-based approaches.[2] Furthermore, the development and/or improvement of enabling conditions are considered at multiple geographic scales, from local to national level.

Institutional capacities will be strengthened to ensure that the country?s administrations at multiple levels can become more supportive of socially inclusive and multi-sector perspectives and, consequently, also more effective in achieving conservation aims. Notably, management decisions should be made on basis of integrated analyses covering a combination of economic, ecological and sociocultural factors, i.e. through ?systems thinking? approaches. Management decisions also should be based on reliable current information about the ecosystems and their services, hence the need for timely and on-going environmental monitoring. Finally, the outcomes of plans and activities will always be most sustainable if formulated through consultative processes that involve multiple stakeholders, i.e. inclusive conservation governance.

All of the outputs and activities under this component collectively aim to develop and strengthen the country as a whole in its national development ambitions including Green Gabon, as well as to strengthen the focal project landscape more directly. Key thematics to consider across the outputs include (i) landscape perspectives and other integrated and area-based conservation approaches[3]; (ii) value of natural capital, focusing on forest landscapes and REDD+ processes; (iii) multi-sector and multi-stakeholder interests and dynamics, including obstacles that stakeholders such as women and vulnerable populations may face for participating and deriving benefits; and (iv) the roles and rights of IPLCs globally[4] as well as specific context of forest conservation and sustainable forest management in Gabon.

Specifically, this component seeks to enhance ?enabling conditions? to ensure that Gabon?s forest landscapes are better conserved for posterity by enhancing use with improved governance (cf. inclusive governance, including incorporation of traditional knowledge) and ensuring important decisions are

scientifically-informed (cf. systematic environmental monitoring, including engagement of local communities in such processes). This is achieved through the development of three interconnected outputs focused respectively on capacity development, integrated and landscape-level management approaches (awareness and experience), and a strengthening of Gabon?s legal and regulatory frameworks.

[1] Forest-wetland complexes also are included in the project, considering the extensive waterways (streams and rivers) and numerous lakes that are present in the project?s forested landscape. These waterways are both ecologically and socioculturally important to the resident IPLCs.

[2] Human rights-based approaches to conserving biodiversity: equitable, effective and imperative, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/policy-briefing-1.pdf. Policy brief from the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, David R. Boyd and Stephanie Keene, August 2021.

[3] Building on Nature: Area-based conservation as a key tool for delivering SDGs, https://ieep.eu/publications/building-on-nature-area-based-conservation-as-a-key-tool-for-delivering-sdgs

[4] ?Indigenous and community-governed territories often effectively retain their biodiversity conservation values. It is also clear that protecting at least 30% of the earth will not occur without the leadership, support and partnership of Indigenous Peoples.? *Conserving at least 30% of the Planet by 2030 ? What should count?* https://naturebeyond2020.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Read-the-Brief-Here..pdf

Output 1.1. Enhanced capacities of environmental services in integrated forest landscape conservation

Professional capacities will be strengthened in this project output through a combination of formal specialist training workshops and *in situ* learning opportunities (both within and beyond/outside protected areas) along with parallel development and dissemination of teaching resources and targeted outreach and awareness materials. The more specific aim of this output is to influence and enable high-level (national) and project landscape (provincial) decision-makers and practitioners for improved sustainable forest landscape conservation.

The main focus of the workshops and materials will be on land use and resource use planning methods and approaches including inclusive and participatory approaches pertinent for the conservation of forest landscapes, along with the practical application of resulting management plans. For their part, the focus of jointly executed project activities (cf. *in situ* learning in/with protected areas) will be on improving and strengthening conservation governance and environmental monitoring with the purpose of tracking / ensuring that forest ecosystem integrity is maintained across the landscape and over time.

Perspectives to be developed and promoted in this and all subsequent outputs should maintain at least the following characteristics: (i) land use planning, natural resource management and other aspects of development and conservation interventions should be *inclusive*, i.e. recognizing the interests (and rights) of multiple sectors and stakeholders, as well as *participatory* in nature; (ii) there should be a broad recognition that all the different stakeholders and rightsholders often attribute different *values* to nature, economic and otherwise; (iii) it should also be recognized that there are many competing interests, needs, goals, and ambitions in regard to places and resources, yet not all stakeholders or interested parties have the same *rights* to these; and (iv) there is need to adopt more *holistic and integrated approaches* (cf. systems thinking) in development planning, in area-based or landscape conservation, and in all related decision-making processes.

Several activities will work together to achieve this output. Specialist training workshops on multiple topics will reach a broad range of senior and field-based audiences in administration, both in the project

landscape and nationally. Additional learning will take place through *in situ* joint implementation of project activities within the project landscape. Finally, training resources developed in this project will be captured and transformed into reusable (replicable, scalable) materials available for repeat trainings and outreach to communities, civil society, private sector, and government; and pertinent policy briefs and practical guidelines will be developed for select stakeholders and key sectors, including the extractive industries or so-called commodity sectors such as forestry (forest concessions) and the large agribusiness of oil palm.[33]³³

Overall, proven approaches and methodologies in integrated land use planning and area-based conservation will be introduced, developed, and/or strengthened through this and the other outputs under this component, including natural capital accounting (NCA), integrated watershed management (IWSM), and monitoring for environmental change as well as for sector compliance.

In some instances, approaches and tools may become more formally endorsed at the national level. However, special attention is given mostly to particular situations in the project landscape, including conservation threats noted in the project landscape *per se*. Training opportunities will mainly target government administrations and implementing agencies in/from the project landscape (though not exclusively so), along with senior personnel from relevant private entreprises, NGOs, and on occasion community organizations.

The specific project activities planned under this Output are the following:

- Activity 1.1.1. Specialist training workshops
- Activity 1.1.2. Review of PA management plans
- Activity 1.1.3. Learning-by-doing (support for in situ operations)
- Activity 1.1.4. Policy briefs, practical guidelines, teaching resources

(see pp. 58-61 in prodoc for more detail)

An indicative (representative) series of workshops under the Activity 1.1.1 is suggested below:

Workshop 1: Connectivities: Landscape-level conservation and integrated watershed management

Workshop 2: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESAs) ? upstream activities, looking beyond single projects

Workshop 3: Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and related management plans

Workshop 4: Natural capital and ecosystem accounting? introduction to economics of biodiversity

Workshop 5: Protected and conserved areas? introduction to conservation by local communities

Workshop 6: Natural capital and ecosystem accounting? more practical and advanced insights

The project will also benefit from collaborations across the Congo IP by connecting with other child projects in implementation of these activities, aiming to raise awareness and enhance proficiencies in key topics including ecosystem services, nature and natural capital, and land use planning systems. Such coordination and collaboration will allow the project to build on others? experiences as well as to share experiences (such coordination is further introduced/explained under the project?s Output 4.3).

Output 1.2. Enhanced awareness about key approaches in integrated forest landscape conservation

This output aims to review, evaluate and revise/improve management plans or development strategies that have already been developed for particular landscapes. If agreed by relevant authorities, formal changes to such plans and strategies may be introduced. However, in a majority of instances, operational changes are more likely, i.e. simply modifying or enhancing approaches in implementation in tandem with enhanced technical capacities.

Area-based management plans exist at several geographic scales, often partially overlapping with each other. For example, current plans include:

- (i) at regional level: management plans already exist for the entire Bas Ogoou? watershed, through the Ramsar site, and for the CARPE Lop? Chaillu Louesse Forest Landscape;
- (ii) at sub-regional level: Lake Oguemou? fisheries management plan (developed for lake?s eight villages organized through three cooperatives, one of which is an all-women cooperative) and Waka National Park management plan (encompassing the park *per se* as well as peripheral areas, which also encompass large intact primary forests and indigenous forest dwelling communities);
- (iii) at local level: industrial concessions including forestry, mining, and hydrocarbons (these land areas vary greatly) and smaller community forests (both those that are already in place and others that are under development, e.g. near Lake Oguemou? in the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site).

Furthermore, all these forested landscapes are not simply natural environments impacted to varying degrees by people; rather, they have long been integrated social-ecological systems? also known as biocultural landscapes? where local communities (especially indigenous peoples) have long depended on, valued, and even helped shape the rich environments. Being integrated landscapes, all of the stakeholders and rightsholders (and the values and priorities they espouse) should be considered in planning processes. Furthermore, actions taken in one area often affect conditions elsewhere; thus there are many connectivities, especially with upstream-downstream linkages.

The main issues or thematics to bring into the afore-mentioned reviews and evaluation are thus biodiversity, endangered wildlife, carbon stocks, as well as social inclusion[34]³⁴ and participatory approaches as well as diversity of values (and hence goals, interests, ambitions) held by the broad range of stakeholders. All these issues should be considered in terms of both governance (decision-making) and management (operations), as well as with an explicit consideration of upstream-downstream linkages and core principles of integrated watershed management (including *inter alia* notions of ecological connectivity and inclusive decision-making processes).

Five specific awareness raising activities will help to achieve this Output, each centred on coordination and integration across spatial scales, multiple stakeholders, and diverse land uses:

- Activity 1.2.1. High level multi-stakeholder development dialogues
- Activity 1.2.2. Regional (provincial) cross-sector coordination meetings
- Activity 1.2.3. Production and dissemination of awareness raising materials
- Activity 1.2.4. Increasing knowledge through improved access to information
- Activity 1.2.5. Making pertinent information materials available (distribution)

(see p. 62 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 1.3. Improved regulatory and technical frameworks affecting forest landscapes and IPLCs

Finally, the project will review and strengthen institutional frameworks? both legal and regulatory aspects? and by extension will strengthen national and provincial authorities? capacities to support development and conservation in target forest landscapes. A status review of commitments (international treaties) as well as national laws, regulations, approved certification systems and best practice guidelines will be undertaken.

Impactful legislations and frameworks for the project area?s forest landscapes touch on issues or themes related *inter alia* to biodiversity, protected areas, decentralization processes, indigenous people and local communities, social and environmental safeguards, consideration of gender and social inclusion, climate change, and access to information. Certification standards for forests also contribute toward sustainability and will be considered in this output and actions.

Sustainable forestry is a central concern in the process, with special attention to be given to the current CAFI-supported certification process in Gabon alongside the more global experience of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and its standards. Similar attention will be paid to palm oil?s commodity development standards, RSPO.

Additionally, the 2014 Law on Sustainable Development will be reviewed, aiming to provide a progress report and address any outstanding implementation gaps? including matters pertaining to local communities (cf. IPLCs) such as land tenure, consultations following FPIC approach, and rights and obligations in relation to the extractive industries, especially forest and agribusiness concessions.

Specific activities include the following:

- Activity 1.3.1. Annotated review of relevant legal and regulatory frameworks
- Activity 1.3.2. Mainstreaming Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments
- Activity 1.3.3. Mainstreaming social and environmental safeguarding
- Activity 1.3.4. Best practice guidelines and methodologies

(see pp. 63-64 in prodoc for more detail)

Component 2. Landscape conservation supported by inclusive environmental monitoring

(Total Cost: US\$ 10,500,000; GEF grant requested: US\$ 2,000,000; Co-financing: US\$8,500,000 from GoG)

<u>Outcome 2</u>: Better conserved forest landscapes with strengthened environmental monitoring and more abundant and stronger IPLC collaborations

The second component focuses on strengthening knowledge and capacities of government environmental services and other stakeholders *for environmental monitoring*, aiming to enable that better informed decisions and actions be undertaken. Professional and technical capacities will be advanced with government staff, on one hand, and with communities and the private sector, on the other hand.

Most of the training will be *in situ* training? i.e., learning by doing, through joint implementation of project activities. Implementation of agreed management plans will take place, which includes both the government?s environmental services and local stakeholders. Trainings seek to ensure an equitable participation of women and men, including through selection processes, production of training content and design of training opportunities.

Overall, a special emphasis will be given to the development and strengthening of participatory approaches, broadly within a community co-management framework such as already begun in the vicinity to protected areas with CCGLs. Environmental monitoring will thus be undertaken by various stakeholders in differentiated but coordinated ways across the landscape. Inclusive conservation is needed for effective long-term change.

Output 2.1. Conservation sector review: in-depth baseline assessment and opportunity analysis

This output will provide baselines and broad direction for subsequent environmental monitoring activities to be undertaken in the project. Monitoring can be undertaken by either government

environmental services or local communities; however there are longer-lasting conservation outcomes when both are involved.

Beyond PAs, private forest concessions cover the largest area in Gabon. Another form of forest management is through community forests. Additionally, overlapping with all the above (including PAs) are the ?territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities? (or ICCAs- territories of life) which at global scale cover 20% of the world?s land area, encompass 80% of its biodiversity, and overlap with 40% of protected areas ? yet these are little known (or recognized) in Gabon.

The following activities will help better grasp the overall situation and the potential of each of the above for conservation (i.e. forest concessions, communities forests, territories of life), each also maintaining special focus on important human dimensions alongside the specific ecological aspects the monitoring efforts seek to capture.

Activities include the following:

- Activity 2.1.1. SWOT analysis of environmental, social and land use contexts in project landscape
- Activity 2.1.2. Review of selected forest concessions? regulatory requirements and current operations
- Activity 2.1.3. Review of the potential of inclusive forest conservation through ?community forests?
- Activity 2.1.4. Review of the potential of inclusive forest conservation through ?territories of life?
- Activity 2.1.5. Socioeconomic assessment of targeted Indigenous peoples and local communities

(see pp. 64-66 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 2.2. Environmental monitoring by public administrations and other relevant partners

Based on the above SWOT analysis and detailed reviews of forest concessions, community forests and other community conserved areas along with specific situations noted for the project?s target communities (Output 2.1), a range of environmental monitoring interventions will be advanced by the project in support of sustainable forest landscape management (as outlined in the project?s ?three pillar model? for the sustainable use and conservation of forest biodiversity).

Recalling the three fundamental pillars of the above model? *strong governance* (cf. appropriate stakeholder engagement in decision making processes), *effective planning* (as already undertaken in Gabon?s PNAT processes), and *ecosystem integrity* (requiring monitoring to ensure that both current state and trends in forest conditions are maintained)? this output focuses mainly on the latter, environmental monitoring.

Environmental monitoring is essential for making relevant management plans; sometimes as baseline for all subsequent work, sometimes in order to better understand particular challenges and then help redress them. Both aspects of monitoring are recognized as priority needs in the landscape and therefore are present in this project.

Environmental monitoring can be (and almost always is) undertaken by multiple stakeholders, including not only formal monitoring by government environmental services (such as MEF, DGEPN, Ramsar sites, national parks) but also by individuals, communities, civil society, research institutions, and the private sector? each according to interests and/or perceived needs as well as people?s ability to participate in monitoring processes (noting also that women and men perceive, use, monitor and benefit from resources differently, and these differences may be due in part to differences in levels of education and availability to participate in monitoring; gender inequalities must be explicitly

acknowledged and addressed in the following sections). It is anticipated, too, that with greater levels of engagement across society in environmental monitoring and associated decision making, more vibrant and stronger governance? and conservation? of natural resources and of particular places will begin to emerge.

Environmental monitoring can include terrestrial biodiversity, including both flora (all vegetation, including trees and NTFPs) and fauna (e.g. endangered wildlife such as forest elephants and lowland gorillas, and important sources of protein such as freshwater fisheries) as well as soil and water conditions. The latter includes hydrology, water quality, siltation, contaminants (particularly mercury), etc.

This output focuses on environmental monitoring undertaken by government services. The next output (2.3.) will expand and strengthen this, focused on monitoring that can be undertaken by women and men from local communities and/or local environmental NGOs. In both instances, learning and technical capacities will be strengthened through workshops as well as through *in situ* operations (i.e., on-the-job training, learning-by-doing) with project partners in the field. Overlap exists, however, and some activities may be run concurrently for logistical and cost-related efficiencies.

In each of the activities under ?environmental monitoring by government services? the project aims to provide financial and technical support in at least three complementary, overlapping ways: (i) operational costs for the implementing agency and/or contracted service providers to carry out required work (including office and equipment needs for decentralized environmental units); (ii) support for implementation of management plans (with a main focus on Ramsar sites) and monitoring of forest concessions (particularly to ensure private sector compliance with agreed plans) (through DGEPN and allied services under MEF); and (iii) support to strengthen inclusive conservation governance approaches, particularly encouraging/enabling collaborations with IPLCs.

Activities under this output include the following:

- Activity 2.2.1. Monitoring environmental and social compliance in selected private forest concessions
- Activity 2.2.2. Monitoring artisanal gold mining along the Ikobey River, including in vicinity of Waka NP
- Activity 2.2.3. Hydrological monitoring in the Bas Ogoou? Ramsar Site and the Ikobey River watershed
- Activity 2.2.4. Environment contaminant monitoring (including mercury detection) in the lakes region
- Activity 2.2.5. Assessing the extent of peatlands in the Bas Ogoou? Ramsar Site and beyond

(see pp. 67-71 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 2.3. Community biomonitoring for more effective and inclusive forest conservation

In addition to environmental monitoring undertaken by government services, monitoring of wildlife and other elements of biodiversity can also be (and often is) undertaken by women and men from local communities. Such biomonitoring may be done ?for? the formal government services, or undertaken as an endogenous (locally initiated) endeavour. In either case, community biomonitoring has the additional advantage of building upon local people?s skills and knowledge of local geographies and habitats/ecosystems as well as wildlife behaviours, patterns, and signs.

This community-centred monitoring project output complements the previous one, together bringing to the project a *comprehensive environmental monitoring package*? which collectively constitutes an essential building block for achieving sustainable forest landscape conservation.

Community biomonitoring approaches may be particularly relevant in this project in vicinity of the formal protected areas in the project landscape. Four protected areas (two national parks and two Ramsar sites) are included, however Monts Birougou NP and the Ramsar site by the same name are overlapping and therefore considered together.

Three aspects of community monitoring and documenting/leveraging traditional ecological knowledge are prioritized in the project, as outlined below:

- Activity 2.3.1. Community bio-monitoring of fauna and flora in protected and conserved areas
- Activity 2.3.2. Community land use mapping and scaling out (replicating) the paraecologist model
- Activity 2.3.3. Documenting local and indigenous traditional ecological knowledge

(see pp. 71-74 in prodoc for more detail)

Component 3. Community livelihoods improved with a more diversified wildlife economy

(Total Cost: US\$ 12,000,000; GEF grant requested: US\$ 2,000,000; Co-financing: US\$8,500,000 from GoG and US\$ 1,500,000 from TNC)

<u>Outcome 3</u>: Community livelihoods improved through well managed and conserved community forest landscapes and other affiliated resources, and strengthened community entreprises and value chains

The third component is set at the community level, or site level. The over-arching purpose of this component is to strengthen IPLC livelihoods, with joint attention to be given to the sustainability of land and resource uses and supporting the development of community-level entreprises to enhance women and men?s livelihoods through nature-based solutions for income generation.

This component specifically addresses Barrier 3: Low levels of socioeconomic development and subsistence livelihoods, inadequate support for community mobilization, and limited opportunities for income generation, which may often lead to unsustainable use and over-exploitation of natural resources.

Within Gabon?s national strategy for sustainable development, Green Gabon considers seven natural capital industries: timber, non timber forest products (NTFPs), agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, fisheries, and bushmeat (wildlife). Complementing this is the conceptual framework of a *wildlife economy* that further extends the value of wildlife, writ large, in relation to people?s livelihoods and incorporates the roles of ecosystems for climate. The five main types of activities recognized in Gabon?s wildlife economy are ecotourism, carbon finance, NTFPs, wildlife ranching, and hunting and fisheries.[1]

The project will focus primarily on livelihood issues related to NTFPs and freshwater fisheries, along with development of community ecotourism. In these, the project will also take into account differences for women and other vulnerable populations in terms of access to NTFP options as well as their abilities to control and access financial resources generated. These three elements of Gabon?s wildlife economy are considered in greater detail in Outputs 3.2 ? 3.4.

For their part, carbon trading is covered through complementary endeavours (i.e., the framework agreement between Gabon and Norway, through CAFI, under which Gabon is now the first country in Africa to have received performance-based payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation[2]), and hunting and ranching of wildlife are not directly addressed in this project.

As local income opportunities vary widely across the landscape based on many different social and ecological parameters, this project component introduces, first, an output that aims to strengthen more community-centred approaches in sustainable development, and then, secondly, it outlines three

different livelihood options and how the project will support these in different regions and with different communities in an equitable and gender- inclusive manner.

[1] See *Africa Wildlife Economy Research Project*, https://sowc.alueducation.com/programs/research/, and *State of the Wildlife Economy in Africa; How can wildlife economies support conservation?* https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/393899bbfbc54974a1abd195221edbf7

[2] See *Le #Gabon est le premier pays d'Afrique?* https://bit.ly/3gQMyxb_and https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57567829

Output 3.1. Community consultations mainstreamed within conservation and development

Several prerequisites must be met for community projects to succeed: women and men/communities must be able to express themselves and to be heard (e.g. through community consultations, participatory mapping), communities must be adequately organized, and everyone should be well aware of their rights. Project interventions also must take into account and accommodate the different capacities and obstacles faced by different societal groups, e.g. women versus men and other vulnerable populations. Additionally, an appreciation of the experiences of other local communities, in Gabon or further afield, can be helpful for developing suitable projects and activities.

Hearing local voices in this project, especially in relation to developing community-based entreprises and enhancing socioeconomic benefits, will be advanced in five ways:

- Activity 3.1.1. Community consultations and FPIC processes
- Activity 3.1.2. Community mapping of land/territory and natural resources and their uses
- Activity 3.1.3. Awareness of rights of local and indigenous communities
- Activity 3.1.4. Strengthening community organizational capacities
- Activity 3.1.5. Study tours and peer-to-peer learning

(see pp. 75-77 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 3.2. Community forests and territories of life demarcated, established, and strengthened

Community-based use and conservation of natural resources in forest landscapes are a very important part of the project area. Although smaller than forest concessions, community forests nonetheless collectively encompass a substantial area and offer a viable model of community-based resource management that can effectively bring together community development and conservation goals through a single mechanism. Natural resources in these community-governed and -managed areas include both timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs); the latter being the focus of this output, including honey, wild spinach, and artisanal fisheries. The aesthetic beauty of forest landscapes and their rich biodiversity (wildlife), cultural dimensions, as well as national and international traveling and adventure also constitute resources that may be leveraged for community benefit by strengthening tourism value chains along with capacity development for community-operated business ventures (see Output 3.3).

As observed in DR Congo, the conservation benefits of community forests can be very significant; e.g. with rate of deforestation in 57 community concessions in 2019 being 23% lower than the DRC national average and 46% lower than logging concessions.[1] In Gabon, at least 92 community forests are known to be present, accounting for 5% of the territory (MINEF, 7 Octobre 2020, communication with PPG team). Many of them, however, are not yet indicated on official maps.

At least 8 community forests will be specially targeted under the project: one in vicinity of Lake Oguemoue and 3 others in the Bas Ogooue region, and four in the Fougamou / Waka NP area; as outlined below in Table 11. According to the government department responsible for community forests (in French, *Direction des For?ts Communautaires* or DFCOM), the project should also consider and support other community forests that may not yet be formally registered but are under development; especially those that are well organized with recognized local community or regional associations and that have simple provisional management plans, in all provinces.

Specific project activities that will support and strengthen the development community forests in the project landscape are presented below:

- Activity 3.2.1. Support and strengthen existing community mechanisms for sustainable use of natural resources
- Activity 3.2.2. Scale-out (replicate) community mechanisms e.g. cooperatives in new geographic areas
- Activity 3.2.3. Identify where community forests may overlap with ICCAs-territories of life
- Activity 3.2.4. Demarcate existing and potential community forests in participatory ways
- Activity 3.2.5. Develop and strengthen SES-compliant community forest management plans
- Activity 3.2.6. Strengthen community-based NTFP value chains in the forest landscapes
- o Honey, wild spinach, artisanal fisheries (and more)

(see pp. 78-83 in prodoc for more detail)

Considering the significance/value of integrating <u>private sector interests</u> with project aims of sustainability and conservation in the project area?s forest landscapes, more detail is provided here in regard to Activity 3.2.6, with three representative value chains that the project may support in the landscape? though each community must collectively decide on prioritized products and forms of engagement with the project. All three fall within the *wildlife economy* that Gabon is seeking to prioritize, both flora and fauna.

Non-timber forest product (NTFP): Honey

Honey and other products derived from modern beekeeping have enormous potential to be developed as a new sustainable sector in community forests. Modern beekeeping is an activity with a low environmental impact, unlike gathering wild swarms from tree trunks which, as practiced in Gabon, involves cutting down trees and using fire. Beekeeping requires little investment but can provide substantial income and enhance food and nutritional security of rural populations who depend on forest products for their livelihoods. Beekeeping requires limited physical activity, which can be managed alongside other activities. It is accessible to women, young people and the elderly.

Gabon has natural capital conducive to the development of beekeeping. In particular due to the existence of strains of wild bees suitable for domestication, appropriate rainfall, and the absence of pollution and the intensive use of phytosanitary products in rural areas, the region is favorable to the production of ?organic? honey, popular with both local and international markets. The presence of bees also promotes pollination and improves the yields of vegetable plants and fruit trees. Beekeeping can

thus support self-employment and entrepreneurship for rural populations, an objective pursued by the Gabonese government and which contributes to the implementation of the Gabon Emergent Strategic Plan in its vision of inclusive sustainable development.

The following activities would be included in this value chain development:

- Training on different beekeeping techniques
- Application of a participatory and community action research approach to better characterize and domesticate strains of wild bees
- Training on the manufacture of basic inputs (e.g. beehives)
- Construction of a demonstration center based in villages, to facilitate knowledge/expertise transfer
- Training on processing techniques for bee products (wax, propolis, pollen, bee venom, royal jelly, etc.)
- Provision of manuals or information sheet on beekeeping techniques
- Provision of a range of specialized expertise in modern beekeeping
- Support learners with provision of beekeeping equipment
- Support beneficiaries with tools and approaches for technical monitoring of beekeeping production and valuation of beekeeping products

In addition to the above, support in areas of market relations, transport, and standards will be provided. Such comprehensive NTFP development support will help reduce poverty in rural areas and aid in sustainably managing resources, e.g. through production and marketing of honey as sustainable, inclusive, and responsible agriculture. Further support should also be provided to promote rural products such as honey into various markets, linking producers and processors with commercial brands of honey (e.g., les petits pots de l'Ogoou?), retailers, and supermarkets.

To succeed, a strengthening must take place in both technical and entrepreneurial capacities of beekeepers. Community forms of joint governance (e.g. cooperatives) may equally be of significant assistance, thus pointing toward potential from the development of pilot community honey production units.

To aid in developing community-based apiculture, the project will draw on the experience of other projects and organizations, such as NGO Program which has since 2017 been advancing beekeeping in Dousala village (near Moukalaba Doudou National Park) with support from the French Embassy and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. This group has installed 100 beehives in Doussala and other nearby villages for production of honey, wax, pollen and local royal jelly. The collection and processing of NTFPs is being developed by the NGO with IPLCs and their collective partners; including IRET, which for 2 years collaborated with the NGO on research into income-generating activities in the Doussala area. Other local businesses selling ?Made in Gabon? honey that may support community-based apiculture entreprises include the Groupe C?cagadis, Prix Import, Mbolo, and Sotrader; all are potential partners that could support implementation. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce and the Gabonese Ministries of Commerce and of Small and Medium Enterprises organise fairs, exhibitions, and craft markets.

Non-timber forest product (NTFP): Wild spinach (or African jointfir, Gnetum africanum)

Gnetum africanum is a plant from the rainforest of the Congo Basin. The plant is also known under the name of *nkumu* in Gabon and as *okok* and *eru* in Cameroonian gastronomy. Women play a major role in the Gnetum economy, from the forest to the table. Gnetum is a naturally occurring leaf vegetable, not

cultivated but collected directly from the forest. ?From Forest To Table? may be developed for marketing purposes, similar to ?fair trade? marketing. Women collect the plant either to feed their families or to sell it and thus obtain additional income. Although generally an undeclared activity, it is very important in local and family economies. Nkumu has both nutritional and medicinal/therapeutic values.

In Gabon, Nkumu is ethnically marked: only about twenty ethnic groups consume it (out of the 56 existing), including the Obamba and the Bat?k? people in the southwest of the country, and those who consume it do so in large quantities. Internationally, some reports indicate that Nigeria imports large quantities of *Gnetum*, first from Cameroon then from Central African Republic and Gabon; in turn, Nigeria exports the product to Europe and the United States to meet the demand of African communities settled in these countries.

The following activities will be included:

- Encourage harvesters from towns or villages to practice sustainable harvesting methods
- Encourage the local domestication and cultivation of Nkumu
- Develop community nurseries for multiplication and train in mastery of reproduction methods
- Develop and adopt regulations on collecting and selling, to guarantee sustainable use of the resource
- Disseminate information on sustainable harvesting methods (relying on local village community networks)
- Train on value-add processing techniques for Nkumu (e.g. as natural cosmetic products and medication)
- Link producers, processors and commercial brands of natural product, retailers, supermarkets
- Set up community awareness programs to encourage the application of this knowledge

Several different organization and research institutes are engaged in developing/strengthening NTFPs for local socioeconomic development, including IRET and other research groups in CENESTA as well as national and international conservation groups and universities; and these groups and their business partners (when present) will be actively engaged by the project for developing this entrepreneurship/business component of the project.

Non-timber forest product (NTFP): Artisanal fisheries and their ancillary products

Considering the substantial overlap of forest and wetland systems in the vast Lower Ogoou? region and many local communities? significant dependence on inland fisheries, even in context of the otherwise primarily forested nature of the landscapes, this livelihood options and its associated value chains are also supported in the project. While other livelihood options also will be supported to diversify economic options, to reduce dependencies and vulnerabilities and to increase communities? socioecological resilience (see the other NTFPs highlighted above as well as project support for community ecotourism in Output 3.3), given the widespread occurrence of numerous streams, rivers and water bodies embedded in the highly forested region, serving dual functions of transport and source of food, some level of engagement with artisanal fisheries also is necessary? here included as non-timber forest product, i.e. an important wildlife resource providing household sustenance (food) as well as cash income.

Notably, however, no community depends exclusively on any single natural resource or livelihood, therefore any particular community may engage simultaneously with several different options? and project organizational strengthening activities in any community (see Output 3.1, also first two activities in this Output 3.2) will always explore a range of options. Such exploration will also take into account differences in terms of livelihood options for women and men.

As with the other highlighted NTFPs, community capacities and value chains related to artisanal fisheries will be strengthened in several different ways, including with environmental monitoring, development of community cooperatives, conflict management, project-based support to find private investors or marketing partners, etc.

The sustainable management of lakes and the forest regions in which these are embedded is both a local (i.e. community) affair, and also falls under the jurisdiction of the Ramsar site; hence this output directly feeds into the Ramsar framework as well? but not simply bringing support for top-down operations, rather mostly strengthening local communities directly through locally registered NGOs and community cooperatives.

Additionally ? and very importantly ? nearly all communities engaged to some extent with artisanal fisheries are also engaged in or currently/imminently branching into forestry, i.e. through the development of community forests and/or other forms of customary practices based on generational experience and traditional knowledge.

 $\hbox{[1] https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210107-congo-basin-a-bold-plan-to-save-africas-largest-rainforest}$

Output 3.3. Community ecotourism strengthened and advanced in select areas of project landscape

Africa as a whole, and Gabon in particular, has an extraordinary diversity of landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and species, and all are important for their contributions to socioecological resilience and sustainability. Wildlife resources, for their part, have immense value from both biological and economic perspectives. While protected and conserved areas will always serve as critical cornerstones for conservation of natural (and cultural) heritage, ecotourism can be leveraged to provide crucial support for conserving the country?s wildlife. For this to happen, however, there is need for a fundamental shift in thinking? moving from simply nature-based tourism to actual responsible tourism that contributes to both nature and community development.[1]

Developing community tourism in concert with tangible community-based conservation actions along with community-level benefits constitutes the core definition of ecotourism; i.e. with conservation outcomes and local community benefits for both women and men, built on the basis of local natural (and cultural) heritage and of related experiences. This project provides a unique opportunity to advance environmental conservation and socioeconomic wellbeing simultaneously through such forms of sustainable, responsible tourism.

However, despite its great potential, Gabon is not yet a widely known tourist destination and this sector contributes barely 4% of GDP, and only 5% of travellers arriving in Gabon visit beyond the capital, Libreville. The lack of infrastructure, lack of training in this field, and relatively high cost of travel are largely responsible for the state of affairs. Yet, the government has been aiming for some years to boost the national economy in a post-oil era by developing this important sector, which is a source of foreign currency. The promotion of the destination internationally is a first result of this political will, and a list of travel-related companies or NGOs engaged in the ecotourism sector in the project area or that could contribute to the project?s aims based on their experience is provided include Tsam Tsam?s village entreprise (supported by OELO), African Conservation Development Group (ACDG), the Program

ONG, the ?passage hut of the Abi?tu de Sette Cama Association, African Equatorial Safaris, and Green Luxury Resorts (a subsidiary of the Gabonese Strategic Investment Fund) (further details about each of these is provided in Output 3.3 in the prodoc). These companies and organizations with experience in Gabon?s emerging tourism sector will be engaged in exploratory discussion early in the project as potential partners, to aid in the development and implemention of community-beneficial ecotourism.

The project will initially focus its tourism interventions in two geographic areas; first, in the Bas Ogooue lakes region (to complement fisheries and forestry-based livelihoods), and second, in the headwaters of the Ikobey river, in the DuChaillu mountain range in vicinity of Waka National Park (not far upstream from the main Ramsar site).[2]

Project activities under this Output include the following:

- Activity 3.3.1. Ecotourism development in Tsam-Tsam and surrounding area, including multistakeholder workshops, skills development, development of new visitor experiences, and collection/creation of products to be marketed to tourist clientele
- Activity 3.3.2. Ecotourism development with IPLCs in the Waka NP area, including workshops and dialogues to ascertain current status and community plans and opportunities, skills development workshops, inter-generational teaching by elders to younger people about traditional skills (e.g. wildlife tracking), and development of ?science tourism? that can link tourism and community development with support to PA authorities for landscape level forest conservation

(see pp. 84-85 in prodoc for more detail)

[1] BIOPAMA: State of the wildlife economy in Africa,

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/393899bbfbc54974a1abd195221edbf7

[2] Development of tourism in/near protected areas should follow guidance provided on the basis of global experience with tourism in parks. See, e.g., guidelines from UNESCO and German Agency for Nature Conservation, *Visitors Count! Guidance for protected areas on the economic analysis of visitation*, https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2323, along with IUCN guidelines *Tourism and visitor management in protected areas*, https://www.iucn.org/content/tourism-and-visitor-management-protected-areas. Additionally, rights of IPLCs in relation to PAs must remain at the forefront of planning and operations; *Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas: Towards Equity and Enhanced Conservation*, https://www.iucn.org/content/indigenous-and-local-communities-and-protected-areas-towards-equity-and-enhanced-conservation

Component 4. Knowledge management, gender mainstreaming, coordination, M & E

(Total Cost: US\$ 1,754,713; GEF grant requested: US\$ 754,713; Co-financing: US\$1,000,000 from GoG)

 $\underline{\text{Outcome 4}}\text{: Strengthened communication, knowledge exchange, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and $M\&E$}$

The final project component seeks to ensure that all necessary social and environmental safeguards are in place for all project activities, that knowledge management is planned in a way to capture project learnings and enable their dissemination, that the capacity and commitment to mainstream gender throughout the project cycle and at all levels of the project is in place, and that project monitoring and evaluation is conducted in a constructive fashion.

Notably, although the Knowledge management aspect of this component does not require large funds, it is extremely important? and thus, the Output 4.1 could be *considered* as a distinct sub-component, even while it is presented simply as a project output, with associated funds aimed toward facilitating the capture of key learnings that stem from project activities and dialogues. For its part, project M&E is central for the project and is captured broadly under the Output 4.5; which includes undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of selected activities early in the project, and on this basis developing an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to address and mitigate identified risk, as well as ensuring that the stakeholder engagement plan (as outlined in Annex 8) is undertaken through the lifespan of the project. Most importantly, though, all these can be captured through project monitoring and evaluation, processes that are outlined in even greater detail in Section V. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in this document, and that are based on project indicators and targets that are detailed in Section IV. Project Results Framework. Project M&E is specifically included as the last elements shown under Output 4.5; exactly because it sums up (by its nature) all the learnings and measurements of the project? and the findings from monitoring, and evaluation, should then be used under an adaptive management approach to inform the project of both successes and failures, of targets reached and targets missed, which then should be adapted in ways to succeed better in the future. In practical terms, as indicated above, the project?s M&E plan is described in detail in Section V of this prodoc and the costing of these activities are separated out in the project budget (see Section VIII) as a distinct sub-component.

This component also incorporates a coordination element, which aims to help connect this project with the regional program and all other national projects within the Congo IP.

Output 4.1. Knowledge management system

The project will develop and maintain a knowledge management (KM) system. A user-friendly KM system is necessary for receiving, storing, searching and retrieving documents and data; with both the KM system and the documents developed through the project to be created in ways that ensure greatest possible accessibility across multiple stakeholder groups (e.g. literacy, formats, etc.).

Access must also be ensured across stakeholder groups, not just the for Project Management Unit (PMU) or for government partners. Important information must be accessible also to non-government organization (NGO) and other community-level partners in decentralized locations (minimally in Lambarene, Mouila and Tchibanga).

Additionally, it is increasingly acknowledged that incorporation of knowledge and practices of both women and men is not only relevant but essential for the achievement of sustainable development. Because labour roles tend to be divided across gender lines, women and men in many societies have tended to play different roles and to hold different areas of knowledge related to biodiversity within their communities. Despite the fact that women are increasingly recognized to represent specific biodiversity knowledge and although an increasing number of experiences highlight the sustainable manner in which they use biodiversity, their role in biodiversity management and decision-making processes often goes unacknowledged. It is therefore critical to increase the understanding and awareness of gender-differentiated practices and knowledge related to biological resources.

Output activities include the following:

- Activity 4.1.1. Knowledge Management (KM) system
- Activity 4.1.2. Training in use of project?s KM system

(see pp. 85-86 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 4.2. Project communications strategy

The project will develop an overall communications strategy regarding forest, water, biodiversity, ecosystem services, socioecological systems etc., involving key messaging tailored to different publics and related outreach plans. Successful communications will reinforce societal values that encourage positive behavioral change vis-?-vis biodiversity and sustainability as well as enhance recognition,

respect and support for IPLCs and the roles they can play in conserving biodiversity and, consequently, for mitigating climate change through forest conservation.

The strategy will not only seek to tailor messaging to accommodate a diversity of populations including women and vulnerable populations but also determine the most appropriate communications mechanism and other issues that can determine accessibility to information material. In short, communications is not just about the message, it is also about mechanism for delivery. For example, not all women have access to the internet; neither can they all read? therefore, systems such as community radio must also be appropriately explored.

Output activities include the following:

- Activity 4.2.1. Development of an overall communications strategy
- Activity 4.2.2. Dissemination of project experiences and lessons learned
- Activity 4.2.3. Targeted conservation messaging derived from trainings
- Activity 4.2.4. Development of a series of short publications
- Activity 4.2.5. Youth competition / participatory video

(see p. 86 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 4.3. Regional coordination with other Congo IP projects

Regional exchanges for cross-project dialogues and practice-based learning about inclusive forest landscape governance and co-management will be organized to strengthen the participating project teams.

The following activity is included within this Output:

Activity 4.3.1. Communication and coordination with the Congo IP regional project

Activity 4.3.2. Communication and coordination with the Congo IP national projects

Activity 4.3.3. Regional exchanges focused on collaborative management and other forms of partnership with IPLCs

(see p. 88-89 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 4.4. Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion across all components

Although some women in Gabon hold high-ranking positions as village heads as well as serving in the army and the judiciary, women are still broadly discriminated against in Gabon based on customary laws related to marriage, divorce and inheritance.[38]³⁵ Due to strong patriarchal values, women and girls are rarely able to achieve independence. They also face a number of discriminatory expectations resulting in heavy household burdens. Overall, the traditional Gabonese woman is expected to be obedient, tolerant, hard-working while also playing the main role in providing food for the family and educating the children. Additionally, women, youth and others living in rural areas of Gabon experience higher levels of unemployment. Women in rural areas are doubly marginalized as they tend to be relegated to low income-generating activities in the agricultural sector where lack of access to land is amongst the key factors, making it difficult for them and sometimes virtually impossible to generate a net income. Because of these inequalities, women and other vulnerable populations are likely to face barriers in terms of participating, providing meaningful input as well as gaining access

and control of any of the benefits generated from proposed project interventions. For this reason, it is critical that these barriers be identified and solutions identified using a participatory methodology that reflects the perspectives of both women and men.

Because of such existing gender roles, many driven by strong patriarchal values, there are differences in the ways in which men and women act in relation to the environment. Such differences can also determine whether men and women are able or not to foster environmental change. Findings from the recent report *Global Gender and Environment Outlook* rightly asserts that integrating gender perspectives into environmental frameworks should not be a tick-box exercise. The inclusion of gender perspectives should seek to reframe programming approaches, bring new and different questions reflecting pertinent gender differences into design and planning, and ensure the application of different methodological tools and approaches such as participatory methodologies. They should also consider barriers in terms of women?s ability to participate in consultations and decision-making processes, express their needs and concerns, and derive equitable benefits from interventions aiming to protect the environment.

In view of the above, efforts will be made to ensure that women and all vulnerable groups are identified as part of the project?s stakeholder engagement processes and that suitable measures are implemented to facilitate their active participation. This often requires identification of times and locations that take into account the busy schedules of women and a recognition that in the case of Indigenous women there are low rates of literacy as well as challenges they may face in voicing their perspectives and concerns in a mixed gender setting where patriarchal values almost always position men as the key decision makers. It would thus be appropriate to organize separate meetings, preparing information material that is accessible and understandable to all relevant populations, as well as determining the best communications mechanisms for outreach and consultation that ensures an equitable participation and capturing of input from all relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, in addition to gender-sensitive community consultations, FPIC processes also are mandatory when IPs are present in the project landscape. Therefore, two critical elements are included in this output, aiming to promote gender equity as well as broader social inclusion, the latter especially in relation to indigenous people.

The two following activities are included under this Output:

- Activity 4.4.1. Gender Action Plan (GAP)
- Activity 4.4.2. Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)

(see pp. 87-89 in prodoc for more detail)

Output 4.5. Project M&E and adaptive management

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E)? with adaptive management as standard UNDP requirement (on basis of monitoring, documentation, and project-based learning; see Section V. Monitoring and Evaluation)? will take place regularly through the project as well as at present critical junctures.

Where possible, the project will seek to provide gender input into the results framework including the development of sex-disaggregated indicators as well as ensuring the collection of sex-disaggregated data (qualitative and quantitative) and that they are sufficient to measure whether conditions are changing for women and men. Efforts will also be made to ensure that women and other vulnerable populations are able to participate in the M & E process which may require adapting M&E measures to the socio-cultural context and to build capacity on M & E with relevant stakeholders.

As part of M&E and safeguarding measures in the project, there is need for an overarching Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and, additionally, several project outputs have been identified as requiring an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) which will be conducted at the outset of the project. Building on all of these, an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed at the outset of the project, including several targeted

management plans such as Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and Livelihoods Action Plan (LAP) as required.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) also has been drafted and will be further revised during the inception phase of the project and revisited periodically throughout the project. While most forms of engagement with stakeholders are to be enabled directly through relevant project activities, additional means are available here in order to ensure that all stakeholders receive due attention and are appropriately engaged throughout the lifespan of the project.

This Output includes the following project activities:

- Activity 4.5.1. Environmental and social impact assessment ESIA
- Activity 4.5.2. Environmental and social management plan ESMP
- Activity 4.5.3. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Activity 4.5.4. M&E

(see pp. 89-90 in prodoc for more detail)

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

This project is aligned with the following focal areas and Objectives:

- Biodiversity Focal Area:
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes;
- Addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species; and
- Further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline

Baseline practices	Alternatives to be put in	Global Environmental
_	place	Benefits (GEBs) and
		Project impacts

Drivers of deforestation and the degradation of forest in Gabon can be traced to illegal activity as well as ?legal? but unregulated forest use and clearing. Although the overall deforestation is currently low, at .04 percent (due in large part to low population numbers in forested areas), increasing exploitation of resources by extractive industries and the rapid expansion of agricultural intensification means the country?s forests, carbon stocks, landscapes, water bodies, and biodiversity are all facing a greater threat than ever before. A number of changes have taken place over the past century, with the forestry sector moving from cutting only one tree species to cutting over 100, including HCV and HCS species such as the okoum? (Aucoumea klaineana, vulnerable), Gabon ebony (Diospyros crassiflora, endangered), and okolla (Tieghemella spp., endangered).

As of 2015, forestry concessions covered 57 percent of Gabon?s territory. In 2013, only half of these concessions had sustainable management plans despite the fact that such plans are mandated by law. Furthermore, it is unclear to what extent existing management plans are being implemented, which is a real concern seeing as how Gabon has mandated that all forestry concessions must be certified sustainable by 2022. Under current ?business as usual? approaches, self-policing by forest concessions has had poor results (with only three concessions certified by end of 2019), while some enterprises work under legal loopholes to sub-lease community forest areas, mostly with disregard for social and environmental standards both for the local and downstream areas.

In general, governing Gabon?s vast, sparsely populated spaces has been a major challenge and public sector presence and service delivery in the Lower Ogoou?-Lower Nyanga corridor is weak. Illegal logging is believed to have escalated in recent years, supported by well-organized transnational criminal networks. Threats to wildlife include poaching ? 178 species are hunted/sold in Gabon and the international black market, most notably ivory trafficking by international criminal syndicates ? and and increasing loss of habitat. The opening of new concessions and their access roads further facilitates the hunting of forest animals. Another threat to wildlife in the landscape is overexploitation of, and noncompliance with, regulations on fish stocks, primarily by local communities. In general, it is the forest-dependent communities whose livelihoods are being most severely impacted by illegal and/or unregulated takings by concessionaires and leaseholders.

A complicated and incomplete land and

Building on its strong commitment to climate action? Gabon was the first African country to submit its NDC and it reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 475 million tons between 2000-2016, mainly via its own financing? the GEF7 project will complement and move beyond these existing efforts in reducing emissions, by rendering land use planning in the forestry and other sectors more data-driven and sustainable, especially by strengthening environmental monitoring and improving governance (i.e. decisionmaking) as part of a ?three pillar model? of sustainable forest landscape management (see prodoc).

By building technical and strategic planning capacities for Gabon environmental services (including the IP as well as its affiliates, e.g. ANPN), the project will help to guide and to enable the environmental services to reach desired outcomes in forestry management? notably through compliance monitoring and ensuring/supporting concessions to conduct robust ESIAs and then develop appropriate ESMPs including all necessary safeguards.

In community forests as within concessions, the interests and needs, roles, and capacities of male and female IPLCs also are to be considered and will be substantially strengthened by the project. This strengthening also applies to relations with protected areas, largely through

This project is relevant and beneficial for many stakeholders and rightsholders, at multiple levels.

At the <u>local level</u>, local communities (IPLCs) residing in the project landscape may benefit in at least 4 complementary ways:

- (i) empowerment, including giving greater ?voice? in planning and decision making to women and men through transformed governance systems i.e. who is involved in dialogues and decision-making;
- (ii) improved livelihoods and socio-economic conditions through improved skills and incomes for women and men as well as enhanced social capital derived through the development of nature based private sector solutions bringing benefit especially to marginalized groups;
- (iii) improved forest conditions, which are both the foundation of people?s livelihoods and an important part of the biocultural landscapes intrinsically valued by IPLCs (in addition to the economic benefits derived from nature); and
- (iv) increased opportunity for IPLCs to develop as communities and to express themselves, or to self-strengthen on their own terms, through their recovery and/or creation and development of ?community conserved areas? complementing more formal, government driven protected areas such as national parks.

At the <u>national level</u>, the environmental benefits and relevance of protecting forest

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

Many global environmental benefits also will accrue from this project. In regard to climate change, the Congo Basin forests are the only remaining large forest carbon sink in the world, with six times more net carbon captured compared to Amazonian forests. Gabon encompasses ~18% of the Congo Basin?s forests, mostly large areas of intact primary forest with low rates of deforestation. Protection of these forests is the most effective way to mitigate effects of climate change through forest-based carbon sequestration. Additionally, forests in protected and conserved areas are noted to have around 40% more biomass (carbon) than forests found elsewhere, as the latter have often been more greatly disturbed over time. Enlarging the total area and strengthening management effectiveness of protected and conserved areas are both appreciated as adaptive responses to global changes, providing both local communities and the wider global community with options and greater flexibility for the future in light of anticipated climatic changes that will bring novel though as yet unknown environments.

In short, biodiversity and associated ecosystem services are the foundational building blocks for local people?s livelihoods, especially in rural forest areas, and the maintenance of forest biodiversity is essential to preserve resilience, reducing vulnerabilities to external shocks and pressures including climate change? from the local to the national, regional and global scales.

The significance of forest landscape conservation in Gabon also is highlighted in many regional and global agreements and commitments; including the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), a high profile voluntary and non-binding international declaration to take action to halt global deforestation, first endorsed at the UN Climate Summit in September 2014, now with over 200 endorsers including national and sub-national governments, multi-national companies, various groups representing indigenous communities, and non-governmental organizations.[1] The \$150 million agreement between Gabon and CAFI for results-based payments for carbon capture based on effective conservation of forest landscapes also is a stellar example.

Specific global environmental benefits from improved management practices in focal areas across the project landscape, which covers in total 9,177,901 hectares or around one-third of Gabon, pertain to both biodiversity and climate. In regard to climate, the project focus on forest concessions and community forests encompassing an area over 300,000 hectares will mitigate the loss of around 24,635,710 t CO2eq over 20 years (6 years project, 14 years post-implementation phase, see Annex 19 about application of Ex-Act tool). Assuming a CO2eq price of US\$10 per ton, which is the price paid by CAFI to Gabon for avoided GHG emissions, this corresponds to over US\$ 246 million in global environmental benefits (or US\$ 123 million at a more conservative shadow price of US\$ 5 per ton CO2eq).

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The three primary innovations adopted in this project are the following:

- ? comprehensive land use planning frameworks and approaches ? in particular landscape approaches that build on critical spatial aspects of integrated watershed management and inclusive stakeholder dialogues
- ? more inclusive forms of forest biodiversity governance? expanding beyond traditional protected areas to include the broader conceptual frameworks of *protected and conserved areas* as well as *territories of life*
- •linking environmental monitoring with sustainable use of forest natural resources? with engagement of resource users, both industrial entreprises and at community level, in the monitoring and evaluation of status and trends in resources (and consequently, contributing to planning and adaptive management)

All project work (cf. lessons learned) in relation to protected areas, forest concessions and community forests can be scaled up nationally and regionally. Capacities developed through the project will outlive the project duration *per se*, as also will mindsets changed in favour of more comprehensive and inclusive goals.

National systems for land use planning, protected area management and the use of forest resources will all be involved in the project?s implementation? especially through the lead role played nationally in

Gabon by the Implementing partner, DGEPN, which will coordinate activities across ministries and departments? and thus key lessons learned and specific progress made will be appropriately captured and continue beyond the project.

The main transition phase will occur during the 2-3 final years of the 6-year project, when lessons learned and associated protocols will be integrated into government ministries? operations. With substantial co-financing already available over the next decade with results-based payments for maintenance of forest carbon stocks, and more expected in the future, financial sustainability of these novel approaches is relatively assured; and the main goal of the project, therefore, is to further refine and amplify the messaging for the most pertinent audiences in Gabon about the roles and responsibilities of multiple conservation stakeholders, the available tools and approaches in environmental monitoring, means of improving community entreprises and nature-based value chains, and mechanisms by which more inclusive governance approaches can be strengthened.

[1] What is the New York Declaration on Forests?, https://forestdeclaration.org/about

The recently published Gabon case study under the ?State of the Widllife Economy in Africa? research project led by ALU School of Wildlife Conservation highlights and promotes five main elements in Gabon?s emerging ?wildlife economy?: (i) ecotourism, (ii) hunting and fishing, (iii) wildlife ranching, (iv) carbon market, and (v) non-timber forest products. The national case study was developed and endorsed internally by authors from the *Minist?re des Eaux et Forets* (MEF), *Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux* (ANPN), Direction G?n?rale de la Faune et des Aires Prot?g?es (DGFAP) and others. *State of the Wildlife Economy in Africa (Gabon)*, https://sowc.alueducation.com/programs/research/

[2] Protected areas globally encompass 19% of the world?s forests. Once established, monitoring forest conditions and predicting future forest loss within such protected areas is crucial; therefore, *early warning systems* to identify potential crisis areas for forest loss are critical. A recent study covering PA worldwide from 2000 to 2018 has identified/clarified significant warning elements based on forest conditions immediately outside of PA boundaries, *predictive* of what could soon occur within the PA, regardless of its legal status. *Early warning sign of forest loss in protected areas*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.07.072. In Gabon?s situation, although forest loss is minimal, these

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.07.072. In Gabon's situation, although forest loss is minimal, these findings nonetheless call for monitoring and interventions for regional conservation beyond PAs *per se*, incorporating the broader landscape in integrated plans.

- [3] See Annex 10. Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan.
- [4] Climate Risk Country Profile: Gabon,

https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15858-

WB Gabon%20Country%20Profile-WEB 0.pdf

[5] Climate Change Knowledge Portal: Country Summary [Gabon], https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/gabon

[6] https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/15858-

WB_Gabon%20Country%20Profile-WEB_0.pdf

WB Gabon%20Country%20Profile-WEB 0.pdf

- [8] Forests and climate change adaptation policies in Cameroon, https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/3166/
- [9] With a drastic decline in tropical fruit, Gabon?s rainforest mega-gardeners go hungry, https://news.mongabay.com/2020/10/with-a-drastic-decline-in-tropical-fruit-gabons-rainforest-mega-gardeners-go-hungry/
- [10] Spatial priorities for conserving the most intact biodiverse forests within Central Africa, https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab9fae/meta
- [11] ?A group of UN experts has warned the erosion of nature, the extinction of species and the loss of biological diversity at unprecedented rates severely threatens human rights for present and future generations. [?] Failing to protect biodiversity can constitute a violation of the right to a healthy environment, a right that is legally recognised by 155 States and should now be globally recognised as fundamental. [While] all humans depend on healthy ecosystems? the world?s poorest communities, indigenous peoples, farmers and fishermen are particularly vulnerable to the negative impact of changes in climate, biodiversity and ecosystem functions. [?] In the past, conservation actions such as new parks? have violated the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities. Using a rights-based approach? will prevent these kinds of violations in the future. [?] Urgent action is still needed to implement legal and institutional frameworks to protect biodiversity and all of the human rights that depend on healthy ecosystems [including] public information and participation in biodiversity-related decisions.? *Failing to protect biodiversity can be a human rights violation? UN experts*, https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24738
- [12] While global failure to protect biodiversity will ultimately affect everyone, it is already having disastrous consequences especially for indigenous peoples and other local communities who depend on natural ecosystems for their wellbeing. *Biodiversity and human rights*, https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/KnoxpresentationtoHRCouncil%20finalFINAL.pdf
- [13] A recent Letter of Intent (LOI) between the Government of Gabon and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI), signed in 2017, establishes a partnership to implement the National Investment Framework of Gabon. The LOI is signed by Gabon Minister of Economy, Norway?s Minister of Climate and the Environment and the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office of UNDP, and will help the country to deliver on its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. *LOI with Gabon*, https://archive.pfbc-cbfp.org/news_en/items/Letter-IntentCAFI-GABON.html
- [14] Central African Forest Initiative?s Letter of Intent with Gabon, https://archive.pfbc-cbfp.org/news en/items/Letter-IntentCAFI-GABON.html
- [15] *The bold plan to save Africa's largest forest*, https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210107-congobasin-a-bold-plan-to-save-africas-largest-rainforest
- [16] However, Gabon?s oil reserves are running out? and this increases the risk of more deforestation-intensive economic activities gaining in importance. See *Baseline scenario* for more detailed information about the national context.
- [17] Deforestation and forest degradation in the Congo Basin: State of knowledge, current causes and perspectives, https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/5894/
- [18] Reducing tropical deforestation, http://doi.org/10.1126/science.aax8546
- [19] See ?High level frameworks for forest landscape conservation? in *Section II. Project Strategy* for more detailed discussion.

- [20] According to the UN Global Compact, businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges. *The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact; Principle Seven:*Environment, https://www.unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles/principle-7
- [21] ?The precautionary principle [in] decision making has four central components: taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty; shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity; exploring a wide range of alternatives?; and increasing public participation in decision making.? *The precautionary principle in environmental science*,

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1240435/

- [22] Agence Française de Developpement: Gabon, https://www.afd.fr/en/page-region-pays/gabon
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- [29] Letter of Intent signed by the Gabon Minister of Economy, Norway?s Minister of Climate and the Environment, and the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office of UNDP,

https://www1.undp.org/content/cafi/en/home/partner-countries/gabon/the-letter-of-intent-with-gabon.html

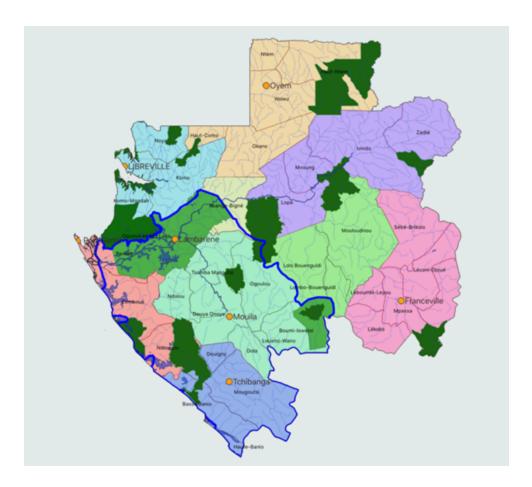
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- [33] The development of commodities such as palm oil and rubber are a key driver of deforestation across the world, including the Congo Basin. Certification programs with official standards and requirements are already under development for the forestry sector through FSC and for oil palm through RSPO.
- [34] Social inclusion is defined as the *process of improving the terms of participation in society*, particularly for people who are disadvantaged, through enhancing opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights.
- [35] https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210107-congo-basin-a-bold-plan-to-save-africas-largest-rainforest
- [36] *BIOPAMA: State of the wildlife economy in Africa*, https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/393899bbfbc54974a1abd195221edbf7
- [37] Development of tourism in/near protected areas should follow guidance provided on the basis of global experience with tourism in parks. See, e.g., guidelines from UNESCO and German Agency for Nature Conservation, *Visitors Count! Guidance for protected areas on the economic analysis of visitation*, https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2323, along with IUCN guidelines *Tourism and visitor management in protected areas*, https://www.iucn.org/content/tourism-and-visitor-management-protected-areas. Additionally, rights of IPLCs in relation to PAs must remain at the forefront of planning and operations; *Indigenous and Local Communities and Protected Areas: Towards Equity and Enhanced Conservation*, https://www.iucn.org/content/indigenous-and-local-communities-and-protected-areas-towards-equity-and-enhanced-conservation
- [38] *Make Every Womand Count: Gabon*, http://www.mewc.org/index.php/countries/central-africa/gabon
- [39] Global Environment Facility (GEF) (2018). GEF-7 REPLENISHMENT PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS. Fourth Meeting for the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund April 25, 2018 Stockholm, Sweden. GEF/R.7/19 April 2, 2018.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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





Location of the project landscape; with provinces indicated on left map, and districts and protected areas on right map.

Also see Prodoc Annex 3 for more detailed information, including focal areas where different activities will take place. Central geo-coordinates (approx.): <u>1?45' South, 10?50' East;</u> ranging from 9? 0' E to 12?35' E, and 0? 2' N to 3?59' S.

1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

This project contributes to the strategic framework of the Congo IP in the following ways:

Congo IP components	Relevant Congo IP program outcomes	Key project contributions to Congo IP outcomes	Key project targets
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Component 1

Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM

1.1 Land use in transboundary landscapes is in line with **ILUMPs** (integrated land use management plans) that: (i) fully involve local communities. and forestdependent peoples, (ii) encompass protected and production areas, as well as wildlife corridors, (iii) integrate tools for valuing natural capital (e.g., natural capital accounting, economic valuation of ecosystem services), (iv) account for future threats such as climate change, industrial agriculture, and infrastructure expansion, and (v) align with local economic development plans.

- Conservation efforts (implementing management plans, environmental monitoring, awareness) fully involve women and men from local communities (cf. IPLCs) including both forest dwelling and forest dependent people, encompassing not only formal protected areas but also beyond PAs (cf. community conserved areas; collectively known as PCAs) leading to enhanced and more extensive conservation of Gabon?s vast forest landscapes and their wildlife populations
- Both PAs and broader PCAs are targeted by the project, the latter through production landsdcapes (cf. IPLC livelihoods and all forms of sustainable forestry), endorsed nationally through integrated review and strengthening of relevant policies
- Challenges arising from global issues (climate, pandemic) and their impacts on IPLCs are duly recognized and incorporated into land planning and development/conservation operations at local to national levels
- Specialist trainings and development dialogues about total value of nature, including ecosystem accounting, introduced for high level authorities
- Integration of community level management (cf. CCGLs) and development of community forestry and fisheries integrated in national perspectives

- National frameworks, laws and regulations improved
- New or updated landscape-level and PA management plans approved
- Risk of deforestation reduced from low to very low in target areas (cf. core indicators)
- Stable/increasing population sizes of target wildlife species in PAs and other program sites
- Broader value of nature more widely recognized amongst high-level decision makers in government and private sector

Long-term
viability of
forests and
area based
management
of critical high
conservation
value forest
providing
important
habitat to
endangered
species and
critical
ecosystem
services

Component 2

- 2.1 Connectivity between forested areas and/or biodiversityrich protected areas is increased, and wildlife management, governance, and management effectiveness of existing protected areas are improved, in collaboration with local communities and forestdependent peoples.
- Regional ecological connectivity is increased through integrated perspectives in land use and PA planning, especially through consideration of conservation across production landscapes, with participation of IPLCs (cf. expanded model, PCA)
- Forest landscape conservation is enhanced with fuller consideration of governance (stakeholders and rights holders are included in decisions) and improved environmental monitoring
- Environmental monitoring by government services is strengthened? both for monitoring ecological status and compliance monitoring? including capacities to engage/monitor forest concessions
- Environmental monitoring by communities is strengthened, with introduction/training/support with novel approaches and monitoring tools as well as better collaboration with authorities

- Increase in total area under integrated SFM practices (forest concessions)
- Increase in PA management effectiveness (METT) score in selected sites in the landscape
- Number of local communities participating in protected area management; and the share of women?s participation within these communities
- Increase in the number and area of forest concessions that are engaging with government authorities and working on the basis of ESIAs and ESMPs
- Commitments from private sector companies (e.g. forestry, oil, mining concessions) to deforestation-free or peatland-friendly production practices in ecologically sensitive areas
- Total area under improved management in production landscapes as well as PAs
- Number of areas monitored for reduction in mercury contamination

Sustainable Greet-related value chains Promoted by local communities and forest dependent people through strengthening of rights and tenure, and sustainable management of production sector activities Sustainable macro for communities Sustainable management of production sector activities Sustainable Sustainable forest-related value chains promoted by empowering local communities, forest dependent people, and partnering with the private sector. Sustainable management of production sector activities Sustainable forest-related value chains promoted by empowering local communities, forest dependent people, and partnering with the private sector. - In regard to sustainable practices, resource use revenues will increase for women and men from communities, (mainly NTFP, but also fisheries). In the mid- and long term, revenues from tourism and REDD+ will likely increase as well. - In regard to development of community forests, participatory mapping of land and resources and the development of local sustainable use plans of NTFPs and other natural resources are advanced, alongside the strengthening of NTFP and other value chains in collaboration with partners in private sector - In regard to community fisheries, the emerging community model in the Ogoumue Lake area is further - Increase in total under integrated practices (comm forests) - Increase in the forest dependent proporting laterative biodic positive enterprivate sustainable use plans of NTFP and other value chains in collaboration with partners in private sector - In regard to community fisheries, the emerging community model in the Ogoumue Lake area is further - Increase in involument to under integrated practices (comm forests) - Increase in the forest dependent proporting laterative biodic positive enterprivate sector - In regard to community fisheries and the forest dependent proporting laterative biodic positive enterprivate sector - In regard to community fisheries, the forest dependent proporting laterative biodic pr
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Capacity building, knowledge management, and regional cooperation	4.1 Improved national and regional interagency coordination on efforts to maintain forest resources, protect biodiversity, enhance forest management, and restore forest ecosystems through enhanced knowledge, technology exchange, and financing	- Improved national context (cf. awareness, also relevant environmental laws and regulations as well as national policies and frameworks that pertain to IPLC rights and opportunities) for conservation of forest landscapes - Coordination and exchanges amongst Congo IP child projects - Development of knowledge management system - Capture of key lessons with learning, sharing with peers (south-south cooperation, exchanges) - Strategic (targeted) project communications and outreach - Capacity development workshops? for IP and project staff, for decision makers, for field-based managers and wide range of project stakeholders	- Local and regional partnerships catalyzed for conservation of the Congo Basin through joint interests and approaches centred on rights-based conservation and emerging model of ?protected and conserved areas? (PCA) - Peer-to-peer learning (within project landscape) as well as south-south exchanges at regional level (especially within Congo IP program)
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The project also complements and other child projects under the regional Congo IP through convergence in the following thematic areas:

Congo IP child projects	Project title	Overlapping thematic areas
Congo IP ? Regional Project (UNEP)	Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin	Includes a transboundary area with Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, in the Crystal Mountains; which is <i>de facto</i> extension of Gabon project landscape
Congo IP ? Republic of Congo (UNEP)	Integrated Community-Based Conservation of Peatlands Ecosystems and Promotion of Ecotourism in Lac T?l? Landscape of Republic of Congo	Focus on community-based conservation, also on peatlands as carbon-rich habitat and ecotourism for income generation

Congo IP ? Equatorial Guinea (IUCN)	Transforming and scaling up results and lessons learned in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo Landscapes through an inclusive Landscape-scale approach, effective land use planning and promotion of local governance	Transforming forest conservation with landscape-scale approaches and more inclusive and local forms of governance
Congo IP ? Cameroon (WWF)	Integrated management of Cameroon?s forest landscapes in the Congo Basin	Collaborations with IPLCs including Baka indigenous people, and development of community-based private enterprises by strengthening value chains, land tenure, PA co-management approaches

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Part II. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

5. Stakeholder Engagement Program

Purpose and goals

GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement requires that engagement activities be undertaken in a way that is:

- ? Constructive, responsive, accountable, and transparent
- ? Fair, balanced, and ensures inclusive participation
- ? Supported by appropriate documentation and easy and timely access to information

The goal of stakeholder engagement is to enhance project acceptance and ownership and to strengthen the social and environmental sustainability and benefits of the project activities. Stakeholder engagement thus supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are critical for sound design of the project, as well as its implementation.

It is of paramount importance that project stakeholders be approached respectfully and in good faith. This is enabled when sound principles for fair and equitable engagement are adopted, such as those outlined in Table 5, below.

Table 5. Principles guiding stakeholder engagement during project implementation

Engagement principle	Therefore, stakeholder participation shall?		
Value Adding	be an essential means of adding value to the project		
Inclusivity	include all relevant stakeholders		
Accessibility and Access	be accessible and promote access to the process		
Transparency	be based on transparency and fair access to information; main provisions of the project?s plans and results will be published in local mass-media		
Fairness	ensure that all stakeholders are treated in a fair and unbiased way		
Accountability	be based on a commitment to accountability by all stakeholders		
Constructive	seek to manage conflict and promote the public interest		
Redressing	seek to redress inequity and injustice		
Capacitating	seek to develop the capacity of all stakeholders		
Needs Based	be based on the needs of all stakeholders		
Flexible	be flexibly designed and implemented		
Rational and coordinated	be rationally planned and coordinated, and not be ad hoc		
Excellence	be subject to ongoing reflection and improvement		

Methods used for consultation

There are a variety of engagement techniques used to build relationships with stakeholders (including rights holders), gather information from stakeholders, consult with stakeholders, and disseminate project information to stakeholders.

When selecting appropriate consultation techniques, both the *purpose* for engaging with a stakeholder group and *culturally appropriate* methods should be considered. The approaches and techniques to use in project implementation should be built and co-designed with a range of stakeholders in the landscape; initial recommendations are provided in the Table 6, below.

Table 6. Proposed Engagement Techniques (also recalling that separate meetings may be required for women and men, that participatory approaches can provide more insights and learning than simply ?giving information,? and that people?s levels of literacy and their sociocultural learning/communication styles must be considered with development of materials)

I	8 8	Stakeholder Groups	Application of Technique
ı	Technique		

Engagement Technique	Stakeholder Groups	Application of Technique			
Information Centre and Information Boards	? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) ? NGOs and civil society organizations	? Project Management Unit (PMU) should establish Information Boards in each target selected communities.			
Correspondence (phone, emails, text messages)	 ? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments 	? Distribute information to Government officials in ministries and agencies, Local Governments, NGOs, and private sector/professional, organizations, ? Invite stakeholders to meetings and follow-up			
Print media and radio announcements	? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)? NGOs and civil society organizations	 ? Disseminate project information to large audiences, and illiterate stakeholders ? Inform stakeholders about consultation meetings 			
One-on-one-interviews	 ? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments 	 ? Solicit views and opinions of target stakeholders ? Enable stakeholders to speak freely and confidentially about controversial and sensitive issues ? Build personal relations with stakeholders? group ? Recording of interviews 			
Formal meetings	 ? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments ? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) 	? Present project information to a group of stakeholders ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build impersonal relations with high level stakeholders ? Distribute technical documents ? Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations ? Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses			
Public meetings	? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs) ? NGOs and civil society organizations	 ? Present Project information to a large group of stakeholders, especially communities; ? Allow the group to provide their views and opinions; ? Build relationship with the communities, especially those impacted and vulnerable/disadvantaged; 			

Engagement Technique	Stakeholder Groups	Application of Technique
(Public meetings)		 ? Distribute non-technical information; ? Facilitate meetings with presentations, PowerPoint, posters etc.; ? Record discussions, comments, questions.
Focus group meetings	? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	? Allow a smaller group of between 8 and 15 people to provide their views and opinions of targeted baseline information ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Use a focus group interview guideline to facilitate discussions ? Record responses
Internet media	? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments	? Facebook page, WhatsApp groups, twitter handle among others
Workshops	? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments ? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	 ? Present project information to a group of stakeholders; ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions; ? Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyze information, and develop recommendations and strategies; ? Recording of responses
Surveys	? Academia ? NGOs and civil society organizations ? International organizations/partners. ? Industry/private sector ? Relevant Government agencies and departments ? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	 ? Gather opinions and views from individual stakeholders ? Gather baseline data ? Record data; ? Develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts
Direct communication with owners of affected properties, land, crops/asset	? Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	? Seek IPLCs participation during social economic survey

 Table 6. The Engagement Tools

Engagement Tool	Details	Level of engagement				Benefits	Consideratio ns	
		Infor m	Consu lt	Invol ve	Collabora te	Empow er		
Print materials (e.g. brochures, flyers)	? A way to provide information on specific issue or initiative to a selected audience. ? Need a distribution method to get to the right people (and translated for particular groups). ? Need to be written clearly and concisely with illustrations or infographics where possible. ? Need a clear call to action for the community to get involved.	X					? This method creates interest within the community. ? Good for broad awareness and for activating interest quickly. ? Can be tailored to address the specific needs of groups. ? Some groups, such as older people, may prefer to receive their information via traditional methods.	Pexpensive to produce. Paral to target or to monitor effectiveness. Can miss key minority groups. Paral to target or to monitor effectiveness. Paral to target or to monitor effectiveness. Paral to target or to effectiveness. Paral to target or to explain language and simple graphics to explain project concepts, otherwise audience may not read the material. Paral time of some distribution channels (such as rates notices) can be a constraint.

Engagement Tool	Details		Level of eng	gagement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Advertiseme nts (e.g. TV, radio)	? Most newspapers and radio stations have a community events or public service announcement section which can be used to inform the public of the Project and activities.	X			? Fast, efficient and wide-reaching ? Opportunit y to position project positively using local government key messages ? Can contain a clear call to action to get people involved in the project.	? Relatively expensive ? Hard to target or to monitor effectiveness ? Can miss key minority groups.
Websites	? To be used to provide accessible, clear and appropriate information cost-effectively to a broad cross-section of stakeholders. ? Websites can also be used for two-way information exchange.	X X	X		? Can provide a link to any online surveys. ? Can provide lots of targeted information about the Project. ? Can allow community members to ask questions and receive answers that are accessible to all.	? Not every stakeholder has access to internet. ? Maintenance and resource requirements to review and refresh content, and to monitor and respond to comments. ? Opportunity is lost if materials are not presented in plain language and using simple graphics. ? Can miss key minority groups.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	agement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Email feedback	? Email feedback can be an easy way to obtain ideas from the public on an issue or a range of issues. ? It can be used with an existing website with a feedback system.	X	X			? It is quicker than most forms of participatio n and may be attractive to those with little time. ? Allows people to ask their specific questions and, potentially, have them answered. This may help to build knowledge about the Project with some stakeholder s.	? Emails received must be tracked carefully to make sure that they are acknowledge d and, where this commitment has been given, responded to. ? Not every stakeholder has access to internet. ? Can miss key minority groups

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	gagement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Public meetings	? Important to have a strong chairperson who can make the meeting flow properly. ? Everyone needs to have a chance to speak. ? Based on a central theme and participants agree on the important issues. ? Record each discussion and provide a way for participants to access them (or at least know the conclusions) at the end of the event.	X	X	X		? Offers the community the opportunity to attend and have their opinion heard in the one place at the one time. ? Allows for the most important issues to be raised and gives people for whom these issues are most relevant the opportunity to discuss. ? Can enable community members to share issues.	? Difficult to get a nuanced understandin g from a single meeting. ? Challenging for quieter participants. ? Tendency to focus on the ?squeaky wheels? and those that are confident enough to speak in front of a large group. ? Potential for a mob mentality to form, which may vocally jeopardize the essence of the meeting.

Engagement Tool	Details	Level of en	gagement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
One-on-one interviews	? Involves one person that is tasked with posing a standard set of questions to individuals. ? Data gathered need to be carefully analysed and reported to provide an accurate representation of public opinion.	X		Provides important qualitative information about community perceptions of the Project, or their observation s, at a level of detail that can be difficult to obtain by any other method. Project, or their observation s, at a level of detail that can be difficult to obtain by any other method. Good way of raising community understanding about the Project. Good way of finding and recruiting other community members who may be able to help with other engagemen t techniques. Opportunit y for indepth information exchange in a non-threatening forum.	? More labour-intensive, depending on the number of stakeholders and community members being interviewed. ? Expensive.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	agement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Small group meetings	? Technique used to generate discussion and insights on aspects of the project from a known group of stakeholders. ? Need to set a clear agenda and a facilitator who can keep the group on track.	X	X	X		? Opportunit y for the Stakeholder Engagemen t Team to have a more detailed conversatio n about the Project with interested community members. ? Provides an opportunity to meet with community groups that support people with disabilities, older people, younger people and indigenous people.	? May need to reimburse group members for travel and offer meals if the workshop lasts longer than two hours. ? Not a broad sample to draw data from.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	Benefits	Consideratio ns		
Community events (event created just for project)	? Opportunity to set up interactive displays at a booth/stand/w all. ? Could use methods such as stickers, comment cards to obtain feedback.	X	X				? Allows people to make comments and give feedback on the Project or options presented to them through display material. ? Useful technique for involving people who are not used to being consulted on their views. ? Useful technique for involving people who may be less confident about expressing their views.	? Activation required to generate interest in attending the event.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	agement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Steering groups	? A steering group is usually made up of high-level stakeholders or experts who provide guidance on key issues. Usually not representative of the broader demographic, a steering group is more a panel of experts who guide decision-making. ? Make clear to members what their likely responsibilities and time commitments will be. ? Include external representatives to allow different perspectives and a wider experience base. ? Ensure clarity of both individual and group roles. ? Produce minutes ? Create time for debate of the issues in the meeting. ? Issue papers at least a week before meetings to allow the members sufficient preparation time.	X	X	X	X	? The purpose of a steering group can vary greatly from members providing their own feedback or ideas about the Project, to members acting as a conduit between the broader community and the Project. ? Stakeholder -led decision-making and input over time, depending on the terms of reference of the group.	? Defining demographic relevance can be challenging. ? Consider the power dynamic carefully and whether all parties are adequately represented.

Engagement Tool	Details	Level of engagement					Benefits	Consideratio ns
Community summit	? An event, typically held over one or two days, that brings together many participants to explore and discuss the issue of the Project. Summits can include a range of interactive, collaborative and deliberative tools and techniques. Participants can either be selected or self-nominate, depending on approach.	X	X	X	X		? The approach to participant selection can range from invitation-only, directly invited randomly selected community members, self-nominated, or a combinatio n of all three of these approaches. ? The selection of engagemen t techniques incorporate d as part of the summit is dependent on the purpose of the event and the budget.	? Event needs to incorporate feedback processes, so that the whole group can understand what has been discussed. ? Based on scale and number of participants, event can be expensive to stage.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	agement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Community workshop	? Open invitation workshop designed to gather people from a community together to discuss a specific project or process. ? Many workshop techniques can be successfully applied to capture community knowledge to inform a planning process.	X	X	X	X	Pepending on the workshop design and the problem being discussed, community workshops can be used to inform, consult, involve or collaborate. Opportunit y to capture knowledge from interested community members, rather than just those community members that typically get invited to represent community sectors. Opportunit y to recruit through an open invitation or to target a statistically valid random sample.	? Needs to be designed to be scalable (i.e. the workshop process is successful regardless of how many or how few community members attend). ? Typically, expert facilitation skills are required, depending on numbers. ? Requires activation to encourage people to attend (e.g. print, radio). ? Thorough data capture and recording processes are required.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	agement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Hard-copy surveys/ questionnaire s	? Standard set of open and/or closed questions to a wide range of people. ? Conducted through face-to-face interviews, self-completion written forms, or electronically via the internet or email. ? Technique used to obtain structured responses on specific issues and to obtain quantitative and/or qualitative results.	X	X	X		Popular method of collecting point-intime qualitative and quantitative information from a population. Good way to find out opinions of local people on a particular planning topic in a structured way that can be extensively analysed. Good way to inform people about the project. Good way to inform people about the project. Input from those who may not be able to engage in other ways. Input from those who may not attend a public meeting.	? Response rate can be low. ? Can miss key minority groups. ? To get statistically valid results, can be labour-intensive and expensive. ? Level of detail may be limited. ? Less effective in obtaining responses to complex issues. ? Effective analysis of data can be labour-intensive and requires a high level of expertise. ? Opportunity is lost if materials are not presented in plain language and using simple graphics.

Engagement Tool	Details		Le	vel of eng	gagement	Benefits	Consideratio ns
Online survey tools, such as Survey Monkey.	? A quick and effective way to get a snapshot of community sentiment. ? Prepare questions. ? Consider your promotion ? how will the community know about it?	X	X	X		? Good for fast data and community sentiment in relation to emergent planning issues. ? Quantitative data. ? Relatively cost effective.	? No complexity of data. ? No opportunity to interrogate data in more detail. ? Can miss key minority groups. ? Not all stakeholders have access to internet.

Social media (Facebook, Twitter) Project can get an idea of what people like and do not like about an idea through comments posted on social media. This feedback can complement typical surveys. Facebook: ? Facebook posts should be short, sharp and pose questions to increase interaction	Consider the type of information needed, and
(Facebook, Twitter) Project can get an idea of what people like and do not like about an idea through comments posted on social media. This feedback can complement typical surveys. Facebook: Project can get an idea of what people like and do not like about an idea through comments posted on social media. Posted on social media. This feedback can complement typical surveys. Facebook: Pracebook: Pracebook:	Consider the type of information needed, and the social media platform best
? Facebook posts with video content receive the greatest number of interactions from Facebook users. Twitter ? Twitter ? Twitter ? Twitter offers open access, 140- character limit and requires you to build a following first. ? Develop a policy for	? Views expressed on social media are public and unfiltered. Facebook: ? Anonymity and lack of control present a challenge ? Requires participants to have a Facebook account ? Can miss key minority groups. ? Monitoring can be labour-intensive. Twitter: ? Not good for deliberation ? Monitoring can be

Engaging with Specific Stakeholder Groups

When undertaking the stakeholder engagement, it is important to consider how the needs of different groups and/or individuals can be accommodated. The Project area comprises a broad diversity of people with different backgrounds, needs, and values. While the aim is to be inclusive in all the engagement activities, at times it may be necessary to tailor engagement activities to enable some communities or individuals to fully participate on an equal basis with others.

Specific groups include, but are not limited to, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), elderly people, women, young people, and people with disability.

Things to be mindful of while engaging with specific groups include:

- ? Identify local representatives
- ? Communicate consistently
- ? When possible, provide opportunities smaller meetings
- ? Timing and location of meetings
- ? Allowing enough time for the groups to participate
- ? Accessible meeting locations and venues
- ? Accessible and respectful information
- ? Work with existing community networks.

Engaging with Indigenous People, and the FPIC process

Indigenous individuals and indigenous peoples or communities are entitled to enjoy and exercise their human rights without discrimination. Indigenous peoples also possess collective human rights, which are indispensable to their well-being, sense of identity, and development as peoples. The special relationship that indigenous peoples have with their lands, territories, resources, and cultural heritage is integral to their physical, spiritual and cultural survival.

To ensure that UNDP projects that may impact indigenous peoples are designed in a spirit of partnership with local and indigenous communities, their full and effective participation (i.e. free, prior, and informed consent) must be assured. This applies in all instances where their rights, lands, territories, resources, and/or traditional livelihoods may be affected.

??Engagement processes with indigenous peoples require at a minimum documentation of (i) a mutually accepted process to carry out good faith negotiations, (ii) outcomes of good faith negotiations, including all agreements reached as well as disagreements and dissenting views, and (iii) efforts aimed at accommodating indigenous peoples' expressed interest and concerns in the final programming design. This is true for both the preparation phase and the entire lifetime of the Project.

The steps for the FPIC process are detailed below:

Preparatory Steps for FPIC

Collecting preliminary information

This is not yet the actual FPIC negotiations. However, this step helps the Stakeholder Engagement Team identify the internal and external actors and factors that may influence the FPIC process and the Project.

Understand the current local context

This step consists in the following actions:

- Analysis and mapping exercise together with Project Team and partners to determine which communities are directly or indirectly impacted by the project.

- Identify the stakeholders involved and determine their roles in the project area and clarify any decision rights they may or may not have.
- Identify past, current, and potential conflicts that exist both within the community and with external actors.
- Identify the community?s perceptions and opinions about the project, external actors, nature, and all other relevant matters.
- Understand the community?s cultural and spiritual beliefs about sacred sites and natural resources.
- Identify livelihood concerns and basic human needs that may impact the ability or willingness of a community (or group of communities) to engage in the consultations (and the project as a whole), clarifying what the likely trade-offs might be. Note that these may be different for different groups within the community, such as men, women, youth, or elders.
- Do not generalize about the indigenous population as there are likely to be different challenges in terms of the ability to participate, particularly as it relates to indigenous women.

Understand legal and customary rights

It is vital to understand the customary rights of the IPLCs, particularly any customary land management practices or other traditional management structures. The unique legal context of Gabon must be considered to understand the implications for FPIC. The step includes the following actions:

- Identify the rights IPLCs have under national law of Gabon (land tenure rights, rights to consultation and FPIC, resource access rights, etc.).
- Identify if customary land management systems, practices, rules, and rights exist.
- Identify any potential conflicts between customary and legal rights.
- Identify natural resources that may be impacted by this project and the legal and customary laws that govern these resources.
- Assess whether the IPLCs understand their legal and customary rights. If lacking knowledge about their rights, capacity in this area must be built as part of the Project.
- Ensure that other relevant stakeholders, such as government and private sector actors, also understand the legal and customary rights of the IPLCs. If lacking, capacity must be built as part of the Project.

Identify and Respect Traditional Decision-making Structures

The FPIC process depends on seeking consent from IPLCs in a manner that respects their customs and traditions. They may already have decision-making processes that mirror the spirit of FPIC, even if people are unfamiliar with the specific term.

- Identify the community-selected representative(s) for the process.
- Inform the community (or the representatives) about the decision-making structure for our project.
- Work with the community to map their decision-making structures, paying close attention to how women and men, as well as other groups within the community, participate in decision making.
- If the Indigenous community is not familiar with FPIC, the Project will engage in a dialogue to identify existing decision-making structures that support the principles underlying FPIC.
- In cases where two or more communities claim rights over a territory, the project will support a process to create a mutually respected decision-making structure.

Design and implementation of the FPIC process

This is the actual FPIC negotiations. Hopefully, by the end of this step, we will reach consent with the community on whether, and if so, how, to proceed with the project (or particular components or sets of activities/actions).

Develop the Approach

The approach must be culturally sensitive. Partners and other actors involved in the process should respect the cultural elements of the community.

- Identify which cultural norms, if any, inform the community?s FPIC process.
- Inform partners and other actors about these cultural norms.
- If communities are not culturally homogenous, a single process integrating the needs and norms of all groups should be developed.
- To accommodate women who may face challenges in speaking in a mixed setting, consider organizing separate consultations at a time and location that is convenient for them and present material in a format that is understandable for them and addresses their high rates of illiteracy.
- Create a timeline that is culturally appropriate together with the community.

Ensure Full and Effective Participation

Full and effective participation is a vital component of the FPIC process, as it addresses both who is involved and to what extent they are engaged in the process. We need to ensure that all groups, if not all members, of a community are represented in the process. It is important to recognize that vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities, youth and elders, do not always have the same voice or authority within the community as other members, so there is a need to ensure a consultation process that takes these people into account.

- Ensure a process that respects local timeframes and accounts for geographic limitations to participation.
- Ensure that all sectors of the community participate in discussions about the project in accordance with community structures and norms, either directly or through their legitimate representatives.
- Use culturally appropriate techniques and materials to engage members of the community.
- Ensure that all relevant stakeholders participate according to their roles and decision rights, as identified in the stakeholder mapping exercise.

It is important to recognize that this FPIC process does not entail discussing all of the possible interests of local Communities, particularly Indigenous People, but should remain focused on the *thematic* at hand, even while we must keep an open ear. We can and should listen to all issues raised, however the FPIC process is not in itself meant to be a ?grievance platform.? Additionally, we must not undertake community dialogues and FPIC in every community in the landscape. Rather we must focus on those communities with which or with whom there is a high likelihood of *direct engagement* with and through the Project.

Information Management

A large part of information sharing is ensuring that it is presented in an understandable manner. Recording all the details of the FPIC process (attendance sheets, meeting minutes, etc.) is also very important. Information sharing can help build capacity within the community and with all relevant stakeholders, including government.

- Identify the community?s preferred method of receiving and sharing information (preferred language) and use that method. Anticipate that the way of receiving information may be different for women and men.
- Identify community expectations related to the proposed project. Collect the information from all segments of the population.
- Together with the community, define how the FPIC process will be documented, keeping in mind that a formal written document may not be appropriate for the community?s language and their needs and capacity to read.
- Ensure that all meetings are clearly documented.

- Identify existing information-sharing structures for both communities and partners, and ensure that they are complementary.
- Determine the most appropriate way to manage sensitive information with the community.

Final Consent

A community may decide that the project meets their development needs and interests, or it may decide that it does not. In either case, it is *their choice* to make. It is important to note that this step could be the end to the FPIC process if the community decides not to move forward with any activities.

However, if the community does choose to move forward, then the following steps of the Project will be planned and implemented, including future FPIC:

- It is important that the Facilitator understands what constitutes consent within a given community, including both the process and the actual indicators that consent has been achieved (e.g. show of hands, decision among elders, etc.).
- Document the decision (Agreement) that was made regarding the project, so that all parties have a record.
- Choose documentation methods that are relevant and useful to all parties. It may be necessary to document the decision in more than one way, for example in both a written document and a recording of the representative speaking the decision.
- If the project will be moving forward, work in partnership with the community to determine the next steps and move forward with the next phases of the project.

Monitoring of the FPIC Process

The last step in the FPIC process will be to create a mechanism that deals with how violations of FPIC would be addressed, and plan for periodic monitoring/reviews.

Grievance Mechanism

If the community decides to proceed with a project or activity, the project?s grievance mechanism must include a component related to violations of the right to FPIC.

- Identify traditional methods that the community uses to resolve conflicts.
- Create a culturally appropriate timeline together with the community for addressing unresolved issues.
- Determine together with the community the steps needed to resolve a conflict, in case an outside entity needs to be involved.
- Incorporate FPIC into th project?s Grievance Mechanism.

The Project should ensure that the grievance mechanism pertains only or mainly to those possible grievances directly related to this project, and not simply to all issues arising from other arrangements or from past or other projects. The grievance mechanism is an internal project safeguard to ensure local wellbeing and project responsiveness to their concerns.

Monitoring and Adjustment

Monitoring a FPIC process is just as important as developing it in the first place. Because both projects and FPIC processes are dynamic and require adjustments as circumstances, opinions or outcomes change over time, periodic evaluations from the indigenous communities and other stakeholders ensure that FPIC is respected throughout the life of the project. It is therefore essential to undertake the following:

- Identify who will lead the monitoring and how often.
- Develop a process to address unforeseen changes in the project.

- Ensure that there is a balance of women and men involved in the monitoring process
- Agree with the community how and when the FPIC process will need to be re-negotiated.
- Conduct periodic review of the Agreement with the community throughout the project lifecycle. The frequency of review should be determined with the community.
- Note that the Agreement can be modified as needed, with the agreement of the parties, even if the project is underway.

Engaging with Older People

Older people have considerable professional knowledge and life experience to share through engagement processes. Engagement processes with older people need to include traditional means for communication (e.g. oral communication) since they are more likely to engage in activities and related discussions when they can communicate easily with the engagement professional. Using technology tools for engagement can preclude these individuals from participating and sharing their knowledge. In general, engagement materials for older people need to be accessible with strong visual elements (pictures, TV) or audio elements (talks, radio).

Engaging with young people

While local communities are the direct beneficiaries of the Project, children and young people are the long-term beneficiaries. Given the impact that the Project decisions have on the future of children and young people, opportunities to increase their understanding of concepts and to encourage their participation in engagement processes need to be examined and maximized.

Children and young people can also get involved in the engagement processes through:

- ? Local youth organizations and networks.
- ? Local sports and activity clubs.
- ? Student groups.

Engaging with People with disability

When engaging with people with disability, it is crucial to ensure that facilities are accessible, comfortable and enhance their ability to listen and concentrate. Engagement materials need to be well-designed and accessible. Improving accessibility can include using plain language, or translation interpreting services, and graphics that explain complex concepts simply.

Providing opportunities for people with disability to attend smaller meetings rather than large community gatherings can also increase their participation. It is also important to engage with the networks that support people with disability to both capture their input to the process and to access their networks to promote engagement events and distribute information.

Engaging with Women

There are several challenges related to engaging with women. These can be overcome.

Challenges include:

- ? Traditional/cultural roles can limit or prevent access to women during engagement activities.
- ? Women?s domestic and economic roles can limit their availability and willingness to participate.
- ? Women?s participation may be limited or completely restricted in patriarchal societies that do not allow them to have a voice in the community or to make decisions. This can cause conflict in communities if not managed appropriately.
- ? Participation of women in engagement can be limited if facilitators are men.
- ? Women may be reluctant to participate in consultations where men are also participating.

Ways to overcome those challenges include:

- ? Gather an understanding of the gender context to identify engagement approaches.
- ? Engage with the community, in particular women, to determine the best ways to communicate with them.
- ? Engage with women in focus group settings facilitated by women to capture views and information.
- ? Use participatory techniques to capture gender specific information (e.g. gender matrices, seasonal calendars, transect walks).
- ? Identify and engage with women?s cooperatives/groups. Where these do not exist, support the establishment of such groups.

Engagement Materials

When preparing engagement content, the Project will keep the audience (specific groups in particular) in mind. When possible, the Project will make the materials available to the stakeholders (and the public) prior to the meetings in order to allow them time to review the documents and to submit their comments. The Project will then agree with relevant stakeholders, including representatives of Indigenous People, on the date/format of formal stakeholder engagement meetings.

The stakeholders will also have opportunity to share their concerns and inquiries during the formal stakeholder engagement meetings. Some project documents will equally be disclosed on UNDP Gabon website (e.g. Social and Environmental Screening Procedure) for review and comments by the public.

Data collection and analysis (knowledge management)

Tracking and reporting on the progress of the engagement is key to the success of the Project, so it is critical to have a system to collate the information and ultimately help analyze input received upon conclusion of the engagement period. This will also help to manage follow-up engagement activities for the project team (e.g., following up requests for further information or requests for meetings).

Themes and topics that are usually required for engagement reporting include:

- ? How many stakeholders participated, including a breakdown of the different stakeholder groups, and demographic, gender, and geographic groups.
- ? Key issues and topics raised.
- ? The differences in views and ideas between the attendees.

The Project will maintain a register of stakeholder engagement details and interactions in a spreadsheet such as Microsoft? Excel. A screenshot showing an example of an Excel community database is provided below:

Date		Their organisation or group	Contact Details	Summary of contact	Issue raised	Follow-up action	Complete

The analysis of the stakeholder engagement data will be included in the final project report, which will be made available to relevant stakeholders.

In making a decision about the Project, it is essential to explain the process that was followed to come to that decision as well as to answer why and how it was decided. Stakeholders may not always agree with the outcome or decision made, but if the process by which the decision was made is understood, then the likelihood of it being accepted will be greater. The Project will also provide feedback to participants of the engagement process. It is particularly important to provide feedback on engagement processes where there is a significant difference of opinion between participants.

At the end of the engagement activity, information to provide back to stakeholders includes:

- ? How participant input has been used to inform the decision-making process.
- ? The next steps of the project.
- ? Details about future opportunities for input.

6. Outline of SEP Activities

When deciding the frequency and appropriate engagement technique used to consult a particular stakeholder group, we will consider the three following criteria:

- ? The extent of impact of the project on the stakeholder group;
- ? The extent of influence of the stakeholder group on the project; and
- ? The culturally acceptable engagement and information dissemination methods.

In general, engagement is directly proportional to impact and influence, and as the extent of impact of a project on a stakeholder group increases, or the extent of influence of a particular stakeholder on a project increases, engagement with that stakeholder group should intensify and deepen in terms of frequency and intensity of the engagement method used.

The project has a lifespan of 6 years, during which engagement activities already discussed will be implemented and others that have yet to be identified during project implementation will also be developed and carried out. In Table 7, below, a provisional estimation of timeline and costs is proposed; with the assumption that it will be updated or amended as appropriate, depending on project needs arising from the project launch and onwards.

 Table 7. Outline of Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Stages/Outco	Project	SEP activities	Targeted Stakehold	Indicator			Budget	(USD)	
mes	outputs and/or activities	activities	ers		Ye ar 1	Ye ar 2	Ye ar 3	Ye ar 4	Ye ar 5	Ye ar 6
COMPONENT LIVELIHOOD		G CONDITIO	NS FOR FOR	REST LANDSO	CAPE (CONS	ERVA	ΓΙΟΝ	AND I	PLC
Good enabling conditions for more inclusive conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity with strengthened	Specialist training workshops	Training to improve knowledge of relevant government officials in biodiversity managemen t	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, including IPLC	Training report and number people trained by gender	mon be con	ths of t drawn nponer	he proj from t ats and	ect, wi he proj their o	g the fir th budg iect?s fo utputs o t M&E	et to our and
strengthened institutional capacities in natural capital accounting	Review of PA managemen t plans	Workshop on environment al protection and PCA managemen t measures	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs	Training report and number people trained by gender						
	In situ learning from implementat ion of activities	Training program for monitoring dynamics within flora and fauna	Relevant Number Governme nt agencies and local NGOs as well as IPLC	Training report and number people trained by gender						
	Developme nt policy briefs for government decision makers	According to common interests	Relevant number of Governme nt agencies and local NGOs	Policy briefs available, # of senior decision makers who are provided policy briefs, by gender						

	Practical guidelines for sectors for site-level environment al managers and practitioners	Based on common interests in wildlife economy opportunities, then with management based on reliable and current information on ecosystem services	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs	Policy briefs available, # of senior decision makers who are provided policy briefs, by gender					
	Developme nt dialogues ? series of talks and/or panels at senior ministerial level	Based on common interests on social and environment al issues, dialogues with relevant stakeholders	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs	Meetings, training reports and # of people trained, by gender					
COMPONENT ENVIRONME			ONSERVAT	ION SUPPORT	TED BY	INC	LUSIVE		
Better conserved forest landscapes with strengthened environmental monitoring	SWOT analysis of the environment and social contexts? by province	Group discussions based on common interests in forestry and biodiversity	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGO, and IPLCs	Training report and number people trained by gender					
momornig	or region	protection							
and more abundant and stronger IPLC collaborations	or region	protection Cross- ministerial multi- stakeholder dialogues (series of talks and/or panels)							

	Socioecono mic assessments of local communitie s targeted for direct partnerships	Group discussions based on common interests in investment in wildlife economy opportunitie s	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, and IPLCs	Number of trainings put in place					
	Monitor social and environment al compliance of selected forest concessions	Monitoring fauna and flora <i>in situ</i> in the field, learning-by-doing field work.	Local NGOs, and IPLCs	Training report and number people trained, by gender					
	Review of stakeholders ? capacities in monitoring including approaches available and use of new technologies	Training for biodiversity assessment by all of the stakeholders including environment al services (governmen t) as well as IPLCs and private sector	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, and IPLC	Training report and number people trained, by gender					
COMPONENT WILDLIFE EC		ITY LIVELIH	OODS IMPR	OVED WITH	А МО	RE DI	VERSIF	TED	
Community livelihoods improved through well managed and conserved community forest landscapes and strengthened	Community -level consultation s and FPIC processes in targeted communitie s	Consultation meetings in the form of training with IPLC and relevant local NGOs on income opportunities across the landscape	Local NGOs, and IPLC cross landscape	Training report and number people who attend the meetings and trained, by gender					

community enterprises and value chains	Consultations and other forms of engagement including awareness raising about prior land use plans, legal rights and responsibilities, and opportunities for local capacity development	Consultation meetings in the form of training with IPLC and relevant NGOs on awareness raising about land use plans, legal rights and responsibilities, and opportunities for local capacity development	Local NGOs, and IPLC cross landscape	Training report and number people who attend the meetings and trained, by gender Percentage of positive opinion on the issues Interests of IPLCs Strategic partnerships			
	Participator y mapping for communicat ion and knowledge sharing, also ensuring that multiple voices are heard from different segments of the population, e.g. women, youth etc. ? each with different perspectives	Community mapping across landscape	IPLC across landscape	Review report and update of maps produced during project			

	Community capacities and fisheries value chains strengthene d in several ways? including environ. monitoring, developmen t of community coops, conflict managemen t, and support in finding private investors or marketing partners	Consultation of IPLC in a form of meetings and training to strengthene d IPLC and relevant local NGOs on fisheries value chains, including in monitoring, dev?t of community coops, conflict management, and support to find private investors or marketing partners	IPLC across landscape and local NGOs	Review report and update of maps produced during the building of the project				
	Rural and indigenous communities as main actors in both wildlife ecotourism and biomonitoring programs	Training sessions across the project landscape to identify both wildlife ecotourism options and biomonitori ng program for local communitie s	IPLC and local NGOs	Training report, # of people trained, by gender Number of villages and projects that are identified				
COMPONENT MAINSTREAM) COMMUNIC	CATIONS	s, GENDEI	R	
Strengthened communication, knowledge exchange, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and project	Establish KM system, including consideratio n of gender dimensions	Train selected project staff and other partners in use of KM system	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, and IPLC members	Training report and number of people trained, by gender				

M&E	Develop overall project communicat ion strategy regarding biodiversity and ecosystem services in forests (also seen as socioecologi cal system)	Training in use of new communicat ion technologies	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, and competent IPLC members	Training report, number people trained by gender and communicat ion tools produced		
	Develop conservation messaging based on training materials produced, sharing with wider public and select target groups? through print, internet, TV, radio (e.g. community radio)	Consultant to produced training materials to share with all target?s groups	Relevant Governme nt agencies and local NGOs, and competent IPLC members	Consultant and Training materials available and distributed across all target?s groups		
	Regional exchanges and/or workshops for cross- project dialogues and learning about inclusive forest governance and co- managemen t	Project landscape workshop for site manager	Relevant local Governme nt partners, IPLC, and NGOs leaders	Workshop reports and number participants by gender		
Budget	1	ı	ı	ı		
Total SEP Bud	get					

7. Resources and Responsibilities

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for ensuring that the SEP is implemented.

At the country level, the Project will hire a Safeguards Officer (part-time member of the PMU, but to be costed under the Components rather than from the project management budget) who will be a qualified stakeholder engagement facilitator, to undertake/facilitate all or portions of the stakeholder engagement activities. The Safeguards Officer may be assisted, where necessary, with community facilitators who are able to work in local languages (where relevant, ideally from the same ethnic group/culture). A Gender and Social Inclusion Expert will also be hired to assist with gender-responsive planning aspects.

8. Grievance Redress Mechanism

UNDP?s SES recognize that even with strong planning and stakeholder engagement, unanticipated issues can still arise, and project stakeholders need to be able to communicate any concerns or complaints to both project implementers and UNDP.

The Project will establish a project-level gender-sensitive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) during the first year of implementation. The full details of the GRM will be agreed in the ESIA phase and will be available within the first half year of the project and before start of implementation of field-based activities. The GRM will allow stakeholders to raise a grievance at any time with either the Project Management Unit (PMU), the national Implementing Partner, UNDP, or GEF.

UNDP?s Accountability Mechanism (SECU and SRM) will also be available to all the stakeholders:

- ? The SECU investigates concerns about non-compliance with UNDP?s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and Screening Procedure (SESP) that are raised by project-affected stakeholders and recommends measures to address findings of non-compliance.
- ? The SRM helps project-affected stakeholders, UNDP?s partners (governments, NGOs, businesses) and others to jointly address grievances or disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of UNDP-supported projects.

9. Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and evaluation

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be periodically monitored and evaluated by the Project Management Unit team. The following indicators will be used for monitoring/evaluation:

- ? Level of understanding of the project stakeholders;
- ? Annual grievances received and how they have been addressed; and
- ? Level of involvement of affected people in committees and joint activities and in the project itself.

To measure these indicators, the following data will be needed:

- ? Issues and management responses linked to minutes of meetings;
- ? Monthly reports or quarterly;
- ? Feedback from primary stakeholder groups (through interviews with sample of affected people);
- ? Commitment and concerns register; and
- ? Grievance register.

Two distinct but related monitoring activities in terms of timing will be implemented:

- ? During the engagement activities: short-term monitoring to allow for adjustments/improvements to be made during engagement; and
- ? Following completion of all engagement activities: review of outputs at the end of engagement to evaluate the effectiveness of the SEP as implemented.

Reporting

Monthly and Quarterly Reports

The PMU will prepare brief monthly or quarterly reports on stakeholder engagement activities for the GEF committee, which will include:

- ? Activities conducted during each month or quarterly;
- ? Public outreach activities (meetings with stakeholders and medias, etc.);
- ? Entries to the commitment and concerns register;
- ? Progress on partnership and other social projects;
- ? New stakeholder groups (where relevant); and
- ? Plans for the next month and longer-term plans.

Those periodic reports will be used to develop annual reports reviewed by the GEF.

Annual Stakeholder Engagement Reports

The PMU will compile a report summarizing SEP results on an annual basis. This report will provide a summary of all public consultation issues, grievances, and resolutions. The report will provide a summary of relevant public consultation findings from formal and informal meetings held at community level. These evaluation reports should be submitted to the GEF committee of project evaluation, and a summary of the results will be provided for the annual report.

Reporting back to the Communities

It will be the PMU?s responsibility to report back to the communities in the following ways:

- ? Sharing main findings from the annual monitoring;
- ? Sharing reports and making them available on project website, with copies sent to stakeholders that cannot readily access the internet;
- ? Sharing summary of findings on notice boards;
- ? Sharing progress on implementation of mitigation measures, also community development plans and social investment initiatives; and
- ? Reporting directly to villages/communities through the liaison team that should be established.

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In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The specific ways in which key stakeholders will be engaged through the project are outlined in Annex 8. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. The main reasons stakeholders will be consulted and engaged during the project implementation include: (i) to promote a wide understanding of desired project outcomes; (ii) to increase sense of local ownership of the project?s purposes and activities through collaborations in planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities; (iii) to communicate with men and women from Gabon in manners both consistent and effective; and (iv) to maximize important linkages and synergies between this project other related projects.

At high level, the project is designed to advance the uptake of integrated landscape management (including critical water resources, hence the common reference to integrated watershed management), requiring *long-term collaboration across a wide range of stakeholders* to achieve multiple objectives simultaneously, such as the sustained delivery of ecosystem services, fisheries, agricultural production and other forms of support to local community livelihoods, as well as the preservation of natural and cultural heritage and associated values. The project therefore needs to bring together a wide range of stakeholders including government, civil society, and the private sector, as well as women and men from local communities to ensure participatory and inclusive planning, decision-making, monitoring, and knowledge-sharing.

It is of paramount importance that project stakeholders be approached respectfully and in good faith while also considering differences in terms of gender and social inclusion. This is enabled when sound principles for fair and equitable engagement are adopted, such as outlined in the following Table. Further, such *engagement strategies* apply not only for the design phase but throughout the project?s implementation.

Principles guiding stakeholder engagement during project implementation:

Principle	Stakeholder participation will:		
Value Adding	be an essential means of adding value to the project		
Inclusivity	include all relevant stakeholders		
Accessibility and Access	be accessible and promote access to the process		
Transparency	be based on transparency and fair access to information; main provisions of the project?s plans and results will be published in local mass-media		
Fairness	ensure that all stakeholders are treated in a fair and unbiased way		
Accountability be based on a commitment to accountability by all stakely			

Principle	Stakeholder participation will:		
Constructive	seek to manage conflict and promote the public interest		
Redressing	seek to redress inequity and injustice		
Capacitating	seek to develop the capacity of all stakeholders		
Needs Based	be based on the needs of all stakeholders		
Flexible	be flexibly designed and implemented		
Rational and Coordinated	be rationally planned and coordinated, and not be <i>ad hoc</i>		
Excellence	be subject to ongoing reflection and improvement		

Project stakeholders will be engaged in many different ways in the project: from informational interaction, to in-depth consultations and co-design of outputs and activitites, to implementation-oriented partnerships for achieving the desired results. Many stakeholders have already been engaged throughout the startup design phase, and the means for planned engagement through the project timeframe is presented in more detail in the Prodoc Annex 8. Stakeholder Engagement.

For their part, women play a key role in forest management? especially in poor and indigenous communities? but they continue to face obstacles in gaining access to resources and related benefits as well as decision-making power in regard to natural resources. Recognition of the specific role played by women in the use of natural resources is therefore crucial to tackle some of the significant gender inequalities in Gabon, which can negatively impact the environment.

The project landscape also includes IPLCs, including Indigenous peoples. For this reason, the project has been designed not only on the basis of institutional government priorities, but also informed by consultations with local communities, especially indigenous communities, following the principles of free, prior and informed consent.

In regard to government stakeholders, all outputs and activitites are embedded in the national framework of Emerging Gabon (and Green Gabon) and build on the Sustainable Development Law that was passed in 2014. Practically, the project will work through the hierarchy of ministerial and departmental offices, provincial government administrations and their branch offices and services, and village councils recognized on basis of legal status or customary traditions. Notably, local government offices include amongst their mandates to perform functions related to forest landscape management, including wildlife management, as well as advance social and economic development for communities. Further, emerging civil society in Gabon will also be engaged, as their strong sense of commmitment to particular places and people can be critical for succes, essential for achieving lasting local ownership and sustainability.

The project will thus support integration across stakeholders, sectors, and geographic scales, requiring high levels of coordination in the project, leading to broad harmonization in environmental monitoring, resource assessments, planning, and land and natural resources management.

The project statekholder analysis undertaken during project preparation has highlighted the following key players:

Key stakeholders	Short description, including interest(s) in project ? longer description included in prodoc
GOVERNMENT	

DGEPN Direction G?n?rale (DG) de 1?Environnement et pour la Protection de la Nature	Implementing Partner under the national Ministere des Eaux, des Forets (MEF), de la Mer, de l'Environnement, charge du Plan Climat et du Plan d'Affectation des Terres (in English, Ministry of the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, Forestry and the Sea), which is in charge of the implementation of the Gabonese government's policy on the environment and protection of nature. DGEPN is mainly responsible for: (i) coordination and control of activities of different units under the DG?s authority; (ii) execution of plans and programs according to fixed schedule; (iii) all studies relating to projects to be implemented; (iv) centralization of all data necessary for definition of means and evaluation of results; and (v) application of the legal texts that are in force related to the environment and protection of nature.
	Several other government bodies also operate the DGEPN?s authority, specifically the <u>ANPN</u> , which provides execution support for national parks and other protected areas across the country (together with their partnerships with communities and and other local stakeholders in PAs? perhipheral zones, cf. co-management under the CCGL model, <i>Comit?s consultatif de gestion local</i>) and <u>DGFAP</u> , <u>DGEA</u> , <u>DGF</u> and <u>DGI</u> , government bodies providing environmental policy, regulatory support and guidance in their respectives areas of specialisation in nature conservation. See below for more details about the ANPN and about the DGFAP, DGEA, DGF and DGI.
ANPN Agence Nationale pour la Protection de la Nature	The Agence Nationale pour la Protection de la Nature (ANPN) (in English, National Agency for the Preservation of Nature) was created by decree no 00111/PR/MEFPEPGE on 4 April 2017, with a mission to execute government policies on knowledge, protection, management and promotion of national biodiversity. ANPN may also receive other missions related to its areas of??competence.
DGFAP Direction G?n?rale de Faune et des Aires Prot?g?es	DGFAP is tasked with implementing the Government?s policy in matters pertaining to Gabon?s fauna and the country?s network of protected areas.
DGEA Direction G?n?rale des Ecosyst?mes Aquatiques	The mission of DGEA is to implement the Government's policy related to the management of water assets.
DGF Direction G?n?rale des For?ts	DGF is responsible for implementing Government policy in the forestry sector.
DGI DG des Industries (DGI), du Commerce du Bois et de la Valorisation des Produits Forestiers	DGI is responsible for implementing the Government's policy in the field of industrialization of the wood sector, exploitation, processing and the marketing of forest products other than timber.
AGATOUR Agence Gabonaise de D?velopment et de Promotion du Tourisme	AGATOUR assists the Government in the implementation of public policies in tourism development.
DGT Direction G?n?rale du Tourisme	Under Gabon?s Ministry of Tourism?s leadership, DGT leads development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks for tourism in Gabon.

NATIONAL NGOs	
OELO Organisation Ecologique des Lacs et de l?Ogooue https://oelogabon.org/	OELO has worked for more than a decade in the project landscape (specfically in the Bas Ogooue region) and it has five main programme areas: - Ecotourism development, aiming to generate baseline operational funding - Environmental education? this is OELO?s largest programme, with own team - Sustainable fisheries and community development, including development of community cooperatives, lakes? management plans, participatory monitoring - Biodiversity research? both local and international, including monitoring of manatee, and research on wildlife markets in Libreville - Changing consumer preferences regarding bushmeat Additionally, OELO began to work in community forestry in 2021. OELO partners with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in several of its
MINAPYGA Mouvement National des Autochtones Pygm?es du Gabon	work programmes. Established in 1997, MINAPYGA is the first indigenous NGO in Gabon, legally registered under N ? 0061/MI/SG of 8/12/1997 at the Ministry of the Interior of Gabon. Minapyga has four main objectives: To educate, raise awareness and train its members (indigenous
	peoples) to strengthen themselves, e.g. in poverty alleviation initiatives - To defend the human rights of its members - To protect the forest as members? haven of peace - To help members become the lead actors as well as beneficiaries of their own sustainable development

NADA Nsombou Abalghe-Dzal Association	NADA?s origins come from the Community Wildlife Project Gabon launched by the Poulsen Lab at Duke University in 2015 (see Table 15), when a team of paraecologists? local community members employed as researchers and community organizers? were trained to conduct wildlife inventories in the forests of their villages' forests. Nearing the end of the second phase of the project, focusing on community monitoring and management of bushmeat hunting, paraecologists and local project leadership established the importance of a formal structure for staying and growing together, scaling impact in close collaboration with yet also beyond Duke and other outside initiatives. In December 2019, the Gabonese NGO NADA was born with the mission of sustainable and equitable natural resource management established and maintained by rural Gabonese communities.				
	NADA works across four scales:				
	? Locally: community-led research to inform and facilitate sustainable wildlife management.				
	? Landscape: facilitating collaboration between local communities, logging companies, and national parks across the Ivindo landscape.				
	? National: working with the Gabonese government for sustainable and equitable policies.				
	? Global: contributing to similar initiatives internationally through scientific publications, communication, and collaboration with a wide range of partners.				
	NADA?s pertinence to this project is on the national scale, in providing training and technical support to replicate their novel paraecology, biomonitoring, and participatory mapping approaches across the project landscape.				
AGAFI Association Gabonaise des Femmes Indig?nes	Initially a specialized body of MINAPYGA NGOs, AGAFI aims to gradually strengthen their autonomy within the framework of REPALEG (R?seau des Populations Autochtones et Communaut?s Locales du Gabon)				
ADCPPG Association pour le D?veloppement de la Culture des Peuples Pygm?es du Gabon	Estabished in 2003, ADCPPG aims to defend the rights of Pygmies in the development process of the country. The association was created in response to UNESCO's request that a network of indigenous associations in Gabon be established with the aim of reconciling traditional cultures with modernity.				
Association Culture Nature EDZENGUI	Created in 2002, the association's objectives are to promote and encourage cultural, scientific and tourist activities in north-east Gabon; in partnership with private or public organisations and national or international institutions.				
LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS and IN					
Indigenous peoples and local communities / IPLCs	In addition to individual rights of their members, IPLCs also have collective rights under international law.				
Traditional authorities	Certain individuals (e.g. elders) are often mandated as custodians of communal lands, overseeing land and natural resource allocations within their respective jurisdictions.				

Local community associations that are involved with community forests in the project landscape

Providing local level leadership in land use and natural resources management. Based on the stakeholder analysis conducted during the PPG phase, the project seeks to empower the following assocations:

- Association TU GHO KONDE (Doussala)
- Association DIAMBU ga MANGU (Tsamba

Magotsi/Fougamou)

- Association TOKANO (Tsamba Magotsi)
- Association EBANZA (Tsamba Magotsi)
- Association des Pecheurs du Moyen-Ogoou?
- Association des Ecoguides du Moyen-Ogoou?
- Association Mabendo (Mouyikou)
- Association Haute Boumi
- Coop?rative Itsana
- Coop?rative des Produits Artisanaux de Mbigou (COPAM)
- Club Sud Avanture (CSA)
- ONG Nyanga Tour

(idem.)

As a second-level priority, the project also seeks to collaborate with the following:

- Association PESSU-PESSU (Tsamba Magotsi)
- Association AFIPO (Tsamba Magotsi)
- Association SADETI (Tsamba Magotsi)
- Association MUPUNGUE (Ndolou/Mandii)
- ONG BEMBODIE (Ndolou/Mandji)
- Association MUTEME MOSHI (Lou?tsi-Wano/L?bamba)
- Association des Guides/Ecoguides du Moyen-Ogoou?
- NGO MOUYISSI Environnement
- Association des Coop?ratives du Lac Ogu?mou? (ACLO)
- Oveng-Nk?l
- Abanga Islang
- Bane Ba D?le

INTERNATIONAL NGOs

TNC Gabon

The Nature Conservancy

https://www.nature.org/enus/about-us/where-wework/africa/gabon/

TNC initiated and developed a series of projects located mainly in the watersheds of Mb? and Bas-Ogoou?. Its first intervention site was Mb?, with aim of sustainable management of the Mb? river forest watershed through the development of a payment for environmental services (PES) mechanism. This funding mechanism aimed to ensure long-term protection of the forest watershed which has a very high conservation value.

In the Bas-Ogoou? region, TNC collaborates closely with OELO (Organisation Ecologique des Lacs et de l?Ogooue) and supports local communities with around ten cooperatives. Current work is centred on monitoring the sustainable fisheries management plan for the Lake Oguemou?. Launched in 2018, the project requires the collection of data on fishing activity in order to design a better database that can help make management decisions better adapted to the expectations of the people living in this region while ensuring the continued ecological integrity of the lake. Several projects have been launched together with OELO to help the local cooperatives diversify their sources of income, which to date remain mainly focused on fishing products? including small projects on chicken breeding, beekeeping, agriculture with experimental electric fences (supported by Space for Giants), and soon a community forest project. All these activities are carried out in the field by a group of 3 cooperatives representing the majority of the villages of Lake Oguemou?.

WCS Gabon Wildlife Conservation Society https://gabon.wcs.org/	WCS has been in active in Gabon since the 1980?s, and started by supporting pioneering studies of forest ecology. WCS? support for a nation-wide biodiversity evaluation of the most intact areas of forest in Gabon formed the basis for creating 13 national parks in 2002, representing all major ecosystems. Working in partnership with the Government of Gabon, today WCS works in four national parks across two major landscapes, including the Ivindo-Chaillu Massif Landscape, which harbours a range of endangered species including forest elephant and mandrills. To help resolve key conservation challenges, such as from forestry exploitation, WCS carries out research and provides technical support and capacity building. In addition, it transfers field experiences and		
	key lessons learned to conservationists from across the region through professional training programs organized and delivered from its purpose-built CEDAMM training centre in Lop? National Park. Mandrill tourism is under development in Lope.		
WWF Gabon World Wildlife Fund https://www.wwf- congobasin.org/	WWF Gabon focuses its activities on the Gabonese segment of the Gamba-Conkouati Landscape covering 75% of the Landscape. It has been active for over two decades, first putting in place conservation infrastructures followed by wildlife and socio-economic inventories. WWF supports protected area management, tourism development, land use planning, involvement of the local population in natural resource management, and also building partnerships with the private sector for wildlife management.		
	A main strengths of WWF?s Southern Gabon Conservation Programme is its landscape (or holistic) approach to conservation, therefore targeting maintenance of large ecosystems rather than restoring or rehabilitating patches of habitats or protecting specific species. The Gamba-Mayumba-Conkouati Landscape is transnational and centred on the Loango, Moukalaba-Doudou and Mayumba national parks in Gabon and Conkouati-Douli National Park in the Republic of Congo. The Gamba Conkouati Landscape is known for its diversity in habitats, varying from sea and coastal vegetation, to lagoons, wetlands up to the lowland forest-savannah mosaic.		
BRI Biodiversity Research Institute https://briwildlife.org/	BRI?s mission is to assess emerging threats to wildlife and ecosystems through collaborative research, and to use scientific findings to advance environmental awareness and inform decision makers.		
	BRI is the co-executing agency with WHO on a global project to eliminate mercury in skin-lightening creams, where Gabon is the focal country for Africa. BRI is a strong collaborator with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, including co-leading the Global Mercury Partnership?s Fate and Transport Partnership area, and leading the biotic component for mercury monitoring. BRI Conducts MIAs, reviews all MIAs, and is developing the global mercury inventory database for UNEP.		

FSC Gabon Forest Stewardship Council https://fsc.org/	FSC is an international non-profit, multistakeholder organization established in 1993 that promotes responsible management of the world's forests; an example of a market-based certification program used to influence transnational environmental policy. In Gabon, it supports the development and adoption of ?100% certification? for the country?s forest use over the next couple years? and also now exploring how to translate gains made at level of forest concessions into community forests.
	The revised FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) of The Republic of Gabon was adopted in December 2020 and applies to all categories of management units that are operating in the country?s natural forest and/or plantations. The revision process of the NFSS began in 2015 and consisted of adaptation to FSC Principles and Criteria with inclusion of important indicators related to Intact Forest Landscapes, wood tracking, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples? and local communitie.
CIFOR Center for Int?l Forestry Research	CIFOR conducts scientific research on the most pressing challenges of forest and landscape management around the world. As part of the Congo Basin, Gabon
Panthera https://www.panthera.org/	Panthera is the only organization in the world devoted exclusively to the conservation of the world?s 40 wild cat species and their ecosystems. In Gabon, focus is on collaboration with ANPN to increase protection for wild cats by enlarging the protected area estate as well as increasing connectivity between protected areas? including, e.g., between Waka National Park and other protected areas in the Du Chaillu Massif. Panthera also supports wildlife surveys, including trial use and development of novel conservation technologies and participatory approaches in several parts of the country; including Nyanga province.
Space for Giants https://www.spaceforgiants.org/	Space for Giants aims to protect the natural ecosystems that support Africa?s largest mammal, the elephant; and to do so in ways that ensure/encourage that they remain valued by people so that they can endure forever. Major focus is on reducing human-wildlife conflict (HWC), particularly with trial development of electric fencing solutions. This work is further complemented by projects with NTFPs and local livelihoods, raising awareness, and capacity development and participating in government and fora. Initial trials in the project landscape are underway (planned) in the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site.

Brainforest https://www.brainforest- gabon.org/	The mission of Brainforest is to achieve a Gabonese society in which the environment will be protected with the active participation of local populations. Created in 1998, the NGO aims to promote sustainable development and the equitable management and sharing of benefits deriving from the country?s rich natural resources. The organization?s projects are spread across the country, and they are always participatory in nature as the organization fundamentally seeks to help inform and accompany/partner with IPLCs.		
	On 19 January 2019, Brainforest organised a workshop with support of WWF Gabon and the ?Gabon, Ma Terre, Mon Droit? (Gabon, My Land, My Right) Platform to enable civil society organisations involved in the forestry law review process to strengthen the document? with aim to ensure that local communities? and Indigenous Peoples? rights were considered in the drafting of the Water and Forests Code. The platform is an initiative of 20 Gabonese NGOs and resource people focusing on a range of issues such as land tenure, land grabbing, and advocacy for community rights. The aforementioned draft law was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 26 February 2019.		
Forest People Programme https://www.forestpeoples.org/	Human rights organisation working with forest peoples across the globe to secure their right to their lands and their livelihoods.		

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; Yes

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain) Yes

Collaborative management structures will be formed (or supported, strengthened) across the landscape for different project outputs and activities, including in relation to protected areas. Collaborative approaches also are promoted throughout the program of work, as an integral/fundamental element of the new mode of conservation endorsed and promoted by the project, cf. inclusive and rights based approaches in conservation, for collective benefits.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

There is a risk that the benefits derived from this project will not accrue equally to women and men unless specific actions are taken to identify obstacles and address them in a way that recognizes the

many deeply entrenched beliefs and approaches leading to such inequities. This will require the application of multiple and diversified interventions targeting a diversity of stakeholders at different levels in many different development sectors? aiming to ensure a global buy-in regarding the multiple challenges that women are facing as well as recognizing and realizing the benefits that may be derived if women were to be included in an equitable manner.

Given the strong environmental focus of the project, consideration must also be given to the fact that men and women act and experience life differently in relation to the environment, including forest biodiversity, which requires appropriate (re)framing for some of the programming to consider such gender differences, including differences related to the knowledge held by women, barriers to participation, and differences in needs and aspirations related to biodiversity and forest use. This is especially relevant when considering approaches to ensure equitable inclusion of women and men in NTFP projects, where women face many obstacles in gaining access to and control of natural resources.

In addition to challenges in accessing land, women are likely to face barriers in accessing market information and financial resources needed to be able to participate equally. Women involved in ecotourism projects are likely to face similar obstacles, with experience in the region showing that women tend to occupy mainly low-ranking, low-paying and insecure jobs such as housekeeping and gardening.

The literature review (see Annex 10) has also identified the following sub-sets of vulnerability that must be considered in the project: indigenous women, rural women, female-headed households, trafficked women and children, women in polygamous relationships, widows living in poverty, children and youth, child brides, and disabled peoples. A process should be undertaken at the outset of the project to further validate the existence of these groups as well as to identify any additional sub-groups.

In this context, gender equality and women?s empowerment are at the heart of UNDP and the Government of Gabon?s development mandate, and the project seeks to shift from previous models focused mainly on gender-aware?do no harm? approaches, toward a more proactive gender-responsive?do good? approach? leveraging all possible opportunities to address gender gaps, which are critical for acheiving global environmental benefits.

The project also recognizes that gender dimensions must be widely incorporated across the project, not only through disconnected, stand-alone ?gender activities.? It aims especially to create positive synergies between improved environmental impact and greater gender equality.

Thus, a focus on women?s leadership both in institutional capacity development actions and through support to community-centred initiatives such as development of local associations are noted as being of paramount significance and will be advanced. In parallel, the project will help raise awareness and generate knowledge about gender dimensions in development and conservation and the project?s knowledge management (KM) component will help capture lessons learned and make them available and proactively disseminating them in a format and using mechanisms that are accessible to both women and men and other vulnerable populations.

Recognition of women?s experience and knowledge will play an important role in the on-going design and development of project activities and their implementation, especially in regard to the development of community-oriented value chains and in environmental monitoring. The project will disseminate information to women on their potential roles and benefits from the project, aiming to foster greater participation. All project workshops also will establish quotas for participants, aiming to encourage gender participation equality in practice by addressing any barriers women may face to full and meaningful participation? even as the project seeks to move beyond basic quota approaches and thus enable more transformative changes.

Beyond the immediate and direct values of adopting rights-based approaches for women and girls? and for social inclusion more generally? an emphasis on gender and rights in this project will also contribute to the further strengthening of project responses and outcomes in relation to the more systemic global challenges of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic.

To advance these purposes, the high-level recommendations that are highlighted in the Gender Action Plan (GAP) (Annex 10) include the following: 1) ensure that men are also included in gender-related processes, in part to avoid the potential for back lash; 2) avoid treating men and women as homogeneous, so that other vulnerabilities can also be identified that could otherwise impede people?s ability to benefit equally from the project; 3) gather both quantitative and qualitative data in order to facilitate the cross validation of data and avoid the typical but overly simplistic ?head count? approach; 4) address deep-seated cultural norms, adopting a more holistic approach involving outreach to multiple stakeholders across multiple sectors and levels of society where the project operates; 5) consider how to navigate customary laws, especially given their tendency to discriminate against women; 6) recognize the need for sufficient technical and financial resources for gender and social expertise to be available throughout the project cycle and linked to all project components; and 7) identify and devise strategies to address specific barriers faced by women and other vulnerable populations throughout the project cycle and across all of its components.

The project implementing team will work with women and support their meaningful involvement in activities. It will also endeavour to gather disaggregated data for monitoring and reporting purposes. More specifically, the project includes gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps and promote gender equality and women?s empowerment? including support for existing women?s cooperatives as well as with preferential engagement and support for women elsewhere with capacity development and institutional strengthening, as well as by raising social awareness more broadly regarding roles, rights and opportunities for women and other vulnerable populations.

The project thus seeks to contribute to closing several important remaining gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources, particularly through (i) strengthening the governance and management of community forests, both existing community forests and others that are still in development; (ii) improving women?s share of benefits arising from the sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including economic benefits as well as ecological services; (ii) improving women?s level of engagement in decision making (cf. governance) in livelihoods including NTFPs, inland fisheries and nature-based tourism, in the development of community forests, and also in matters pertaining to environmental monitoring in protected and conserved areas.

Matching the above activities with the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy, three main gaps are addressed:

- Unequal access to and control of natural resources and/or areas and territories (e.g. community forests)
- Unbalanced participation and decision making in environmental planning and governance, at all levels
- Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services deriving from the use of natural resources Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The private sector will be engaged in two ways in this project. First, the project will support government services as they interact with industrial entreprises; in the form of forest concessions. Ten concessions have been provisionally identified during the preparation phase, on which basis the project will support and strengthen the IP and its affiliates (including provincial branch offices of environmental services as well as protected area management authorities), enabling them to participate in the strengthening of pertinent national frameworks, laws, and guidelines; building government technical capacities for environmental and compliance monitoring of forest concessions, and for better understanding and applying (or requiring the application of) Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and development of Social and Environmental Management Plans (ESMPs) for the forest concessions in their jurisdiction. Additionally, the project will build capacities and provide opportunities to broaden and strengthen partnerships between government authorities and IPLCs in the project landscape, aiming to jointly work toward conservation purposes held in common.

The second and more fundamental way in which the project will engage with the private sector is through development (and/or strengthening) of nature-based value chains, focusing on support to community entreprises; such as through the development of community NTFP sustainable business operations in community forests, as well as enhancing benefits to communities through community fisheries, community tourism, and other ancilliary business opportunities. This will be achieved through the project?s Component 3, which is focused on strengthening community livelihoods through the private sector in ways that nevertheless ensure sustainability in the use of natural resources, as well as contributing to conservation of strategic forest landscapes through community empowerment, awareness, and capacity development.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Overall, the project is categorized as high risk following SESP review (for more details see Annex 5 in prodoc). UNDP?s Risk Register is included in Annex 6.

Project risks and mitigation measures are highlighted in the Table below.

In regard to risks pertaining to Covid, most notably, the overarching ecological perspective of this forest landscape governance and conservation project is that the protection and sustainable management of intact ecosystems and production landscapes? with human encroachment and fragmentation of natural ecosystems reduced, and healthy wildlife populations protected? tend to reduce the overall likelihood of future zoonoses emerging and spreading. Specific risks (implications) and opportunities related to the pandemic are presented in the subsequent tables.

Project risk assessment and mitigation measures

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
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Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Short term economic and local livelihood considerations may take precedence over long term gains from integrated landscape-level management approaches	Strategic	P = 3 I = 3 Moderate	The project is oriented towards meeting both short-term livelihood needs of IPLCs (with increased household incomes, food production, capacity development) and securing longer-term local and national needs (ecosystem restoration, reducing vulnerabilities with increased resilience in livelihoods). The project will raise local awareness amongst IPLCs, civil society organizations and the government, and will advocate for a shift in focus from shorter-term economic gains toward longer-term benefits for the broader population. Project coordination and communications will help to increase transparency and accountability.	PSC	Likely increase due to the high unemployment and continued dependence on agriculture and remittances from towns, and high levels of rural poverty
Limited local expertise to implement project and/or to follow-up key interventions	Strategic	P=4 I=4 High	A combination of national and inter-national expertise will be sought to support implementation, bringing the requisite development of technical competencies alongside the particular project needs. Although such external expertise is not sustainable on its own, with a plan for training, mentorship and transfer of knowledge, the agencies and partners engaged in the project will be strengthened for long-term sustained contributions in forest conservation.	PSC	Local expertise in integrated landscape-level management of important biodiversity areas and in rights-based ?IPLC? approaches in conservation likely to remain limited if not supported with awareness and development of professional capacities

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Delays in critical policy reforms across sectors for enabling effective integrated land use planning and forest conservation, due to insufficient political will and/or slow bureaucratic processes	Strategic	P=4 I=4 High	PMU will engage senior leadership of relevant ministries, advocating and facilitating broader ownership and support of project purposes. Project coordination and key communications will assist in fostering change, along with the intersectoral dialogues that will be advanced by the project.	PSC	To be monitored closely
Increased institutional capacities to manage forest areas including PAs could negatively affect IPLCs if relevant systems are not in place? particularly if focusing on short-term protection but leading to reduced IPLC access to natural resources, leading to effective economic displacement	Social	I=3 P=3 Moderate	The project is informed by findings from many consultations and FPIC processes. Following recommendations of ESMF, an ESIA will be carried out in the first year of the project, leading to preparation of an ESMP that will cover all risks; including a framework for those risks that are not fully known. Additionally, rights-based approaches will be applied in all phases of project implementation, as well as active and inclusive stakeholder engagement to ensure that partners, beneficiaries and affected groups are sufficiently informed about intended outcomes and approaches. The project will also pilot, in participatory and gender-responsive ways, income-generating activities as nature-based solutions for improved forest and land management, minimizing the risks for vulnerable populations.	PMU	Implementation of the ESMF and development of ESIA and ESMP to be monitored closely, with other affiliated plans including GAP and IPP

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Limited information, knowledge and capacities: (a) Insufficient capacities of duty bearers to meet obligations for integrated landscape planning; and (b) Insufficient capacities of rights holders to claim their rights.	Strategic	a) I=5 / P=4 High b) I=2 / P=3 Moderate	The project has a strong focus on increasing skills and providing up to date information to all stakeholder groups, to enable them to actively engage in project initiatives. In addition, an education and awareness strategy will be formulated and implemented to raise awareness of male and female rights-holders about potential roles as well as responsibilities and entitlements in regard to access and use of natural resources for securing livelihoods and advancing local economies.	PMU	Declining with current focus on integrated and sustainable landscape level management at national level
Women?s access to forest resources could be restricted, due to enforcement of PA rules	Social	I=3 P=2 Moderate	The project has developed a gender action plan based on an initial gender analysis during project preparation. The strategy will be refined further under the project to guide project implementation in coordination with implementation of the ESMP.	PMU	To be monitored closely

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Loss of ecological connectivity across the landscape due to limited coordination or failure to ensure integrated responses could jeopardize other forms of conservation progress made, due to fragmentation	Strategic	I=3 P=3 Moderate	The project addresses potential <i>de facto</i> fragmentation of the landscape in two main ways: by refocusing conservation approaches beyond standard networks of PAs, instead considering ?protected and conserved areas? inclusive of IPLC-based conservation; and by providing the necessary development of capacities to ensure that forest concessions are able to conduct and apply appropriate ESIAs and that agencies are in turn able to monitor compliance (including in regard to development of access roads, as well as socioecological impacts); and this is agreed by the Government and IP.	PSC	To be monitored closely
Allocation of budget from government for conservation may be insufficient, or re-oriented for other purposes	Strategic	I=4 P=1 Low	Co-financing from the Government of Gabon derives mainly from new carbon payments dedicated to conservation of forest landscapes, with biodiversity and climate goals well aligned with project as well as with national ?Gabon Emergent?.	PSC	To be monitored

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Lack of cooperation between the project stakeholders including government and non-government partners could limit the project success, given that a core focus of project is inclusive governance and decision-making	Operational	I=4 P=3 High	The project is designed on current best practice guidelines in area-based forest conservation, recognized nationally and internationally, particularly emphasizing the central role of local communities (cf. IPLCs) and related requisite areas/forms of cooperation, as well as partnerships for strengthening of nature-based value chains for livelihoods and sustainability.	PSC	To be monitored closely
The pandemic could limit the abilities to implement planned activities	Operational	I=4 P=4 High	The challenges associated with Covid are reduced in large part by depending as far as possible on national consultants (vs. international) along with decentralized approach that devolves implementation to local levels in government agencies and with local service providers from Gabon?s emerging civil society	PMU	To be monitored closely
Changes in leadership of agencies, regions and/or protected areas could negatively affect the project?s implementation	Operational	P=2 I=3 Moderate	To mitigate this risk, awareness raising and institutional capacity development are core features of the project across sectors and administrative levels.	PSC	To be monitored closely

Description	Туре	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Status
Climate change: some rainfall & temperature patterns are changing, with negative impacts expected to affect some elements of forest biodiversity, livelihoods, and economy.	Environmental	P = 3 I = 2 Moderate	The project seeks to ensure ecological integrity of the socio-ecological system. As such, all project activities have been designed to improve the state of the ecosystem and its ability to provide goods and services, which will reduce vulnerability considerably. Appropriate land management (e.g. SLM) in context of integrated watershed management and local application of climate smart agriculture are good ways for adapting livelihoods to effects of climate change. Ensuring regional ecological connectivity and building a resilient network of IPLC-supported ?protected and conserved areas? are further ways to increase resilience to climate change.	PSC PMU	To be monitored closely
Insufficient attention to and/or capacity to implement safeguards policies may trigger grievances, including from IPLCs, that may delay project implementation	Safeguards	P = 2 I = 3 Moderate	During the PPG, a comprehensive ESMF has been developed that will be complemented by ESIA-ESMP (with various specific safeguards plans, such as Indigenous Peoples Plan, Livelihoods Action Plan) at the beginning of project implementation. A safeguards specialist will be part of the PMU. Safeguards policies will be a focus of UNDP oversight, by the CO and at regional level, during project implementation.	PSC PMU	To be monitored closely

Summary of the risks (implications) from the Covid-19 pandemic

Risk category Potenti	al Risk Risk level	Mitigations and Plans
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Availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines	Continued or renewed efforts in COVID-19 containment are likely over the course of project implementation	Medium	The project development work plan and team have been built with this in mind, for example, maximizing experts in country. However, if the number of Covid-19 cases increases beyond the currently low numbers and is not effectively contained, project start-up and implementation could be delayed. Methods for biosecure implementation will be used, such as remote communication, use of PPE, etc.
	Limited capacity for remote work and interactions in the	Medium	The project will attempt to hold consultations in open spaces, and will ensure strict observance of government safety protocols.
	project landscape in Gabon		Availability of international personnel on-site will depend on working in a post-pandemic scenario. However, if the pandemic persists, experience in Gabon and elsewhere to date indicates that remote video training modules could be developed and that planning work can be accommodated in this manner in places at least in provincial towns where wifi is available.
Difficulties of implementing community engagement activities	Depending on the development of the pandemic in-country, it may be difficult to do community-level consultations	Medium	Local level consultation will comply with government guidelines and UNDP-CO guidelines. For example, it is likely that teams for field visits and consultations will be small, and they will likely meet and consult with small group sizes (under 50 people or per local guidelines). Additionally, COVID protocols will be developed and followed, such as testing, and supply of sanitizer and masks. In any case where either party is not comfortable to engage in discussions, it will not proceed. As much as possible, remote connections will be sought, for example via local government offices or civil society organizations visiting communities.
Stakeholder engagement process	Government may be too occupied with COVID issues to deal with regular business	Medium	At the national level, Government has its protocols in place for staff, and is requiring a full normal workload. Meetings are being conducted in small groups and via video. Unless there is a major increase in the pandemic, the risk is considered medium to low.
Enabling environment	Impacts on co- financing could result	Medium	The availability of co-financing could be affected by changes in government fiscal priorities and exchange rates if there is a major increase in the case numbers. While this possibility cannot be excluded as long as vaccines and their uptake are limited in country, the likelihood of reduced co-financing is considered medium since Government is fully supportive of the project.
Travel by tourists	Lack of tourists as a result of Covid reduces livelihood options	High	The project will assess the potential for recovery of the tourism market (especially international market) and to identify specific disease risk mitigation and prevention measures for a post-Covid19 recovery of the tourism industry.

Future zoonoses Potential for adverse impacts that might contribute to future pandemics, e.g. human-wildlife interactions and other actions that can cause degradation	The project will proactively work to reduce high-risk human-wildlife interface in order to reduce risk of future pandemics, while over the long-term promoting an intact landscape with healthy wildlife populations. The Project will implement a protocol and programs for promoting the health of project workers and partners likely to interact with wildlife (e.g. great apes), if/where this may be advanced through the project. These protocols will be designed to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases between humans and primates in the project area. The project will also design and implement a health-related program, strengthening vaccinations (among project staff and contractors) for human diseases that are of some concern particularly for great apes.
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Summary of opportunities arising from the Covid-19 pandemic

Opportunity Category	Potential	Project Plans
Can the project do more to protect and restore natural systems and their ecological functionality?	High	The project has been designed to ensure long-term integrity, conservation and sustainable use of its target landscape and ecosystem functions. Reducing encroachment of human land uses and fragmentation of ecosystems will also contribute to reducing the risk of future zoonoses.
Can the project regulate the consumption and trade of wildlife?	High	The project will reduce unregulated hunting and trade of wildlife / wild meat in the target area through awareness and by strengthening the management of protected areas, especially by promoting alternative livelihoods to hunting. Particular emphasis will be placed on the protection of non-human primates, where the risk of zoonoses is particularly high? both protecting their habitats and reducing hunting.
Can the project include a focus on production landscapes and land use practices within them to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts?	High	The project focuses on a landscape corridor composed of protected and conserved areas and surrounding community areas. Its objective is to ensure the sustainable management of both protected and surrounding 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 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.

Can the project promote circular solutions to reduce unsustainable resource extraction and environmental degradation?	High	The project will ensure sustainable procurement, careful waste management, avoidance of contribution to POPs (eg by reducing the use of pesticides including unauthorized ones in/around the target landscape) and GHG emissions (through forest conservation). Landscape planning will contribute to recovery of the natural vegetation and enhanced landscape connectivity and carbon storage.
Short-term opportunity to support Covid economic recovery	High	The promotion of sustainable use of non-timber forest products including agroforestry in and around the target landscapes, as well as sustainable tourism in community forests and formal protected areas, will all contribute to income generation and the recovery of the local economy. All alternative livelihoods activities are intended towards green growth models and a circular economy by focusing on business models and land uses that incorporate climate, biodiversity and sustainability.
Can the project innovate in climate change mitigation and engaging with the private sector?	High	A large part of the project involves working with local communities to mainstream climate mitigation and biodiversity into their land uses, including community entreprises as well as other elements in forest related private sector value chains.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The project will be implemented following UNDP?s Supported NIM (national implementation modality) with UNDP providing country support services to the Implementing Partner via a Country Office as agreed in the LOA included in Annex. The Implementing Partner responsible for executing this project is the *Direction G?n?rale de l'Environnement et de la Protection de la Nature* (DGEPN), embedded within Gabon?s Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF).

Specific tasks of the partner are outlined in the Section VI. Governance and Management Arrangements in the prodoc.

For its part, UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project, including oversight of the project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner, to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project. UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member. Additionally, a firewall will always be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP.

The Government of the Republic of Gabon, being fully committed to ensuring successful and timely delivery of this project but having received the results of the July 2021 HACT Micro assessment of the designated Implementing Agency (IP) of this project? the General Directorate of the Environment and

Nature Protection (DGEPN) under the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change (MEF), assessed with a rating **significant risk**? has requested support by UNDP for the project (Supported NIM), as outlined in detail in the prodoc.

While UNDP primarily provides oversight and assurance roles, it will also aid in project execution by providing support services as outlined in the request letter (see Annex 16) as a risk mitigation strategy. Direct Project Costs (DPC) associated with this limited execution support role of UNDP are included in the PMC budget, with \$215,000 of the budget coming from GEF through the project and \$35,000 from UNDP as co-financing.

As a project executed as Supported NIM with Government as Implementing Partner, the following structure is planned.

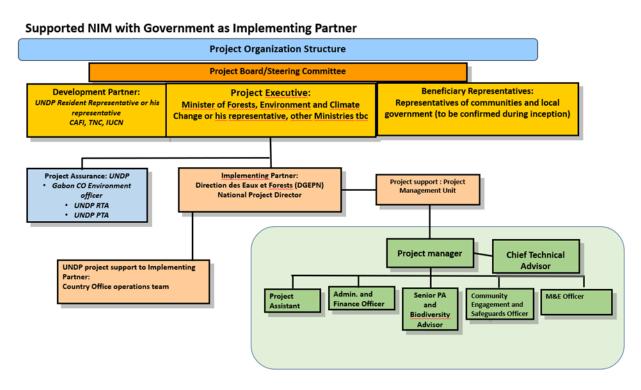


Figure 20. Supported NIM with Government as Implementing Partner

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP?s Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe

in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

In this Supported NIM project, UNDP?s implementation oversight role in the project? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function? is performed by UNDP Environmental Focal Point Guilhem Ribaucour. UNDP?s execution support role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by Ketty Inoussa Akoussa, Finance Analyst & PMSU, Laetitia Biye, Procurement Associate, one additional Procurement Associate (to be hired), and one additional Admin and Finance Associate (to be hired), all of whom will report to Mirana Rahiravola, Operations Manager.

<u>Project Board</u>: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

- 1) High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Provide Oversight? section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
- 2) Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the ?Manage Change? section of the POPP).

Composition of the Project Board: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

- **Project Executive**: This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or cochairs) the Project Board. The Project Executive is: Minister Lee White or his representative
- Beneficiary Representative(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. The Beneficiary representative(s) is/are: representatives from community forests in the project landscape, local management advisory committee (CCGL), the association MINAPYGA (Mouvement National des Autochtones Pygmees du Gabon), and others. (Full list to be confirmed during project Inception Workshop, to take place within two months of the project?s formal start date.)

- **Development Partner(s)**: Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) (Berta Pesti, Technical Advisor and Head of the Secretariat), National Center for Scientific and Technological Research (CENAREST) (Alfred NGOMAMDA, Commissaire G?n?ral), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) (Marie-Claire Paiz, Gabon Country Program Director), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as lead in the GEF Congo IP Impact Program. (tbc at project inception workshop)

Further details about the segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP, along with other matters of project governance and management arrangements including detailed roles and responsibilities for the project board and others and provisions for execution of the project through a Project Management Unit supported by technical/expert staff and short-term consultants, are provided in the Section VI of the prodoc.

Technical Advisory Council (TAC): The TAC will be developed at the project launch and endorsed during the inception workshop under the authority of the Project Steering Committee, but having primary relations with the PMU. The TAC will be chaired by the NPD and it will be comprised of experienced individuals with expertise in landscape conservation, integrated watershed management, the economics of biodiversity, inclusive conservation, and environmental monitoring? thus constituting a diverse multi-disciplinary team of scientific/technical experts willing to serve in honorary capacity on a prestigious, hands-on committee.

<u>Support from decentralized units</u>: In addition to the PMU?s monitoring missions and their involvement in selected project activities, field support for the project will be provided through decentralized offices and local teams of government administrations, including protected areas? field offices; with direct expenses covered from budgets of project outputs, as outlined in the project budget, but not local staff salaries.

<u>Outsourced technical support</u>: Finally, the PM and PMU will also be supported technically by national and international experts, NGOs, companies and/or academic institutions to be contracted as outlined in the prodoc for specific outputs and activities, with contracted service providers to be funded from relevant project outputs? and activities? budgets (or as may be revised during project implementation for purpose of streamlining operations, contingent on approval of relevant oversight authorities, e.g. PSC).

The following table outlines the <u>project personnel</u> that need to be put in place to execute the GEF7 project.

PROJECT STAFF POSITION	TYPE OF ROLE / APPOINTMENT	SOURCE OF FUNDING
FUNDED BY GO	DVERNMENT	
National Project Director (NPD)	Government appointment, high level oversight	No salary or salary top-up from the project is allowed, only expenses
Project Manager (PM)	Government appointment	Funded by government
Admin and Finance Officer (AFO)	Government appointment	Funded by government
FUNDED BY TH	IE PROJECT	

Management roles	S	
Project	Project management	Half time, funded by project
Assistant		
Technical roles		
International	Capacity building of the IP (DGEPN)	From Components 1 to 3
Capacity	and other project partners in technical	
Building Expert	matters related to the technical	
	components of the project.	
Senior PA &	High level advisory role	From Component 2
Biodiversity		
Advisor		
Community	Technical role, part time	From Component 4
Engagement	_	
and Safeguards		
Officer		
M&E Officer	Technical role, part time	From Component 4

More details about project staffing including draft terms of reference (ToRs) for PMU staff, consultants and other service providers that will be contracted for project implementation are detailed in Annex 7.

<u>Project coordination with other Congo IP child projects</u>: The project, through its PMU, will coordinate activities and learnings with other Congo IP child projects in the Congo Basin. Knowledge? including lessons learned? will be shared with other Congo IP projects as integral part of knowledge management and communications strategies, and cross-project dialogues will be encouraged and enabled under Component 4, especially in relation to joint learning/exchange about inclusive forest landscape governance and co-management.

The main points of convergence between fellow Congo IP child projects under the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes (Congo IP) Impact Program are outlined in the following table.

CBSL child projects	Project title	Overlapping thematic areas
Congo IP Regional Project (UNEP)	Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin	Includes a transboundary area with Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, in the Crystal Mountains; which is <i>de facto</i> extension of Gabon project landscape
Congo IP Republic of Congo (UNEP)	Integrated Community-Based Conservation of Peatlands Ecosystems and Promotion of Ecotourism in Lac T?l? Landscape of Republic of Congo	Focus on community-based conservation, also on peatlands as carbon-rich habitat and ecotourism for income generation
Congo IP Equatorial Guinea (IUCN)	Transforming and scaling up results and lessons learned in the Monte Alen and Rio Campo Landscapes through an inclusive Landscapescale approach, effective land use planning and promotion of local governance	Transforming forest conservation with landscape-scale approaches and more inclusive and local forms of governance
Congo IP Cameroon (WWF)	Integrated management of Cameroon?s forest landscapes in the Congo Basin	Collaborations with IPLCs including Baka indigenous people, and development of community-based private entreprises by strengthening value chains, land tenure, PA co- management approaches

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAS, NAPS, ASGM NAPS, MIAS, NBSAPS, NCs, TNAS, NCSAS, NIPS, PRSPS, NPFE, BURS, INDCs, etc.

The proposed GEF-funded project is consistent with national and global priorities. In particular, it directly addresses the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on land) as well as SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities) and SDG 13 (Climate action). The project also aims to contribute substantially to the SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) as a result of the participatory approaches adopted through the project, emphasis on community livelihoods, along with improvement in forest cover and biodiversity in the project landscape.

The project also matches the objectives of national REDD+ plans, namely to use forest preservation as a leverage to promote sustainable development for the benefit of Gabon?s citizens. The specific significance of the project?s targeted landscape lies in its inclusion of much of the country?s ?large intact forest areas? with relatively little disturbance, hence highest levels of biomass (cf. carbon stock) as well as biodiversity, including e.g. forest elephants and lowland gorillas.

Furthermore, both GEF and national partners across the Congo Basin region recognize the importance of adopting landscape level (area-based), integrated (multi-sector) and inclusive (multi-stakeholder) approaches for sustainable forest management. For its part the Congo IP seeks especially to focus on high conservation value forest landscapes (with consideration of carbon stocks), inclusive governance, mainstreaming biodiversity across development sectors, rights-based approaches,[1] and more. Finally, in regard to primary forests the project will strengthen oversight of the Government of Gabon over existing forest concessions, especially with a view to reducing impacts of timber harvesting in previously logged (secondary) forests, and it will also support the sustainable management of community forests with focus on non-wood forest products and the sustainable management of regenerating (secondary) forests.

https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/environment/srenvironment/pages/biodiversity.aspx. Also see the UNEP document *Human Rights and Biodiversity: Key Messages*,

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/35407/KMBio.pdf; and the IISD Policy Brief *Why Biodiversity Matters: Mapping the Linkages between Biodiversity and the SDGs*,

^[1] According to a 2017 report submitted by former Special Rapporteur Mr. John H. Knox at the 34th session of the Council meeting (of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) on *human rights and biodiversity*, in which the author examines human rights obligations relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, ?Biodiversity around the world is rapidly being degraded and destroyed, with grave and far-reaching implications for human well-being. A human rights perspective on biodiversity is important because it: (a) Helps clarify that the loss of biodiversity also undermines the full enjoyment of human rights; (b) Heightens the urgent need to protect biodiversity; (c) Helps promote policy coherence and legitimacy in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.? More detail and link to the report are available at

https://sdg. i is d. org/commentary/policy-briefs/why-biodiversity-matters-mapping-the-linkages-between-biodiversity-and-the-sdgs/.

The alignment of the project with specific national priorities is described in the following table.

National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions	Description of consistency
National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC	Gabon has voluntarily set itself NDT targets to cope with environmental changes, defining a more ambitious target, namely: By 2030, the country is committed to achieving the objective of "Zero deforestation" by view of achieving NDT (Land Neutrality). In this context, all degraded lands defined by the reference line (2000-2015) must be restored. The specific targets defined by Gabon are Promotion of traditional agriculture through sustainable agricultural practices; Reduction to 0.15% by 2030, of the loss of forest cover estimated at 0.25% between 2010-2015; Halving by 2030, the decline in land productivity estimated at 9.71% between 2001-2015; The 19,895.85 ha of agro-industrial land, the soils of which are threatened with degradation, are monitored for sustainable management; Operationalization of the National Land Allocation Plan for better land use; Restore the 19.13% loss in soil carbon linked to land conversion.
National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD	The United Nations General Assembly at its 58th session adopted resolution A / Res / 58/211 which declares "2006 as the International Year of Deserts and Desertification (AISD)" (National Action Program to Combat Land Degradation, PANLCDT). In accordance with the provisions of the basic text of the CCD in its article 3 and the regional annex for Africa (articles 6 and 8), the preparation of the PANLCDT involves several categories of actors, whose concerns must be seriously taken into account. The PANLCDT allows the establishment of an environment favorable to a permanent dialogue between the actors, in order to generate a broad consensus on the content and the orientations of the programs to fight against land degradation. It also promotes the establishment of flexible financial mechanisms, allowing priority mobilization of national resources to support initiatives to combat land degradation. The provisions of article 10 of the basic text of the CCD make the PANLCDT the main instrument which allows the translation of the Convention into concrete actions. In this perspective, the program reviews the current state and evolution of natural resources; assesses actions against land degradation control; and defines elements of the action program (National Action Program to Combat Land Degradation in Gabon PANLCDT, 2002). The GEF7 project meets the above objectives, as through its actions it protects biodiversity by promoting the sustainable use of resources as well as by taking into account the opinions of the stakeholders through consultation sessions.
ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining) under Mercury	Gabon is one of the first countries to ratify the international conventions prohibiting use of mercury for gold mining, such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury in 2014. Among the obligations of this agreement is the establishment of a national action plan, following the recommendation of a comprehensive analysis of the national situation of the sources of mercury emissions and its spread in all components of the environment. Artisanal mining contributes to deforestation, soil degradation, air pollution by dust and carbon monoxide, pollution of soil and water from used oils from engines as well as chemicals (e.g., used batteries abandoned at the bottom of wells containing manganese or lead), and loss of biodiversity, deterioration of the landscape, etc. The GEF7 project will address several of the issues arising from artisanal mining through an environmental monitoring sub-output, which will include awareness raising regarding the harmful effects of such gold mining with its socio-environmental and health impacts.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

Under Component 4, knowledge management will be mainstreamed (together with the communications messaging, and project monitoring and evaluation) to enable learning, adaptive management, replication, and upscaling. Participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation will be at the core of the project result-based management and knowledge sharing approaches. Participatory monitoring and evaluation help to ensure adequate communication as well as use of relevant information and experiences from stakeholders.

The process of participation also contributes to accountability and ownership of project activities? these are included within the project?s overall Stakeholder Engagement Strategy? thereby increasing the likelihood of sustainability, and replication. Participatory monitoring and evaluation mechanisms such as lessons and messages from community-based partnerships, from the project?s steering committee and technical advisory board, from coordination and exchanges with parallel projects engaged in similar thematics, as well as from regular project reporting? all these sources will feed the knowledge management system? thus, ultimately contributing to project learning processes.

During the inception phase a communication plan will be developed, to ensure adequate engagement and information of stakeholders at all levels. Lessons and good practices derived from implementation will be codified and shared with all relevant actors as identified in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan to facilitate replication and upscaling. Good practices will be disseminated through national and international media, including radio stations, websites, and relevant blogs, social media forums, etc.

South-south cooperation: The project will provide opportunities for project implementers and key stakeholders to participate with ?sister projects? under the Congo IP Impact Program along with other selected projects and initiatives in debating and jointly developing nature-based solutions to climate change, with special attention to be given to REDD+ approaches, valuations of nature (cf. ecosystem accounting, but also intrinsic worth) and a strengthening of forest-based sustainable livelihoods. The project will equally explore opportunities whereby implementing parties may meaningfully participate in regional discourses related to forest conservation? especially in the development of protected and conserved areas with more inclusive area-based conservation approaches.

In practice, learning opportunities and knowledge/technology transfer from and to peer countries will be explored and enabled during the project in three main ways: (i) participation in strategic national and regional development dialogues, meetings, workshops, and conferences about forest livelihoods and nature conservation; (ii) development of the project?s knowledge management system with the aim to encourage and enable the capturing of key lessons and their internal/national dissemination; and (iii) codifying good practices and sharing these by way of on-going South-South and other global knowledge sharing platforms, such as through the Africa Solutions Platform and the IUCN PANORAMA Solutions.[1]

Communication and coordination with other Congo IP projects will also bring learning opportunities, allowing for professional capacity development and regional networking opportunities, as well as further development of support mechanisms in Gabon and coordinated responses to common challenges with other countries. These outcomes will all be supported/organized through the knowledge management and communications strategy elements of the project, and will additionally be coordinated by the PMU with the regional Congo IP project.

A tentative estimate of the total budget assigned to Knowledge Management is provided in the following table:

Knowledge Management budget

Impl Agent	Item	2022 (USD)	2023 (USD)	2024 (USD)	2025 (USD)	2026 (USD)	2027 (USD)	2028 (USD)	Total (USD)
	C 4	()	()	()	()	()	()	()	()
PMU	Component 4. Community Engagement & Safeguards Officer (CESO) ? contributions to KM system @ 25%	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,500	18,000
PMU	Component 4. Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (MEO) ? contribUtions to KM system @ 25%	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,500	18,000
	International Capacity								
PMU	Building Expert @ 10%	6,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	72,000
IP	Project manager @ 10%								
DMIT	Development of the project?s KM system	10,000	10.000	10,000	5,000	0	0	0	25,000
PMU	(Output 4.1) Technical	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	0	0	0	35,000
IP	support for KM activities and maintenance	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	24,000
- 11	Development	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	24,000
PMU	and delivery of project communications (Output 4.2)	0	9,000	9,000	9,000	4,000	4,000	0	35,000
SP	Youth competition to promote public awareness about multiple values of forest biodiversity	0	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	50,000
	Translation costs (to be included in delivery of outputs from key activities implemented by service								-
SPs	providers)	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,000	15,000

PMU	Air and road travel of project staff (drawn from several sources, i.e. project activities across all 4 components)	2,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	24,000
	TOTAL Knowledge	,				,			,
	Management	42.502	24.502	(2.740	20.502	(2.740	(0.740	(2.740	201 000
	Cost	42,593	34,593	63,748	39,593	63,748	68,748	63,748	291,000

[1] *Solutions for a healthy planet? cross-cutting, global learning and exchange,* https://panorama.solutions/en

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results and their corresponding indicators will be monitored annually as well as evaluated periodically during project implementation. The mid-term and end-of-project targets are indicated in the project results framework (see *Section IV. Project Results Framework* in the prodoc), and the project?s Monitoring Plan is included in the prodoc as Table 24 in the *Section V. Monitoring & Evaluation*, including detailed roles, responsibilities, and the required frequency of monitoring of project results. If any baseline data for the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of the project?s implementation.

All activities and associated costs for the project?s monitoring plan are organized and reported under the Output 4.5.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP (including guidance on GEF project revisions) and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies.[1] The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

Specific GEF monitoring and reporting requirements are outlined in the following Table.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:

This M&E Plan and budget provides a breakdown of costs for M&E activities to be led by the PMU during project implementation. These costs are included in Component 4 of the Project Results Framework. The

participation and oversight of UNDP Country Office, Regional Technical Advisors and HQ Units are not included, as they are covered in the GEF Agency Fee.

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project ex	recution:	
GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by PMU	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report Responsible party: PMU	\$20,000	Inception Workshop within 2 months of the First Disbursement
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework <i>Responsible party: PMU</i>	None	Annually and at mid-point and closure (see MTR and TE, below)
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR) Responsible party: PMU	None	Annually typically between June - August
Monitoring of gender action plan and ESMF related action plans (including IPP and Livelihoods plans)	(see plans)	On-going
Supervision missions	\$ 12,000 for travel costs associated with regular supervision missions over 6 years	As required for PMU to fulfill monitoring responsibilities. At minimum, annually.
Learning missions	\$ 12,000 for travel costs associcated with learning missions over 6 years	As needed
Periodic project-wide progress reports (including the supervision and learning missions mentioned above, to be undertaken to sites as required)	None	Quarterly; compiling all monitoring elements, including safeguarding management frameworks
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	\$ 50,000 for independent international consultant to undertake mid-term review \$ 14,000 for national consultant to support IC for MTR	08 July 2025

Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	\$ 60,000 for independent international consultant to undertake comprehensive terminal evaluation	30 May 2028
	\$ 16,000 for national consultant to support IC for TE \$9,789 for in-country travels for consultants for both MTR and TE	
TOTAL indicative COST Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff and travel expenses	\$ 193,789	

Additional requirements and guidance about the project?s inception workshop, GEF Project Implementation Reports, mid-term and terminal evaluations, final reporting, intellectual property rights, and more, are included in the prodoc?s *Section V. Monitoring and Evaluation*.

In addition to the above mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities that may be deemed important or even necessary to support *project-level adaptive management* will be agreed upon during the Inception Workshop and detailed in the Inception Report. Such self-monitoring will take place under the PMU in response to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that will be undertaken in Year 1 and the ensuing Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that will be developed, aiming to ensure that risks and impacts are duly addressed including additional required plans such as Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)? which are, furthermore, both mandated by UNDP policy.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project aims to deliver direct socioeconomic development benefits to a total of 30,000 beneficiaries, of which at least one-third are women (together with their households) and indirect benefits to an estimated 336,219 beneficiaries nearly evenly split between women and men. These benefits range from capacity development (trainings) and support toward employment under the GEF7 project, particularly household and community small businesses, bringing various forms of direct and indirect livelihoods support. The project specifically aims to raise household well-being (for selected households). The project moreover

^[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies guidelines

aims to involve a share of at least 25% of forest dwelling and forest dependent people (IPLCs) in project recruitment, consultations, and activities, and to proactively engage and empower IP representatives through capacity development for the future.

The project strategy is based on the assumption that joint management of the landscape and its natural resources, in partnership between local communities and formal conservation authorities, will contribute to the reduction of social conflict and insecurity, to the sustainable recovery and use of natural resources, as well as to biodiversity conservation. Furthermore, enhanced partnership and reduced social conflict will provide enabling conditions for rational sustainable land use practices promoted by the project and for resource conservation.

Through support for different forms of community biomonitoring (both in partnershp with protected area authorities and by local communities independently) and through a documentation and preservation of local and traditional knowledge, including ecological knowledge, the project also builds on local skills and interests, cf. assets-based development; this additionally builds local community members? capacities in environmental monitoring (including use of technology) and increases collaborations with protected area management staff, potentially leading to alternative/diversified job opportunities in the future.

Overall, the additional contribution of community involvement in conservation (beyond prior ?standard? emphasis on national parks and nature reserves) is expected to lead to a considerably increase in biodiversity protection? both with additional manpower as well as knowledge and skills, on one hand, and with the empowerment and recognition/support of endogenous community conservation initiatives, on the other hand. Taken together, moving beyond the ?PA model? and toward a more inclusive ?protected and conserved area? model of conservation emphasising governance as well as management issues, conservation outcomes are expected to be maximized alongside a much greater sense of wellbeing of indigenous peoples and local communities, IPLCs. This project is built on such an emerging conservation paradigm, with numerous examples regionally and globally informing project design.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	a MTR	TE	
	High or Substantial			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Risk Description	Impact	Significanc	Comments	Description of assessment and
	and	e	(optional)[JM1	management measures for risks rated as
(broken down by	Likelihoo]	Moderate, Substantial or High
event, cause, impact)	d (1-5)	(Low,		
		Moderate		
		Substantial,		
		High)		

Risk 01 - Consultation may not be comprehensive
Full participation of potentially affected stakeholders in the design and implementation of the Project is critical. However, because of logistical, language and cultural barriers, there is a risk that consultations with local women and men (incl. FPIC [JM2] [II3] with Indigenous People) may not be comprehensive. If the Stakeholder Engagement is not properly designed and managed including by ensuring the full and equitable participation of women and the most vulnerable, there is a risk that women, Indigenous People, minorities, marginalized groups, and other excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities) could be discriminated, sidelined, and not effectively involved during the different project phases resulting in them being negatively impacted by the project or in not benefiting from positive project results.
Principle 1: No One
Left behind Principle 2: Human
Rights
Principle 5: Accountability
Standard 6:

Indigenous Peoples

I	
Substar	.4:.
Substai	HUZ

I = 4

L = 3

UNDP SES require
Comprehensive
Stakeholder
Engagement
Plans for High
Risk projects,
which means
comprehensive
and meaningful
consultations
and/or
engagement.

Many project activities involve consultations and engagement with stakeholders, including Indigenous Communities. Ensuring the engagement activities are inclusive and comprehensive is key to the success of the Project.

The project is assessed as ?high risk? on account of three interrelated aspects: the project?s engagement with (i) protected areas, including national parks; (ii) gender aspects of access to natural resources (cf. governance, decision-making) and the sharing of benefits derived from their use; and (iii) presence of indigenous peoples (forest dwelling people) who have traditionally valued and used the territories that are now overlapping with the formally designated protected areas and other land and natural resources in the project landscape.

During the PPG, assessments and meaningful, effective and informed consultations were conducted in the project landscape. These consultation activities, following FPIC approach, were led by an experienced Environmental and Social Safeguards Expert and by a Stakeholder Engagement professional who also has good understanding of local contexts and profound knowledge of consultation with local communities, in order to both gather views and concerns of stakeholders and facilitate their full contribution to project design. This engagement process, captured in the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan [JM4] (SEP), includes means of disclosure of information in a format that is understandable and relevant to local women and men and participation with consultations in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner.

An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed during the PPG phase to predict, evaluate, avoid, and where avoidance is not possible mitigate the adverse social and environmental impacts of activities. The ESMF and an Indigenous People Planning Framework (IPPF) developed during the PPG phase will further

During the implementation phase, an Indigenous People Plan (IPP) will be elaborated and included in the project documentation. The IPP will identify potential risks and impacts, risk avoidance and mitigation measures, and specifies measures for provision of culturally appropriate benefits, continued consultation and participation processes, grievance procedures, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and a budget and financial plan for implementing agreed measures.

Risk 02 - Project activities affecting the	I = 4	High	The Project will engage	FPIC consultations started during PPG and the input from Indigenous People and
rights of Indigenous	L=5		with	Local Communities (IPLC) informed the
People	2 0		Indigenous	design of project activities. Meaningful
Copic			People and	engagement will continue during the
While the project has			Local	implementation phase. The engagement
an explicit focus on			Communities	process will take into consideration the
strengthening the			(IPLC) in a	rights of Indigenous People and the
			, ,	disadvantages faced by them, linked to
human rights,			way that	vulnerabilities, such as limited access to
participation, and self-			ensures that	
determined			they are fully	education, low literacy levels, negative
development of local			aware of the	stereo-typing and inadequate
and forest dependent			Project and	understanding of national or site-specific
communities,			able to provide	policy and programming processes. Whe
experience throughout			meaningful	necessary, civil society organizations
the Congo Basin has			input in its	representing and deemed acceptable by
shown that the use of			development	Indigenous Peoples will also be engaged
forest resources,			and	to provide additional support.[JM6]
whether for			implementation	
conservation or			, as well as the	The IPPF was developed during the PPG
resource utilization,			activities, the	phase. An IPP will be developed during
has often been			outcomes, the	the implementation phase.
perceived as			roles and	in imprementation phase.
negatively affecting			responsibilities	
the basic rights of			of each	
Indigenous People.			stakeholder,	
margenous reopie.			the risks and	
D 41 - D : 4			impacts	
Because the Project			associated with	
involves impact on				
lands, natural			the Project, as	
resources, territories,			well as the	
and traditional			project?s	
livelihoods of			mitigation and	
indigenous peoples in			management	
this particularly			measures.	
sensitive region (i.e.				
Congo Basin), there is				
the risk that the Project				
could face grievances				
or concerns about				
project activities				
affecting the rights of				
Indigenous People.				
There is also a risk that				
project activities can				
conflict with the				
development priorities				
of Indigenous People				
and Local				
Communities (IPLC),				
as defined by them.				
as actified by filetif.				
Principle 2: Human Rights				
Principle 5: Accountability				

Standard 6:

I = 3 L = 5	Substantial	This risk is prevalent given the baseline situation in the project landscape (including gender-based violence? GBV)	During the PPG, the project ensured women?s full participation in the discussions and decisions about project activities. In advance of undertaking consultations, steps were taken to gather information about obstacles faced by women, their preferred approaches for consultation, and how to provide and share information with them. A Gender Expert is part of the PPG Team and the Project Management Unit also will hire such an expert part-time to ensure gender mainstreaming, and a Gender Analysis and Action Plan have been developed during the PPG phase and will be regularly updated, implemented, and monitored during the full project.
			L = 5 prevalent given the baseline situation in the project landscape (including gender-based violence?

Risk 04 - Unintended economic exclusion of people. Despite consultations and a commitment of the project to focus on the strengthening of the rights and livelihoods of women and men from IPLCs, i.e. local communities including Indigenous People in the project landscape, there is still risk that Project activities may lead to the unintended economic exclusion of some people. Principle 2: Human Rights Principle 5: Accountability Standard 5: Displacement and ResettlementStandard 6: Indigenous Peoples	Moderate	For example, a focus on tourism activities involving the viewing of wildlife may exclude those who used to live from hunting, and the protection of community managed forest areas may reduce the income opportunities for those who used to work for logging or mining companies in those same areas.[JM7]	As part of the full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), a comprehensive socio-economic and livelihood assessments of the targeted communities [JM8] [II9] will be carried out by people with expertise and understanding of the local contexts and concerns of local women and men. These assessments will lead to better understanding of the socio-economic dimensions and challenges in the project area (livelihood strategies, existing sources of livelihood, and other socio-economic information as appropriate). This baseline information will be analyzed including from the perspective of gender and social inclusion and factored into the design of specific activities, to ensure that socioeconomic and community consequences (both positive and negative) of the planned interventions of the Project are appropriately addressed. A Livelihood Action Plan will be prepared. A monitoring process which will include regular consultations with local women and men will be put in place to identify any issues or concerns that may arise and address them in a timely and transparent manner. Consultations will follow FPIC approach. An Indigenous People Planing Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be developed for the implementation phase.
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Risk 05 - Impact on elements of cultural value Because the Project sites overlap with lands and territories traditionally used by Indigenous People, there is a risk that tangible and intangible elements of cultural value will be impacted by the project activities. There is a risk that such traditional knowledge and practices could be mishandled or mismanaged by project staff or experts, whether this be intentionally or otherwise. Such situations could lead to serious grievances and/or erosion of trust between the Project and Indigenous People, ultimately jeopardizing project outcomes. Non-indigenous elements of cultural value could also be impacted. Principle 2: Human Rights Standard 4: Cultural Heritage Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC) across the Project landscape possess traditions and cultural (tangible and intangible) assets that should not be negatively impacted.	The Project will identify existing information-sharing structures for local communities and partners and determine the most appropriate way to manage sensitive information, in agreement with the community. The Project will implement globally recognized practices for field-study and collection of TEK. The project will also draw upon current work of the World Intellectual Property Rights (WIPO) that seeks to protect the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. Where potential adverse impacts on traditional ecological knowledge may be significant, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be developed as part of the overall Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Th Project will implement Cultural Awareness training for project staff and personnel of implementing partners to raise awareness about both tangible and non-tangible cultural heritage in the Project area. The Project will also, per the ESMF and as part of the ESIA/ESMP[JM10] [III1], outline actions and measures necessary for the effective management of risks and impacts to cultural heritage. This will include a Chance Finds Procedure, which details the necessary steps to be taken if any culturally significant artifact is found during the Project. All these consultations for this matter will be done following FPIC approach. An Indigenous People Planing Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage, and an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be developed for the implementation phase.
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Risk 06 -	I=3	Moderate	Pollution due	The Project will ban the use of pesticides
Environmental			to project-	and other chemicals or materials subject to
pollution due to	L=3		sponsored	international bans, in its sponsored
project-sponsored			activities	activities. More importantly,
activities			should be	
			prevented.	On a larger scale, the project will ensure
Where the project			1	sustainable procurement, careful waste
activities result in			Any	management, avoidance of contribution to
improved incomes and			environmental	POPs (eg by reducing the use of pesticides
livelihoods for local			and/or health	including unauthorized ones in/around the
communities, the			issues resulting	target landscape) and GHG emissions
increased generation of			from an	(through forest conservation).
waste (e.g. human			eventual	
waste, metal scraps,			pollution	the project will include environmental
plastic, batteries,			should be	awareness activities with local
chemicals, etc.) may			addressed	communities on how to avoid issues
be an unintended			using	related to waste management and
consequence that			appropriate	environmental pollution.
requires management.			safeguards.	1
If not properly				The Environmental and Social
managed or disposed				Management Plan (ESMP) will promote
of, such wastes could				efficient and effective use of resource and
easily pose risk to the				pollution prevention to avoid, minimize or
health and safety of				adequately mitigate adverse impacts on
local communities, as				human health and the environment (i.e.,
well as wildlife				wildlife and ecosystems). Good project
(especially				management and monitoring & evaluation
conservation priority				will minimize these risks.
fauna species) and				
ecosystems that				Additionally, involving community
support them.				members in water monitoring activities
				will not only generate credible data and
To a limited extent, the				information, but also builds trust and helps
promotion of activities				resolve or avoid issues/conflicts
such as agroforestry				surrounding perceived or actual impacts
and fisheries				on water.
[JM12] [II13] may				
involve the use of				The project will allocate resources
pesticides,				(financial, human and material) to ensure
hydrocarbons (fuel),				safeguard measures are in place and that
and other chemicals,				responses are planned in the event of
without the Project				environmental disasters, such as chemical
always being aware or				spills or health impacts linked to Project-
able to adequately control such use. This				sponsred activities.
could pose a risk to the				
environment and				
community health, which in turn will				
likely pose an undue				
burden on women and				
girls given the role				
they play in caring for				
the sick and elderly.				
the sick and elderry.				
Standard 1:				
Biodiversity				
Conservation and				
Suctoinable Natural	1			

Sustainable Natural

Resource

Risk 07 - Raised concerns or grievances not being properly addressed Project-affected people (PAP), including Indigenous People, might not be able to effectively claim their rights, raise their concerns or file grievances, due to limiting factors and barriers. Such barriers include, but are not limited to, awareness, logistics, language, culture, literacy, and technology. If the questions, concerns, grievances and/or objections raised by the PAPs are not properly addressed, the achievement of the Project?s objectives could be jeopardized.	I = 5 L = 3	Substantial	Ensuring all stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to a rights-compatible grievance redress mechanism is key to the local buy-in and to the success of the Project.	The Project will carry out comprehensive, gender-responsible consultations with local communities and other stakeholders within project sites, and will allow them to raise objections or concerns and/or to request additional information. The Project will accommodate their expressed interest and concerns in the final project design and the design of particular project outputs and activities. The Project will also develop a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is proportional, culturally appropriate, accessible, and transparent, and that ensures appropriate protection for claimants, and the Project also will inform the stakeholders about the existence of the mechanism and how to use it. The GRM will include an early warning system, helping to identify problems and close gaps in a timely and cost-effective manner, avoiding escalation into more entrenched or complex disputes. The GRM will be executed through the implementing partner. As needed or as requested, UNDP will be available to help the implementing partner to address project-related grievances as part of its oversight and assurance roles.
Principle 1: Leave No One Behind				
Principle 2: Human Rights				
Principle 5: Accountability				
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples				

Risk 08 - Some	I = 4	Substantial	The project	Implementation of the SES is integral to
project stakeholders	1 - 4	Substantial	will involve	UNDP?s quality assurance responsibilities
[JM14] [II15] not	L=3		personnel from	and to the project?s design[JM16].
adhering to			several parties	and to the project is design[siviro].
Safeguards standards			for its	All project outputs, especially Output 3,
			implementation	will involve the participation of many
UNDP Values and			(various	implementing partners. UNDP is
Principles and UNDP			Government	responsible to inform all implementing
Social and			ministries,	partners and responsible parties of their
Environment			NGOs and	obligations to duly incorporate the Social
Standards are high			other third-	and Environment Standards in their
standards drawn from			party	respective activities, including those
international best			institutions).	related to gender equality.
practices, and the				
project stakeholders			At the time of	Throughout consultations and other
may not be aware of			project	project engagement processes, the Project
the requirements and			implementation	Team will ensure that stakeholders are
obligation of these			, all these	aware of the requirements and their
standards. There is a			partners will	obligations under UNDP Social and
risk that project			not necessarily	Environment Standards and overarching
stakeholders including			be aware of UNDP	Principles. This will be done through
the implementing partner and other			technical and	meetings, training, and document sharing.
Government agencies			safeguarding	The Environmental and Social
do not have adequate			requirements.	
knowledge, capacity or			requirements.	Management Plan[JM17] (e.g. Indigenous People Plan, Livelihood Action Plan, etc.)
commitment to meet			Capacity gaps	will also specify the roles and
their project			are also	responsibilities of each stakeholder
obligations, especially			expected to	involved.
in relation to the above			have a	111,011,001
Principles (e.g. Human			dimension on	
Rights, Leave No One			gender and	
Behind, Gender			Indigenous	
Equality and Women?s			Peoples.	
Empowerment, etc.)				
and/or UNDP?s Social				
and Environment				
Standards.				
A failure on the part of				
one or more project				
partners to adhere to				
these high but widely agreed standards could				
negatively impact the				
achievement of project				
objectives.				
30,000.00.				
Principle 2: Human				
Rights				
Principle 5.				
Principle 5: Accountability				
Accountability				
	L	<u> </u>	L	1

Risk 09 - Impact to land and livelihood (economic displacement[JM18])

The Project and its activities in or supporting forest concessions will potentially bring changes to land use and/or tenure arrangements. There is a risk that such changes could limit access to some portions of land, livelihood and natural resource previously used by communities, including Indigenous People. Additionally, loss of assets or of access to such assets could lead to the increased competition between projectaffected communities (including Indigenous People) in remaining available and accessible land and natural resources. There is a risk that this situation could impact on or change land tenure arrangements, and competition could create or fuel conflict among community members.

Since project activities will be developed in areas where Indigenous People are present, and on lands and territories claimed by Indigenous People, the Project, therefore, has the potential to impact the lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods and rights of indigenous peoples. This could also result in economic displacement, loss of assets or loss of access to land and resources.

Moderate

I = 3

L = 3

Not all forests used by local communities are formally recognized or registered, and their geographic scope is not always clearly known to local stakeholders. Therefore some community members might be carrying out activities outside the boundaries of the community forests.

These people could be economically displaced when the community forest are clearly demarcated (Activity 3.3.1) and activities/uses prohibited outside the limits of the forests.

Since the Project and its activities will potentially bring changes to land access and/or land tenure arrangements.

It is important that the rules for those lands are established in a participatory manner with the communities.

That way, even if there are residual negative Beside the risk of conflicts, loss of assets or loss of access to assets can lead to the loss of income sources or other means of livelihood to the affected parties which in some cases can exacerbate pre-existing high rates of poverty and inequality. As part of the ESIA process, the Project will carry out a socio-economic survey that will determine baseline data on income generation (e.g. monthly income, livelihood strategies, existing sources of local livelihoods, and other information; taking into account also the challenges and differences in terms of options for both male and female indigenous peoples, as appropriate).

The Project will develop a Livelihood Action Plan (LAP) outlining the procedures and actions that will be undertaken in order to ensure that the capacity, production levels, and standards of living of economically displaced people are improved or at least restored, and that displaced people are compensated adequately. The LAP will also includeconsideration of gender differences in terms of access and type of livelihoods. The LAP is to be provided with sufficient project resources and opportunity to enable IPLC stakeholders who could lose access to their assets or resources to benefit from the project activities. The LAP will aim to improve affected persons? livelihoods, both women and men, in real terms compared to the preimpact levels or to levels prevailing prior to the start of implementation, whichever is higher.

An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) was developed at PPG stage and an IPP will be developed at the project implementation stage to address the impacts related to Indigenous People.

The Project equally will ensure that stakeholders are aware of the existence of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and encourage them to use it to raise concerns and complaints. The purpose of the project Grievance Redress Mechanism is to establish the procedures for hearing and addressing satisfactorially the complaints and disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of the Project.

Risk 10 - Human- wildlife conflict (HWC) and disease transmission Project-sponsored activities could increase the frequency of interactions between humans and wildlife (e.g., chimpanzees, gorilla, elephants, etc.), consequently increasing the likelihood of conflicts between people and animals in agricultural contexts and of disease transmission from human to wild animal populations in the case of tourism. Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	I = 5 L = 3	Substantial	The majority of all emerging pathogens in humans are zoonotic (nonhuman animal) in origin. Population, ecological, and behavioral changes that increase contact with wildlife may exacerbate emergence or transmission of these pathogens. On the other hand, there are immense challenges in addressing HWC, in particular because underlying cultural, political and economic aspects that shape these conflicts are often very complex and poorly understood	The Project will implement a protocol and programs for promoting the health of project workers and partners likely to interact with great apes, if/where this may be advanced through the project. These protocols will be designed to reduce the risk of transmission of diseases between humans and primates in the project area. The project will also design and implement a health-related program, strengthening vaccinations (among workers and contractors) for human diseases that are of some concern particularly for great apes. 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.
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Risk 11 - Exposing communities to COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks Project activities (e.g. frequent meetings, field visits, travelling, etc.) could increase the risk of exposing	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	This risk is prevalent in the current context of Covid-19 pandemic.	To manage potential risks and vulnerabilities related to biological hazards, such as Covid-19, the project will implement the following measures: ? Undertake an assessment of the social and economic impacts of ongoing Covid-19, including on vulnerable populations, as part of the ESIA/ESMP preparation.
communities to Covid- 19 and other potential disease outbreaks. Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security				 ? Develop plans for responding to and ensuring income recovery for affected vulnerable populations, targeting specific livelihood interventions to help facilitate such recovery as well as improving awareness of risks of diseases. ? In addition, awareness will be promoted to ensure that people are aware of the risks and undertake mitigation measures.

Risk 12 - Project activities vulnerable to climate change NTFP collection, agroforestry activities and other land use options promoted by the project in the landscape are likely to be vulnerable to climate change (flood, increased precipitation, extreme events).	I = 3 L = 4	Moderate	Project- sponsored activities or interventions could be affected by droughts of floods, occurring more frequently and with greater intensity with climate change.	The Project will outline risk information in order to address vulnerability to climate change. Actions will include, though not be limited to preparedness, and reinforcement of resilience and recovery methods for Project partners to implement at local level.
Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks				

Risk 13? Revision of regulatory frameworks Revisions to regulatory framework and status review of commitments (international treaties) as well as national laws, regulations, approved certification systems (Output 1.3) and the Conservation sector review (Output 2.1) could reveal serious gaps in implementing best environmental and social safeguarding practices.	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	Regulatory revisions, , need encourage transparency, accountability and best environmental and social safeguarding practices.	Best practice guidelines and methodologies will be produced and disseminated in selected sectors, aiming to strengthen effective management and to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity and PAs across these sectors. Sector guidelines will be produced for ESIA and SESA and safeguarding approaches as well as landscape-level planning, integrated watershed management, natural capital accounting, economics of nature, and rights of IPLCs The project will also introduce Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) approaches and their potential to contribute to national sustainable development in regional-level planning, management, and oversight activities? through reviews, meetings, and workshops.
Principle 1: Leave No One Behind Principle 5: Accountability				

Risk 14? Introduction of exotic tree species Project activities supporting rehabilitations or regreening of artisanal mine sites could inadvertently encourage planting of exotic tree species, which then leads to adverse environmental effects through becoming invasive or lowering the water table.	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	Although the project is designed around biodiversity conservation, it is possible that project participants undertake planting of exotic and potentially invasive for land rehabilitation	The project will develop an ESMP that will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien tree or other species. The project will promote the regeneration of useful and resilient indigenous tree species for regreening. Species chosen should be those that have, amongst other properties, the potential to retaining soil moisture, increasing soil organic carbon, promote nutrient recycling, provide shade, wind and dust barriers, or provide fruit and medicine for the community.
Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management				

Risk 15? Introduction of invasive alien fish species Project activities supporting fisheries could inadvertently enable the introduction of invasive alien fish species into local water bodies, leading to adverse effects on freshwater ecology and native species. Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	I = 4 L = 2	Moderate	It is possible that project participants introduce exotic fish species. These could escape from aquaculture ponds into local waterbodies, leading to these fish preying on small indigenous fish species. Such exotic species could be fast-breeding, voracious omnivores that eat plants and animal matter, living or dead, and can therefore be high-impact invaders that alter the structure and function of ecosystems.	The project will develop an ESMP that will layout the measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien fish species. The project will promote best practice in integrated rice-fish farming using indigenous and/or non-invasive fish species.
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Risk 16? Negative impact of artisanal gold mining Artisanal gold mining in the project landscape, , lead to the degradation of large areas of forest and possibly to river pollutants with downstream negative impacts. This could also jeopardize the project objectives.	I = 4 L = 5	High	Artisanal gold mining is practiced along the Ikobey river and already contributes to various environmental and social impacts.	The project will assess the overall extent of this form of gold mining along the Ikobey river and will monitor impacts on local forest cover and water quality. In this activity, focus is on assessing the extent of forest cover damage and other local environmental damage.
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security Standard 8: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency				

Risk 17? Involvement of third- party organization in land rehabilitation The Project will conduct trial of rehabilitation of lands damaged by gold mining operations. This activity will be led by local communities with support from a recognized, capable institutions and/or NGOs. These institutions may not have all the capacity and tools needed to meet their obligations in the project, especially those related to their roles and responsibilities in the project cycle, as well as the social and environmental safeguarding.
Principle 1: Leave No One Behind
One Dellinu

Moderate

I = 3

L = 3

will involve personnel from several partners for the implementation of the rehabilitation program. At the time of project implementation , all these partners will not necessarily be aware of UNDP technical and safeguarding requirements.

The project

The rehabilitation effort will use native trees species; including native fruit trees such as bush mango to advance the potential and awareness of agroforestry benefits. This will include building a nursery within/near local community, training local partners on the various relevant technique in tree planting, and development of the nursery for the production of seedlings for site rehabilitation.

Since this activity will involve several third-party partners, the Project will organize trainings and/or workshops to build the capacity of these partners and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. The training will focus on UNDP technical and safeguarding requirements.

The Project will ensure that such partnerships are established with renowned organizations, that can demonstrate some level of experience and expertise in the subject matter. The SESA and ESIA will conduct further assessment on risks associated with partnering with Third Parties and integrate specific procedures into the ESMP. At a minimum, these will include requirements for partners to:

adhere to the UNDP social and environmental standards (SES),

subject all on-the-ground activities to screening, using the SESP

clear all proposed activities with the Project Safeguards expert

ensure that gender considerations are fully integrated into all activities, and that activities proactively promote women?s empowerment and human rights.

prepare bi-annual reports on progress, including status of their compliance with UNDP environment, social, and gender policies

When necessary, the Project will organize trainings and/or workshops to build the capacity of key project implementation partners and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. This is key to ensuring continued success over the course of the project implementation, and beyond. Such

Risk 18? Non-compliance with labour standards Project-sponsored activities (e.g. agriculture / agroforestry supply chain, land restoration, erosion control, construction of ecotourism infrastructure, artisanal gold mining) could involve practices that fail to comply with national and/or international labour standards or safety standards.	I = 3 L = 4	Moderate	Child labour continues to be prevalent in the country, in many economic sectors,. Unsafe work practices are also prevalent in the country.	safful thr sull thr s	sks associated with labour, working nditions, and occupational health and fety, will be further assessed during the I ESIA and addressed as appropriate rough implementation of an ESMP and obsequent measures as required. The Project will develop Labour anagement Procedures that set out the nditions in which project workers will employed or engaged and managed, in cordance with the requirements of the ES and applicable labour laws, rules and gulations. The procedures are propriate to the size, locations and orkforce of project activities.
Principle 1: No One Left behind Principle 2: Human Rights Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions [add additional rows as needed][JM20] [II21]					
	QUESTION	N 4: What is th	e overall project r	risk	categorization?
			Low Risk	?	
			Moderate Risk	?	
			Substantial Risk	?	
			High Risk	?	 Potential significant impact (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Multiple Substantial Risk.

QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)

Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects

Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)	?			Status? (completed, planned)
if yes, indicate overall type and status		?	Targeted assessment(s)	Completed: gender analysis, stakeholder analysis
		?	ESIA (Environmenta I and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned (for implementation)
		?	SESA [JM22] (Strate gic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned (project activity 1.3.2)
Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)	?			
If yes, indicate overall type		?	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	Completed: Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan
		?	ESMP (Environmenta I and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Planned (for implementation; to include an IPP)

		?	ESMF (Environmenta l and Social Management Framework)	Completed (including an IPPF)
Based on identified <u>risks</u> , which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?			Comments (no	ot required)
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind	?			
Human Rights	?			
Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment	?			
Accountability	?			
1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	?			
2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	?			
3. Community Health, Safety and Security	?			
4. Cultural Heritage	?			
5. Displacement and Resettlement	?			
6. Indigenous Peoples	?			
7. Labour and Working Conditions	?			
8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	?			

[JM1]For such a large project, I strongly recommend using this comments column to indicate the source of the risk, i.e. the relevant Outcomes/Outputs/Activities.

[JM2]Project activity 3.1.1 is ?community consultation and FPIC processes? ? which is good but raises questions of the scope of FPIC as reflected in the ProDoc. Parts of Components 1 and 2 will almost definitely require FPIC, but have no equivalent activity. Please revisit that approach to the project?s design.

[II3]To be addressed in the ProDoc

[JM4]Note that the SES requires ?comprehensive? Stakeholder Engagement Plans for Substantial and High risk projects. Please confirm and then clarify here that the SEP is comprehensive (as defined in SES guidance), or that it will be made comprehensive during implementation.

[JM5]The future GRM can also be mentioned here, and the ESMF definitely needs to be mentioned too.

[JM6] Very important to mention the existing ESMF and IPPF; FPIC; and the future IPP. Those are all SES requirements, i.e. the most basic and direct answers to the question in this column.

Also very important to note that FPIC was started during the PPG.

[JM7]I wonder if this risk also triggers Standard 5 (economic displacement) and/or Standard 7 (job losses); please consider.

[JM8]Does this refer to a project output/activity, or to measures in the ESMF (or both)? Please make that clear.

Also, how does this relate to the ESIA? And what activities does this pertain to exactly?

[II9] This is actually part of the ESIA.

[JM10]Please confirm that this is the intended meaning here.

[II11]Yes

[JM12]I also wonder about the risks from water quality monitoring (activity 2.2.4); could communities be told (or forced) to stop fishing if Hg levels exceed some threshold? And, if they aren?t stopped, what about the health impacts that UNDP would knowingly allow to happen?

- [II13] Awareness will help communities understand health risks.
- Community participation in water monitoring will ensure they are on board when it is advised to stop fishing (or sometimes the communities themselves can come up with suc decision)

[JM14]Please clarify if co-financed activities are purely, partially or not-at-all the source of this risk. See the new guidance on co-financing in the updated ProDoc template.

[II15] This is now explained in the ?Comment? cell.

[JM16] An important point to emphasize here further, e.g. by referencing relevant outputs/activities.

[JM17]ProDoc seems to indicate that there will be only one ESMP? though I agree that multiple are likely needed. Please ensure clarity on that point, across all docs.

[JM18]Please clarify that the community forests and ICCAs supported by the project would not trigger Standard 5, per the 201 Guidance Note (assuming those activities meet the requirements in that Guidance Note). Might be advisable to present ICCA-related risk(s) separately.

Very important to be completely clear on the outputs/activities that could cause this risk.

[JM19]Make sure to mention the IPPF/IPP in the last column for all S6 risks.

[JM20]Risks missing related to /stemming from:

- ? Upstream activities, including revisions to regulatory framework (activity 1.3.3; addressed by the SESA in 1.3.2)
- ? All of output 2.1 (which itself seems to be a risk mgmt measure)
- ? Artisanal mining (2.2.2), which should itself be High (and maybe two risks, a second for the rehabilitation that could be done with co-financing; very risky in several ways)
- ? Activities in or supporting forest concessions (which could trigger Standard 5)
- ? Fisheries (3.2.1, 3.2.2)

[II21] The project is not promoting or supporting artisanal gold mining. The project will help address the impact of artisanal gold mines (assessment of extent, assessment of damage, participatory solution,

[JM22]As a high risk project, its upstream activities must apply SESA. Activity 1.3.2 seems to do that, in part, but isn?t 100% clear or aligned with the SES (referring to SEA, not SESA). Please revisit.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
6626 Gabon Annex 5 - SESP_10Nov21_clean	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal(s) (see https://www.globalgoals.org/):

- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities? Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG 13: Climate Action? Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **SDG 15: Life on Land**? Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests? and halt biodiversity loss

The project also will make secondary contributions toward the following Sustainable Development Goals:

- **SDG 1: No Poverty**? End poverty in all its forms and everywhere
- SDG 5: Gender Equality? Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**? Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, decent work for all
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production ? Establish sustainable consumption and production patterns
- **SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**? Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all, inclusive institutions

This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD):

Output 5: National institutions and local communities have strengthened technical capacities to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, adaptation, access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystems, in line with international conventions

Objective and Outcome Indicators (see Section V in prodoc for detailed description of methods, means of verification, assumptions, etc.)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
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Project Objective: To conserve forest landscapes with improved IPLC livelihoods through enhanced governance, environmental monitoring, and private sector engagement	Mandatory Indicator 1: # direct and indirect project beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender (individual people)		Direct: 12,000 people 4,800 women Indirect 135,000 people 54,000 women 81,000 men	Direct: 30,000 people at least 30% women Indirect: 336,219 people 166,211 women 170,008 men Note: 244,031 people in the project area are rural (rather than urban, i.e. living in small urban towns (e.g. Lambarene, Fougamou, Moulia, Tchibanga?)
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicators: Indicator 2: Terrestrial PAs with improved management for conservation and/or sustainable use of forest biodiversity [Measured by METT scores for PAs] Note: The Monts Birougou NP is encompassed entirely within the Ramsar wetland site of the same name, therefore some of its management may be considered together with the latter. Additionally, care must be taken to ensure that overlapping regions not inadvertently be double-counted when making estimates of total conservation areas.	Including - Waka National Park: (106,938 hectares) METT = 58 - Monts Birougou (69,021 hectares) National Park: METT = 61	6865	7570

	Indicator 3: Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) in the form of community forests or forest concessions Note: The amount of carbon loss that is mitigated by the project is not measured directly, rather it is implicit in this indicator.	0 ha Comprised of - community forests - forest concessions	120,000 ha 20,000 ha 100,000 ha	300,977 ha 47,856 ha (see CI 4.1) 253,121 ha (see CI 4.3) Note: See explanations for Core Indicators 4.1 and 4.3; given that these areas overlap with Ramsar site, and double-counting must be avoided for conservation estimates.
	Indicator 4: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector Note: The amount of carbon loss mitigated by the project is measured following methodology used by EXACT tool. See Annex 17 on Core Indicators? GHG calculations.	0 t CO2eq.	5,000,000 t CO2eq	24,635,710 t CO2eq over 20 years (6 years project, 14 years post- implementation phase)
Project component 1	Enabling conditions for forest la	andscape conserva	ation and IPLC li	velihoods
Project Outcome 1 Good enabling conditions for more inclusive conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	Indicator 5: Number of national and local decision makers and of private sector and IPLC representatives disaggregated by gender trained in integrated conservation approaches	0	20 including 8 or more women	40 Including 15 or more women

with strengthened institutional capacities in natural capital accounting and integrated (cross-sectoral) land use planning and enhanced commitment to community-friendly collaborations in governance and management of natural resources	Indicator 6: Number of regulatory and technical documents improved with more integrated and inclusive approaches and with stronger safeguarding	0	5 with 3 ?gender sensitive? documents / frameworks	10 with 6 ?gender sensitive? documents / frameworks
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	 Enhanced capacities for respective to the conservation Improved regulatory and and IPLCs 	out key approache	s in integrated fo	rest landscape
Project component 2	Landscape conservation support	ted by inclusive e	nvironmental mo	onitoring
Project Outcome 2 Better conserved forest landscapes with strengthened environmental monitoring and more abundant and stronger IPLC collaborations	Indicator 7: Number of protected and conserved areas with new or enhanced environmental monitoring & enhanced IPLC partnerships/collaborations, including women engaged in monitoring Note: The term ?protected area? (PA) is here understood to include the Ramsar sites.	Improved monitoring: - in PAs: 0 - in concessions: 0 IPLCs involved in monitoring: - PAs: 0 - concessions: 0 - community forests: 0 People trained in monitoring: - 0 people, including 0 women	Improved monitoring: - 3 PAs - 4 concessions IPLCs involved in monitoring: - 3 PAs - 2 concessions - 4 community forests People trained in monitoring: - 50 people including 20 women	Improved monitoring: - 4 PAs - 10 concessions IPLCs involved in monitoring: - 4 PAs - 4 concessions - 8 community forests People trained in monitoring: - 150 people including 60 women

	Indicator 8: Number of forest concessions monitored with FSC criteria, including development of robust ESIA and ESMP	1	4	10		
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	 Conservation sector review: In-depth baseline assessment and opportunity analysis Environmental monitoring by public administrations and other relevant parties Community biomonitoring for more effective and inclusive forest conservation 					
Project component 3	Community livelihoods improve	ed with a more di	versified wildlife	economy		
Outcome 3 Community livelihoods improved through well managed and conserved community forest landscapes and other affiliated resources, and	Indicator 9: Number of IPLC women and men deriving socio-economic benefit from new or enhanced business opportunities through the project?s interventions in capacity development or wildlife economy value chains	Women 0 Men 0	75 75	200 200		
strengthened community entreprises and value chains	Indicator 10: Number of household- or community-based wildlife economy SMEs supported and self-sustaining, increasing the resilience of IPLCs	Supported SMEs: 0 Mature SMEs: 0	Supported SMEs: 3 Mature SMEs: 0	Supported SMEs: 8 Mature SMEs: 4		
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	 Community consultations mainstreamed within conservation and development Strengthened community fisheries plans and replicated in new lakes in Bas Ogooue Ramsar site Community forests and territories of life demarcated, established, and strengthened Community ecotourism strengthened and advanced in select areas of project landscape 					
Project component 4	Knowledge management, gende	er mainstreaming,	coordination, M	&E <mark> </mark>		

Outcome 4 Strengthened communication, knowledge exchange, gender mainstreaming, coordination, and project M&E	Indicator 11: Number of people reached (as well as of sub-groups and/or geographic regions) through project?s communications strategy Favorable feedback received in response to the project?s communications/messages and other forms of outreach to IPLCs and target groups? measured at regular community meetings and with ?street surveys? in three provincial capitals	% heard message: 0 % recall content: 0 % change behavior: 0	33,000 people, including - 13,200 women - 19,800 men 40% 20% 10%	60,000 people, including - 24,000 women - 36,000 men 60% 30% 20%	
	Indicator 12: Women involved in dialogues and decision-making at community and governmental levels	0	50 women	100 women	
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	 Knowledge Management system Project communications strategy Regional coordination with other Congo IP projects Gender mainstreaming and social inclusion (see Annex 10) Project M&E, with adaptive management (see Section V) 				

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

#	Comment	Response	Reference	
	GEF SEC 21 Dec 2021			

#	Comment	Response	Reference
1	- General comment: Please use "Congo IP" rather than CBSL to describe the Congo Impact Program. Thanks.	All instances of ?CBSL? have been changed in prodoc and CEO ER to ?Congo IP? The format of tables and annexes has been adjusted.	Changed in many places cross both prodoc and CEO ER
	- Several tables and annexes do not fit the right format in the portal and are not readable or printable. Please, correct (table 6, table 7, Annex A on the result framework, Annex E on the budget).	The submission date has been corrected The expected start of implementation has been corrected to 08 July 2022	Portal Portal Portal
	Part I. Project information: - The project was not submitted on 10/27/2020, but on 12/13/2021. Please, correct.	The expected completion date has been corrected to 08 July 2028 The agency has been inserted	Portal Portal
	- Whatever the submission date was, the expected implementation start cannot be 11/02/2020. You need to anticipate the time for the technical clearance, quality control, and the 4-week Council consultation period. Please, correct.	The requested changes have been made in the CEO ER	Table A in CEO ER
	- Completion date: Please, insert a completion date (72 months after the project start) Agency fees:		
	Please insert the amount of GEF Agency fees: \$518,464. Table A.		
	FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS: - The mention of BD1.5 is wrong Objectives/Program		

#	Comment	Response	Reference
2	- Several comments below are due to discrepancies between the information made available in the portal and the prodoc. It seems that	As explained in more detail below, additional information from the prodoc has been integrated in the CEO ER and the portal, notably providing more detail on activities. Prodoc, CEO ER and portal should now be consistent.	Throughout CEO ER, especially section on Project Outline (p. 20)
	the prodoc is much more elaborated than the information in the portal. Thanks to make the information coherent between the different documents (portal, prodoc, Request for CEO endorsement).	The project as a whole is primarily focused at the landscape level, as even national-level activities aim to create a supportive or ?enabling? environment for critically important landscape-level conservation outcomes. More specifically, the national-level Component 1 seeks to ensure that integrated and landscape level approaches are adopted in land use planning and implementation; these approaches are not only suggested, but encouraged and supported through capacity development to render them effective in practice. The Components 1 (national focus) and 2 (landscape focus) are thus complementary, not disconnected from each other.	Project Outline, p. 20 of CEO ER
	- Because of the baseline scenario, the incremental reasoning, and cofinancing partners, we suggest well focusing the project framework, results and activities at the landscape level. Most of activities at national level should be covered by	Additionally, GEF financing for outputs and activities under Component 1 amounts to only \$1.5m, compared to \$16.5m of project co-financing from the Government. Revised. Each component is now introduced with a specific Outcome as well as a short summary of the outputs included in the component, and	See the Table B. Project Description Summary in the CEO ER See the Project
	cofinancing. Please, confirm.	each project output now includes a list of the activities that will be carried out to develop/produce the Output (this previously was included only in the prodoc). These additions should help to better understand the project?s anticipated results.	outline, starting on p. 20 (CEO ER)
	- In the current version of the text, it stays difficult to estimate the value for	This information has been drawn from materials already available in the prodoc.	See Expected Results in prodoc, starting on p. 56
	money for each output. We need to understand the expected results and the associated activities. Please,	An introductory section is now included for each component (as mentioned above), including its main <i>goal</i> (outcome) as well as <i>narrative summaries</i> of their rationale and content, along with the interconnectedness between the 4 different components.	CEO ER, pp. 20-21
	include the list of activities (1.1.1, 1.1.2, etc.) under each output, as it is	interconnectedness between the 4 different components.	CEO ER: pp. 20-21
	in general the case in project documents we review. This information seems	In Component 1, the goal is now made explicit and highlights a focus on natural capital accounting in the context of land use planning. The narrative introduction now elaborates on the aim of creating good ?enabling conditions? at both national and sub-national levels for effective conservation of forest landscapes, specifically through consideration of	

#	Comment	Response	Reference
3	proposed breakdown. However, see	This has now been further clarified in the CEO ER by inclusion of specific project activities (output by output) as well as component-level narrative summaries before introducing of the outputs and their activities in all four of the project?s components.	CEO ER, pp. 20-32 Prodoc, pp. 56-92

#	Comment	Response	Reference
4	- Indicator 1.2: please explain how you reach a target of 2,069,531 ha. It seems there is a wrong interpretation	The target of 2,069,531 ha is based on the sum of the coverage areas of three sites: Bas Ogooue Ramsar Site, Monts Birougou Ramsar Site, and Waka National Park. (The Birougou National Park overlaps with the Ramsar site with same name, and therefore it was not included in order to not double-count the coverage area.)	See the table of Core Indicators in CEO ER, pp. 75-76
	of this indicator. This core indicator 1.2 should cover the terrestrial protected areas under improved	METT scores were provided for all four of the sites (the Monts Birougou NP and Ramsar Site were scored jointly, i.e. same score applied to each), all of which are terrestrial protected areas.	Also prodoc, Annex 17
	management effectiveness in this project. You should provide the METT score for each protected area covered under the core indicator 1.2.	However, with lower levels of legal protection offered by Ramsar sites (compared to the national parks), they could equally be considered under the core indicator 4.1; we have therefore revised the project documents accordingly, as this seems to be the preferred (recommended) option, based on our review of the comments/ review/ feedback received.	
		Akula NP is not mentioned in the project documents.	
	- The name of Akula National Park is mentioned in the table of indicators		See Core Indicator 4.1 in the Core Indicator table in CEO ER, p.
	(but not in the prodoc). We do not know this National Park, and the number of ha seems very high. Please, clarify.	As requested, we have moved the 2 Ramsar sites over to the core indicator 4.1, landscapes under improved management. The indicators are adjusted accordingly; but with the cover area for Monts Birougou Ramsar Site (under core indicator 4.1) excluding the section of the Ramsar Site that also falls under Monts Birougou National Park (core indicator 1.2)? in order to avoid double-counting geographic areas. The same approach is	
	- In the Request for CEO endorsement, we see the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site, 1,425,793 ha, is considered as a IUCN category II (national park). Same	needed when community forests and forest concessions are overlapping with Ramsar sites; both may be present, but their cover area should not be double-counted. More detailed information (explanation) is available in the core indicator table.	See core indicators table in CEO ER, pp. 75-76, also prodoc, Annex 17
	comment for the Monts Birougou Ramsar site, 536,800 ha. This is probably the source of concern about the high targets under the Core Indicator 1.2. A	The project will be partnering with national park authorities in both Waka NP and Monts Birougou NP; these therefore are included under core indicator 1.2. These two national parks? management will be improved through formal and informal trainings as well as through <i>in situ</i> joint activity including environmental monitoring and partnering with local consultative management teams (co-management, CCGL) as requested by ANPN during the PPG phase.	(idem.)
	Ramsar site cannot be compared or assimilated to a National Park. The Ramsar site is a	Conversely, focus in the larger Ramsar site regions will be on improving landscape-level management of biodiversity, therefore these areas are now brought under core indicator 4.1. alongside the community forests also	(idem.)

#	Comment	Response	Reference
5	Clarity on expected outcomes and components No. See item 2 in the part I.	See responses to the comment #2 above. Several project elements have been re-designed accordingly, most notably (i) the merging of two outputs under Component 3 in order to better reflect the Congo IP?s primary focus on forest landscapes, (ii) a strengthened output on community ecotourism, (iii) better developed coordination and collaboration with the Congo IP regional project and other child projects, (iv) associated re-budgeting of some project outputs and associated activities, and (v) adjustments in the table of core indicators as recommended.	
6	- You can remove the reference to GEF7 programming strategies. - Please refer to the Congo IP and its strategic framework to justify and explain this project (if you do this work, you will also better understand some comments about the result framework and why some results are more welcome than other). To be revised.	Reference to GEF7 programming strategies has been deleted. The table included in Section 1c. Child Project already highlights the Congo IP?s main components and program outcomes, and matches these with the project?s contributions to the Congo IP outcomes and the Gabon project?s targets. An additional table has also been added to the CEO ER to highlight the extent of thematic convergence between this and other child projects under the Congo IP.	- CEO ER, pp. 36-37 CEO ER, p. 37

#	Comment	Response	Reference
7	What is expected in this section is a justification of the proposed targets under the different core indicators: they should reflect the Global Environment Benefits Please explain and justify how you will reach the proposed targets under the core indicators 1.2 (2,069,531 ha of protected areas under improved management effectiveness), 4.1 (300,977 ha of terrestrial landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity), and 6.1 (24,635,710 tons of CO2e sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector). See Part I, item 7 on the indicators.	The core indicators have been revised as outlined above; primarily by relocating the Ramsar Sites from indicator 1.2 to the indicator 4.1. Now the core indicator 1.2 is comprised of two national parks (Waka NP and Monts Birougou NP), core indicator 4.1 is comprised of 8 community forests and 2 Ramsar sites (Bas Ogoou? RS and Monts Birougou RS), and core indicator 4.3 is comprised of 10 forest concessions. These are shown in the core indicator table in the CEO ER and in Annex 17 of the prodoc; and the basis for these figures is explained as notes under the table. Core indicator 6.1 is based on the targeted community forests, which are landscapes that will come under improved management that benefits biodiversity (core indicator 4.1), and areas exhibiting sustainable land management, i.e. forest concessions (core indicator 4.3); as described in greater detail in the prodoc Annex 17. Notably, some of the community forests and the forest concessions targeted by the project also fall within the Ramsar sites or in vicinity of national parks, however only areas covered specifically by the afore-mentioned forests are included for the GHG calculations.	Prodoc, Annex 17 CEO ER, pp. 75-76 Prodoc, Annex 17
8	Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up? Yes in the prodoc. To be improved in the portal.	This is in the prodoc and the CEO ER, and will now also be uploaded in the portal.	CEO ER, p. 35-36 Prodoc, p. 120

#	Comment	Response	Reference
9	- The intention is there, as the private sector is often mentioned. However, concrete examples would be welcome.	?Considering the significance/value of integrating private sector interests with project aims of sustainability and conservation in the project area?s forest landscapes, more detail is provided here in regard to Activity 3.2.6, with three representative value chains that the project may support in the landscape? though each community must collectively decide on prioritized products and forms of engagement with the project. All three fall within the wildlife economy that Gabon is seeking to prioritize, both flora and fauna.?	CEO ER, p. 27-29
		Now the CEO ER also includes more detail about each of the following (brought over from the prodoc, where this was already included) in Output 3.2: - Non-timber forest product (NTFP): Honey - Non-timber forest product (NTFP): Wild spinach (or African jointfir, Gnetum africanum) - Artisanal fisheries and their ancillary products	CEO ER, p. 27-29 Also prodoc pp. 81-84
		In Output 3.3 focused on ecotourism (this also is a sector that builds on locally available forest landscape resources, though of a different nature from ?natural resources? and hence included in a separate output), an additional explanatory paragraph is now included, along with more information about the activities. A table of potential business partners is now included in the prodoc, including in regard to honey production and development of community	CEO ER, p. 29 Prodoc, pp. 84-87
		Support for local business development also takes place in the form of capacity building workshops? including skills training and developing/strengthening of community mechanisms, e.g. cooperatives and associations? specifically in the activities 3.2.1 and 3.2.2. Enabling environments for these also are integrated (mainstreamed) in several elements of both Component 1 and Component 2.	Prodoc, p. 82, 85

#	Comment	Response	Reference
10	- The Budget presented under the Annex 2 is not	The budget has been reformatted to fit the page format	Prodoc Annex 2
	aligned with the page format. Please, adjust.	Detail has been added to budget notes, and some adjustments have been made as explained below.	Prodoc budget and budget notes
	In anticipation of the quality control, we recommend to use budget lines and items we can understand. Without further details, some expenses and amounts are difficult to understand/accept: - \$102,800 of ?travel and other related operational costs for monitoring??	The activity 2.2.3 on hydrological monitoring is high priority for government and local communities alike, as rivers and lakes can be greatly impacted by forest-based operations including timber extraction, such as through soil erosion? and bringing potentially significant negative impacts on human and wildlife health. Monitoring water flow, water quality, and sediment loads etc. is required, but government?s financial and resources are limited, specifically in the targeted Ramsar site; this activity aims to fill the gap by providing operational costs including travel costs, enabling hydrological monitoring as part of the broader suite of environmental monitoring under Output 2.2. Furthermore, considering longer-term sustainability, the project purposely emphasizes? supporting the development/strengthening of community associations and collaborative monitoring of natural resources by government with communities.? Thus, being more than just travel <i>per se</i> , the highlighted costs are deemed justified? Yet, these operational costs are now nonetheless reduced by around half, with savings now applied to international contracts for activities 2.1.4, 2.2.1 and 2.2.5? all under the same Component 2.	Activity 2.2.3 on prodoc p. 69 Also see budget note 11 on prodoc p. 155
	- \$33,789 of travel	The in-country travel costs associated with MTR and TE are actually only \$9,789. The additional amount noted in budget note 26 is for ?other travel costs associated with regular (on-going) M&E by PMU and delegated parties, including supervision and learning missions (USD \$24,000)? ? which is only \$4000 per annum for all of the supervisory travels by PMU across the large landscape, including spot checks aiming to ensure that all sub-contracted activities (with national and international NGOs, etc.), community-based initiatives and government-led interventions are proceeding as anticipated.	See budget note 26 on prodoc p. 157
	associated of MTR and TE?	These travel costs are not associated only with developing the ESIA, but also ?implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? including community consultations and as necessary also FPIC processes, e.g. in context of developing / implementing the Livelihoods Action Plan under ESMF.? Not all FPIC responses and other forms of community engagement that may be helpful or even necessary can be entirely	-
	- \$46,524 of travel costs related to ESIA?	predicted at the outset of a project; but to ensure the project itself doesn?t become the main driving force of interventions, and rather a means to the development outcomes sought, sufficient financial resources must be set aside to enable not only the ?activities? of ESIA and related LAP etc., particularly if the project aims to be responsive to needs and emerging/evolving situations. This being a budget line for travel funds under Component 4, it may also	
		be applied to Output 4.3 (coordination with other child project of the Congo IP) and Output 4.4 (gender mainstreaming and social inclusion). The annual budget amount is only up to \$8,000 per annum, including support for in-country travel costs for ESIA, LAP and other elements of the ESMF/ESMP, and planned/unplanned FPIC needs.	-
		The cost of ?travel? under Component 1 relates to the ?comprehensive? activity that has been entitled ?Learning-by-doing: in situ operations,?	Activity

#	Comment	Response	Reference
11	 Please, note that the audit is not signed. Can you clarify what exactly means that +50% of Net Financial Misstatement, NFM? 	- The signed audit checklist has been uploaded As explained in the checklist, ?Most of the misstatement was linked to outstanding NEX advances. The outstanding NEX advances have meanwhile been recovered. The Country Office has also addressed a correspondence to the partner with guidelines to follow for remedial action and to ensure that this problem does not occur again in the future.?	Audit checklist in portal
12	No. There were comments at PFD level (Congo IP, GEFID 10208) applicable to Gabon. Please, provide responses to the applicable comments. See especially comments from US (about logging) and Norway (about land-use planning).	Those comments received at PFD that specifically relate to Gabon have been addressed (see below). These responses are additional to those provided by UNEP at PFD level.	
		GEF Council	
1	United States Comments at PFD level Recognizing that the intent of these projects is to mitigate or reverse deforestation, the United States needs to officially confirm for internal purposes that the following projects will not involve any logging of primary forests. Can the GEF please affirm that no logging of primary forests will occur during the implementation of projects: 10125, 10184, 10188, 10192, 10198, 10206, 10208, 10220.	UNDP response: We can assure the Council that the project will not support any logging of primary forest. The project will strengthen oversight of the Government of Gabon over existing forest concessions, especially with a view to reducing the impacts of timber harvesting in previously logged (secondary) forests, and it will also support the sustainable management of community forests with a focus on non-wood forest products and the sustainable management of regenerating (secondary) forests.	136 CEO ER, p.

#	Comment	Response	Reference
2	Norway-Denmark Comments at PFD level Component 1 of the program ?Enabling integrated framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM? as well as the land use planning methodology developed under the regional component of the program, overlap with the land use planning efforts in DRC and Gabon and potentially in Rep Congo. CAFI and the country focal points should be associated to the methodological work to avoid duplication or guidance contrary to on-going work already funded by CAFI.	UNDP response: As already highlighted by UNEP in response to the Council comments at PFD level, the project will establish contact with the CAFI representative in the country and identify potential synergies and overlaps and address these accordingly. This will especially include to closely coordinate land use planning elements with CAFI to avoid duplication or conflicting advice. Regular coordination meetings between this project and CAFI, facilitated by the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change (MEF) will ensure that the two initiatives are fully aligned and complementary and that any duplication of effort is avoided.	Prodoc, p. 93, para. 474 CEO ER, p. 19
		GEF SEC 04 Apr 2022	

#	Comment	Response	Reference
1	Based on the revised targets under the core indicators, we understand that the project aims the following targets: - 175,959 ha of protected areas under better management	Correct.	Table F on page 3 of CEO ER
	effectiveness with the national parks of Waka and Mont Birougou (CI 1.2), - 1,912,755 ha of terrestrial landscapes, out of protected areas, with better management to benefit biodiversity corresponding to the Bas Ogoou? Ramsar	Correct. Note, however, that this figure excludes the section of the Monts Birougou Ramsar site that also is classified as a national park, as that area has already been counted under the core indicator 1.2. Additionally, a portion of the community forests supported under this project are situated within a Ramsar site and therefore these also are not included in above total area estimate (in order to not double count).	
	site, the Mont Birougou Ramsar sites, as well as 8 community forests (4.1),	Correct total figure, but for 10 forest concessions. Note, however, that the forest concessions that are situated within a Ramsar site already counted under the core indicator 4.1 are excluded from this figure.	Verified across prodoc and CEO ER
	- 188,121 ha of terrestrial landscapes under SLM in eight forest concessions (4.3).	Correct total figure, but 166,211 women and 170,008 men.	
	All these management modes should improve the carbon balance with 24.6 million tons of CO2e.	Correct.	
	In term of beneficiaries, the project targets 336,219 people (166,211 male and 170,008 females, mostly agricultural and forest dependent	We have checked that the information is coherent across documents and portal.	Table F on page 3 of CEO ER
	people), including 5,000 indigenous people, as the Babongo, Barimba and Bagama people. Please, confirm and check that the	2 national parks are considered under the Core Indicator 1.2. For consistency and clarity, the Bas Ogoou? Ramsar Site has now been removed from mandatory Indicator 2 in the PRF of the prodoc; we also changed name of ?Monts Birougou? from National Park to Ramsar site (note: METT score applied to both).	
	information is coherent between the portal, the request for	In regard to Indicator 3 (with total figure of 300,977 ha), this applies to	

#	Comment	Response	Reference
2	- We take note that no vehicle will be purchased with the GEF grant. However there are \$100,000 planned under the output 2.2, activity 3 for equipment for monitoring water and fisheries. The note 72200 mentions "vehicle". Please, clarify.	We confirm that no vehicles will be purchased with project funds. We have confirmed that no budget note accidentally mentions ?vehicle purchase?.	PRODOC, CEO ER

#	Comment	Response	Reference
3	- The Budget presented under the Annex 2 is not	The budget has been reformatted to fit the page format	Prodoc Annex 2
	aligned with the page format. Please, adjust.	Detail has been added to budget notes, and some adjustments have been made as explained below.	Prodoc budget and budget notes
	In anticipation of the quality control, we recommend to use budget lines and items we can understand. Without further details, some expenses and amounts are difficult to understand/accept: - \$102,800 of ?travel and other related operational costs for monitoring??	The activity 2.2.3 on hydrological monitoring is high priority for government and local communities alike, as rivers and lakes can be greatly impacted by forest-based operations including timber extraction, such as through soil erosion? and bringing potentially significant negative impacts on human and wildlife health. Monitoring water flow, water quality, and sediment loads etc. is required, but government?s financial and resources are limited, specifically in the targeted Ramsar site; this activity aims to fill the gap by providing operational costs including travel costs, enabling hydrological monitoring as part of the broader suite of environmental monitoring under Output 2.2. Furthermore, considering longer-term sustainability, the project purposely emphasizes? supporting the development/strengthening of community associations and collaborative monitoring of natural resources by government with communities.? Yet, these operational costs are now nonetheless reduced by around half, with savings applied to international contracts for activities 2.1.4, 2.2.1 and 2.2.5? all under the same Component 2.	Activity 2.2.3 on prodoc p. 69 Also see budget note 11 on prodoc p. 155
		The in-country travel costs associated with MTR and TE are actually only \$9,789. The additional amount noted in budget note 26 is for ?other travel costs associated with regular (on-going) M&E by PMU and delegated parties, including supervision and learning missions (USD \$24,000)? ? which is only \$4000 per annum for all of the supervisory travels by PMU across the large landscape, including spot checks aiming to ensure that all sub-contracted activities (with national and international NGOs, etc.), community-based initiatives and government-led interventions are proceeding as anticipated.	See budget note 26 on prodoc p. 157
	- \$33,789 of travel associated of MTR and TE?	These travel costs are not associated only with developing the ESIA, but also ?implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? including community level consultations and as necessary also FPIC processes, e.g. in context of developing / implementing the Livelihoods Action Plan under ESMF.? Not all FPIC responses and other forms of community engagement that may be helpful or even necessary can be entirely predicted at the outset of a project; but to ensure the project itself doesn?t become the main driving force of interventions, and rather a means to the development outcomes sought, sufficient financial resources must be set aside to enable not only the ?activities? of ESIA and related LAP etc., particularly if the project aims to be responsive to needs and emerging/evolving situations.	-
	costs related to ESIA?	This being a budget line for travel funds under Component 4, it may also be applied to Output 4.3 (coordination with other child project of the Congo IP) and Output 4.4 (gender mainstreaming and social inclusion). The annual budget amount is only up to \$8,000 per annum, including support for in-country travel costs for ESIA, LAP and other elements of the ESMF/ESMP, and planned/unplanned FPIC needs.	-
		The cost of ?travel? under Component 1 relates to the ?comprehensive? activity that has been entitled ?Learning-by-doing: in situ operations,? which is one of the most important ways adopted by this project to	Activity

Comment	Response	Reference
UNDP checklist - Please, note that the audit is not signed Can you clarify what exactly means that +50% of Net Financial Misstatement, NFM?	The signed audit checklist has been uploaded into the portal. It also explains the observation of net financial misstatement which mostly related to advances to project partners that had not been justified in time. This issue has meanwhile been resolved and the respective partners been instructed to avoid this problem in the future.	Portal
	UNDP checklist - Please, note that the audit is not signed Can you clarify what exactly means that +50% of Net Financial	UNDP checklist - Please, note that the audit is not signed. - Can you clarify what exactly means that +50% of Net Financial The signed audit checklist has been uploaded into the portal. It also explains the observation of net financial misstatement which mostly related to advances to project partners that had not been justified in time. This issue has meanwhile been resolved and the respective partners been instructed to avoid this problem in the future.

	GEF SEC 22 Apr 2022				
1	Fee allocated under BD STAR shows difference between child project and the parent PFD of \$72,522? please ask the Agency to match the amount to the one approved by Council at PFD stage. We believe that this mistake could have been originated because as this child project was transferred from WB to UNDP, one portion of fee (\$72,522) was kept by WB. However, this fee allocation was recorded by Trustee and should not be reflected (double counted) in the CEO Endorsement request Portal. Please ask the Agency to reinstate the same fee amount in child project?s table D as in the PFD?s table D.	Table D has been corrected	CEO ER Table D		
2	Co-financing (comment provided by Seo-Jeong): - DGEPN / MEF a. Spell out the full ministry name b. 35M: change ?Grant? to ?Public Investment?	The co- financing information has been corrected as requested.	CEO ER Table C PRODOC para 591		

3	Core Indicators:		
	a. The target under core indicator 1 needs to be mentioned in results framework in terms of ha (Note from the technical reviewer: it seems that the Quality Control is making a confusion between the 11 indicators proposed for this project and the numbering of the GEF Core Indicators: the first indicator is about the number of beneficiaries and is different from the	a. Annex F in the CEO ER includes GEF 7 Core Indicator	CEO ER, p. 104 also CEO ER, p. 63 Prodoc, p. 128
	b. The target under core indicator 4.1 and 4.3 in the results framework is indicated differently in the core indicator table.	1, focused on improvements of management effectiveness (METT scores) in two national parks, Waka and Monts Birougou. The baseline METT	Prodoc, p. 128 CEO ER, pp. 63 and 104
	c. The results framework in the annex A indicates target on direct beneficiaries 30,000 but the reported target on core indicator table indicates the indirect	scores and total areas (ha) of these national parks are now included in both Annex F (see above) and the Project Results Framework (PRF) of the	CEO ER, p. 105
	beneficiaries. Please revise it to reflect the direct beneficiaries.	project document (see the project?s Indicator 2) (in which total areas are now also mentioned, in hectares, though the main focus of the indicator	
		remains the METT score, i.e. management effectiveness)	
		b. This note refers to the PRF Indicator 3 on p. 128 of the prodoc); the figures included here are the total areas of all the community forests and the forest	

	this PPG report.	Details on the PPG use of funds have been provided.	CEO ER Annex C
١		1	

Budget table:		
a. Please indicate which budget line item the UNDP CO will be responsible to provide support services for.		a. PRODOC budget
b. International Chief Technical Advisor is part of the project?s staff? it is charged to project?s components and PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project?s execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. Requesting the costs associated with the execution of the project to be covered by the PMC is reasonable? by so doing, asking the proponents to utilize both portions allocated to PMC (GEF portion and co-financing portion) is also reasonable. As the co-financing portion to PMC is 2.3 million, and considering that the grants portion of co-financing is 36.5 million (95% of the total co-financing), there is room to cover the costs of the International Chief Technical Advisor from co-financing.	a. Under UNDP?s ?Full support to National Implementation Modality (NIM)?, an AWP will be approved jointly between UNDP and the IP (Government). Based on this AWP, UNDP would then conduct the procurements, contracting and direct payments. Ther efore, the answer is that UNDP will provide support to all budget lines. The cost to UNDP for providing these support services will be charged to budget line 28 (DPC).	b. CEO ER Institutional Arrangement and Coordination PRODOC para 579, 583, 588, Project budget PRODOC Annex 7 (To
	b. The CTA has been removed from the budget and been replaced with an International Capacity Building Expert whose role is to build the capacity of the Government counterparts (especially DGEPN, but also other agencies involved in the project) on technical	

by th NIM we c UNI \$215	ept for one statement in the review sheet provided he PM [?The institutional arrangements (?support I? have been approved by GPU management?], can?t find GPU?s Manager?s explicit approval of DP?s performing support services and charged 5,000 to the project?s PMC ? GPU Manager?s roval is required in Portal?s comment section.	We include here the email communication between the PM and UNDP as further evidence that the proposed institutional arrangements have been approved by GEFSEC: Please see attachment in roadmap the document named: ?GEF10729 - Email communication PM & UNDP?	

Comments from STAP received at PFD level dated 22 May 2019

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
STAP Overall Assessment	STAP welcomes the submission of the Program Framework Document for the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL). The Basin is the Earth?s second largest area of contiguous moist tropical forest, but the services it provides are under increasing pressure from deforestation, fragmentation, and infrastructure and other economic activities. There have been numerous conservation activities in the Congo Basin in recent years (outlined in detail in the Baseline section), this program offers a number of important policy and institutional innovations. For example, the use of integrated land use planning (iLUMPs) and the application of natural capital accounting (NCA) is innovative for this region, as is strengthening indigenous and local community tenure and management rights. For all of these innovations, it will be important to incorporate lessons learned from similar projects as well as from the CBSL program as it advances. The program builds strongly on multi- stakeholder partnerships, which should help promote durability of project benefits.	Incorporating lessons learned from similar projects, as well as the CBSL as it is implemented: IPLCs are well represented in the project, with lessons learned over the past couple decades incorporated into the Section II. Recognizing special sociocultural context of the project landscape of Annex 12. Landscape profile. The same also includes details on Community opportunities for business development, as well as key implications for the project drawn out from regional species-oriented conservation action plans developed for both forest elephants and great apes. Further, technical reports produced by national experts during the PPG phase are identified in the final table of Annex 12? all of which contributed to development of the
	Risks are well articulated at a general level, but lack specificity or convincing responses in some cases.	project?s overall design and its components and outputs. The importance of strengthening IPLCs? rights (cf. land tenure and management/governance issues) as well as the use of natural capital accounting are both also highlighted in more detail in the Annex 13. High level frameworks adopted to advance forest landscape conservation. Finally, in Component 4 including KM, project outputs encompass documentation and dissemination of lessons learned, the coordination and sharing amongst Congo IP projects, and lessons-based adaptive management.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	The objectives are vague, and say little about what state is aimed for in terms of actual global environmental values (biodiversity, carbon storage, etc). The overall objective is "To catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnerships with the private sector". But this says very little about what such change should look like, or how it relates to biodiversity/carbon/land degradation goals. The "long term solution" put forward is that "The six basin countries need to work together to undertake national and cross-border actions that stabilize forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations so that the Congo Basin forest ecosystem remains healthy and thriving" (p. 36); and later on p 44 it is said that realising the overall objective will lead to "an intermediate state wherein the Congo Basin forest ecosystem is healthy and thriving with stable forest cover, peatlands, and wildlife populations". But this could involve stable forest cover/biodiversity et at levels much lower than today - is it possible for objectives to actually set out what the project seeks to achieve in terms of forest/biodiversity/climate outcomes, being realistic about the coming pressures?	Is it possible for objectives to actually set out what the project seeks to achieve in terms of forest/ biodiversity/ climate outcomes, being realistic about the coming pressures?: The project?s dual objectives are presented in para. 89 on prodoc p. 27: ?first, to conserve high biodiversity, high carbon stock landscapes? and secondly, to achieve this [through] a strengthening of livelihood opportunities and resulting socioeconomic benefits for forest dwelling and other forest dependent local communities?? In regard to the GEBs targeted by the project, these are captured more specifically in the core indicators, which are included at end of the CEO ER and also in Annex 17 of the prodoc. Thus, there are clear environmental end-targets (cf. GEBs), however the means for achieving targets also remain critically important as it the choice of approaches that will most likely enable (or not) achieving the targets while ?being realistic about the coming pressures.?

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project?s objectives?	Overall yes, though the categorisation of activities into components is conceptually fuzzy, and the links between each components and how these address drivers/threats/root causes is not clearly explained.	The detailed diagrammatic presentation of the project?s TOC (Figure 15, on prodoc p. 49) and visual overview (Figure 15, prodoc p. 51) present the linkages between the project?s 4 components, following a basic logic of ?creating/strengthening needed enabling environment? followed by ?strengthening conservation at regional or landscape level through participatory approaches? and finally ?empowering IPLCs at site level through the development of private sector value chains.? Across all of the project?s design, the barriers to transformations are reflected in the components and impact pathways, and ultimately in the components? outcomes. Output-by-output intermediate outcomes also have been noted.
		Component 1 ? enabling conditions for participatory approaches (cf. IPLCs) and integrated landscape-level management (including the economics of biodiversity)
		Component 2 ? inclusive governance and monitoring in the project landscape?s protected and conserved areas
		Component 3 ? development of ?wildlife

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.	Program Outcomes are provided for each Component; however, they are not broken down into specific short term and medium term effects. For Component 1 - the main output is the number of ILUMPs developed and the area they encompass. Component 2 has to do with improved management effectiveness (METT) and connectivity. Component 3 focues on forest-related value chains and the extent to which communities are engaged and empowered. And Component 4 refers to CB, KM and regional cooperation.	The Project Results Framework identifies indicators and targets to be achieved by the project?s mid-term and at the end of the project (prodoc, p.127).
		Additional information about these indicators (core indicators + 2 indicators per component and outcome) and their associated targets are presented in <i>Table 24</i> . <i>Project monitoring plan</i> in the prodoc, pp. 136-139.
Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptat ion benefits?	Yes	
Are the global environmental benefits/adaptat ion benefits likely to be generated?	It is hard to assess this without a clear TOC that identifies how the outputs of each component affect outcomes and the objective, and identifies critical assumptions. On the whole the activities do indeed appear appropriate and likely to generate these GEBs, but the complexity of the program and the large number of potential risks make this difficult to assess.	The outcomes/outputs/activitie s are clearly defined, as presented in detail in the <i>Expected Results</i> section of the prodoc (see pp. 56-92); including indicators with baselines and targets specified in the Project Results Framework, as referenced above. The project?s GEBs are summarized as core indicators? see the Annex 17.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?	As discussed above, outputs are not specifically outlined for each of the Components. Rather indicators are provided for each Component which seem to serve the same purpose.	Detailed outputs are provided in the prodoc and CEO ER documents, each output also including a series of activities. These outputs have been developed and organized with the aim to achieve the components? stated (desired) outcomes. The logic is described in detail in Section II. Project Strategy, starting on p. 27 of the prodoc, and in the Solutions framework, staring on p. 43 of the prodoc. The internal logic/rationale of each of the four components are further developed in the Expected Results section, on pp. 56, 64, 74 and 87.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is the problem statement well-defined?	Key points are generally well covered in the problem statement, although this is not written clearly and needs much stronger organisation - for instance, there is no explicit discussion of root causes, although some of these are highlighted earlier in the program rationale. Specific points: *A general point throughout is that the term "PA" is used without definition, and it is not clear whether it includes zones such as community-managed hunting zones/community forests and state-run trophy hunting concessions etc? Different uses seem to imply that PA either does or doesn't include these at different points. So this is hard to interpret. Cultural and socio-economic significance: *Great to see the analysis of the underlying problems with tenure here, though these could be helpfully pulled out as a root cause. *Important to recognise that conservation and PAs have also been a major cause of eviction and dispossession of forest peoples from their land, not just granting of concessions for agriculture/forestry etc. *Phiscussion of peoples is somewhat inadequate, and in particularly doesn't highlight the difference between forest peoples generally recognised as indigenous ("Pygmies"), who are primarily huntergatherer and marginalised in land policy/politics etc, and the agricultural ("Bantu") groups. C African states (including Gabon-see http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/504451468251730621/Programme-Sectoriel-Forets-et-Environnement-PSFE-Plan-dedeveloppement-des-peuples-autochtones) have recognised the need to recognise indigenous peoples - see e.g. work of African Commission https://www.iwgia.org/images/publications//African_Commission book.pdf. Legislative and policy context: *It may be helpful for this to include key characteristics of legislative/policy contexts operating at national level in region: there are high-level characteristics across the region that are extremely relevant to understanding current situation e.g. highly centralised state ownership of land, in general with little capacity, inadequa	Definition of the term PA: While standard PAs such as national parks and nature reserves are included, this project has purposefully broadened the notion of PAs used herein to include also ?community conserved areas? ? which is in line with IUCN?s most recent approach, specifically its ?Green List? of protected and conserved areas. This also reflects growing appreciation of areas that are <i>de facto</i> conserved by indigenous peoples/IPLCs, even if (when) these are not formally recognized in legislation. The broader notion of protected and conserved areas (PCA) is widely used in the prodoc and CEO ER, and more specifically developed in the section <i>High level frameworks for forest landscape conservation</i> and the section <i>Guiding principles for action</i> (prodoc, pp. 29-38), as well as in <i>Annex 13. High level frameworks adopted in the project.</i> Additionally, all specific PAs situated in the project landscape as well as conserved areas such as ?community conserved areas? in the form of community forests (as well as ICCA ? territories of life) are introduced in <i>Annex 12. Landscape profile.</i> These also are summarized in the prodoc, in Box 6 on pp. 42-43. A glossary of terms also is included at the beginning of <i>Annex 15. Key terms</i>
		and references; the latter

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Threats and Root causes: *Recent publication on deforestation in region could helpfully be cited https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat2993.full * The connection made here to lack of tenure of indigenous/forest dependent people is puzzling - presumably it is not indigenous people (generally reliant on hunting/gathering) that is responsible for this? Or if this is intended to imply that it is because of lack of tenure that forest people can't keep the farmers out of their lands, this should be clarified. * Discussion of some drivers is superficial e.g. discussion of poaching and trafficking focused on lack of law enforcement rather than highlighting underlying drivers of poaching/IWT, which can include dispossession, lack of incentives to conserve, lack of legal rights to sustainably use etc (see e.g. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/conl.12082), as highlighted in earlier discussion. *There is no clear integrated discussion of root causes here - proximate drivers are discussed (spread of agriculture, poorly managed forestry, poaching etc), sometimes with reference to root causes like population growth, and sometimes without. Annex D, which apparently has a diagram showing root causes, is missing. Barriers: * This section is not clearly and coherently organised - a clearer and more logical breakdown of broad context; proximate threats; root causes; and barriers to change would be really helpful. *Much of this material reads as articulating drivers of harm, rather than barriers to change (and indeed much is phrased as drivers e.g. "Conflicting and isolated sectoral developmentslead to habitat loss"). * Each barrier has a lot of rather unrelated points lumped in together, without a clearly articulated conceptual grouping. For example, in the first, the lack of community rights to manage land does not fit well under the heading "Conflicting and isolated sectoral developments" While lack of integrated land use planning" and be one of the root causes of deforestation etc. In the thir	Threats and root causes for the Gabon child project are provided in detail in the sections ?core development challenge,? ?main problems and root causes? and ?specific threats? in the prodoc, pp. 13-18; with recent publications included as footnotes throughout prodoc, and references all brought together in Annex 15. Barriers have been developed specifically for the Gabon context, as outlined on pp. 18-20 of the prodoc and summarized in the Box 7 on prodoc p. 45; and as further developed through the proposed project responses, cf. impact pathways and expected results.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is the baseline identified clearly?	*The baseline section does not give a clear picture of the current trajectory of environmental change in the region, but rather of what is being planned or underway in the region. If this is what is intended by the baseline here this is fine, but it would be helpful to have a clearer baseline on the actual on-the-ground biodiversity/forest/climate parameters that are the subject of the program. As written here it is mainly a list of what various donors/agencies are currently planning to do, without enough detail to understand how these affect the situation on the ground, although some of the country baselines (e.g. for CAR and ROC) do give a clearer idea of the on-the-ground baseline. There is more useful comment on the baseline on p45 which could be incorporated here, and in the section on Incremental/additional cost reasoning - these sections are more helpful to the reader in understanding the baseline situation.	During PPG, STAP suggestions were taken on board in terms of articulating the ?baseline trajectory,? which is elaborated in the prodoc on pp. 20-24. Further baseline (or background) is included in several annexes, such as <i>Annex 10. Gender Analysis</i> and <i>Annex 12. Landscape Profile</i> .
Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project?s benefits?	No, but this detail will be developed through child projects.	GEBs have been estimated/calculated and presented in Annex 17. Core indicators for the Gabon child project.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Baseline information for the overall program lists numerous programs and ongoing activities, organizations, etc. as per usual. As part of the CBSL IP, it would be very useful if the coordination grant in developing a platform could provide detailed information on all of these programs in a spatially explicit manner to show how they related to each other and how this project will add value in terms of overall global (and local) benefits.	The Gabon project will coordinate with other Congo IP national child projects and the regional project, under the Component 4 including in particular the KM and coordination outputs and their respective activities. The overlapping thematic areas in 4 neighboring countries? projects are outlined in Table 13 of the prodoc, p. 94. Baseline programs and projects already under way are also identified, with synergies highlighted, as presented in the <i>baseline scenario</i> section in prodoc, pp. 20-24? including >10 projects being specifically referenced.
For multiple focal	area projects:	
	aseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and fits specified, including the proposed indicators;	

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	No lessons from past work are described, and drawing such lessons would be extremely helpful.	Lessons from past projects: Lessons were drawn from previous/other projects in internal technical reports in PPG phase and these were incorporated into project design, as seen through integration of IPLCs, protected and conserved areas (PCA), rights-based approaches to conservation (RBA) and inclusive governance being central features/approaches adopted in this project. References included as footnotes (and in Annex 15) provide the syntheses of lessons learned, drawing on recently published meta-analyses that are now in the academic literature (both natural and social sciences) and within grey literature of conservation in practice.
how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	It is not clear any past lessons have informed this.	See above.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
What is the theory of change?	Annex 5, a diagram of the TOC, is not included. The TOC is described to some extent in the text, but as there is no logic of how each program component will address the key drivers described, it is hard to work out exactly what the TOC is. The program logic does not clearly and convincingly link root causes and proximate threats to program structure and outputs, or clearly identify critical assumptions in the logical chain. The components of the program (which are confusingly given substantively different names at different points) (e.g. (i. integrated land use planning ii. Maintaining/enhancing connectivity in key landscapes iii. Sustainable use outside PAs) are articulated in terms of how they address the four identified barriers, without linking this back to underlying drivers/root causes that were identified earlier. For example, the document states ?The single most important national policy issue related to biodiversity conservation is land and resource ownership?, but there are no program components that clearly link to and address this driver. While assumptions and risks for program success are articulated at a general level, it would be helpful to integrate these into a graphic TOC, to identify critical assumptions that underlie particular causal pathways in the TOC? this would indicate what parts of the program are dependent on what assumptions. One important assumption/risk is about forest-dependent, particularly indigenous, people, being able to participate effectively in consultations/planning, should be highlighted? there are substantial barriers to this and a long history of marginalisation in such deliberations. This underpins achievement of much of the program?s desired outcome (particularly given small scale conversion to agriculture is a key driver of forest loss), so deserves explicit and careful attention.	Description of each component starts with a statement of the anticipated outcome, reflecting the four barriers identified earlier? in light of threats and root causes. This is then followed by component-level summaries of impact pathways, and finally a presentation of the suite of outputs (and activities) deemed necessary to achieve each component outcome. Risks are summarized in Table 20, starting on p. 121, as well as in <i>Annex 6</i> . <i>Atlas Risk Register</i> . Main assumptions in the project?s theory of change are summarized in <i>Figure 14</i> . <i>Theory of change</i> on p. 47.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	The PFD indicates the four program components will address the four barriers, with (it is implied) each addressing one barrier. But how the components link back to the drivers and root causes is not well articulated. This comes back to the unclear articulation of the drivers and root causes to begin with. And the linkage of each program component to its corresponding driver is weak. For example, component (ii), "the long-term viability of forests providing important habitat is improved by maintaining/enhancing connectivity" is linked to overcoming barrier (ii) "forest landscape sustainability is compromised by poor governance of protected areas, buffer zones and corridors". But improving connectivity doesn't address poor governance. This seems rather conceptually confused. The diagram may help. The discussion on p45 under integration is much clearer in indicating how exactly the program is intended to shift the baseline (in relation to integrated planning at least). Including a similar description for the other components would be extremely helpful in clarifying the TOC and enabling assumptions and risks to be articulated.	The sequence of logical links between Threats, Root Causes, Barriers and the project?s 4 Components are presented in Section I. Development Challenge of prodoc, specifically on pp. 15-20.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
? Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Overall the mechanisms of change are plausible, but underlying assumptions are not well articulated. For example, the program highlights throughout the inclusion of forest-dependent people, but the assumptions around being able to do this effectively (and the barriers to doing this effectively) are not recognised anywhere. *Component 1 is well described, and the text on p45 under integration makes clear how it is expect to address a key driver of degradation, the lack of integrated land use planning. It seems that empowering communities to manage forests/wildlife is part of the thinking here, from some of the language, but if this is among the objectives of this component it should be stated - otherwise they are likely to be politically marginalised in the process ("involvement" in practice can mean just being told what is going to happen, unless it is really clear that one of the aims is to entrench a legally-recognised management role). There needs to be a focus in this section on implementation as well as planning, and some sort of process to adaptively review and support implementation in the face of inevitable roadblocks. This may be inherent but it may be good to make it explicit to ensure the focus is on effective	The project as a whole seeks to empower communities to manager forests and wildlife; this is done through greater emphasis on IPLCs and inclusive governance (at framework level) and specifically through focus on participatory monitoring of environmental resources (in Component 2) and also on strengthening community livelihoods (in Component 3).
	implementation, not just the planning phase. Or if this is done in component 4 perhaps indicate that clearly. *Component 2 is clearer here. Re the indicators here, it is perhaps a bit concerning that these focus so narrowly on protected areas, as there is so much important biodiversity outside of current PAs. Note that many aspects of this component and others actually contribute to addressing wildlife crime (the benefits, better governance, inclusion) - addressing wildlife crime goes well beyond "catching poachers". *Component 3 is extremely broad, but the logic of combining all "use" activities together is clearer here. Note, however, that this component is sometimes spoken of as being about empowering communities (see e.g. p 51, para beginning "Furthermore"), whereas it is much broader than this and is about shifting private sector patterns of exploitation also. Note that text is rather inconsistent as whether it is trying to shift communities away from using the forest or to trying to use it sustainably (important to encompass both - former where uses are unlikely to be able to be made sustainable (e.g. primate hunting, high populaiton growth), latter where they can (most subsistence uses, NTFPs, community forestry etc)). The indicators here need work though - what about area under sustainable subsistence use? area under management where communities have decision-making role? reduced deforestation by private sector? Reduced overexploitation of subsistence resources? Reduced IWT involving communities? Would be good to get beyond Output indicators to Outcome here.	With several activities focused on capacity building for community-level organization, as well as strengthening capacities of government institutions to partner more effectively (and purposefully) with communities, there is ample basis in project for effective implementation; as even the first component focused on national level capacity development seeks through this to create an enabling environment for actual/practical conservation action in situ, within the project landscape, together with local communities.
		In this project, the main aim is to enable and strengthen communities to be able to use forest landscapes more sustainably, while also collaborating in the protection-oriented measures of national parks. In this context.

parks. In this context, management effectiveness

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	Yes, this seems clear. Note that in the CAR section we seem to have moved from the project's approach of empowering communities to play a role in managing forests/wildlife to "alternative" livelihoods - is making subsistence use sustainable not important here? In the DRC section, where it says "private" land - is this intended to mean community land? Nothing on wildmeat in Gabon, where it is a major issue (NTFPs and wood won't feed people) (see e.g. CIFOR work https://www.jstor.org/stable/26267975?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_c ontents)?	While wild meat is a very important issue in Gabon, we chose to address this issue indirectly: the project is developed with focus on the strengthening of partnerships, including IPLCs and government, through the aegis of ?inclusive governance?. Community biomonitoring in the project will entail working closely with community members, some of whom do engage in bushmeat hunting (but the focus within the project will be on village level mapping of the extent of resource use, not bushmeat per se); this providing opportunity to also raise local awareness of conservation issues, with strategic messaging, as well as through joint multistakeholder implementation of field activities in/near protected areas, e.g. Waka NP. The inclusion of inland fisheries as an alternative livelihood and source of protein should also be seen in the context of the prevalence of bushmeat hunting.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	Yes, although many indicators currently measure only outputs rather than outcomes (see above for example).	Outcome indicators are provided; with ?outputs? being the ?indicators? of project activities that produce them. Additionally, a detailed monitoring plan is provided, see Table 24, prodoc p. 136.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?	There are some important innovations here. Applying NC accounting. Integrated land use planning is innovative in this region at least. Incorporating lessons learned on how it has helped, AND what goes wrong in such processes, would be extremely reassuring. Strengthening indigenous/LC tenure/management rights is innovative in the region (though it has been ongoing for thirty years elsewhere), but likewise it would be reassuring to see some lessons learned from experience incorporated here in term of where/how this works and how it can go wrong. These are the main innovations - the rest appears to be about scaling up and coordinating what is already going on.	The main innovations in this project are considering the economics of biodiversity or natural capital accounting (along with other non-economic values of nature, often held especially by IPs), on one hand, and integrated and inclusive land use planning, on the other hand. These have been incorporated into the fabric of the project? especially project engagement with IPLCs (even if not formally recognized as such in the country) and their empowerment e.g. with capacity development and especially by allowing them more space and voice. Participation and partnership are offered through the project especially through an enlarging of the notion of PAs to protected and conserved areas (PCAs) as well as through inclusive environmental monitoring (see, e.g., community biomonitoring) and the development of community-based? wildlife economy? entreprises in context of landscapes such as community forests.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Transformational change will be needed (i.e. through NCA or other means) to provide an attractive alternative to large scale logging, mining, forest concessions, etc. that are planned for the Congo Basin and which are expected to contribute to much needed economic growth and poverty alleviation.	While incremental-level change such as recognizing the economic value of biodiversity will be needed, in other areas greater transformations may be needed as well e.g. transition toward rights-based approaches. The project introduces the latter notion, embedded within frameworks endorsed by globally appreciated networks, e.g. IUCN and its new <i>Green List of PCAs</i> .
Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	Strongly recognised, although assumptions and risks here not clearly articulated (e.g. structural barriers to women's participation (family responsibilities, male opposition etc))	A detailed gender analysis (and action plan) has been elaborated in order to respond to and address structural barriers to women?s participation. Many of the needed approaches to redress imbalances also are reflected in the project?s strong FPIC-oriented actions/processes. Gender-responsive risks and associated indicators and targets have been identified.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022		
Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project?s control?	*Risks are generally well articulated. Note that there are real barriers to effective participation of IPLCs and women in consultations (people with little political power often unable to speak out clearly in support of their own interests, unable to attend meetings, language barriers, may be subject to (violent) reprisals from others, etc.) These risks will need proactive strategies and targeted expertise to mitigate. The mitigation measure for Risk 2 re divergence of economic interests is unconvincing. Several of the risks appear to justify the existence of the program itself (for example R8 on coordination and R 11 on duplication. A very real risk is R10 on conflict (medium to high) but the mitigation measure doesn?t seem to account for how projects might be designed differently as a result (see Ratner, B.D. 2018. Environmental security: dimensions and priorities. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.)	Risks of exclusion of stakeholders during consultations and activities have been addressed in the gender analysis and action plan, the stakeholder strategy and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (including FPIC approach) and will be issues receiving constant attention during project implementation.		

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects? Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	There is little evidence of this.	The design phase was informed from the expertise and experience of formulation team members and strongly influenced from consultations with local communities as well as government and sector interests; along with literature review undertaken by the team leader (and partially summarized through the Annex 13. High level frameworks and the Annex 15. Key references (as well as Annex 14. Covid-19 risks and recommendations). The majority of the literature and project experiences reviewed and noted (cf. lessons learned) are
Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?		included within the prodoc as footnotes (over 160 footnotes).
How have these lessons informed the project?s formulation?		Around a dozen key projects were identified during PPG phase and their experiences were considered in design phase of this project.

What STAP looks for	STAP Comment received at PFD level, 22 May 2019	UNDP responses to comments received at PFD level as applicable to this child project, 31 Jan 2022
Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?		Yes, through three outputs in Component 4: the KM output, communications/dissemin ation output, and coordination output.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

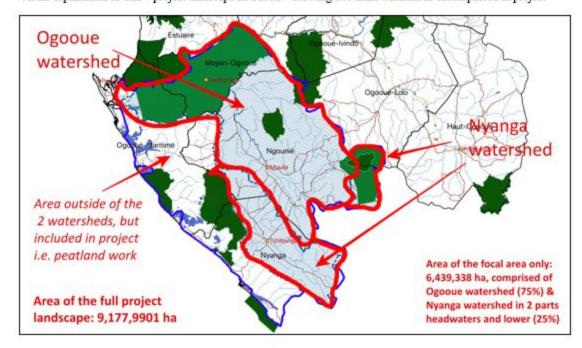
Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) (If requesting for PPG reimbursement, please provide details in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities	GET	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)					
<u>Implemented</u>	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent to date	Amount Committed				
Preparatory Technical Studies and Reviews	132,000	82,201	45,44				
Formulate of the UNDP-GEF project document	32,000	40,704					
Workshop validation of the Project Document	19,463	307	14,804				
Total	183,463	123,212	60,25				

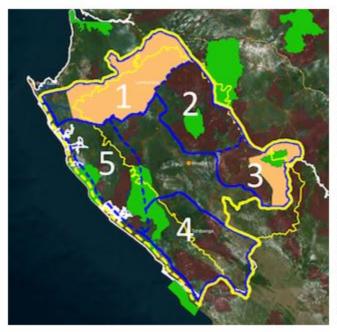
ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Visual explanation of GEF7 project landscape in Gabon - showing two main watersheds encompassed in project



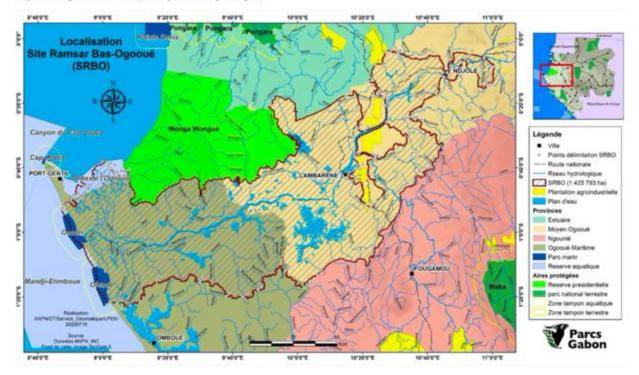
Five sub-regions where the project will implement activites
– see Figure 11 in prodoc, and associated descriptions



The project landscape is divided in 5 subregions, for operational purposes. The first
focal area is comprised of Bas Ogooue
Ramsar site focal area (#1, above),
including its current area and anticipated
extension. Moving up-stream into the Du
Chaillu Massif are the Waka area along
the Ikobey river (#2) and Birougou area
encompassing the headwaters of the
Ngounie river (#3). The Birougou region
also encompasses the headwaters of
Nyanga river, its mid and lower watershed
area being included in focal area #4.

The project will engage with the forest landscapes, local communities, and PAs, in all 4 of the above sub-regions. Finally, focal area #5 will mainly be focus for regional surveys of peatlands within the project landscape, together with same survey work also occurring within/across the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site.

Map of Bas Ogooue Ramsar site (from updated management plan)



The following protected areas, forest concessions, and community forests and fisheries are present within each of these project focal areas:

Focal	Type of area
area, and	
D 1	

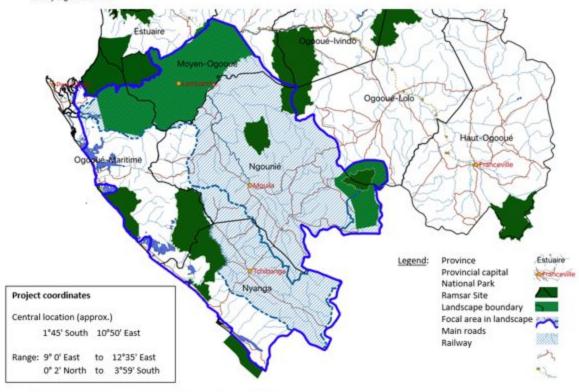
Province				
Focal area 1, Moyen Ogooue	1	Protected areas (PAs)	Bas Ogooue Ramsar site	1
(10 sites)	2	Forest concessions	NTB - TBNI	2
	3		GGFMI	3
	4	Community forests	Ovengkol (Abanga Bign?)	4
	5		Abanga Island Saint (3 villages)	5
	6		Ecouazeno / Evaro	6
	7		Eguemazango / Enyonga	7
	8	Fisheries mgmt plans	Lac Ogu?mou?	8
	9		Lac Azingo	9
	10		Lac Nkoviet	10
Focal area 2, Ngounie Waka	1	Protected areas (PAs)	Waka NP	11
(9 sites)	2	Forest concessions	SUNLY - COFMA	12
	3		PENGXIN SARL	13
	4		ASI	14
	5		SUNLY	15

	6	Community forests	Diambuga Mangou / Mamiengue	16
	7		PessuPessu / Oyenano	17
	8		Tokano / Kouagna-Ndoungou	18
	9		Nzemba	19
Focal area 3, Ngounie Birougou	1	Protected areas (PAs)	Monts Birougou Ramsar & NP	20
(3 sites)	2	Forest concessions	Permis 12/10 (UFA / GWI 3)	21
	3		Permis 36/92 (UFA / GFT 1)	22
	-	Community forests	-	-
	-		-	-
Focal area 4, Nyanga	-	Protected areas (PAs)	-	-
(4 sites)	1	Forest concessions	Permis 46/09 (UFA / GSF Bayonne)	23
	2		Permis 37/09 (UFA / CBG Mandji)	24
Focal area 5, Ogooue Maritime	1	Peatland assessment	Regional assessment: extent, amount	*

^{*} Peatland assessment is *regional* in scope, encompassing the Bas Ogooue Ramsar site in the Moyen Ogooue province as well as in selected landscapes in Ogooue Maritime province. Specific areas to work will be determined by the contracted service provider. Within the project?s ?focal area 5? (i.e., Ogooue Maritime outside of Ramsar site), only peatland assessment will be undertaken.

Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Map of the GEF7 project landscape (dark blue outline) in southwest Gabon. Highlighted area (light blue, hashed) is primary area of work within the Bas Ogooue and Nyanga watersheds



GEF 7 Child Project Endorsement/One-Step MSP Approval-August 17, 2018

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

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	Detailed Description	Component (<u>USDeg.</u>)								Responsible Entity
Expenditure Category		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (USDeg.)	Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency][1]
Equipment	Equipment for decentralized offices of environmental services in support of field work in Bas <u>Ogoque</u> Ramsar site (Output 1.1, activity 3]: including binoculars, tents, GPS, clothing, boots, etc. – see Annex 11 (USD <u>80,000)Equipment</u> for decentralized offices of environmental services in support of field work in other areas in the project landscape (Output 1.1, activity 3) (USD 100,000)	180,000				180,000			180,000	UNDP
	Equipment for monitoring water resources and fisheries in the Bas Ogooge Ramsar site and surrounding region - for use by DGEPN and Ramsar site authorities, in line with project aims in forest landscape conservation and sustainable livelihoods (Output 2.2, activity 3) (USD	,				,				
Equipment	100,000)		100,000			100,000			100,000	UNDP
Equipment	Office equipment, including computers for PM and AFO (USD 9,200)					-		9,200	9,200	UNDP
Sub-contract to executing partner	Direct Project Costs (DPC) for requested support to project by UNDP. Of the total DPC \$250,000 needed to provide this requested service (details provided in OFP request letter), \$215,000 paid by GEF and \$35,000 by UNDP Gabon. (USD 215,000)							215,000	215,000	UNDP
Contractual services-										
Individual Contractual services- Company	Salary of national Project Assistant, half time (USD 57,600) International company (NGO or academic institute) to develop and deliver a series of specialist training workshops (6 workshops), some in Libreville but most in project landscape i.e. Lambarges, Mouila, Tchibanga, (Output 1.1, activity 1) (USD 240,000)NOTE: For more information about work packages to be organized and delivered by service providers (companies; either NGOs or research institutions) — see Annex 7.	240,000				240,000		57,600	57,600	UNDP
Contractual services- Company	and the potential of ICCas or "territories of life" in the project landscape to contribute to regional biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin forests (Output 2.1, activity 4) (USD 80,000)International company (NGO) to support DGEPN (and thus build their capacities, in situ) as they monitor and support forest concessions in their social and environmental obligations - as joint operations between the contracted company and DGEPN, the forest concessions, and other local stakeholders - providing extension and training and the development of sectoral guides to enhance sustainability of concessions and IPLCs (Output 2.2, activity 1) (USD 210,000)International company (university) to develop and lead survey, in collaboration with government environmental services, on the extent of peatlands and their associated carbon stock in selected area of the project landscape (Output 2.2, activity 5) (USD 150,000)International company (NGO or research institute) to lead in the development and strengthening of participatory monitoring and land use mapping following the novel approaches developed elsewhere in Gabon with paraecologists and village hunters (Output 2.3, activity 2) (USD 250,000)		690,000			690,000			690,000	UNDP
Contractual services-	International company (NGO) for ensuring community consultations and FPIC processes, building capacities of community organizations/associations, and increased awareness of rights of IPICs; undertaken in relation to community-level engagement with private sector. All activities to be organized/delivered as a single package, through tender contract. See below for detailed breakdown. (Output 3.1) - Community consultations and FPIC processes – as standard procedure for all community projects (Output 3.1, activity 1) (USD 50,000) - Review and, where relevant, revise community maps through inclusive participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory processes; include updates that may be introduced from participatory and and resource use mapping undertaken elsewhere (Output 3.1, activity 3) (USD 75,000) - Conduct participatory audit of community organizations with their skills and assets, and support with capacity development trainings to the extent possible (Output 3.1, activity 4) (USD 60,000) - Organize targeted study tours amongst community stakeholders from across project landscape (Output 3.1, activity 4) (USD 60,000) - Organize targeted study tours amongst community stakeholders from across project landscape (Output 3.1, activity 3) (USD 140,000)International company (NGO) to support the development of community forests (Output 3.2), altivity on (ICAs, included above) through tender contract – see below for detailed breakdown: - Ensure selected community forests are well demarcated (1 forest near Oggumgué, 3 or more forests elsewhere in the project's high conservation val			1,260,000		1,260,000			1,260,000	UNDP

	National company (NGO) to support, strengthen and diversify								
	community-based natural resources management in the forest and forest-wetland landscapes in the Lake Ogoumoué area, which								
	encompasses 8 villages and 3 community cooperatives (including one								
	women's cooperative) (Output 3.2, activity 1) (USD 100,000)National								
	company (NGO or academic institute) to support the extension and								
	'scaling out' (or replication) of community-based mechanisms such as								
	cooperatives in aid of sustainable natural resource governance in new IPLCs and geographic areas (Output 3.2, activity 2) (USD								
Contractual	160,000)National company (NGO) to support further development of								
services-	community ecotourism in Ogoumue area (e.g. Tsam Tsam) (Outcome								
Company	3.3, activity 1) (USD 100,000)			360,000		360,000		360,000	UNDP
	National company (research institute) to carry out strategic								
	socioeconomic assessments of local communities or IPLCs targeted by the project for direct partnership, aiming to inform project								
	implementation and ensure baselines are well established (Output 2.1,								
	activity 5) (USD 60,000)National company (research institute) to assess								
	extent of artisinal gold mining along the Ikobey river and monitor its								
	impacts on forest cover and water quality, together with trials for site rehabilitation through agroforestry (incl. tree nurseries) and								
	development of public-private partnerships between contracted party								
	and interested forest concessions (Output 2.2, activity 2) (USD								
	105,000)National company to work in close collaboration with								
	government services for contaminant monitoring in Lakes region of								
	Bas Ogooue Ramsar site, focus on mercury (Output 2., activity 4) (USD 200,000)National company (NGO or research institute) to lead								
	development of novel approaches in community biomonitoring,								
	primarily in CCGLs (in vicinity of national parks) but also in the Ramsar								
	sites, with the aim of supporting/strengthening monitoring of fauna								
	and flora for conservation of forest landscapes and strengthening impact monitoring related to uses of forest resources, especially in								
	community managed forests (Output 2.3, activity 1) (USD								
	250,000)National company (NGO or research institute) to document								
Contractual	and help preserve traditional ecological knowledge of IPLCs in project								
services-	landscape through community-based story telling enabled by participarcy video techniques (Output 2.3, activity 3) (USD 160,000)		775,000			775,000		775,000	UNDP
Company			773,000			773,000		773,000	ONDP
	National company services (national) for implementing communications strategy, e.g. sharing messages in print, on airwaves,								
	etc. (Output 4.2, activity 3) (USD 20,000)National company (NGO) to								
Contractual	develop and execute a youth competition to promote public								
services-	awareness in Gabon about multiple values of forest biodiversity								
Company	(Output 4.2, activity 5) (USD 50,000)				70,000	70,000		70,000	UNDP
International	International Capacity Building Expert (as above, shared across the								
Consultants	project components) (USD 240,000)			240,000		240,000		240,000	UNDP
	International Capacity Building Expert (as above, shared across the								
	project's components) (USD <u>240,000)International</u> Biodiversity & PCA advisor (BPCA) (part-time) providing guidance and support across								
International	multiple outputs and activities, also connecting with all other project								
Consultants	components as needed (USD 75,000)		315,000			315,000		315,000	UNDP
	International Capacity Building Expert, salary shared across project's								
	first 3 components. The International Capacity Building Expert's expertise and time will support/contribute to capacity building in								
	multiple areas as well as provide high level strategic guidance and								
	technical support, complementing the inputs of short-term service								
	providers contracted for specialist workshops, development dialogues,								
	awareness raising meetings and events, etc. (USD								
	240,000)International consultant(s) to lead joint review/assessment/update of PA management plans of project's								
	targeted PAs; minimally including critical elements of EIA/ESIAs, FPIC								
	processes, co-management, and sustainable conservation financing.								
	(Output 1.1, activity 2) (USD 80,000)International consultant to								
	develop policy briefs and sector guidelines (Output 1.1, activity 4) (USD 100,000)International consultant to produce strategic materials								
	on 'systems thinking' for senior government and industry leaders, to								
	raise awareness and understanding of integrated approaches,								
Internation of	including up-downstream regional connections (Output 1.2, activity 3)								
International Consultants	(USD 30,000)NOTE: For a breakdown of salaries/rates, time, and costs for project staff and consultants – see Annex 7	450,000				450,000		450,000	UNDP
	International consultant for Mid-Term Review (MTR) (Output 4.5,	450,000				+30,000		-50,000	ONDE
	activity 4) [included in M&E Plan and Budget] (USD 50,000)								
International	International consultant for Terminal Evaluation (TE) (Output 4.5,						110 000	110.000	LINES
Consultants	activity 4) [included in M&E Plan and Budget] (USD 60,000)					-	110,000	110,000	UNDP
	International specialist on IPLCs and rights-based conservation, for the purpose of developing an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) under ESMF,								
	inclusive of pertinent community consultations and FPIC processes								
	(Output 4.4, activity 1) (USD 18,000)International Gender and Social								
	Inclusion (GESI) specialist to support implementation of Gender								
	Action Plan (GAP) (Output 4.4, activity 2) (USD 66,000)International								
	consultant on social and environmental safeguarding to lead development of the ESMF, including ESIA at start (Output 4.5, activity								
	1) [ESMF] (USD 27,000)International consultant for capacity building in								
	safeguards and their monitoring to support DGEPN and the PMU								
	Safeguards Officer (two missions only, over two years with hybrid								
	onsite and remote support) - to build capacity in DGEPN (and PMU SO) in monitoring of safeguards outlined in ESMF and resulting ESMP, and								
	associated action plans GAP, IPP, SEP, LAP (Output 4.5, activity 2) (USD								
	20,000)International consultant for capacity building in project								
	management to support DGEPN and the PMU AFO - to build capacity								
	in DGEPN (and PMU AFO) in design and application of project								
International Consultants	management, including procurement policies and rules (Output 4.5, activity 4) (USD 45,000)				176,000	176,000		176,000	UNDP
Consumants	activity +/ (U3D 43,000)				170,000	1/0,000		170,000	UNDP

	National Community Engagement & Safeguards Officer (CESO) (part time) (USD 72,000)National Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO) (part time) (USD 72,000)National consultant to develop and set up project KM system and train PMU and other partners in its use (Output 4.1, activities 1 and 2) (USD 30,000)National consultant to develop communications strategy (Output 4.2, activity 1) (USD 15,000)National consultant on local livelihoods, to support lead								
Local Consultants	international consultant in developing ESMP and other associated				203 400	203.400		203 400	LINDP
Consultants	plans (Output 4.5, activity 2) [ESMF] (USD 14,400) National consultant to develop annotated review of key sources of information accessible to local stakeholders, including data portals or gateways (such as COMIFAC and OFAC platforms) (Output 1.2, activity 4) (USD 14,400)National consultant to collect pertinent information on the project's thematics including management plans, evidence-based guidance materials in conservation, etc., especially for use by decentralized environmental units; and working with PMU to keep list updated and ensuring the gathered materials are available to all project partners (Output 1.2, activity 5) (USD33,600)National consultant to develop annotated review of legal and regulatory frameworks in Gabon related to forest landscape conservation and IPIC livelihoods and rights, including current status and opportunities for improvement (Output 1.3, activity 1) (USD 32,000)National consultant to assess social and environmental safeguarding mechanisms, including regionally-informed recommendations for improvement (Output 1.3, activity 3) (USD 24,000)National consultant to develop (or if appropriate, to adapt) best practice guidelines and				203,400	203,400		203,400	UNDP
	methodologies pertinent to forest landscape conservation and Green Gabon, and to work with PMU to reach intended audiences that can								
	use them to strengthen natural resource management and								
Local	mainstream biodiversity and PCAs across sectors (Output 1.3, activity	442.400				4.42.400		442 400	UNDP
Consultants	4) (USD 38,400) National consultant to support ICs for MTR (7 weeks) and TE (8 weeks)	142,400				142,400		142,400	UNDP
Local Consultants	(Output 4.5, activity 4) [included in M&E Plan and Budget] (USD 30,000) National consultant to undertake full SWOT analysis of environmental,					-	30,000	30,000	UNDP
Local Consultants	social and land use contexts in three provinces at project outset, developing baselines (Output 2.1, activity 1) (USD 25,200)National consultant to review current situation of forest concessions in Gabon, especially regulatory requirements (ESIA/ESMPs) and their status of operations (compliance) in the project's selected concessions (Output 2.1, activity 2) (USD 28,000)National consultant to review potential of community forests in the project landscape for conservation and sustainable livelihoods, with actionable recommendations (Output 2.1, activity 3) (USD 14,000)		67,200			67,200		67,200	UNDP
Training,	Inception workshop, which also is inaugural form of project								
Workshops, Meetings	engagement with stakeholders (cf. SEP) (Output 4.5, activity 3) [included in M&E Plan and Budget] (USD 20,000)						20,000	20,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Meetings or workshops aiming to enable exchanges and strategic dialogues and promote regional coordination across Gabon and beyond (Output 4.3, activity 1) (USD 65,000)				65,000	65,000		65,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops for skills development related to CBNRM, with focus on local entrepreneurs and local organizations (e.g., community cooperatives) and development of community-led business and value chains (Output 3.2, activity 1) (USD 100,000)			100,000		100,000		100,000	UNDP
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Workshops: High-level "development dialogues" held in Libreville, to advance landscape and watershed management approaches across regions and sectors (Output 1.2, activity 1) (USD 135,000)Meetings/workshops: Cross-ministerial multi-stakeholder coordination on integrated watershed management and related awareness raising events (Output 1.2, activity 2) (USD 120,000)Workshops: Awareness raising events and outreach for local government, civil society and IPLCs about they information sources available, incl. data and maps (Output 1.2, activity 4) (USD 47,600)Series of workshops to review status, raise awareness and build capacities in relation to development and use of Strategic Environmental Assessments (Output 1.3, activity 2) (USD 60,000) Travel and other related operational costs for hydrological and related wildlife resource monitoring in the Bas Ognoue Ramsar site, especially the Lakes Region, with emphasis on supporting the development/strengthening of community associations and on	362,600				362,600		362,600	UNDP
	collaborative monitoring of natural resources by government with								
Travel	communities - to be administered directly by PMU with DGEPN and Ramsar site (Output 2.2, activity 3) (USD 52,800)		52,800			52,800		52,800	UNDP
	Travel costs associated with in-country implementation of MTR and IE (USD 9,789)Other travel costs associated with regular (on-going) M&E by PMU and delegated parties, including supervision and learning		32,000			52,000		22,000	CHUF
Travel	missions (USD \$24,000)					-	33,789	33,789	UNDP

	Project Total	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	560,924	6,060,924	193,789	311,800	6,566,513	
Costs	2023. (USD 30,000)					-		30,000	30,000	UNDP
Operating	\$5,000 per year. First audit at end of first full calendar year, i.e. end of									
Other	Professional services for annual audit of the project at flat rate of									
Travel	Travel costs for Ramsar site authorities, by land or by boat (in lakes region), for supporting both existing and newly developed community NRM initiatives in the project target area and associated compliance monitoring and development of participatory resource monitoring in context of community and regional zoning and other management plan stipulations (Output 3.2, eartivity 3) (USD 40,000)			40,000		40,000			40,000	UNDP
Travel	(supporting Outputs 4.3 and 4.4) [ESMF] (USD 46,524) Travel costs for field missions directly related to implementation of project activities and associated in situ (on-the-job) learning, to cover travel related expenses for field work by PMU and affiliated government services as well as contracted companies and consultants and partnering agencies and organizations. Supporting field work and learning related to forestry and lakes/wetlands, with focus on monitoring of environmental conditions, on regulatory compliance in forestry and agribusiness concessions, and community collaborations (Output 1.1, activity 3) (USD 125,000)	125,000			46,524	46,524 125,000			125,000	UNDP
	Travel costs for developing ESIA and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (to be supplemented by other funds that are available for execution of specific project activities, through which the majority of SEP actions will be delivered); including community consultations and as necessary also FPIC processes, e.g. in context of developing / implementing Livelihoods Action Plan (LAP) under ESMF									

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

<u>Instructions</u>. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

<u>Instructions</u>. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).