Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program
The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)

GEF ID
10314

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
☐CBIT
☐NGI

Project Title
Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba

Countries
Congo DR

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Fire Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Income Generating Activities, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Forest, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Forest, Congo, Forest and Landscape Restoration, REDD - REDD+, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Livelihoods, Least Developed Countries, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Private sector, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Ceritification - International Standards, Certification -National Standards, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Biomes, Tropical Rain Forests, Wetlands, Lakes, Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Integrated Programs, Commodity Supply Chains, Sustainable Commodities Production, Deforestion-free Sourcing, Adaptive Management, Smallholder Farmers, High Conservation Value Forests, High Carbon Stocks Forests, Financial Screening Tools, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Landscape Restoration, Sustainable Commodity Production, Smallholder Farming, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Sustainable Food Systems, Integrated Landscapes, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Food Value Chains, Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa, Sustainable Production Systems, Diversified Farming, Agroecosystems, Multi-stakeholder Platforms, Land and Soil Health, Small and Medium Enterprises, Gender Dimensions, Resilience to climate and shocks, Integrated Land and Water Management, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Indigenous Peoples, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Communications, Education, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, SMEs, Non-Grant Pilot, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Knowledge Exchange, Targeted Research, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
12/11/2020

Expected Implementation Start
7/1/2021

Expected Completion Date
6/30/2027

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
1,238,532.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
IP SFM Congo		GET	13,761,468.00	79,532,813.26
		Total Project Cost($)	**13,761,468.00**	**79,532,813.26**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To scale up and improve forest landscapes through community-based natural resources management in targeted trans-boundary landscapes.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Mainstreaming Integrated Land use Planning (ILUP) for conservation and sustainable development	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1.: Three Provincial Governments (Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu) have zoning plans. Indicator: Level of institutional capacities for integrated land use planning, management and monitoring of peatlands and protected forest areas as measured by UNDP?s capacity development scorecard Outcome 1.2. Legislations on Indigenous People and Local Community land tenure and resources user rights promulgated at the national level Indicator: Gender-responsive measures in place for conservation,	Output 1.1.1: ILUP methodologies are defined under national orientations and support following local free, informed and prior consent (FPIC); Output 1.1.2. Related LUP information collected with participation of all partners (IPLC , Local Government entities, FAO, WWF, etc.) are consolidated and available under one database; Output 1.1.3: Proposed zoning plan for community based natural resources management (CBNRM) in priority conservation areas is integrated into provincial LUP and tenure rights are recognized to communities on ancestral lands.	GET	2,686,030.00	15,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2. Ensuring Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscapes	Investment	Outcome 2.1: 400,000 ha of conservation areas (other than national PA) in the targeted landscape have an efficient management in order to ensure the protection of the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity. Indicator 1: Hectares of land under improved management in the project targeted landscapes Indicator 2: Improved understanding among key stakeholder groups of the value of peatlands and forest, and the importance of in-situ conservation, as indicated by results of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP)	Output 2.1.1: Effective measures and type of priority conservation areas (eg. ICCA, CFC, CPA, etc.) to meet biodiversity conservation national priorities are defined under participatory process; Output 2.1.2 : More than 600 000 ha of priority conservation area (other than national PA but may include the 400,000 ha of conservation areas) are identified and integrated under provincial LUP; Output 2.1.3: At least, 600 000 ha of priority conservation area are managed using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity.	GET	3,917,272.00	18,532,813.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Promoting effective sustainable land use in priority landscape	Investment	Outcome 3.1: 25% of IPLCs in priority areas implement climate smart best practices with regard to land use. Indicator 1: Number of climate-smart production and land use best practices adopted by local communities and indigenous peoples (dis-aggregated by gender, individual or common initiative group, and indigenous or non-indigenous group) Indicator 2: Number of farmers engaged in climate-smart land use practices	Output 3.1.1: At least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization) are supported under IPLC management with active integration of women and private partners engagement; Output 3.1.2: Investments derived from result based payment for ecosystem services contracts are secured by the project and applied to restore, improve carbon stock and biodiversity in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands. Output 3.1.3. The capacity of IPLC community development committees and local, regional and national authorities in project development, implementation, climate best practices and monitoring are	GET	5,594,166.00	18,800,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 4. Improving capacity, knowledge management and trans-boundary collaboration.	Investment	Outcome 4.1. Three DRC provinces have the capacity to monitor wildlife trafficking, land use change, SDG progress in priority areas.	Output 4.1.1: Four integrated SIG / database system (3 at provincial level, one at national level) put in place in order to manage and share information consolidated;	GET	510,000.00	10,000,000.00
		Indicator 1: Availability of agricultural scientific data and statistics from a centralized geodatabase source	Output 4.1.2. Progress towards SDGs in the project area monitored using Rural Development SDG monitoring tool (developed by MRD);			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Improving capacity, knowledge management and trans-boundary collaboration.	Investment	Outcome 4.2. The Governance structure (under current treaty) improves Transboundary coordination and actions against wildlife trafficking.	Output 4.2.1. Lessons learned on effective conservation approaches as per outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 are consolidated and shared (communicated) both among national stakeholders and regionally.	GET	400,000.00	10,000,000.26
		Indicator 2: Strengthened institutional capacity for monitoring wildlife trafficking, land use changes and SDGs is limited of forest and peatlands landscapes, as indicated by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Output 4.2.2. Project lessons learned and communication are documented and shared at local, national and regional level.			
			Output 4.2.3. The multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives (put in place by previous project) on: monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms are improved and strengthened			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**13,107,468.00**	**72,332,813.26**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	654,000.00	7,200,000.00
				Sub Total($)	**654,000.00**	**7,200,000.00**
				Total Project Cost($)	**13,761,468.00**	**79,532,813.26**

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($)
Other	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,760,944.26
Other	WWF-FAO (CAFI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	10,000,000.00
Other	WWF	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,895,435.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development Contribution	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
Other	Provincial Government of Sud Kivu	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Other	Provincial Government of Nord Kivu	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Other	Provincial Government of Equateur	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Other	REPALEF: Network of Indigenous Population for Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystem of DRC	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
Other	CARITAS Sud Kivu	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,876,434.00
Private Sector	SAFBOIS S.A.R.L	Grant	Investment mobilized	20,000,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**79,532,813.26**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilised constitute earmarked DRC partners have commited to invest through ongoing or approved projects. these investment constitute key key resources commited in the project areas as baseline activities which will constitute the basis for the GEF investment success.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNEP	GET	Congo DR	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	13,761,468	1,238,532
				Total Grant Resources($)	**13,761,468.00**	**1,238,532.00**

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

☐

PPG Amount ($)

300,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

27,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNEP	GET	Congo DR	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	200,000	18,000
UNEP	GET	Congo DR	Multi Focal Area	IP SFM Congo Set-Aside	100,000	9,000
				Total Project Costs($)	**300,000.00**	**27,000.00**

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	2,762,968.00	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 the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

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	2,762,968.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)	
Akula National Park Kahuzi-Biega	**12568934328**	**Select**Wilderness Area		600,000.00			38.00			
Akula National Park Nziri PA	**12568**	**Select**Wilderness Area		540,000.00			36.00			
Akula National Park Tayna Gorillas Reserve	**12568**	**Select**Wilderness Area		88,600.00			35.00			
Akula National Park Timba-Ledima	**12568955551200**	**Select**Natural Monument or Feature		750,000.00			35.00			
Akula National Park Virunga	**12568916888**	**Select**Wilderness Area		784,368.00			42.00			

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	500000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	500,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	700000.00	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)
	700,000.00		

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)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (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	8182184	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)		8,182,184		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
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)

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				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

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		65,000		
Male		55,000		
Total	0	120000	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

Aichi Targets define a vision that ?by 2050, biological diversity will have been valued, conserved, restored and utilized with wisdom, by ensuring the maintenance of services provided by ecosystems, by maintaining the planet in good health and by offering essential advantages to all people.? The government of the DRC has a goal to extend the size of protected areas to up to 17% of the national territory by 2020 corresponds with Aichi Target 11, which stipulates that ?by 2020, at least 17% of land zones and interior waters and 10% of marine and coastal zones, including zones that are particularly important for biological

diversity and the services provided by ecosystems, will have been conserved by means of ecologically representative networks and linked to effectively and equitably managed protected areas and other effective conservation measures by zone, and integrated into the land and marine landscape.? Also, Aichi Goal 19 serves as a link between the perspectives of the Congolese government, the ICCA Consortium, and the wishes of Congolese local communities and native pygmy peoples: ?By 2020, the knowledge, scientific base and technologies associated with biological diversity, its values, functioning, state and tendencies, and the consequences of its impoverishment will have been improved, shared and transferred widely, and applied.? Other aspects of this Project?s contribution to the country?s Aichi Targets are summarized in the table below: Aichi Targets Project contribution to Aichi Targets PRIORITY STRATEGIC AXIS 1 Integration of biodiversity in all relevant national sectors National objective 1.1 By 2020, all relevant sectoral strategies and the national development plan will integrate biodiversity considerations ? The project develops ILUP methodologies to support land use planning that integrates biodiversity considerations (Output 1.1.1) ? The implementation of zoning plans for CBNRM in priority conservation areas is an effort that ensures the achievement of conservation while promoting socio-economic development (Output 1.1.3) PRIORITY STRATEGIC AXIS 2 Reduction of pressures on natural habitats National objective 2.1 By 2020, the rate of depletion of all representative ecosystems in the country is reduced and appropriate measures are taken to avoid their degradation and / or fragmentation ? The project prioritizes conservation area management to meet biodiversity conservation participatory process ? this applies to both forest and peatland landscapes (Output 2.1.1) ? Over 600 000 ha of priority conservation area will be defined and brought into provincial land use plans to ensure that its management supports habitat conservation (Output 2.1.2) ? Investing on results-based PES contracts to restore, improve carbon stock and biodiversity in at least 500 000 ha will support land improvement (output 3.1.2) ? Supporting at least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization) will reduce negative human impacts on the landscape (Output 3.1.1.) PRIORITY STRATEGIC AXIS 4 Improvement of the management of existing protected areas and extension of the network National objective 4.1 By 2017, the management of existing protected areas is significantly improved National objective 4.2 By 2020, at least 17% of the national territory representing terrestrial areas and inland waters will be conserved through a network of protected areas representative of the ecological regions of the country. ? The project prioritizes conservation area management to meet biodiversity conservation participatory process ? this applies to both forest and peatland landscapes (Output 2.1.1) ? Over 600 000 ha of priority conservation area will be defined and brought into provincial land use plans to ensure that its management supports habitat conservation (Output 2.1.2)

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

Global environmental and/or adaptation problems

Studies have discovered that the Lac Tele and Lac Tumba landscapes are in the midst of the world?s largest tropical peatland estimated to store the equivalent of three years? worth of the world?s total fossil fuel emissions[1][1]. The peatlands cover 145,500 km2 ? an area larger than England[2][2]. The swamps could lock in 30bn tons of carbon, making the region one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth[3][3]. These studies revealed that carbon has been building up in the Congo basin?s peat for nearly 11,000 years. It places the DRC and the Republic of Congo as the second and third most important countries in the world for tropical peat carbon stocks. The peat covers only 4% of the whole Congo basin, but stores the same amount of carbon below ground as that stored above ground in the trees covering the other 96%[4][4]. The swamps could lock in 30bn tons of carbon that was previously not known to exist, making the region one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth. The Congo basin peatlands store the equivalent of nearly 30% of the world?s tropical peatland carbon - that?s about 20 years of the fossil fuel emissions of the United States of America[5][5].

Peat is an organic wetland soil made from part-decomposed plant debris, more commonly found in cool environments, such as northern Russia, Europe and Canada. Healthy peatlands act as carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere through plant growth. Further decomposition of the peat is prevented by its waterlogged environment, locking up carbon[6][6]. Year-round waterlogging is needed for peat to form in the tropics. If peatlands dry out, either through changes in land use such as drainage for agriculture or reduced rainfall, further decomposition resumes, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the tropical peatlands of the Congo Basin (including those of the project area) contributing factors to the potential drying up of these peatlands include forest fires, deforestation and drainage for agricultural plantations, particularly for palm oil, as is happening in Indonesia.

The peat may also be vulnerable to the effects of climate change ? increased evaporation due to rising temperatures or reduced rainfall could cause it to dry out and begin to release its carbon to the atmosphere. The discovery of these tropical peatlands could have a huge impact on the climate if released, and hence have serious implications for conservation policies and practices of the DRC and the Republic of Congo[7][7]. With so many of the world?s tropical peatlands under threat from land development and the need to reduce carbon emissions to zero over the coming decades, it is essential that the Congo basin peatlands remain intact[8][8]. The maintenance and protection of the peatlands of the Congo Basin, through initiatives such as those of the current project, alongside protecting our forests, could be central Africa?s great contribution to the global climate change problem. This project

will contribute to 8,182,184 tCO2eq avoided emissions in terms of lifetime direct as well as consequential GHG emissions avoided over a time horizon of 20 years.

In addition to their status as a globally important region for carbon storage, the Congo basin swamps are refuges for endangered species including lowland gorillas and forest elephants, as well as other large forest mammals that are threatened by developments in the surrounding landscape.

Threats

The root causes of demographic growth and population pressure, combined with environmentally unsustainable development models and economic policies, have resulted in resource uses and practices that are increasingly negatively impacting biodiversity levels and the integrity of ecosystem services in the DRC. In addition, the effects of global climate change are aggravating the impacts of existing threats. The project will aim to reduce the following threats to the islands? biodiversity by addressing their immediate drivers:

(i) Deforestation due to agricultural expansion and felling: According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, since 1990, the rate of deforestation in the DRC has remained at 0.20%, which equates to the loss of 311,000 hectares or about 1,200 square miles annually[9][9]. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the direct causes of deforestation in the DRC are slash and burn agriculture, the collection of fuelwood and charcoal, illegal logging and road infrastructure development. Charcoal and fuelwood collection are considered a key driver of deforestation as it used for most of the population?s energy needs, it said. Together with illegal logging, it contributes to climate change domestically and in the region as a whole[10][10]. Poverty also plays a part in driving deforestation in the DRC. Although the DRC is endowed with many minerals, it is one of the world's poorest countries. According to the World Food Programme, out of its over 80 million people, 48 million survive on less than US$1.50 a day.

(ii) Uncontrolled biodiversity extraction from forests: People of the DRC traditionally rely heavily on access to forests for a diversity of resources. There is increasingly unsustainable intrusion by hunters, palm wine producers, snail catchers, healers using traditional medicines, charcoal producers, etc., including within protected areas. In addition, there has been an increase in illegal capture of vulnerable bird species including parrots. Another feature of uncontrolled wildlife extraction from the forests of the DRC and the general environment of the Congo Basin region is the phenomenon of bushmeat harvesting[11][11]. Bushmeat hunting is widespread in the Congo basin. Animals like monkeys, duikers, and antelope are common targets, although species such as gorillas and bonobos are also at risk, usually ensnared using wires. Combating the bushmeat trade presents many challenges. In remote areas, bushmeat is the primary source of income for families, as it is the only export that will earn a profit. WWF works with communities to create alternatives. The international demand for ivory still drives the killing of elephants, leading to local extinctions and threatening to eliminate elephants entirely. WWF plays an important role in fighting illegal trade, including through the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC), the world?s largest wildlife trade monitoring network.

Root Causes

Limited knowledge and decision support systems for policy formulation, decision making and planning knowledge. Experience and opportunities are limited regarding recovery of forest and peatland landscapes and their ecosystem services ranging from agricultural lands and their productivity, forested lands and wetlands and their environment. Further, the negative impacts that various production practices, including agriculture, have on land productivity and the provision of ecosystem services, are not well understood and linkages not made between these poor practices and deterioration of services, e.g. prime agricultural land is lost due to degradation of adjacent forest and the ecosystem services they provide. Although there is some basic data, it is dispersed, in different or incompatible formats, and inconsistent in terms of information monitoring and the analytical methods applied to its analysis. The

information available regarding ecosystem services provided by the forest and peatland landscapes including wetlands as well as their economic significance in the different production systems that they support is insufficient. In addition, the ability to translate this information into effective public policies and adequate management decisions is limited, especially on the sub-national levels.

Top-down model of environmental management reduces positive outcomes. Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) models of natural resources management are used to create the right incentives and conditions for an identified group of resource users within defined areas to use natural resources sustainably. This means enabling the resource users to benefit (economically) from resource management and providing strong rights and tenure over land and the resources[12][12]. CBNRM has been widely promoted as a strategy that aims to conserve biodiversity, while simultaneously enhancing rural livelihoods[13][13]. CBNRM also supports the development of accountable decision-making bodies that can represent community members and act in their interests. The management models that have been in use generally in the DRC have been top-down in character ? limiting local participation in decision-making and management of natural resources on which they depend[14][14]. This has meant more transaction costs on government services implementing the management of these resources and restricted impact on the ground in terms of positive changes in natural resources management and the health of protected natural resources.

Poor management of the use and exploitation of forests (including logging and subsistence use for household needs, agricultural expansion, and deforestation for mining). Wood-based industries such as paper, matchsticks, and furniture need a substantial quantity of wood. Lumber and charcoal are common examples of trees being used as fuel. Cooking and heating all around the world use these resources, and half of the illegal removal from forests is thought to be used as fuelwood. Large areas are also cleared to construct roads in order for large trucks to have entry to logging sites. Selective logging is where only the most valuable trees are felled; however, this doesn't help the problem as one large tree may bring down surrounding trees and thin the forest canopy. The forest canopy is extremely important to the ecosystem as it houses animals, protects plants and insect population, and protects the forest floor. A major cause of deforestation is agriculture plantations. An increasing supply-demand for products such as palm oil and soybeans are driving producers to clear forests at an unnerving rate. Farmers often clear the land for cattle by using slash and burn techniques (cutting down trees and burning them). Unfortunately, they will then use the property until the soil is completely degraded and repeat the process on a new patch of woodland . The increase in mining in tropical forests is furthering damage due to the rising demand and high mineral prices. These projects are often accompanied by large infrastructure construction, such as roads, railways, and power systems . The supporting infrastructure puts additional pressure on forest and freshwater ecosystems.

The direct and indirect impact of climate change: Forests are essentially the lungs of our planet. All plants take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Trees are able to convert more carbon dioxide than a regular plant, though. Forest loss is often caused by climate change. Tropical rainforests are extremely humid due to the water vapor released along with the oxygen. But when a forest is cut down, the humidity levels decrease and causes the remaining plants to dry out. For example, drying out our tropical rainforests increases fire damage. Fires can be both accidental and intentional but destroy forests quickly. The impact of climate change is important when considering the Equateur Province of the project implementation. The peatlands of this province are of vital environmental value vis-?-vis climate change as their preservation can avoid substantial emissions from being released from these landscapes. With a warming climate, the impact of bush fires and other land use practices that may affect the health and productivity of forests and peatland landscapes could be further amplified in scale and frequency.

Increasing demand for environmental resources ?encroaching into new lands (deforestation, land conquest, conversion). Due to rapid population growth, more land and environmental resources are

needed to meet the needs of populations in the project locations. Thematic studies during the project development phase have indicated a heavy reliance of local populations on environmental resources from a range of landscapes, including forests and peatlands[15][15]. In the same light many more infrastructure is needed to accommodate the growing population, necessitating the cutting down of forests for roads and highways and other relevant public infrastructure. With more people come a large need for more land for food crop production and raising livestock?resulting in increased deforestation. Industrial development is also contributing to environmental changes in the project locations - logging industries depend on forest products for furniture, paper, building materials, and many more products. These are a direct result of growing human population and is why it?s important to purchase from sustainable companies which actively work against deforestation.

Insufficient collaboration for environmental governance: In the DRC (as is the case with other countries of the Congo Basin region), collaboration in the governance of key environmental resources and their associated challenges remains poorly developed. Peatlands and the great global environmental service and implications they represent is only one among such environments. Peatland ecosystems have not been properly assessed, demarcated and recognized as the valuable types of landscapes they are, given the relatively recent nature of the discovery of their extent in the Congo Basin region. Because peatland ecosystems have not previously been recognized or documented, it has been difficult for specific conservation or management measures to be undertaken. As a result, many peatland ecosystems have been cleared, drained, burnt and otherwise destroyed without them being recognized. Other peatlands have been included by chance in conservation areas ? but they have not been recognized specifically in the management plans or processes. In some cases, they have been degraded by ongoing management activities in the conservation areas. Transboundary collaboration and cooperation in recognizing the value of peatlands and dealing with challenges to their sustainable management are still poorly developed in the region. In the region of the Grand Kivu, there is also need for cross-border collaboration in addressing several challenges associated with biodiversity management, Illegal Wildlife Trade, and other environmental challenges of transboundary character.

Barriers

Barrier 1: Lack of land use planning at the local level and insufficient coordination among sectoral development institutions in achieving effective land use planning: The traditional land-use rights of local communities and indigenous people can only recognized in reserves, national parks and private concessions if they are included in the relevant management plans. However, at the local level, there is limited availability of these land use plans in the DRC. In cases where these land use plans exist (such as in some parts of northern DRC ? developed through the CARPE Program), the legal recognition of these plans, and their incorporation into existing policy frameworks have lagged.

A lack of policy level and field-level coordination among key government institutions has allowed interventions related to land use planning (for addressing management challenges of peatlands, forests, waterscapes and others) to be inefficient and sporadic. Successful conservation of biodiversity, peatlands, forests, and the sustainable management of resources within them requires careful planning, which can only be guaranteed through well thought-out land use planning processes.

There is also the problem of lack of coordination among local institutions and authorities involved on the implementation of land use plans at the landscape level and regulations for the sustainable management of forests and peatlands. At the local level, the lack of coordination among the different institutions with mandates over forest uses including peatland uses and management is further complicated by the role of local governments and municipalities on the decision process and enforcement of land use plans at the wider landscape, where lack of technical capacities are more exacerbated and where useful information and data are both scarce and dispersed over the institutions. Thus, it has become very difficult to ensure proper ecosystem functioning, with the consequent negative effects on land productivity on one hand and biodiversity conservation on the other.

Barrier 2: Legislative gaps and insufficiencies related to indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights, as well as on land use planning and zoning at the national level: The

policies and regulatory frameworks supporting the development of peatland and forest landscapes through sustainable management and conservation at national, regional and local levels are insufficient. This is partly due to the fact that very few robust experiences have been carried out in continuous management, conservation, or recovery of disturbed landscapes in the DRC?s peatland areas in the Equateur Province, as well as in some of the very sensitive ecological and agro-ecological landscapes of Grand Kivu. An example of the limited ability of the current legislative structures to support the long-term future for protected areas can be seen in their inability to provide an enabling framework for sustainable funding. Recent environmental initiatives have not been able to implement public policy instruments beyond the scope of a few donor-funded projects. Even though there is an existing demand on the part of civil society for action in these areas, this demand is not finding its way into public policies for regulating management of these areas.

Another aspect of legislative inadequacy is in the inconsistent coordination of national institutions for the sustainable management and conservation priorities of production landscapes such as peatlands, lowland forests, and protected areas. The threats that the DRC?s production landscapes, protected areas, landscapes of rich biological diversity, and some inland marine environments are facing, are part of the mandates of different institutions. None of these sectorial authorities takes into account criteria beyond those strictly related to their own areas when regulating activity development. Jurisdiction for regulating and inspecting resource utilization is deficient, dispersed and uncoordinated, making it difficult to establish a coherent and controllable regulatory system. The different institutions in charge lack the installed capabilities for adequate implementation of their respective norms, in addition to deficiencies in the norms themselves and lack of coordination, all of which contributes to an overall situation with high difficulties to regulate.

Finally, there is lack of coordination among local institutions and authorities involved in the implementation of land use plans at the landscape level and regulations for the sustainable management of forests and peatlands. At the local level, the lack of coordination among the different institutions with mandates over forest uses including peatland uses and management is further complicated by the role of local governments and municipalities regarding the decision-making processes and enforcement of land use plans at the wider landscape, where lack of technical capacities are more exacerbated and where useful information and data are both scarce and dispersed across institutions. Thus, it has become very difficult to ensure a functioning ecosystem. This has consequent negative effects on land use and land productivity on one hand, and biodiversity conservation, on the other.

Barrier 3. Insufficient institutional management capacity to ensure the protection of habitats of vulnerable and threatened species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity: There is lack of specific institutional capacity for sustainable land management and forest and peatlands protection. Barriers relating to institutional capacity include lack of technical know-how for addressing threats specific to forest landscapes and peatlands. There are gaps in information and knowledge that are key for decision-making and drawing up policies that ensure sustainable natural resource and biodiversity management. This type of sustainable management requires a process of consultation, negotiation between different stakeholders, bio-physical and social monitoring, supervision and conflict management, none of which has yet been integrated into the capacities of the professionals involved. In addition, neither the local communities nor the regional or municipal authorities have the necessary experience for implementing integrated management plans for peatlands.

Within the context of barriers to the management of protected areas, there is also the limited and/or inconsistent coordination of national institutions for the sustainable management and conservation of productive landscapes, peatlands, forests, and protected areas. The threats that the DRC?s productive landscapes, protected areas, landscapes of rich biological diversity, and some inland marine environments are facing, are part of the mandates of different institutions.

Barrier 4. Limited initiatives and incentives to implement climate-smart, as well as other environmentally-friendly best practices with regard to land use and natural resources management: Absence of incentives for the application of SFM, INRM, SLM and conservation practices: Incentives for local producers to apply sustainable land management practices (SFM, INRM, SLM, biodiversity management and conservation practices) to increase agricultural productivity are not being made available efficiently due to the lack of capabilities for drawing up, and acquiring funding for projects

that include ecosystem services considerations. In addition, local producers do not have access to markets which award ?premium? value to their commodities produced under sustainable land management and in a manner that is environmentally compatible within the DRC?s peatlands, forests and biodiversity-rich landscapes. In addition to local land users, there are also vested interests of the private sector that make the application of SLM, SFM, biodiversity management and other sustainable principles of land and natural resource use challenging. The PPG thematic studies noted that the private sector tended not to proactively engage in initiatives of environmental welfare character, as they may perceive the potential for such initiatives to implement actions and activities that curtail profits. Nonetheless, there are avenues for collaboration between local communities, the government and the private sector that have not been explored, and that have been proven to bear positive fruits in other development scenarios. An example of this is the use and application of corporate social responsibility modes of engagement. Corporate social responsibility investments can be made in activities with communities that stir the adoption of sustainable land management practices and biodiversity conservation, including for example, setting up special fund to reward community members practising SLM or using biodiversity-friendly production systems.

Barrier 5. Limited capacity to monitor threats to environmental health such as wildlife trafficking, land use change, as well as SDG progress in priority areas: There are a number of barriers that limited the ability of local stakeholders, and even governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to monitor key aspects of environmental health. One of them is the limited understanding of the synergies between key human-nature systems relevant for viable ecosystem health: Inadequate understanding of the interdependence between wetland sustainable management and conservation, and sustainable land management in the associated landscapes in which they are inserted. The lack of basic knowledge regarding how these ecosystems function at the landscape level, except on the smallest scale (individual landholding or less in terms of management) prevents a coherent integration of resource utilization. The strictly sectorial focus originates in the lack of operational knowledge in the DRC regarding complex ecosystemic processes. Both of these gaps reinforce and feed back into each other. Ecosystem health and functions at the wider landscape level is not sufficiently understood, neither in terms of land productivity in sectors such as agriculture and forestry, nor in terms of the causal relationship of the ecosystem components and their interactions.

There is also the problem of limited access to useful information and lack of public awareness regarding the importance of the conservation of DRC?s peatlands, forests and biodiversity resources. Most of the population is not aware of the importance of natural ecosystems or those being conserved for biodiversity conservation, of different plant and animal species, nor of the ecosystem services provided, on the level of the landscape and to production for local development. Recognition of the significance of conservation of DRC?s peatlands, forests and biodiversity resources on the national level, awareness of the threats that these ecosystems face, their socio-economic and environmental importance, is fundamental for their conservation and to assure the institutional support needed in order to maintain them.

Barrier 6: Governance gaps that fail to achieve transboundary coordination and actions against wildlife trafficking and other environmental challenges to local and transboundary landscapes: The benefits of transboundary cooperation in the management of environmental resources will vary from community to community or even country to country according to their economic, social, environmental and geopolitical characteristics. They will also vary according to the cooperation stage. The benefits identified should then undergo a ?screening? to select for assessment the most relevant and important benefits, taking into account their potential magnitude and other policy-relevant criteria. There are many opportunities for transboundary collaboration that have not been explored in the project locations: in the Equateur Province for collaboration on peatlands management; and in the Grand Kivu on collaboration in the management of biodiversity, forests and other sensitive ecosystems. One of the main barriers to this collaboration remains the lack of an effective cross-border platform for such collaboration.

There is also the barrier imposed by weak knowledge management and mainstreaming of relevant considerations associated with environmental health such as gender and indigenous peoples. Gender and indigenous people?s considerations are not routinely taken into account in design and monitoring of interventions, therefore reducing the ability to effectively include women in biodiversity

conservation and environmentally sustainable natural resource management actions[16][16]. Lack of reliable data and insufficient information sharing remains an impediment to ensuring effective support for gender mainstreaming in biodiversity and ecosystem management[17][17]. Despite a heavy reliance on natural resources, there is a general lack of awareness among the people of the DRC about the importance of socially integrated approaches to the management of biodiversity and ecosystem services[18][18]. The limited amount of information available creates challenges for sharing and scaling-up of successes and lessons learned of efforts being supported by international, national and local actors on gender mainstreaming in other experiences. Promoting robust M&E and gender mainstreaming monitoring and sharing of information, lessons and best practices are thus essential for improved management of environmental governance and upscaling of project results[19][19].

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

On-going projects and those under consideration

The Forest Dependent Communities Support Project for Democratic Republic of Congo (P149049) running from 2016-2021: The objective of the Forest Dependent Communities Support Project for Democratic Republic of Congo is to strengthen the capacity of targeted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) in selected territories and at the national level to participate in REDD oriented land and forest management activities. The project has 3 components. (1) Reinforce the participation of IPLC in forest and land management processes related to REDD component will provide tailored support, including on administrative and financial management issues, and improve dissemination of information about REDD and its impact on the IPs and LCs. (2) Support community-based sustainable forest and land management component will help empower IPLCs by (a) supporting initiatives exploring how to attain formal recognition of their traditional user rights and (b) financing natural resource management activities that enhance climate change adaptation and the sustainable management of forest landscapes to improve rural livelihoods. (3) Increase the capacity to implement development activities for IPLC and consolidate feedback component aims at ensuring the smooth implementation of the project in compliance with Bank procedures but with enough flexibility to match the capacity of the communities.

The Biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management project was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development being the lead Executing Agency for a period from 2016-2020. The objective of the project has been to support improvements in the sustainable management of natural resources and in the conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas have brought increased value for the local population and private owners of forest smallholdings. The project is strengthening the skills and capacities of the local population and the private owners of forest smallholdings, as well as those of the specialists and managers of the relevant ministries, service providers and decentralised state structures. In so doing, it is laying the foundation for the conservation of biodiversity and a legal, sustainable approach to managing natural resources. The project sets out to involve the people in environmentally sound, economically sustainable resource management, and to help develop a technically competent and sustainably financed administration which is equipped for and open to dialogue. This serves to boost acceptance of protected areas and reduce the pressures placed on them. The livelihoods of the local population are also improved as a result.

Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) has been financing climate and biodiversity projects in developing and newly industrialising countries since 2008. IKI has been very active in the Congo, supporting the securing crucial biodiversity, carbon and water stores in the Congo Basin Peatlands by enabling evidence based decision making and good governance. *Assessing, Measuring and Preserving Peat Carbon (2019-2022)* is a Global Peatlands Initiative project funded by the German

International Climate Initiative (IKI). This project aims at ensuring that effective policies, improved methods, data and tools to support sustainable peatland management are increasingly available globally and initiatives toward protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable use are well coordinated and implemented by key actors in the pilot countries of Republic of Indonesia, Peru, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo with results extended to other countries. It promotes innovation and South-South cooperation. Total Budget: ?2 million.

The *CongoPeat: Past, Present and Future of the Peatlands of the Central Congo Basin.* This project is led by Leeds University ? It is a ?3.7 million five-year scientific program funded by the United Kingdom?s Natural Environment Research Council. This program aims at gaining a comprehensive understanding of this carbon-rich ecosystem by answering key questions about its past, present and future. It has three main aims: (i) An integrated understanding of the origin and development of the central Congo peatland complex over the last 10,000 years. We will analyse peat deposit sequences from across the region, extracting preserved pollen grains, charcoal, and chemical markers, to reconstruct the changing environment through time. We will use an unmanned aerial vehicle to map peatland surface topography, and develop a mathematical model of peatland development; (ii) A better estimate of the amount of C stored in the peat, its distribution, and the amounts of important greenhouse gases, CO_2, methane, and nitrous oxide, being exchanged with the atmosphere. This will be achieved via extensive fieldwork to map peat distribution, and by installing intensive measurement stations to determine the flows of C into and out of the ecosystem; and (iii) An understanding of the possible future scenarios for the Congo peatlands. A range of models will be used to simulate the possible impacts of future climate and land-use change on the peatland, at local to global scales.

The Integrated Program of the Province of Equateur (PIREDD) (2019-2023) is an integrated program, built on almost all of the seven pillars of the DR Congo?s REDD strategy. It is carried out in tandem by the FAO and WWF / DR Congo in an approach to pool their own skills and capitalize on the respective experiences acquired and accumulated in the intervention area, which constitute an important asset in the implementation of the program and offer intrinsic comparative advantages in the rapid execution of the latter. The lines of intervention include: (a) Spatial planning, through participatory planning of the use of land in different village community areas, which is inspired by the priorities and planning framework previously defined at national and provincial level in terms of territory Development. (b) Governance, through the establishment of local community management structures represented, as the case may be, by Local Development Committees (CLD), at village level, whose members are democratically elected and have at least 40 % of women, some of whom actually participate in decision-making bodies. (c) Agriculture, by supporting the development of short-cycle food crop supply chains (rice, corn, cowpea, groundnuts, etc.) in on forest fallows and savannahs using in particular the approach of renewal of plant material and effective and efficient management of fertility (legumes, crop rotation, rotation, etc.) and optimization of spaces by intercropping (perennial-food crops).

Congo River Users Hydraulics and Geomorphology (2016-2021), funded by the Royal Society, DFID, UK, at the cost of 1,350,000 $ US, and implemented by the Congo Basin Water Resources Research Centre (CRREBaC), the University of Kinshasa, University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, University of Rhodes in South Africa, Universities of Bristol and Leeds in the United Kingdom. The *?*Congo River Users Hydraulics and Morphology (CRuHM)? is an initiative for research and capacity building in water resources of the Congo River Basin. The overall objective of the CRuHM initiative consists of carrying out large scale hydraulics and geomorphological science research on the main channels of the Congo River, its floodplain and wetlands in order to address the severe lack of basic knowledge and understanding, in support of socio-economic benefits with regard to aquatic ecosystem services. This project covers the whole Congo Basin, including the Lake Tumba, Lake Tele, and the catchment of the Kivu region. The project also looks at the aspects of land use ? land cover changes and the source to sink of sediment and carbon budget in the Congo basin. Through this project, CRREBaC has implement a number of monitoring station for hydrological assessment in the Congo basin. Some of these monitoring stations are implemented in the Lake Tumba area.

Climate-Water-Migration-Conflicts nexus - Addressing climate and water driven migration and conflicts interlinkages to build community resilience in the Congo Basin (2019-2021), funded by the International Development Research Centre, Canada at the cost of 522,781 $ US, and implemented by

the Congo Basin Water Resources Research Centre (CRREBaC) and the United Nations University-Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). Climate change presents a huge threat to the Congo Basin population who are already struggling with multiple challenges posed by years of chronic socio-political conflict, widespread poverty, and a continuing environmental degradation. The basin holds about 40% of the African water discharge, is largely undeveloped, and hence might be critical to continental and local water security; however, socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-political drivers are key to how it all manifests. In recent years, massive movements of pastoralists from the northern region has gained significant attention, and multiple episodes of land and water conflicts have been recorded. The migratory movement owes to several direct and indirect drivers - more often related to the degradation of natural resources or climate variability. Hence conventional trends of human mobility are replaced by new patterns of migration to access land and water resources, more so, newer kind of conflicts reported as the result. This project aims to quantify current and possible future impacts of climate and water-driven migration in the Congo Basin for socially vulnerable groups both in the incoming and resident population, and examine the range of gender-sensitive policy options to reduce the adverse impacts on these groups. The project also focuses on solutions aiming to assess adverse climate scenarios with significant water footprint. It will outline options to address and mitigate risks and build community resilience and foundation for transformative change that is gender and youth inclusive, focusing on socially vulnerable groups such as women and girls. This project will assist in reducing socioeconomic inequality and reinforce adaptive capacities of women and girls in, and provide better understanding of existing and potential, water-related conflicts and migration scenarios at regional, basin and national and local level, including, displacement patterns [temporary, seasonal or permanent] disaggregated by gender, age class, and socioeconomic status.

Intra-African academic mobility in water resources - MSc and PhD programme (2020-2025) is funded by the European Union Commission at the cost of 1,400,000 Euros, and implemented by the Congo Basin Water Resources Research Centre (CRREBaC), University of Kinshasa, University of Makerere in Uganda, High National School of Hydraulics in Algeria, Federal University of Technology of Minna in Nigeria, Institute for Water Research of Rhodes University in South Africa. The aim of this project is to support the: (i) Deepening academic specialist competence in Hydrology and water resources, Ecology and applied chemistry, etc.); (ii) Building transdisciplinary capabilities - learning pathways that are embedded in practice; (iii) Mobilizing all knowledge sources ? academic, practice-based, local; (iv) Socially-engaged training- aimed at effecting practical solutions to Africa?s pressing water challenges; (v) Engaged research and training ? industry, policy, communities and academia (We seek holistic partnership); (vi) Learning prepares students for employment, and employers.

Developing a catchment classification framework for the Congo basin (2019-2021) is funded by the Royal Society, United Kingdom and the African Academy of Sciences, at the cost of 300,000 $ US, and implemented by the Congo Basin Water Resources Research Centre (CRREBaC) and the University of Kinshasa. Catchments represent hydrological units of direct interactions between social, economic and environmental systems; and physical processes and services of water resources at the catchment scale are very sensitive to environmental changes. Catchment classification systems are crucial for understanding water resources structures, processes and functions to enable planning, management and conservation strategies. The proposed framework of catchment classification will consist of a knowledge-based interface that provides high quality information on the structures, processes and functions of water resources at the catchment scale, as well as impacts of change in the physical environment and society. This knowledge-based interface will be translated into a web platform of catchment hydrological information that allows a wide range of end users including research organizations, government agencies, private industry, investors, and NGO?s to easily access hydrological information to guide and inform decision-making of water management and water stewardship at local scales. It will also provide consistent guidelines to enable societal resilience to detrimental impact of environmental change. The impact of such a framework is wide as it will contribute to the implementation of many other projects of water resources planning and development whose feasibility has been challenged by a lack of adequate baseline information. It will also contribute to efficiency of investments for water resources development, avoid redundancy of actions and maximise socio-economic benefits.

The *USAID Conservation through Economic Empowerment in the Republic of the Congo (CEERC)*: it is a 5-year program beginning in 2019. Its goal is to address the threats posed by extractive practices and lack of economic alternatives through the opportunity to support ?green industries? that improve the well-being of forests, wildlife and rural dwellers at a scale sufficient to impact large areas and diverse populations.

United States Forest Service activities (2008 ? present)[20][20]*:* Since 2008, the US Forest Service has been supporting and undertaking several activities that are in line with activities to be undertaken by the current project. These activities form a foundation on which the current project can build in the implementation of its own activities as well as provide opportunities for collaboration in the achievement of common goals. Examples of USFS activities in the DRC include: (i) Supporting national-level processes and providing technical training in the field, including trainings on forest inventory and monitoring, soil sampling in peatland forests, developing a guide on participative land use management planning, training communities on sustainable fire management in the Mai Ndombe Province and developing hiking trails and other alternative ecotourism activities in Kahuzi-Biega and Virunga National Parks; (ii) Working with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and the World Resources Institute to develop an operational guide outlining the process for the development of simplified management plans for community forestry concessions. The aim is that application of this guide will support sustainable forest use, promoting both biodiversity conservation and sustainable rural development; (iii) The USFS is currently completing a review of potential economic benefits and benefit-sharing models that can be leveraged within these frameworks. This review will provide a current state of knowledge to be shared with relevant stakeholders providing a realistic assessment of benefit delivery at the community level; (iv) Supporting the government of the DRC, local and international NGOs, universities, and other technical partners on land use planning and forest zoning, forest inventory and monitoring, fire and rangeland management, community forestry, sustainable ecotourism, and capacity development; and (v) Drawing on lessons learned from the implementation of USAID?s Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment, the U.S. Forest Service and Wildlife Conservation Society have also developed a practical guide outlining best practices for engaging communities and other relevant local stakeholders in micro-zoning and land use management planning processes. This practical guide aims to provide actionable guidance for implementation in the field.

The Improving Livelihoods and Land Use project in Congo Basin Forests (2015-2020, GBP 18.7 million) was set up with the aim of improving the living conditions of forest-dependent communities in the five countries. Through support for legal reform, advocacy and independent observation, it supports recognition of the rights of local communities and indigenous people to community forestry resources. It also works at the community forest enterprise level, focusing on the development of sustainable, inclusive and multiple socioeconomic models that are likely to attract innovative investments[21][21]. The project has already played a decisive role in consolidating multi-stakeholder actions around community forestry, which have facilitated recent developments in Central African Republic. The project was designed to work with CAFI and improve links between community forestry and REDD+, community rights, and the political and programmatic prioritization of these aspects.

The Improving Livelihoods and Land Use in the Congo Basin project (2015-2020, with a budget of Total Project Budget: ?5,675,782, in which Department for International Development (DFID) funding is: ?2,401,932) aims to establish a successful model of community-based forest management, one that focuses on the rights, needs and priorities of local communities, including those of marginalised groups such as indigenous peoples and women. The project?s overall aim is to alleviate poverty, improve rural livelihoods and reduce deforestation in the Congo Basin. Its overall goal is to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities and reduce deforestation in the Congo Basin by providing support to forest zoning, independent forest monitoring, civil society advocacy and the strengthening of legal frameworks for community forestry, as well as direct investments in community forest enterprises. The programme is expected to benefit 2.4 million beneficiaries (direct and indirect). The programme will

also have a demonstration effect, building a body of evidence on Community Forestry in the Congo Basin.

Support to the Integrated Management of Water Resources of Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River. This project aims at improving the hydrological and operational management of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River, bordering the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi, while pursuing an integrated and Nexus-based approach. The project started in 2019 and is led by the GIZ in cooperation with the regional partner Autorite? du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la Rivie?re Ruzizi. Taking into consideration the manifold challenges the Lake Kivu and Ruzizi River Basin is facing ? relating to the unsustainable use of water and related resources and the lack of integrated management of these resources across sectors, leading to negative impacts beyond the natural resources sector and affecting both socioeconomic development and regional cooperation opportunities ? this project aims at improving the hydrological and operational management of Lake Kivu and the Ruzizi River.

Integrated REDD + Development of the District of Plateau - The Improved Forest Landscape Management Project (PGAPF), (2016-2019, for a budget of $ 9 151 359 in the Lac Tumba landscape (Former Plateaux Districts, Mai-Ndombe Province, DRC). This project was funded by the UC-PIF/World Bank and implemented by the WWF, with an objective to promote sustainable forest management in the Plateau district and in the Kinshasa supply basin, while improving the living conditions of rural populations and testing innovative mechanisms for the management of forests to help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the intervention area. The overall objective of the mission was to test a governance and technical innovation approach allowing to globally reduce deforestation on a large scale, over an entire district, while improving the living conditions of the populations. To do this, the project intended to create or strengthen governance institutions capable at the various territorial levels of the Plateau District (Province-District, territory, sector, group, village lands) to develop and implement Management Policies (plans) Sustainable Natural Resources by relying on innovative technologies and appropriate investments likely to improve living conditions, institutions capable of monitoring and evaluating the results of these policies. Key achievement of project included: (i) Collaboration agreements (Free, Informed and Prior Consent (FPIC) were obtained with 387 identified villages, 11,573 households signed collaboration agreements with PIREDD Plateaux. (ii) Structuring and setting up of 214 Local Development Committee which are currently operational with each of them had legalized statutes and internal rules and regulations; (iii) Elaboration of the 4 Development Plans of the 4 Territories; (iv) A capacity building plan was developed at the end of this workshop. Training has been organized for technical service agents; (v) A total of 11,573 households received training in the production of seedlings in nurseries. (vi) A total of 328 nurseries in total installed at the project sites, and 5,494,696 total seedlings produced, with about 4,069.7 ha of agroforestry established in the project communities; and (vii) During the 2016 - 2019 financial year, PES contracts was signed with the communities for the establishment of agroforestry during 5 agricultural seasons. Some of the programmes approved by the National REDD+ Fund are found in the Table below[22][22]:

Table 7. Related programmes approved by the National REDD+ Fund.

Programme	**Expected results**	**Amount (US$)**

Ma? - Ndomb? Integrated programme ***[World Bank]***	? Living conditions and incomes improved by 20%, especially those of farmers, while ensuring the sustainable management of resources and land ? Sustainable rural development promoted by increasing agricultural productivity through improved practices, developing perennial crops and strengthening local governance around a holistic vision cantered on land use planning and ? Deforestation and forest degradation stabilized in the former Ma?-Ndomb? District	30 millions (two instalments : 20+10)
Finalization and operationalization of the National Forest Monitoring System ***[FAO]***	? Monitoring of the changes in forest cover ? Proactive monitoring of major deforestation events ? Meet UNFCCC criteria to allow access to results-based payments related to reduction in deforestation	10 millions (two instalments : 9+1)
Support to Civil society ***[UNDP]***	? GTCR-R fully functional (national coordination and governance and oversight bodies) ? Organisation expanded and new partnerships sought ? Active provincial and territorial coordination, especially for REDD+ intervention areas ? Training programmes implemented	**Initial allocation**: 2 millions (single instalment) **Addendum** 2018: 1 million
Sustainable management of forests by Indigenous Peoples (Pygmees) ***[World Bank]***	? Develop national capacity to : ? Identify models of sustainable natural resource management by Indigenous peoples ? Experiment these models in order to disseminate them more widely	2 millions (1 instalment)
Integrated REDD+ programme for the provinces of Tshopo, Ituri et Bas Uele (Oriental) ***[UNDP]***	? Natural resource governance is improved in target areas ? Impact on forests of of economic activities and demographic dynamics is reduced in target areas	33 millions (two instalments : 20+13)
Integrated REDD+ programme for the province of Sud Ubangi ***[World Bank]***	? Management capacity strengthened ? Support agricultural development that respects management plans and promote sustainable crops ? Strengthen technical capacities of decentralized authorities	7 millions (in two instalments : 4 + 3)

Support to land use planning reform ***[UNDP]***	? Land use planning policy developed and regulatory and legal framework strengthened to coordinate sectoral and territorial policies resolve land conflicts and promote a balanced land use development ? Strengthen capacity for dialogue and negotiations of stakeholders, primarily MATUH, CONARAT and their regional units as well as territorial entities ? Ensure that social and environmental safeguards are taken into account in land use planning	**Initial allocation**: 4 millions (in two instalments : 3 + 1) **Addendum 2018**: 4 millions (in two instalments : 2+2)
Support to tenure reform ***[UN Habitat]***	? Strengthen the National Commission for Land Reform (CONAREF) to prepare and implement tenure reform ? Support communities to elaborate methodological guidance to strengthen cadastres, and capitalize on lessons learned in pilots (conflict resolution and harmonization of secure tenure) to feed into the tenure policy document ? Tenure policy document and associated legal text elaborated in a participative manner	**Initial allocation** : 3 millions (one instalment) **Addendum 2018** : 4 millions (in two instalments : 2+2)
Integrated programme for Kwilu ***[JICA]***	? Carbon sequestration and avoided deforestation (223,000 tons of CO2) through promoting agroforestry (5000 ha) ? Improved livelihoods (improved median revenue of supported farmers by 10%)	4 millions (in two instalments : 3.2 + 0.8)
Integrated Programme for Equateur province ***[FAO]***	? Support sedentarization of agriculture in savannahs and fallow lands, using Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and improved crops ? 3000 ha of wood energy plantation and 7000 ha under natural regeneration ? 10,000 households adopt improved cookstoves ? 480,000 ha of community forestry supported ? Increase contraceptive prevalence in 10% of targeted communities	CAFI funding : 6.16 millions (in two instalments : 4.4 + 1.76) Co-financing from Sweden: 3.84 millions

The Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of the Natural Reserve of Ngiri (NRN) Project ? NGIRI-3 (2017-2019, for a budget of $ 1 900 000 in the Lac Tumba landscape: Equateur province was funded by the KfW, and implemented by WWF among other partners. Created by Order No. 001 / CAB / MIN / ECN-T / 27 / JEB / 10 of January 8, 2011 of the Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism for the Protection of the Congo River Hydrographic Basin, the Ngiri Triangle Nature Reserve (NRN) is a dense tropical rain forest reserve located in the Equateur Province,

straddling two territories, namely, the territory of Bomongo (Ngiri sector) and the territory of Makanza (Ndobo sector). The biological and socio-cultural biodiversity of NRN is the subject of various threats which are linked, some to anthropogenic activities (poaching, unsustainable agriculture, unsustainable fishing, etc.) and others to seasonal disturbances. The vision of this project was to maintain and protect the biodiversity of NRN for the development of riverside communities. The beneficiary population of the project is estimated at more than 120,000 inhabitants in 72 villages. Hence the objective was to protect and sustainably manage the natural resources of NRN and improve the living conditions of local communities. The project led to a number of achievements, including: (i) The drafting of the anti-poaching patrol strategy taking into account the reality of the NRN with respect for human rights during anti-poaching patrols; (ii) Conducting 118 anti-poaching patrols, covering a distance of 12,241.5 km in 278 days and coverage was 40.39% using a 1x1 km grid; (iii) The subsidy of 30 Local Development Committees (LDC) out of the 72 LDCs in the NRN for the construction of their office; (iv) The implementation of community development plans in 13/16 groups; and (v) Rehabilitation and construction of schools, construction and rehabilitation health centres and posts, raising small boats, poultry, growing cassava, corn, bananas.

The Central Africa Forest Ecosystem Conservation ? CAFEC (2013-2018, for a budget of $ 14, 282,634) in the Provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Equateur was funded by USAID and implemented on the ground by WWF and partners. The objective of this project was to sustainably manage target forest landscapes and mitigate biodiversity threats in targeted forest landscapes (Virunga, Itombwe and Lac Tumba). The CAFEC program is implemented in three geographic landscapes, these are the Lake Tumba and East landscapes (Virunga and Itombwe). The project was based on input from landscape stakeholders and responds to requests for support from ICCN, provincial authorities, community leader and civil society groups. The project is well integrated into government decentralization program and continued support for landscape planning has been solicited by landscape's provincial government. Key achievements of the project included: (i) Capacity building for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) around protected areas (PAs); (ii) Land use planning leading to the creation of Community Forest Concessions (CFCs); (iii) The improvement of governance by appropriate structure into the landscape to ensure smooth implementation of land use planning; (iv) Reduction of deforestation and forest degradation through the development of alternative approaches (reforestation, deforestation of savannahs, production and dissemination of improved stoves, etc.); (v) Reduction of threats to biodiversity loss and mitigate the effects of climate change by preserving forests in the Ngiri , Mabali , Itombwe, Mont Hoyo protected areas; and (vi) Poverty reduced through diversification of livelihoods.

The *Promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of forest, agricultural and pastoral resources ? particularly through family?based agriculture ? in DRC project* was recently launched for the period 2017?2021 with a budget of US$ 626,730. It is funded by the Louvain Cooperation for Development (LCD) - an NGO supported by the Louvain Catholic University based in Belgium. Since 2008, this NGO funds interventions for the sustainable use of natural resources in South?Kivu. The objective of the project is to support small producers and vulnerable groups to increase food availability and improve sustainably their economic situation. The targeted territories are Kabar?, Kalehe and Walungu. The interventions focus on increasing agricultural productivity through using environmentally?responsible practices and strengthening the capacity of micro?entrepreneurs for products transformation, preservation, storage, and commercialization. The components of this project are as follows: i) improving functioning and performances of local partners and beneficiaries; ii) increasing agricultural production and food security of vulnerable households; iii) improving income and professionalism of the beneficiaries; iv) protection and sustainable management of the environment by the beneficiaries; and v) Research?Action processes and systematic valuation of the project experiences. LCD interventions that are particularly interesting for the current child project include promoting improved agro?sylvo?pastoral practices focused on environment protection (e.g. agroforestry, erosion control, organic fertilizers, improved varieties, access to land and livestock

husbandry in stalls), organizing knowledge?sharing events between communities and promoting agricultural entrepreneurship. They support approximately 480,000 small producers and have created/strengthened 4,000 solidarity funds. In addition, they use the Farmer Field School approach for the training of the beneficiaries.

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in the Isangi Territory of Orientale Province: Safbois S.P.R.L. is a logging company focused on selectively logged, exotic hardwood timbers from forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo(RDC). Its affiliate in the United States is American Trading Company, Jadora, a sustainable land and resource management company, and Safbois, a Congolese logging company, have partnered to implement a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project in the Isangi Territory of Orientale Province, in the R?publique D?mocratique du Congo (RDC). The project area contains 239,728 hectares of primary forest located on a 348,000 hectare Safbois logging concession just south of the Congo River.

The primary objective of the project is to address the issue of deforestation in the DRC on at local level, preventing emissions that would otherwise occur from the conversion of forest to areas for subsistence agriculture. The project aims to protect a threatened, biologically diverse forest with thousands of rare and declining species as well as to improve the livelihoods of the area?s forest-dependent people.

The project is subjected to the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) for validation against VM0006, Version 1.0, Methodology for Carbon Accounting in Project Activities that Reduce Emissions from Mosaic Deforestation and Degradation. The project will implement a program to prevent degradation and deforestation by replacing the drivers of deforestation with more sustainable ways to meet the needs of the local community. Project activities to be implemented fall under the categories of agriculture, aquaculture, fuel use, education, healthcare and community outreach.

The project will be an important partner in enagaging with private sector and the GEF project will support collaboration to build capacity of this project stakeholders on sustainability approach and international standards on sustaible wood production. The project experience with the GEF project will be a great learning and knowledge management opportunity.

Lessons learned from previous projects

In the course of developing the current project, deliberate efforts have been made to catalogue previous projects implemented at the local, national and regional levels with potential synergies to the current project and collate lessons learned from their implementation[23][23]. This project intends to build on these lessons to ensure success in its own implementation. Below are some of the key lessons learned:

? The involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the project, while strengthening their technical capacities, enabled the communities to engage in constructive collaboration and the appropriation of numerous activities.

? Local and traditional administrative authorities should be involved in the design and implementation phase of all activities. The results of all activities should also be shared.

? With appropriate technical advice and support, communities can develop activities that also meet environmental standards.

? Working with communities requires patience and adaptive management skills due to the often-limited local capacity and education and local concerns regarding the objectives of implementing partners.

? Timely Specific, Measurable, Ambitious and Feasible over Time (SMART) reports allow management teams to make more informed and effective management decisions, such as the frequency and distribution of ecological patrol patrols.

? The community monitoring approach contributes to the protection of biodiversity in protected areas,

? The creation of the Forest Concession of Local Communities (CFCL) provides a new mechanism to guarantee communities' forest rights and ensure the long-term sustainable management of these resources. However, significant resources are needed to help communities and local governments to ensure that CFCLs have strong and sufficiently transparent governance structures.

? Local management committees can be effective if they are sufficiently representative, have a clear mandate and have adequate technical, financial and logistical support.

? The active involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the project while providing them with technical support facilitates collaboration and allows them to take ownership of the activities.

? Adequate capacity building and supervision increase community capacity and allow beneficiaries to independently develop and maintain conservation and development actions for income-generating activities.

? The involvement of active household members (men, women and children) in integrated production systems is an appropriate approach to make the management of pilot farms sustainable and efficient. Capacity building gives men, women and children an equal opportunity to take ownership of this approach.

? Thanks to training, collaboration with prosecutors and magistrates, the strengthening of law enforcement has produced tangible results on wildlife crime.

? Local capacity building and community awareness are essential to increase community participation in climate change actions.

In summary, this Child project is an important lever in the participatory management of land and forests, and it constitutes an approach well adapted to the current context of biodiversity management in general, and land and forests in particular[24][24]. In addition, community actors must be continuously trained to intervene in the context of the targeted project. In addition, appropriate measures must be taken to stop the destruction and loss of habitats caused by itinerant subsistence agriculture. Measures to combat unsustainable logging by charcoal and firewood must be taken. Also tackle the high level of poverty and illiteracy of local populations with a view to better involving them in the sustainable management of land and forests[25][25]. Measures must also be taken to counter the disorderly population growth that is driving the increase in food needs and exacerbating pressures and threats to natural resources. The movement of people to protected areas must also be restricted by appropriate mechanisms.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

The current scenario

In the Lac Tumba Landscape: Currently, the Lac Tumba landscape is described as a region of emerging large-scale productive sectors (oil, gas, mining, large scale agriculture), in a context of complex decision-making mechanisms and governance systems and weak legislative frameworks to deal with these emerging sectors. One key aspect of the emerging feature of the Lac Tumba Landscape is the discovery in 2017 of the huge quantity of tropical peatlands within an extent covering several countries of the Congo Basin Region. In the DRC, the Lac Tumba Landscape is the epicentre of this discovery, as it lies on top of a vast area of the tropical peatlands of the country. These peatlands extend as a continuous formation from Lac Tumba Landscape into the Lac Tele Landscape in the Republic of Congo. The importance of the Lac Tumba Landscape described above points to the relevance of legislation, regulation and codes of conduct in the practice of land use in this landscape. Relevant codes and legislation (e.g. environmental, mining, and oil codes) do contain environmental safeguards. However, most of these safeguards are restricted to environmental impact assessments and do not enable a holistic approach to ecological processes within the larger landscape. Moreover, the government has weak technical capacities and financial resources when it comes to developing environmental mitigation measures and plans and conducting oversight on how land use should be

planned and implemented. More so, relevant information and data on key variables that can guide and support decision-making on land use planning in this region remains scarce, and where available, dispersed among partners and sector specific. Hence, where such data exists, it remains unknown and difficult to access by sectors making decisions on development investments.

Without specific interventions through this GEF funding, intact peat swamp forest will continue to be degraded through continual over-exploitation or illegal harvesting of natural resources such as timber. In addition, there will be continued development of agriculture and infrastructure projects in and adjacent to the forest, threatening integrity of peat ecosystem and resulting in the loss of ecological support services (i.e. flood mitigation, saline water intrusion prevention, sediment and toxic removal, groundwater recharge, micro-climate regulation etc.).

Peatlands (including peat swamp forests) possess a distinctive ecosystem and therefore possess unique biodiversity of flora and fauna that are specially adapted to this type of environment. Peatlands and peat swamp forest vegetation of the Lac Tumba Landscape has been recognized as an important reservoir of plant diversity. Deforestation, IWT, and other forms of unsustainable land-use are contributing to the deterioration and endangerment of some very specially-niche species. This has the potential of disrupting ecological systems and destabilizing ecosystems of the Lac Tumba Landscape in particular, and of the Congo Basin in General. The biodiversity available in peatlands are also a source of food, medicine and livelihood for local communities. The depletion or loss of these biodiversity values will have negative impacts on local communities dependent on peatland resources and contribute to poverty. Without GEF funding, initiatives towards preventing and abating these loses in biodiversity-rich landscapes and endemic flora and fauna with not be possible.

Globally, peatlands are considered to be significant stores of carbon containing 20-35% of the carbon on the terrestrial biosphere/soils. While they only cover 3% of the land surface they store 30% of the carbon. Tropical peatlands store about 2-6000 t C/ha compared to the average of about 270 t C/ha on average in the world?s forest ecosystems. However, this storage function is now being reversed due to human intervention. Activities related to land conversion and fire incidences release this stored carbon to the atmosphere, and in significant amounts it can have detrimental implications on climate change. Drainage releases 50-200 tC/ha/yr and fire may release 500-1000 t C/ha/fire. GEF funding will support sustainable management to ensure that these peatlands of the Lac Tumba Landscape and those of the Congo Basin by extension continue to serve the DRC and global community as the extensive carbon sink they have been.

Peatland fires (used for land clearing and other forms of land management) continue to be an important challenge in the sustainable management of land and natural resources in the Lac Tumba Landscape. Without progress to prevent further degradation of peatlands, it is anticipated that the extent and integrity of fires will remain the same or increase in future years. Unless management changes are made, peatland fires in the region will continue to have a negative impact on health, tourism, transport and other economic sectors in the region. Without this GEF project, there will be no resources to support the transition to sustainable land use planning and implementation ? ensuring that the dangerous use of fires in the peatlands of the Lac Tumba Landscape.

The livelihood of communities living in and adjacent to degraded peatland will continue to decline as problems related to peatland degradation become more severe such as flooding, soil subsidence,

increasing fire frequency and smoke pollution, and declining timber and non- timber forest products. As such, the incidence of poverty will increase. Community members will become more involved in unsustainable or illegal activities. In the absence of this GEF project, there will be no livelihood component developed to support the sustainable management and use of environmental resources to address issues of livelihood development with a clear vision of long-term sustainability.

In the absence of this GEF investment, there will be limited community-based management planning and participation in the conservation of critical biodiversity in both project locations, and the sustainable management of peatlands of the Lac Tumba Landscape. Such a situation will result in the continuation of practices that have the potential of destroying the stability of the peatlands in the Lac Tele ? Lac Tumba region, thereby contributing negatively to the fight against greenhouse gas emission and meeting the challenges of climate change. Such a situation will also result in significant biodiversity losses. With little disposable income, fish and game meat will remain the main sources of income for the majority of the landscape?s households and market demand will continue to motivate local hunters and fishermen to intensify these activities and give priority to trade over consumption. Growing population pressures and demand for environmental resources will be met through less sustainable means, leading to deforestation and the degradation of environmental resources (cases in point being poorly managed agriculture, fuelwood harvesting and charcoal production), and the ecosystem services that they provide to the local peoples and the country as a whole.

In the Grand Kivu: The problems of forest degradation in the Grand Kivu have been studied and documented. For example, In South?Kivu, the main causes of forest degradation are slash?and? burn agriculture (77 to 81%), wood exploitation for charcoal production, fuelwood and wood for construction (12.1 to 13.5%), and deforestation to establish monospecific woodlots (5 to 8.5%) . These practices constantly reduce forest cover and associated carbon sequestration thereby inhibiting climate regulation capacity. In the absence of this project, forest degradation and unsustainable agricultural practices will continue to lead to major land degradation in North and South Kivu.

Without this project, the degradation of forests and their associated biodiversity will continue unchecked or without sufficient attempts at mitigation, a condition that will lead to the disruption of ecosystem services such as water regulation and nutrient cycling are hindered with major consequences on the entire landscape (e.g. reduction of agricultural productivity on hillsides, flooding downstream). The hilly and mountainous landscapes of the Grand Kivu in general and the project locations in particular can contribute to accelerated processes of soil erosion, flash flooding, and other forms of degradation and vulnerability as forest loss and land degradation continues. The current project is therefore timely and well suited to address many of these challenges in the project locations.

The region of Grand Kivu has been suffering from many political challenges that have made cross-border collaboration in the management of natural resources difficult in recent years. Without the current project, the status quo has the tendency of being sustained for much longer. However, GEF resources through this project offer opportunities for transboundary collaboration in addressing key issues affecting biodiversity, illegal wildlife trade, and the management of common resources in the region with countries sharing a common ecosystem with the project locations. This project therefore offers opportunities for collaboration with neighboring communities in Rwanda and Uganda in addressing environmental, biodiversity and natural resources management challenges common to frontier communities.

The preferred long-term solution

A landscape level approach to biodiversity conservation and the conservation of peatlands in the DRC is still a novelty. The concept of a landscape approach stems from the understanding that ecosystems processes happen at the larger landscape level, outside the boundaries of protected areas. The processes that enable ecosystem sustainability are hence subject to a variety of stakes and interests held by different groups, including small and large-scale productive sectors such as mining and commercial agriculture. Maintaining the integrity of biodiversity rich areas (such as the biodiversity-rich landscapes of the Grand Kivu), and landscapes of very significant national and global environmental benefits (such as peatland landscapes of the Lac Tumba Landscape) goes beyond the site-based protection approach which the country has applied for biodiversity protection up until now, and requires a landscape approach which takes into consideration the needs and interests of multiple stakeholders in land use, and understands the risks and trade-offs involved in the planning processes. Enhancing land use panning will be achieved through a series of activities. These include: (a) The engagement of relevant stakeholders to ascertain if land use plans where already developed for priority conservation areas of the project locations and if there are issues of tenure rights and ancestral lands that require revision; Undertaking the cartography of local, indigenous and ancestral lands as required. (b) Supporting intensive land use planning consultations to be led by COMIFAC, and to involve key stakeholders to build consensus on proposed land use scenarios and the national endorsement of ILPs. (c) Training local and indigenous communities on participatory-co-management models of natural resources and landscapes; assess and report training outcomes. (d) Supporting communities in the process of legalizing community forests, reserves, and other areas of biological, social, religious, and economic value to local populations and indigenous peoples in both project locations. This landscape approach in turn acknowledges the value of ecosystems processes and natural resources for local economic and social development, highlighting the benefits of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem sustainability for the well-being and long-term interests of local and regional stakeholders in addition to the its global importance.

This alternative approach proposed would generate significant global benefits in the stability of the peatland ecosystems of the Lac Tumba Landscape, and the sustainable management of biodiversity-important forests and landscapes of both project locations, creating enabling conditions and demonstrating ways to reap economic and environmental benefits from the production of sustainable forest and agricultural products. The central, and long-term strategy is to initiate a paradigmatic shift in the planning basis, resource management and economic logic of conservation ? from one that is focused on strict protection with minimal investment in local economic development ?alternatives,? to one that focuses on community-based land use planning and productive management of forest landscapes, maximizing community ownership and benefits. Hence, a number of participative land use planning activities will lead to an area of more than 600 000 ha of priority conservation area identified and integrated under provincial and use plans. This will involve: (a) Identifying and developing an inventory of key biophysical and socio-economic characteristics, including land use and land cover changes in areas of High Conservation Value Forest and landscapes in both Equateur and the Grand Kivu. (b) Undertaking an assessment of potential peatlands beyond the project locations, and reporting their extent, characteristics and management challenges. (c) Supporting the integration of identified High Conservation Value Forest into provincial land use plans.

To achieve sustainable and use panning, there is need to address issues of and tenure and resources access rights of local populations for which these and use panning is supposed to be implemented. Given that local communities, including indigenous people constitute the primary domestic beneficiaries of the current project, issues of and tenure and rights are of very high importance at all levels of project development and implementation. Secure land and resource rights are key drivers of biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management. Integrating land tenure and resource management considerations into policies and programs can also increase resilience to the impacts of and degradation and climate change. Practical steps have been suggested to support the land, social and cultural rights of the beneficiary populations. This project will: (a) support the voting and promulgation process of the Provincial Edicts and legal frameworks associated with and tenure and natural resources access rights of local populations of North Kivu, South Kivu and Equateur. (b) Organize high-level

meetings in the three provinces to produce the strategic roadmap for these edicts and their regulatory texts; and (c) Support the drafting and validation of the decrees of the Provincial Edicts. It will also back the organization of workshops for writing and validating the 10 regulatory texts to the legal frameworks.

The long-term solution is to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of biodiversity from site focused conservation towards effective land and resource use governance at the landscape level. This includes taking into consideration the multiple uses of the landscape, the various interest groups that have stakes in it, but also the role of government at different administrative levels. The paradigm shift implies an anticipatory approach to addressing threats to biodiversity. This implies providing the local government with the enabling tools to conduct land use planning with environmental considerations and taking into account the value of biodiversity for local development. Local authorities must also be provided with the necessary information to actively and effectively apply the mitigation hierarchy for safeguarding biodiversity where significant impacts can be foreseen (avoid, mitigate, compensate, off-set).

This paradigm shift for both project areas will be operationalized by mainstreaming biodiversity within land use planning at all levels- national, regional, communal and local. The project proposes to reinforce land use planning and enable informed decision making by: (1) developing tools that highlight and develop biodiversity and ecosystem processes relevant information; (2) by promoting the mainstreaming of these elements at all land use planning levels including across sector ministries, by (3) promoting active participation by the private sector, by mobilizing partnerships and negotiating environmental considerations, and; (4) engaging civil society, from the grass roots, in order to improve their knowledge on the rights they have to be informed and to participate in the planning stages of productive investments before the full implementation of projects. These will be done by: (a) Undertaking assessments to determine management challenges and gaps for the locations of interest. (b) Building the capacity of local stakeholders on natural resources co-management approaches based on community-based natural resources management. (c) Supporting the design of, communication on, and signing of co-management agreements between local and relevant state bodies for the effective management of identified landscapes of high value biodiversity. (d) Supporting the development and adoption of management plans, as well as their implementation to support enhanced management efforts.

Specific initiatives will be undertaken to restore degraded landscapes and improve the connectivity between key landscapes of significant biodiversity importance. The following will be done: (a) Ecosystem connectivity needs will be assessed with relevant stakeholders through participative processes. (b) A survey will be undertaken to identify the landscapes to be connected and location of potential ecological corridors. (c) Targeted research will be used to determine key ecological and management options and their implications for corridor establishment and management. (d) Capacity will be built to strengthen the ability to manage high value conserved areas and ecological corridors, as we as the ability to implement conserved area best-practices. (e) Restoration activities will be undertaken to support the recovery of degraded landscapes (including protected areas and wildlife corridors). (f) Public awareness campaigns will be used to sensitize local populations of the benefits sustainable biodiversity management, application and implementation of biodiversity management at community levels; and the importance and benefits of wildlife protection and conservation.

By anchoring this project firmly within the CBSL regional program, substantial opportunities for cross-border collaboration in the achievement of common goals with other Congo Basin countries, learning and knowledge exchange and management are opened up. See more on the extent of this alignment under the ?Alignment with The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (Congo IP),? under ?Alignment with the GEF-7 Focal Area Priority Programming Areas.? This cements the regional character of the current project and ensures that its cross-border objectives are met within the regional program.

To reach this goal the project aims to reinforce the following management and planning elements: spatial planning; stakeholder consultations; negotiation, conciliation and mitigation hierarchy techniques between environment and productive sectors; stakeholder platforms for decision making; integration of an ecosystem approach and biodiversity conservation within spatial planning;

community-based sustainable natural resource management (CBNRM), including devolving responsibilities to local communities through support for Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA), Community Forest Committees (CFC), Community Protected Areas (CPA), etc.; the right to access to information by all stakeholders, with emphasis on community free access to information, regarding potential and future large scale investments, including consultations within context of the application of environmental impacts due diligence procedures; environmental sustainability within productive investments; environmental due diligence and integrated strategic environmental evaluations processes, enabling a common vision for regional and local development and conservation; and strong partnerships with relevant stakeholders (local communities, government authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector).

Component 1: Mainstreaming Integrated Land use Planning (ILP) for conservation and sustainable development *(US$ 17,686,030 M Total; US$ 2,686,030 M GEF).*

The development and implementation of land use plans for the Lac Tumba Landscapes, as well as project landscapes of the Grand Kivu will build on activities being undertaken at the regional level through the Congo IP. The regional project will develop an enhanced methodological process and make available other tools for land use planning that will help the child projects to develop ILUMPs in their respective targeted priority transboundary landscapes. This project will therefore be guided by this methodological guidance that will build on past and ongoing regional collaborative efforts that include not only treaties, bilateral and multilateral agreements, but also on specific case studies on the development of landscape management strategies and approaches. This child project will enhance the impact of land use planning by leveraging the value-adding cross-sectoral approach of the regional project. The project will make use of the knowledge management platform and other tools and methods developed by the regional project for land use planning that use a systems approach in the development of integrated land use management plans (ILUMPs).

This component will support the achievement of sustainable development through deliberate planning of land use to ensure success in key environmentally friendly practices on landscapes of the project locations (including conservation of critical biological resources, enhanced management of natural resources, the planned use and management of productive spaces, and expansion of protected areas where needed to expand and improve the quality of ecosystem benefits derived from the natural environment). This will be achieved through the implementation of integrated land use planning and zoning plans. Land use planning can be used as an instrument for promoting sustainable land use and ecosystem restoration. It is, therefore, important that land use planners are aware of the existence and importance of potential ecosystem services in order to balance their protection with the benefits gained from alternative uses. Furthermore, awareness of the intrinsic and economic values increasingly attributed to environmental services can be helpful for decision-making. Land Use Planning (LUP) instruments can significantly influence ecosystem restoration, promote sustainable land use and aid in the conservation of biodiversity. Ecosystem restoration is a means of conserving or enhancing biodiversity, as well as sustaining livelihoods in degraded landscapes, by reinstating or enhancing the flow of services. LUP, depending on how it is structured and implemented, can damage or conserve ecosystem services. The objective of the land use planning in this project is to identify and put into practice beneficial land use changes. Hence, implementation is included as a ?step? in the planning process, albeit a step of a different nature[26][26].

Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP)

The broad objective of ILUP is to facilitate allocation of land to the uses that provide the greatest sustainable benefits and to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources. In doing so, environmental, social and economic issues should be taken into consideration. Protected areas, private property rights, the rights of indigenous people and their communities and other local communities and the economic role of women in agriculture and rural development, among other issues, should be taken into account. Specific objectives of ILUP are to: (i) review and develop policies to support the best possible use of land and the sustainable management of land resources; (ii) improve and strengthen planning, management and evaluation systems for land and land resources; (iii)

strengthen institutions and coordinating mechanisms for land and land resources; and (iv) create mechanisms to facilitate the active involvement and participation of all concerned, particularly communities and people at the local level, in decision-making on land use and management.

Land use planning has the potential of affecting indigenous communities, especially those that are forest-dependent substantially, as these communities depend on the forest for almost all aspects of their social, economic and cultural lives. Like forest-dependent indigenous populations, land-use planning affects women deeply. Whereas men consider the forest in terms of commercial possibilities, women see it as a source of basic domestic needs. Women rely on forests constantly for their livelihoods, and the resources they collect are different from those of men. Moreover, it is unlikely that they have any land rights, or that these rights are respected. If women are not included in the land-use planning, their needs may not be addressed properly and the products they rely on may not be recognized as essential by men landowners or planners. This could have severe consequence for women and girls such as scarcity of food and medicinal plants, increase of workload with a consequential loss of time for other activities (e.g. girls are not able to go to school), and more risks for their safety if they need to travel long distances. Key stakeholder groups should agree on the goals of a land-use planning exercise at its commencement. These agreed goals will provide reference points for future decisions on land allocations. Activities that are common to most land-use planning exercises are: assessing the present and future needs of stakeholders and systematically evaluating the capacity of the land to supply them; identifying and resolving conflicts between competing uses, the needs of individuals and those of the community, and the needs of the present generation and future generations; seeking sustainable options and choosing those that best meet identified needs and will contribute to agreed goals; and allocating land to a range of uses to bring about desired changes.

Given the importance of the role played by women and indigenous populations in the project area, and recognizing the often limited capacity for these groups to be adequately represented in decision-making (especially on key aspects affecting the distribution and access to critical natural resources), this project has taken a proactive step towards adopting and implementing a participative approach to land use planning in the project locations.

Zoning planning

The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development has developed an ?Operational guide on Standards for the elaboration of the Project Steering Committee (PSG) of the local communities' forest concessions.? This guide defines four (4) key classification of land uses namely: conservation areas, production areas, protection, and rural development areas (Table 9).

Outcome 1.1.: Three Provincial Governments (Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu) have indicative zoning plans.

Land use planning in the project area has four main objectives: (i) Document existing land and resource uses and the constraints to their management. It is essential to understand the base layer of existing land and resource uses and management regimes and whether current land uses are operating to their full potential for the benefit of rural communities. (ii) Develop a plan to guide development and investment (both from inside the area and from outside). Such a framework is defined by the zoning provisions in the land use plan, the legal foundation for supporting implementation, and the regulations supporting the land use plan. Guided by the outputs of both technical assessments and community consultations, the land use zones will give certainty to rural communities and developers in terms of their present and future development priorities. With the appropriate legal back-up to support enforcement, the land use plan further provides for predictability of development policies. Land use zones and the accompanying regulations are an essential component of mitigating land use based conflicts as well. (iii) Mitigate conflicts amongst competing resource users in the project area. Conflicts in the project area have multiple dimensions. There are conflicts amongst different resource users in all of the project location, especially among those engaged in mining, wildlife, timber, and agricultural users. In places where land has been put on leasehold title, there are conflicts over boundaries. Those engaged in small-scale mining may be evicted when resources of any value are discovered. Decisions by chiefs over large-scale investments, such as game ranches or agricultural concessions, have the potential to cause conflict. Community members from neighbouring chiefdoms or even neighbouring countries are moving without making formal customary introductions, causing long-term conflict. At the same time,

conflict between government and communities is evident over land conversions, service delivery (or lack of delivery), and inadequate consultation over resource rights concessions. (iv) Develop and seek consensus on rules guiding the sustainable utilization of resources.

The land and resources found in the DRC?s rural chiefdoms range from privately owned fields and businesses to community-managed grazing areas and open access resources. Those resources that are of an open access nature have a range of customary and state roles, responsibilities, and restrictions that are not necessarily applied consistently. Land use plans can also clarify the rights and responsibilities associated with the management of these resources in a consultative process.

To develop zoning plans for the Chiefdoms of the project areas of Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu, this project will build on efforts already undertaken by previous initiatives in land use planning, especially by the national government and institutions such as the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Participatory mapping will be used to build on the outcomes of these preceding initiatives at the district level, and these district level zoning plans will then be amalgamated to arrive at provincial zoning plans. Participatory mapping (also called community-based mapping) is a general term used to define a set of approaches and techniques that combines the tools of modern cartography with participatory methods to represent the spatial knowledge of local communities[27][27]. Participatory mapping has been largely employed to assist in resource decision-making; as a mechanism to facilitate the communication of community spatial information to project management and local government to better target development interventions; to recognize community spaces by identifying traditional lands and resources and demarcating ancestral domains; and as a mechanism to secure tenure. Participatory mapping processes have helped indigenous peoples? communities, pastoralists and forest dwellers to work towards the legal recognition of customary land rights[28][28]. Depending on the specific issue and context, the use of participatory mapping tools has varied from sketch maps, cultural or talking maps to more sophisticated geo-referenced maps.

Outcome 1.2. Legislations on Indigenous People and Local Community land tenure and resources user rights promulgated at the national level.

Secure land and property rights create incentives for investment and trade and contribute to job growth and global prosperity. Secure rights also create incentives for good stewardship of land and natural resources, which improves food security, agricultural productivity, and limits the degradation and misuse of valuable resources. Insecure property rights and weak land governance systems often provoke conflict and instability, which can trap communities, countries, and entire regions in a cycle of poverty. The 2002 Forest Code recognizes three categories of forest: (1) classified forests, which are generally those forests designated for environmental protection and have restrictions on use and exploitation (e.g., nature reserves, national parks); (2) protected forests, which are subject to less stringent restrictions than classified forests (e.g., community forests, limited concessions); and (3) permanent production forests, which include forests that are already used for timber production and under long term concessions. Local people may use protected forests for subsistence needs and may clear the forest for crops; a permit is required to clear a forest area larger than two hectares[29][29]. The 2002 Forest Code recognizes indigenous use-rights to forests but does not delineate use rights or processes for certifying and managing community forests. As of December 2009, several regulations addressing community forest rights were under development. In 2007, a group of indigenous peoples organizations submitted a formal report to the international Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, alleging: (1) violation of Indigenous Peoples? rights to lands, territories, and resources; (2) violation of the principle of free prior and informed consent; and (3) threats to the integrity and security of pygmies resulting from the lack of enforcement of the 2002 moratorium on logging concessions. The government developed a Consultation Protocol to ensure recognition of the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples in its review of logging concessions and imposed new social obligations on the reformed concessions. The DRC?s REDD+ strategy proposal submitted to UN-

REDD and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) include substantial attention to the meaningful participation of local forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples in the design, development, and implementation of REDD+ projects.

The current project builds on initiatives that have been undertaken by international and national institutions to improve the decision-making roles and abilities of indigenous peoples in the DRC. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, between 2011 and 2013, IPAF[30][30] provided financial support to the Programme for the Integration and Development of the Pygmy population in Kivu to support Babuluku, Bambuti and Batwa indigenous peoples to secure their traditional territories through community forestry. The initiative involved a participatory mapping process, which was undertaken to identify traditional boundaries of indigenous territories; agricultural lands, protected areas and dwelling areas were included in the maps. In the context of the general displacement of indigenous communities from the forests where they traditionally live, the maps were used to present community forest management to the Ministry of Land Affairs. As a result, the provincial government has asked to extend the zoning process to the evicted indigenous and local communities.

The thematic study on indigenous peoples and local communities arrived at three key recommendations for achieving success in the implementation of community-based natural resources management in the project locations[31][31]. These include: (i) Quantitatively measuring short- and medium-term the results of livelihood outcomes to ensure that project implementation is contributing to meaningful economic impact for local populations; (ii) Simplifying legal constraints in order to reduce the costs of creating and managing community forests for communities at the local level. (iii) Reinforcing the weak technical and professional capacities of the local communities and the local common initiative groups ? an essential element in the implementation of community forestry.

The project concerns indigenous peoples and local communities in the following provinces: Equateur, Mai Ndombe, South - Ubangi (Kungu territory), Mongala (Bongandanga territory) for the Lake Tumba - Tele Lake landscape and the Maniema provinces (territory of Punia), North Kivu and South Kivu for the Grand Kivu landscape.

During the project preparation phase, indigenous people were identified based on the following criteria: (i) The first occupant criterion: first people settled in a territory. (ii) The criterion of the oldest occupant - people who settled in a territory for a long time without being the first occupant. (iii) The people in question must feel very threatened (cultures or civilizations threatened or endangered, serious violations of their rights compared to the rest of the country's population, substantial marginalization, different lifestyles and institutions, unique and unique to these)[32][32].

Component 2. Ensuring Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscapes *(US$ 25,917,272 M Total; US$ 3,917,272 M GEF).*

This component responds to two key components of the Congo IP regional program (Components 2 and 3). Component 2 envisages a 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. The third component of the CBSL regional program seeks to catalyze more effective participation of communities and amplify the ability of businesses to divert capital from degrading activities to supporting SFM enterprises, at scale. An inclusive vision of natural resources management in which local communities are engaged as partners in conservation and management is therefore required to ensure sustainable outcomes. The Component will make use of a broader definition of forest resources management[33][33]. In this case, forest resources management means the application of business methods and technical forestry principles to the operation of a forestry property. It involves the task of building up, putting in order, and keeping in order a forest business. One or a multiplicity of parties (stakeholders) can do this. Traditionally a Forest Management Plan is a framework showing the

kind of organizational set up required for starting, stimulating or carrying on sustainable management of a forest ecosystem. The objectives of a management plan are: (i) To enable the owner(s) of a forest estate undertake the responsibility of managing the forest effectively; and (ii) To suggest the kind of organizational set-up and resources required for running the forest.

Improving forest management is an iterative (stepwise) process, starting with agreement on relatively broad objectives for management of entire regions or forest management areas and moving down through site specific planning, to agreements for the management of more specific forest resources[34][34]. Broadly, four levels of forest management planning are recognized thus: (i) Forest Sector Master Plan, which sets out national goals and objectives for the forestry sector, and defines strategies to achieve them. Usually with a long-term perspective; (ii) District Forest (management) Development Plan that defines long term management objectives, priorities, and implementation strategies for all defined forest zones within the District. These may cover a whole forest management area, or an entire District; (iii) Strategic Forest Management Plan (SFMP) which define broad objectives and strategies to achieve them. SFMPs have long time frames, usually over ten years. They are less detailed and therefore can be prepared quickly through a rapid process of consultations with key stakeholders. These kinds of plans address large areas such as Forest Ecosystems; (iv) Operational (working) plans are site specific and define detailed management objectives and means of achieving them (rules, regulations, activities, budgets, responsibilities etc.) for a specific area of forest. There could be many for one forest reserve. It usually develops activities to implement strategies identified in a strategic plan. (v) Work plans that define in detail all the annual activities to be undertaken. This plan is derived from the Operational plan and covers a period of one year.

This project will support the participatory approach to forest management planning and implementation. Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) is expected to: (i) Manage/reduce conflicts between Central/Local government and forest adjacent communities by establishing the terms of a fair deal in terms of distribution of benefits, responsibilities, and decision making authority in management of forests; (ii) Share costs and ensure fairer distribution of the costs of forest management; (iii) Enable sharing knowledge and skills among partners involved in the project; and (v) Create a sense of ownership and promote security of tenure of local people over forest resources. Participatory management plans aim at sharing roles, responsibilities, rights, authority and benefits between the different partners in forest conservation and management[35][35].

Outcome 2.1: 600,000 ha of conservation areas (other than national PA) in the targeted landscape have an efficient management in order to ensure the protection of the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity.

This Outcome will contribute to a 600,000 ha[36][36] increase in the conservation area under improved management ? supporting enhanced protection of biodiversity, better management of environmental resources, improvements in ecosystem services supported by a healthier environment, and improving local livelihoods depending on local ecosystem services. Consequently, this will include both an increase in the area implementing good management practices for the management of 400,000 ha of forests including peatlands in the landscape of Lake Tumba and for the management of 200,000 ha in Greater Kivu. In addition, health and socio-cultural benefits are expected for local populations (including indigenous forest-dependent peoples and women) from enhanced sustainable management and reduced peatland and biodiversity degradation (from deforestation, unsustainable wildlife harvesting, bush fires, and other threats). Beyond local benefits, more efficient management will also contribute to global benefits in terms of GHG emissions reductions (estimated to reach 8,182,184 tCO_2eq). This target will be achieved through a combination of support to best management practices in the wildlife, agricultural and fire prevention and control.

Under this Outcome, reduced illegal exploitation of natural resources and biodiversity and cross-border traffic in the protected forest ecosystems will be achieved by strengthening law enforcement capacities

and collaboration. This will include recruiting, training, and equipping provincial level staff for the protection and sustainable management of each individual protected and conserved area, including eco-guards from local communities. In-country national law enforcement units (such as the army, police, border police, immigration, customs, foresters) will be trained and equipped to protect the national components of the protected areas as well as on how to work with local communities as partners in conservation efforts. Permanent communication and coordination mechanisms will be established between the national law-enforcement units, as well as with relevant regional and international agencies (e.g., the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL)); or strengthened in cases where these mechanisms already exist. It must be noted that there are already some efforts being made locally to address issues of environmental degradation. For example, the thematic study on local populations and indigenous peoples reports that local communities and indigenous populations living at different locations near the Congo River are involved in conservation through awareness-raising activities on the benefits of conservation[37][37]. The aim has been to reduce poaching activities within their region and the application of denunciation activities within their region. This project will identify such local efforts and build on them (where they exist). Special national units for overseeing development, constructions, mining and exploration activities, in accordance with Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and adequate licensing, and for preventing and penalizing infractions will be established, trained and equipped to support compliance with local and national rules and regulation.

Drawing from field-based thematic studies, it is suggested that the most effective measures to be taken into account in priority conservation areas of the project to support the conservation of biodiversity should: (i) Take into account the realities of each environment in its economic-socio-cultural configuration; (ii) Deepen the analyses relating to climatic, edaphic, socio-cultural constraints; (iii) Use the potentials and opportunities of each area to adapt the actions to be taken; (iv) Revisit the strategic operational objectives each time you encounter a difficulty in implementing the project[38][38].

Component 3: Promoting effective sustainable land use in priority landscape *(US$ 31,394,166 M Total; US$ 5,594,166 M GEF).*

The CBSL IP regional program recognizes the value of alternative livelihood options in reducing pressures on natural resources in the targeted geographies. It is within this light that the program sees the need for removing barriers to the valorization of environmentally-friendly economic activities in the targeted geographies of Lac Tumba and the Grand Kivu. Overcoming such barriers will require the targeted strengthening of some key products and services across value chains, allowing to amplify income generating activities. The regional program also targets the strengthening of private sector partnerships within the targeted landscapes through collaborative learning, to ensure scaling up of successful approaches for private sector investment through market access for thousands of farmers and forest producers within commodity supply chains. The implementation of this Component will therefore align with, and contribute to the regional program, which intends to strengthen private sector partnerships within the targeted landscapes through collaborative learning. This will enable scaling of successful approaches for private sector investment through market access for thousands of farmers and forest producers within commodity supply chains. Private sector partners will likely offer targeted investment to train producers in best land and forest management and supporting the cost of verifying these sustainable practices. This will pay the producers larger premiums and improve terms of payment and financing, recognizing the increased sustainability of the products from supported landscapes.

This component includes strategic actions designed to achieve the implementation of climate-smart natural resources use and management within the IPLCs. These activities are as follows: *Support for the mobilization and sustainable management of water resources for agriculture* through: (i) the development and rehabilitation of lowlands, and water source collection works (serving as dams for crop production, or watering points for animal producers); (ii) the protection of river banks using appropriate vegetative and/or structural measures; (iii) support for the establishment and structuring of producer organizations for development and sustainable management of the landscapes in project sites. *Implementation of integrated soil fertility management (ISFM)* will be accomplished through: (i)

selection of pilot sites for the demonstration of ISFM best-practices, as well as producer organizations to operate these sites; (ii) training of local, regional and national authorities, village auxiliaries and model land users on ISFM; (iii) setting up and supporting the operation of ISFM learning in local field schools; (iv) support for the amendment and organization of farms (installation of compost bins, manure pits, etc.), as well as through the organization of open days and the promotion of good practices land management and conservation (zero tillage, integrated pest management) and organic farming; *Promotion of agroforestry* for which will consist in facilitating: (i) deciding collaboratively on the choice of suitable plant materials to be made available for local populations; (ii) the installation of village and private nurseries and the supply of plants; (iii) technical and organizational capacity building of farmers and other land users to undertake profitable agroforestry business ventures; and (iv) planting, as well as monitoring and maintaining the plantations. *Production and distribution of certified seeds and plant material (cuttings and seeds)* through support: (i) to the production of basic and pre-basic seeds; (ii) the installation of agri-multipliers and the strengthening of their capacities in mastering technical itineraries, field inspections and quality control in production; (iii) sizing and certification of improved seeds and plant material; (iv) as well as promotion / awareness-raising for the use and acquisition of certified quality seeds. *Supply and distribution of modern production inputs*, in particular: (i) organization of the input supply and distribution system; (ii) capacity building of actors (private, producer organizations) in mastering technical production of improved seeds and their marketing; (iii) setting up a quality control system for production inputs; and (v) the creation of a subsidy / credit fund to facilitate producers' access to inputs (fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and plant material).

In total, at least 75 sustainable climate-smart projects will be supported in each of the project areas on agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization of products from sustainable natural resources extraction and use in both project sites. The implementation of these actions should be done with a view to benefiting from the advantages linked to the REDD + Process (Reduction of Emissions linked to Deforestation and Forest Degradation).

Outcome 3.1: 25% of IPLCs in priority areas implement climate smart best practices with regard to land use.

In this Output, a number of climate-smart practices will be implemented to achieve improvements in the quality and quantity of environmental services provided by designated landscapes. During the first phase of the project, targeted field demonstrations of conservation compatible, area-specific, farming, livestock husbandry, forestry, and agroforestry systems and other sustainable land use practices will be sponsored in the pilot areas. The aim is to identify economically and socially feasible means of arresting threats to natural habitats, including by mitigating land degradation and improving the productivity of existing productive systems. The demonstrations will be undertaken with the full participation, and to the benefit of local communities (through Indigenous Peoples Local Committees ? IPLCs). This project will use a network of trained 'contact farmers' to facilitate farmer to farmer contact, and an accompanying economic assessment of the costs and benefits of land use options from a social and private (household) perspective. These local network of contact farmers will also be better aware of the agricultural and land use/management landscape of the local environment ? hence be suited to understand and deal with local socio-economic dynamics related to implemented climate-smart best practices. This is essential to ensure that alternatives are socially acceptable, economically viable, as well as technically feasible. The range of demonstrations to be supported in each of the project locations were determined following participatory diagnostic assessments performed during the PPG thematic studies[39][39].

In the Lac Tumba Landscape: In thematic studies for the development of this project, stakeholders have indicated an interest in the following[40][40]: 1] Developing multi-purpose tree plantations for fuelwood, edible caterpillars, and fodder using native species to complement existing silvicultural tests, which have focused on non-native species. The project would test different silvicultural models to optimize tree growth both on and off- 'farm'. 2] Testing energy-efficient (fuelwood-saving) stoves; the project

would develop and field-test locally appropriate stove models. 3] Develop value chains for NTFPs that are ecologically appropriate for livestock farming. The project would assess the endogenous honey collection capacities and their valorisation (dried honey) for sale in Mbandaka, Kinshasa. 4] Improving agricultural practices by incorporating sustainable farming methods; the project would pilot agro-forestry systems and soil conservation methods, that improve habitat for native fauna and flora, control burning, protect soil biomass and conserve soil nutrients, including crop rotation, diversification, terracing, mulching and ditching. The demonstration will focus on the following crops that will be determined through collaborative engagements with local populations, and will be adapted for prevailing agro-ecological conditions.

In the North and South Kivu project area: During the thematic studies for the development of this project, communities expressed their interest in the development of practices such as beekeeping, ecotourism in Kisimbosa, and NTFPs (particularly the production of essential oils in the community protected areas of Kisimbosa). Interest was also expressed in the development of value chains for fruit juice, particularly the processing of maracuja juice into products using internationally recognized methods and standards in Muhrobo village by women. There was also interest in agroforestry as a means of conserving habitat and diversifying livelihoods. The project will test ways and means of establishing in situ ranches within secondary forests and restoration areas, through site enrichment with native species[41][41]. The demonstration will build on national efforts to create green markets for honey, maracuja juice, and essential oils. Communities have also requested an investment in development of tree plantations using native species, with a focus on fulfilling household demands for fuelwood and timber. The project will adapt local silvicultural trials to test growth rates and productivity enhancement measures for native species. Finally, communities have requested an investment in the promotion of organic agriculture and mixed sylvo-pastoral systems. The project would test means of arresting soil degradation and thus reducing emissions of below-ground carbon stores and improving on-farm habitat quality by promoting the cultivation of hedgerows as living fences, mulching, mounding and ditching, and cultivation of nitrogen fixing trees and legumes on croplands and pastures to improve soil and pasture quality.

Component 4. Improving capacity, knowledge management and trans-boundary collaboration *(Outcome 4.1: US$ 5,510,000 M Total; US$ 510,000 M GEF; Outcome 4.2: US$ 5,400,000 M Total; US$ 400,000 M GEF).*

The CBSL regional project will establish mechanisms for assimilating, documenting and sharing knowledge gained through project experiences. The intention is to address the needs of critical knowledge areas for the project include causal knowledge (know-why), declarative knowledge (know-what), and procedural knowledge (know-how). This project will therefore take advantage of the regional project?s overall knowledge management strategy, which will involve: (i) Empowering project countries to implement effective KM and learning activities at national level that respond to their needs (relevance); (ii) Providing regional KM instruments in support of project countries and incentivizing regional sharing and learning to foster synergies (coherence), reduce overlaps (efficiency), and facilitate knowledge uptake, innovation and scaling (effectiveness); and (iii) Harnessing knowledge and achievements of project countries to raise the visibility of the program. The case of the RoC and DRC child projects vividly illustrate the transboundary vision of the Congo IP. This is because the Lac Tele and Lac Tumba Landscapes are one - located in different national territories (Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic respectively), but share relatively the same geographical, biological, and ecological characteristics. This includes their being home to significant portions of the Congo Basin peatland system[42][42]. The need for cross-border collaboration in sharing experiences, knowledge and cooperation in addressing common problems is thus vividly illustrated.

This component will be developed in coordination with the Regional Project, which will develop a Knowledge component for the overall Congo Basin impact program building on the following principles:

- Empowering project countries to implement effective KM and learning activities at national level that respond to their needs;

- Providing regional KM instruments in support of project countries and incentivise regional sharing and learning to foster synergies (coherence), reduce overlaps (efficiency), and facilitate knowledge uptake, innovation and scaling (effectiveness);

- Harnessing knowledge and achievements of project countries to raise the visibility of the program and knowledge outreach at global level to contribute to global goods and support the sustainable use and management of environmental resources.

This component will allow organization of a system and platforms for documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned peatland landscapes, biodiversity, and inland marine biodiversity areas in the project locations of Lac Tumba Landscape and the North Kivu region, and to ensure that these are made available for use in other conservation and production forests and peatlands in the rest of the DRC and the Congo Basin Region in general. It will also support adaptive management so that the project integrates experiences that result during implementation of the activities in the new programmatic cycles of the project. Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums.

The project will identify and participate in relevant events organized by REPALEAC for the indigenous peoples and local communities of the DRC and the Republic of Congo on the one hand (Figure 12) and for those of the DRC and Rwanda and of Burundi and which could be advantageous for the implementation of the project and capitalized at the sub - regional level. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial for the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analysing lessons learned is an ongoing process, and the need to communicate such lessons, as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered no less frequently than once every 12 months. The Project Steering Committee will arrange for the development of a format for this exchange and will assist the project team in categorizing, documenting, and reporting the lessons learned. Specifically, the project will ensure coordination in terms of avoiding overlap, sharing best practices, and generating knowledge products of best practices in the area of biodiversity conservation with the current projects of DRC?s portfolio. The project results, as outlined in the project results framework, will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. Knowledge?management activities will be included as part of the project?s Monitoring & Evaluation Plan.

Outcome 4.1. Three DRC provinces have the capacity to monitor wildlife trafficking, land use change, SDG progress in priority areas.

Work under this Output will provide an enabling framework for managing wildlife conservation challenges and land use change that contributes associated with threats to wildlife management in the project locations. A number of measures will be required to achieve this. One of these measures will be to improve the capacity of local community forest concession staff and indigenous and community heritage areas to reflect the current challenges of combating illegal wildlife trafficking. For better management of the conservation areas of these local community forest concessions, this capacity building program of the local development committee will be based on the guidelines provided by the IUCN publication on the training of protected area staff - *Protected Area Staff Training: Guidelines for Planning and Management*[43][43], and will target two objectives: (i) increasing the capacity of protected area managers and operational staff to adapt to new challenges, using innovative and creative approaches; (ii) establish and deploy a team of well-trained and adequately equipped protected area rangers in the conserved areas. The team will engage in improved anti-poaching actions, which will include the development of cross-border collaboration in implementing a highly effective surveillance network and rapid response strategy; and (iii) the provision (or repair and construction) of basic infrastructure needed for protected area management.

This project will also fund the equipment of the trained staff with relevant basic equipment to monitor, report and combat wildlife trafficking. The type of material to be purchased will be determined by an expert committee put together by relevant stakeholders in the Project Management Unit, with inputs from the Project?s Technical Adviser. Through project support, local community environmental welfare groups will be established at the village level and their capacity built to understand the relevance of wildlife protection and management, the local list of endemic species, challenges of wildlife protection and conservation in the local area, and the significance of protecting local wildlife. A broad stakeholder consultation process (including representatives of community environmental welfare groups) will develop community guidelines for wildlife harvesting as well as rules, regulations and sanctions for breaking these community rules and regulations.

In the Lac Tumba Landscape this cross-border collaboration in monitoring wildlife trafficking will be with the Lac Tele side in the Republic of Congo. Within the framework of the regional project, existing collaborative mechanisms will be used to support this trans-boundary initiatives. During the project preparation phase, engagements with parties such as the Conference on the Dense and Humid Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEPHDAC); and the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Management of Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (REPALEAC) have laid a groundwork to ensure that such cross-border collaboration is workable. In the Grand Kivu side, this collaboration will be with relevant institutions and communities in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The current project aligns with a number of GEF-7 focal area priority programming areas (*BD-1-5, CCM-2-7, LD-1-1, LD-1-2, BD-2-7).* Through this alignment, this project addresses key elements of the regional project ? including inclusive conservation, sustainable forest management, sustainable land management, and improved financial sustainability for effective ecosystem management.

Alignment with The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (Congo IP) is funded by the GEF to the tune of 57.2 million USD, with the objective to catalyse transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest-dependent people, and through partnership with the private sector.. This project will contribute to the Congo IP?s goal of sustainable management of environmental resources in the Congo Basin, and to its transformational change agenda in terms of land-use, SFM, biodiversity conservation.

By supporting multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives (put in place by previous project) on: monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms are improved and strengthened, Output 4.2 of the current project will be contributing to Component 1 of the CBSL Program. In the same light, the development of ILUP methodologies (Outcome 1.1 of the current project) and the development of zoning plans for community based natural resources management (CBNRM) in priority conservation areas is integrated into indicative provincial LUP and tenure rights will also be contributing to Component 1 of the CBSL program.

In the current project, effective measures will be put in place to meet biodiversity conservation national priorities are defined under participatory process (Outcome 2.1). In addition, more than 600 000 ha of priority conservation area (other than national PA) will be integrated under provincial LUP (Outcome 2.1). These together with the management of at least, 600 000 ha of priority conservation areas using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity, and investments derived from result based payment for ecosystem services contracts will contribute to supporting Component 2 of the CBLS program.

Component 3 of the CBLS program envisages reduced community and production sector impacts on important services of forests in landscapes. In the current project, this Component is supported by the provision of support to at least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization) under IPLC management with active integration of women and private partners engagement (Outcome 3.1). It is also supported by the improvement and strengthening of multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives on monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, and the development financial mechanisms (Oucome 4.2 of the current project).

Capacity building in achieving these goals and ensuring community-led strategies for sustainable natural resources management (Component 4 of the CBSL program) are addressed in Outcomes 2.4 and 4.2 of the current project. The involvement of key stakeholders including local communities, private sectors and government entities at all level will help to generate general ownership by stakeholders and global environment benefits of peatlands conservation also aligns with the inclusive agenda of resource management and change resonating with the Congo IP. In particular, this directly responds to the Congo IP objective for Component 3 - sustainable use of forests by local communities and forest dependent people through strengthening of rights and tenure, and sustainable management of production sector activities.

BD-1-5 - Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Inclusive conservation. The project will work closely with local communities and indigenous populations to enhance sustainable livelihoods and support co-management of conservation areas and also to mainstream biodiversity considerations into production (agriculture and forestry) landscapes. This follows several engagement initiatives during the project preparation phase to sensitive different local stakeholders on the aims, objectives and vision of the project, as well as elicit input from these stakeholders on project design and implementation arrangements on the ground. Through the implementation of this project, 400,000 ha of conservation areas in the targeted landscape will benefit from more efficient inclusive co-management in order to ensure the protection of the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity (Outcome 2.1). In the same light, at least, 600 000 ha of priority conservation area are managed using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity (Output 2.1.2).

CCM-2-7 - Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts for sustainable forest management impact program. The implementation of this project will promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land use, and support climate smart agriculture. It will aim to reduce GHG emissions related to drainage and burning of peatland forest, plantation and agriculture systems in the targeted landscapes and at state and national levels through development and implementation of Action Plans on Peatlands and other related strategies, policies and action plans. It is calculated that this project will contribute to 8,182,184 tCO2eq avoided emissions in terms of lifetime direct as well as consequential GHG emissions avoided over a time horizon of 20 years.

LD-1-1 - Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM). The project will support the increased application of sustainable land management practices by relevant government, local community and private sector actors. These areas will include land and waterscapes that have suffered from degradation especially within the forest reserves and protected areas. Within this context, at least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization are supported under IPLC management with active integration of women and private partners engagement (Output 3.1.1.). Engagement of private sector and local communities in the restoration of peat swamp forests (in the Equateur), and forests that are critical habitats for key species (in the Grand Kivu) will be enhanced through technical support and incentive mechanisms. The project will also promote sustainable peatland management at the local and national level through community-based processes, as well as supporting the development and promotion of guidelines on land use plans to guide the allocation of and management of land and their uses with potential to enhance sustainable peatland management.

LD-1-2 - Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). To maintain and enhance the flow of ecosystem services, the project will focus on managing the human-biodiversity interface of the Lac Tumba forest and peatland landscapes as well as forests of the Grand Kivu in line with GEF-7 priorities. Threats identified are mainly pressure of development whereby the production zones in the landscapes have been developed for agriculture, illegal wildlife trading, mining, and urban development leading to increased disruption of the natural processes of the landscape and its peatlands (including disturbances to the hydrological balance and increased fire risk). To achieve a broad adherence and adoption of sustainable forest management best practices, this project will develop alternative income generating and livelihood support activities for populations in the project area

(Outcome 3). Alternative income generating sources and livelihood support choices will reduce the pressure on forest and other wildlife resources in protected areas of the project locations (Output 3.1.1.). Also, local lands with recognized ecosystem services potential will benefit from investments derived from result-based payment for ecosystem services contracts to restore, improve carbon stock and biodiversity in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands (Output 3.1.2).

BD-2-7 - Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate. Financial sustainability will be enhanced through development and implementation of ecotourism development, organic cacao value chains, and partnership with public-private partnerships for sustainable environmental development. This will provide a sustainable base for the improvement of management effectiveness for the project landscape. Management effectiveness will be enhanced through development, refinement and implementation of an integrated land use plans plan for the Lac Tumba Landscape and the Grand Kivu project areas.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

OUTCOME	BASELINE (A)	ALTERNATIVE (B)	INCREMENT (B) - (A)
Component 1: Mainstreaming Integrated Land use Planning (ILP) for conservation and sustainable development			

OUTCOME	BASELINE (A)	ALTERNATIVE (B)	INCREMENT (B) - (A)
1.1.: Three Provincial Governments (Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu) have indicative zoning plans. **1.2.** Legislations on indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights promulgated at the national level	? Land use management plans for designed with SLM, BD management, and INRM do not exist, limiting the ability for stakeholders to assess and deal with natural resources management challenges ? The current institutional and policy environment does not adequately engage local communities (including women and indigenous peoples) as strategic partners for the implementation and benefiting from SLM, SFM, biodiversity resource and INRM. ? Existing land use plans have not been formally endorsed and incorporated into existing legislative and policy processes.	? Zoning plans identify areas that are vulnerable to degradation or have relevance for conservation, thereby guiding planning decisions on their use. ? Institutional and policy environment is strengthened and enabled to empower indigenous peoples and local populations by securing their rights to land and resources used rights ? Land use plans developed through inclusive and participatory processes support short, medium and long-term planning on the management of forest, peatland and biodiversity resources. In cases where land use plans already exist and need formal processes of formalization, the processes are completed to enable application of such plans to guide land development. Land tenure and resource access rights are clarified and implemented. ? Capacity is built on the implementation of and use plans.	? An understanding of the location and extent of key biodiversity areas leads to the establishment of ecological connectivity between priority biodiversity habitats contributing to reducing the loss of endangered species and ecosystem restoration ? At least one (2) important national level legislation have been drafted or amended to include language that supports indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights promulgated at the national level. ? Land use plans lay the physical basis for land use planning ? permits the demarcation of land for divers uses and management ? Secure land tenure land resource rights provide a foundation for biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management
Component 2. Ensuring Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscapes			

OUTCOME	BASELINE (A)	ALTERNATIVE (B)	INCREMENT (B) - (A)
2.1: 400,000 ha of conservation areas (other than national PA) in the targeted landscape targeted have an efficient management in order to ensure the protection of the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity.	? Protected area management is not effective owing to insufficient land use planning, leaving large areas of forest and peatland landscapes prone to degradation. ? The integrity of key ecosystems that support key ecosystem services is unravelling, jeopardizing the sustainability of these ecosystem services in key forest and peatland landscapes of the Lac Tumba and Grand Kivu. ? The state of key biological resources of the project locations is not well known because limited studies have investigated ecological and socio-economic factors associated with conservation	? Mapping of local land resources provides spatial support for management decisions regarding SLM, SFM, BD management, and INRM Management is improved for key ecosystems, and those that are not being managed because they are not formally recognized as conserved areas are brought under conservation management. ? Degraded landscapes are restored and biodiversity corridors are created to support. ? Relevant local environmental and biological attributes provide relevant data for the assessment and monitoring of the health la forest and peatland landscapes resources - the basis of decision-making on SLM, SFM, BD management, and INRM	? The improvement of management effectiveness (600 000 ha of priority conservation area are managed using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity. ? The establishment of new conservation areas (ICCAs, CFPs, CPAs, etc.) improves conservation efforts, reduces land degradation and contributes to safeguarding biodiversity in over 400,000 hectares of land. ? At least 15 endangered species living in forest and peatland ecosystems with improving conservation prospects
Component 3: Promoting effective sustainable land use in priority landscape			
3.1 25% of IPLCs in priority areas implement climate smart best practices with regard to land use.	? Community-based sustainable land and management of forests and peatlands, as well as integrated natural resources management practices are few and not mainstreamed, contributing to the degradation of forest and peatland landscapes. ? Local communities have not valorised, and are not benefiting from value for their ecosystem services	? Community-based sustainable land and management of forests and peatlands, as well as integrated natural resources management practices are mainstreamed in the project locations. ? Local communities are generating benefits for conserving and protecting local landscapes, protected areas and reserves	? Climate-smart projects contribute to degradation management, reduction of deforestation, and improvements of land quality and productivity through support for at least 100 community-based projects. ? At least 500,000 hectares are under local protection and conservation ? generating ecosystems that are a source of income to such communities.
Component 4. Improving capacity, knowledge management and trans-boundary collaboration.			

OUTCOME	BASELINE (A)	ALTERNATIVE (B)	INCREMENT (B) - (A)
Outcome 4.1. Three DRC provinces have the capacity to monitor wildlife trafficking, land use change, SDG progress in priority areas.	? Areas of forests and peatland landscapes that are rich in biodiversity and essential for ecosystem services remain unprotected. ? Local capacities for monitoring wildlife poaching and trafficking, land use and land cover changes, and for assessing changes in ecosystem properties relevant for sustaining ecosystem services is very limited. ? Data to support science-based spatial planning decision-making on high biodiversity forest and peatland management is very limited and generally dispersed. ? The capacity for SDG monitoring to assess progress towards meeting sustainable development goals as well as probe challenges associated to sustainable development is limited to a few national and multilateral institutions	? Forests and peatlands with important biodiversity potentials and providing important ecosystem services are under conservation. ? Capacity is built among local communities and indigenous people?s groups on monitoring wildlife poaching and trafficking, land use and land cover changes, and for assessing changes in ecosystem properties relevant for sustaining ecosystem services. ? A shared database supports decision-making on land use planning, INRM, SFM, and SLM are guided by evidence-based, data-driven processes. ? Local community development organizations can monitor and assess progress towards SGDs ? supporting decision-making at the provincial and sub-provincial levels	? The conservation of forests and peatlands of Grand Kivu and the Lac Tumba Landscape leads to substantial ecosystem services for local communities and contribute to meeting national environmental and socio-economic goals. ? About 400,000 hectares of local and indigenous community conservation areas (ICCAs, CFPs, CPAs, etc.) benefits from enhanced monitoring, leading to improved conservation outcomes, reduction in land degradation and contributes to safeguarding critical biodiversity. ? Spatial and physical planning processes benefit from data analysis ? to ensure optimal outcomes ? The capacity for decision-making at the local and provincial levels on progress towards sustainable development goals becomes an evidence-based, data-driven activity ? supporting more robust results

OUTCOME	BASELINE (A)	ALTERNATIVE (B)	INCREMENT (B) - (A)
Outcome 4.2. The Governance structure (under current treaty) improves Transboundary coordination and actions against wildlife trafficking.	? Social and cross-border organization to support learning and information sharing on the practice of community-based natural resources management is either very limited or inexistent.	? Collaboration, dialogue and the sharing of best-practices between cross-border communities within trans-boundary resources is established and contributes. Anchoring this project within the CBSL regional program brings opportunities for transboundary collaboration in the achievement of common goals with other Congo Basin countries, learning, knowledge exchange and improvements in the management of common ecosystems.	? Trans-boundary resources are better protected, monitored, and sustainably used. ? Conflicts associated with resources use is minimized., ? Collaboration in addressing key trans-boundary challenges in biodiversity and environmental management are addressed.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

This project stands to contribute to many environmental services of vital global importance. About 60% of the Lake Tumba landscape is inundated and seasonally flooded forest. Depending on the season, it is home to a large mammal assemblage that includes the bonobo, chimpanzee, Angolan pied colobus *Colobus angolensis*, Allen's swamp monkey *Allenopithecus nigriviridis*, black mangabey *Lophocebus aterrimus*, red colobus *Piliocolobus tholonii*, red-tailed monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*, forest elephant *Loxodonta africana*, buffalo and leopard *Panthera pardus* ***[44]***[44] *and* ***[45]***[45]. The diverse swampy biotopes have a rich diversity of fish and freshwater-dependent species such as sitatunga *Tragelaphus spekei*, water chevrotain *Hyemoscus aquaticus*, slender-snout crocodile *Crocodylus cataphractus*, Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* and hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* ***[46]***[46]. Threats to the biodiversity include increases in the local human population and logging for the *wenge Mellitia laurenti* ***[47]***[47].

Being a transboundary landscape, the current project (through its Congo IP mother program) stands a good chance to support the protection of these species. Progress towards the international effort to address changes of protection and conservation for in this regard will be monitored using the indicator: ?*Strengthened transboundary cooperation leads to more effective approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and forest landscapes, including improved control and management of threats from IWT*? (see the Results Framework).

These landscapes have main protected areas and two community reserves, including: the Maiko protected area (8879 km?); the Kahuzi Biega protected area (6000 km?); the Itombwe Nature Reserve (7600 km?); the Tayna Nature Reserve; Primate reserve of Kisimba Ikobo; and the Punia Gorilla

Reserve (Maniema Province)[48][48]. The Kivu region represents the high point of the East African Rift Valley.

The current and emerging negative impacts on biodiversity from production sectors will be more effectively avoided, and managed at the landscape level, in particular within the agriculture, forestry, and extractive industries. Such management will build on the use of participatory modes of natural resources and protected area management whose virtues have been recognized in many cases on the continent. The project will work with local communities to strengthen conservation on communal lands by establishing and managing multi use ICCAs. It will put in place measures to ensure the sustainable utilization of wild resources and conservation-friendly farming through a focused sustainable livelihoods and capacity-building programme. This development will be assessed using one of the project global indicators: ?*Area of landscapes under participatory conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*? (see the Results Framework).

Improved conservation, protection and management of landscapes of the two project pilots is indispensable to safeguarding the rich variety of biological diversity and ecosystem services of the region. To this end the project support effective management of 3,062,968 PA which include: Kahuzi Bega (600,000), Virunga (784,368), Timba ? Ledima (750,000 ha), Nziri (540,000 ha) and Tayna Gorrillas Reserve (88,600 ha)In particular trans-border collaboration with Cameroon and Republic of Congo (in the Lac Tumba Landscape), as well as with Rwanda, Uganda and Sudan (in the Grand Kivu region) for national park management will enhance biodiversity conservation at the regional level. Sound management and valorization of the national parks will enhance international visibility of the DRC's natural heritage. This will enhance possibilities of achieving sustainable funding, including tourism revenue.
The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that ?The Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe area in the Democratic Republic of Congo has become the world?s largest Wetland Site of International Importance, officially recognized by the Ramsar Convention. The 6,569,624-hectare site (65,696km?), more than twice the size of Belgium, is situated around the Lake Tumba region in the Central Western Basin of the DRC and contains the largest freshwater body in Africa, the second driest continent. Furthermore, its rivers and lakes constitute a major sink for CO_2.)[49][49]? The project will contribute to 8,182,184 tCO_2eq avoided emissions in terms of lifetime direct as well as consequential GHG emissions avoided over a time horizon of 20 years. Supporting SLM, SFM, and the conservation and protection of biological diversity and ecosystem services in the Lac Tumba Landscape (which is part of this area) therefore contributes to safeguarding the vital ecosystem services of the area. The WWF reports that ecosystem services enjoyed by local populations in these landscapes include viable wetlands which ?provide water for drinking and sanitation as well as food, fish, fuel and many raw materials and their total economic value is conservatively estimated to be in excess of $70 billion per year?[50][50].

Clearly defined and officially adopted zoning and management plans, together with adequate management resources and coordinated partner interventions will create the framework for better biodiversity conservation and valorisation of conserved and protected areas, as well as productive landscapes. The existence of sustainable sources of funding will allow these landscapes to plan and implement field activities on the basis of long-term objectives. The landscapes targeted will become important motors for economic development, driving improvements in revenues from tourism, particularly gorilla viewing; as well as supporting enhanced and varied ecosystem services to serve the livelihoods of local communities.

Protected areas combined with ICCAs will be reinforced and secured, and enhanced within the landscape land use management and planning processes. Traditionally one of the most widely used and, arguably, most effective tools for achieving conservation goals are protected areas which play a

significant role in supporting local, national, and international biodiversity policies. They also serve as places for scientific research, wilderness protection, maintenance of environmental services, education, tourism and recreation, protection of specific natural and cultural features, and sustainable use of biological resources.

By increasing the surface area of protected areas, the rate of land degradation in the project locations will be reduced. Biodiversity and the ecosystem services they provide and support will be enhanced, thereby enhancing the natural resources base of the DRC. By increasing the surface area under effective conservation management, the long-term prospects for biodiversity conservation both in the project locations, as well as in the country and the Congo Basin region generally will be enhanced ? helping the DRC to meet a host of its national targets and international obligations.These developments will be monitored using the indicator: ?*Hectares of land under improved management in the project targeted landscapes*? (see the Results Framework).

Protection of additional sites of special biological interest will contribute to securing the long-term survival of a more complete representation of the DRC's biological heritage and will safeguard the natural resource base on which local populations depend.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

Sustainability

Social Sustainability: This project is supporting government of the DRC and other stakeholders to establish, in a participative manner, an enabling environment to fight deforestation, curb IWT, promote SLM and SFM practices and safeguard the country?s peatlands. Component 2 for example seeks to ensure that biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration is achieved in forest landscapes. This will entail supporting the preservation and conservation of sensitive ecosystems that in turn support the social, cultural and economic lives of local peoples (including indigenous groups).

Sustainability of project outcomes will be enhanced by the project?s support for inclusive and transparent approaches to forest and peatland restoration, as well as benefit-sharing that involves all stakeholders, particularly local and indigenous communities, women, youth and minorities, ensuring that restoration planning and initiatives are demand-driven and built upon a wide base of support. Output 3.1.2 will support investments derived from result-based payment for ecosystem services contracts in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands to be secured to the benefit of local communities that have been serving as custodians of the forest and environmental resources that provide services for a wide variety of users. This will be of vital importance for local and indigenous communities whose rights to access, use and benefit from the economic gains of natural resources is not generally guaranteed in the Congo Basin region.

The involvement of local communities in the implementation of project activities will be very important for the attainment of social sustainability. The project will, therefore, promote broad stakeholder involvement in the identification and selection of projects on alternative livelihood systems and on the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Through the implementation of forest restoration projects, the project will also provide an opportunity for local communities to develop gender-sensitive income-generating activities ? such as eco-tourism and bee-keeping ? that can be used to supplement the financing coming from governments, NGOs and donor agencies.

Another important aspect of social sustainability will be the development, implementation, and integration of zoning plans for community-based natural resources management in priority conservation areas into indicative provincial land use plans and tenure rights on ancestral lands (Output 1.1.3). This will provide indigenous peoples and communities with much needed rights of access, use, management and participation in decision-making on natural resources within their immediate environment.

Environmental sustainability: The environmental sustainability of the project?s outputs will be achieved through the implementation of actions that will enable the recuperation of forest cover in the two pilot regions through planning for, and implementing SLM, SFM, and peatland and IWT management in key landscapes, reforestation, natural regeneration, and implementation of sustainable agroforestry systems. This will allow the protection of primary forests and restoration of secondary

forests and/or degraded forests and their fringes in the project?s project areas (in Grand Kivu and Equateur) as well as reduced pressure on natural floral and faunal resources and their associated ecosystem services. These activities will contribute to reversing land degradation, the protection of areas of peatland landscapes in the Equateur Province, and sensitive landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem sustenance in the Grand Kivu. Through such conservation and protection, vital ecosystems such as the protection of water sources, and improvement of the nutrient recycling processes for the stability of forest ecosystems, and the viability of the regions? biological diversity.

The establishment of long-term conservation agreements between the Executing Agency (the MEDD) and local communities in the project communities in both Grand Kivu and Equateur will contribute to the conservation of peatlands and forests, the protection of key habitat, the establishment of connectivity between existing protected areas and forest patches in the surrounding landscapes, and sustainable agriculture. This includes the creation of horizontal and vertical biological corridors, which will benefit vulnerable and/or endangered species as well as endemic species. Together, these actions will contribute incrementally to generate long-term local and global environmental benefits

Another key aspect of environmental sustainability will be at the level of the amount of carbon emissions that are avoided as a result of the implementation of this project. It is estimated that the project will contribute to 8,182,184 tCO2eq avoided emissions in terms of lifetime direct as well as consequential GHG emissions avoided over a time horizon of 20 years.

Economic Sustainability: The economic sustainability of the project will be achieved mainly through the direct participation of the local communities and other beneficiaries in a host of environmentally friendly, economically viable initiatives developed and financed by this project. These will provide long-lasting direct and indirect economic benefits to project beneficiaries. These include, but are not limited to: (i) Benefits accrued from project support for at least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization) with active integration of women and private partners engagement (Output 3.1.1). (ii) Economic benefits to local communities and populations from investments derived from result-based payment for ecosystem services in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands (3.1.2). (iii) Local opportunities to invest in ecotourism, and NTFP value chains that will be supported by project financing.

The main indicator of financial sustainability will be the extent to which the national and local governments allocate funds to fight deforestation, support the conservation of sensitive habitats, and for peatland landscape restoration activities through the provision of co-financing contributions. The project has been engaging, and will continue to engage local and national government entities in a consultative process to reach an agreement on the future financing of activities that will be initiated under the project once GEF funding ends. Many national government entities, local governments, the private sector and other bilateral partners have expressed their willingness to make substantial financial contributions to address the root causes of land degradation issues in the DRC?s mangrove forests and protected areas, as evidenced by the extent of co-financing approved by each to this project. The project recognizes that sustainability can be assured through the promotion of national and local government ownership of the project activities and by ensuring that the project works towards the realization of local government and national goals and generates benefits over the medium to long-term.

Institutional Sustainability: The project was designed as a process that would be sustained beyond the life of the project through the enhancement of the capacity of national and local government institutions. Capacity will be built at several levels, including for IPLC community development committees and local, regional and national authorities in project development, implementation, climate best practices and monitoring are strengthened (Output 3.1.3); and on monitored SDG progress using Rural Development SDG monitoring tool (Output 4.1.2). This approach will ensure the continuation of project activities once the project ends. Training and materials developed through this project will also help build capacity at the local government level to provide much-needed extension services to land managers. The project will ensure that these services are embedded within local government processes and budgets so that they continue to provide support to landscape restoration implementation once GEF funding ends. The strategic partnership with WWF to support

implementation of the PES activities will allow to establish a system which is in line with international standards including the sustainability aspects of the system.

Innovation

One aspect of the project innovativeness lies in the fact that it will be the first of its kind to combine a landscape and integrated approach with community-based natural resources management to improve the management of key priority ecosystems (including peatlands in the Lac Tumba Landscape, and forests under severe human pressures in the Grand Kivu. This approach will focus simultaneously on both the ecological and socioeconomic components. In Output 3.1.2, the project introduces on-the-ground application of sustainable financing mechanisms for habitat conservation and sustainable landscape management. It will be also introducing incentives for sustainable management in conservation sectors such as forestry through SLM, and productive sectors such as agro-forestry, agriculture, fisheries and tourism, through certification, and eco-labelling. These will contribute to addressing the very causes of degradation by shifting unsustainable practices towards more sustainable ways, and doing so through a public-private partnership. The project combines biodiversity management with SFM, SLM, and socioeconomic incentives to focus both on peatlands and high biological diversity landscapes ? as cornerstones of a landscape - as well as land outside of these, which is critical for the landscapes and its biodiversity, as well as important for people given its economic use. These innovative approaches, if proved successful, can go a long way in resolving the habitat fragmentation threats and ensuring long term stability of the populations of important species. The Project is innovative within the physical and legal frameworks it has to face to date; there have been few attempts at establishing an integrated approach to land-use management in wetland basins, incorporating conservation priorities, zoning, sustainable use of resources at the landscape level. There has also been limited vertical integration and linking of planning processes from the national level down to the provincial, district and community levels ? hence the project supports community engagements at different levels through capacity building, reorganization of governance, and support for local level decision-making in natural resources management and environmental conservation (see Outcomes 3.1 and 4.1). This project will be innovative in its support for mainstreaming of sustainable management of forests and peatlands through all levels of governance. simultaneously carrying out local pilot activities and knowledge and information management actions which provides bottom-up inputs for discussion of national environmental policies related to wetlands, improving these in ways which generate a regulatory framework adapted to local conditions. Finally, innovation is also comprised in the contribution of assessing little known endemic species that need to be protected but have not made it into the international listings such as IUCN. Another key innovation of this project is that of recognizing the role that can be played by local communities when they are engaged as viable stakeholders and stewards of the natural environments and landscape resources in and around their communities. CBNRM forms an important model of resources and landscape management in the project?s approach. The recognition of the roles, rights, and place of indigenous peoples in resources management as well as the challenges they face in full participation in resources management and conservation brings novelty to this project. Hence efforts are made to support indigenous peoples in being more formally and viably engaged in natural resources management and conservation through policy and legislative support (see Outcomes 2.1 and 3.1).

Another aspect of the project innovativeness is in its regional and transboundary character. Being a child project in the CBSL program, this project offers lots of opportunities for cross-border collaboration in the achievement of common goals with other Congo Basin countries, learning and knowledge exchange, and management. The current project anchors will with all Components of the CBSL program, as do other child projects within this program (see ?Alignment with The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (Congo IP),? under ?Alignment with the GEF-7 Focal Area Priority Programming Areas.? This cements the regional character of the current project and ensures that its cross-border objectives are met within the regional program.

Potential for scaling up

The potential for scaling up the project?s approach and impact will be encouraged through the dissemination of tested models for planning at the ecosystem level, lessons learned and experiences in

implementing dynamic conservation in peatlands and landscapes of high biodiversity value, together with raising awareness to ensure that local communities and stakeholders understand and adopt incentives and tools for biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in these ecosystems. A multiplying effect will be encouraged through strategic policy support, regulatory frameworks in place and capacity building at state and national level to consolidate effects within the project period. The heterogeneous nature of pilots (one being at the Lac Tumba peatlands, and another in the rainforests of Kivu North and Kivu South) within the project, with different landscape mosaics of land uses and different productive sectors involved, provides many ways to achieve multiplier effects, replication and upscaling. Project implementation will be integrated in existing district institutions and will conduct workshops across areas with highest replication potential to demonstrate the experience and help other users and stakeholders to implement the same practices, thereby providing the systemic capacity needed for scaling up the initiative to other districts. The project will support the development of an exit strategy, which will cover all aspects handled by the project.

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[20] See more at: https://usfscentralafrica.org/democratic-republic-congo/

[21] The project has three components: (i) the Congos consortium (region), supported by International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) (see http://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G04056.pdf); (ii) the Dryad initiative (Cameroon), supported by the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF) (see http://www.worldagroforestry.org/sites/default/files/DRYAD Flier.pdf); and (iii) the Community Forests project in the DRC, supported by RFUK in association with national CSOs (see: https://www.rainforestfoundationuk.org/media.ashx/forests-communautaires-in-rdc-web.pdf).

[22] CAFI. https://www.cafi.org/content/cafi/en/home/partner-countries/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/drc-fonaredd-programmes.html

[23] See pages 19-25 of Jean Claude BOMBULA MALASSAY (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude Relative aux Activites de Suivi-Evaluation***. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[24] S?bastien MALELE MBALA (2020) ***Rapport sur la Gestion Communautaire des Ressources Naturelles***. Missions de r?colte des donn?es et informations pertinentes dans les sites d'intervention du projet (Grand Kivu et Lac T?l? Tumba) dans le cadre du Programme ? impact sur le Bassin du Congo. Minist?re de l?Environnement et D?veloppement Durable (MEDD), Direction du D?veloppement Durable (DDD). Kinshasa, RDC

[25] Ibid. Michel DISONAMA SINDO (2020).

[26] Graciela Metternicht 2017. Land use planning. Global Land Outlook Working Paper. UNCCD. https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2018-06/6.%20Land%2BUse%2BPlanning%2B__G_Metternicht.pdf
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[28] Weyer, D., et al. (2019). "Participatory mapping in a developing country context: Lessons from South Africa." Land **8**(9): 134.

1. [29] Richard Eba 'a Atyi and N. Bayol (2009) Les for?ts de la R?publique D?mocratique du Congo en 2008.

[30] The Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) is an innovative funding instrument that indigenous communities can use to find solutions to the challenges they face. The objective of the Facility is to strengthen indigenous peoples? communities and their organizations. It finances small projects that foster self-driven development.

[31] Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales.*** Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.
[32] Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales.*** Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.
[33] McEvoy, T. J. Positive Impact Forestry: A Sustainable Approach to Managing Woodlands. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2004. Also see: Smith, W. Brad, Patrick D. Miles, John S. Vissage, and Scott A. Pugh. Forest Resources of the United States. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, 2002.

[34] Kenya Forests. 2007. Manual on Preparation of a Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP). www.kenyaforests.org.
[35] Ibid. Kenya Forests (2007).
[36] While an initial estimate during the PIF was 400,000 hectares, the thematic studies and engagements with relevant stakeholders associated with the project development came to the conclusion that the PIF estimate was too small. They have suggested 600,000 hectares instead.

[37] Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales.*** Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[38] S?bastien MALELE MBALA (2020) ***Rapport sur la Gestion Communautaire des Ressources Naturelles***. Missions de r?colte des donn?es et informations pertinentes dans les sites d'intervention du projet (Grand Kivu et Lac T?l? Tumba) dans le cadre du Programme ? impact sur le Bassin du Congo. Minist?re de l?Environnement et D?veloppement Durable (MEDD), Direction du D?veloppement Durable (DDD). Kinshasa, RDC

[39] Jean Claude BOMBULA MALASSAY (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude Relative aux Activites de Suivi-Evaluation***. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[40] See the following for details: Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[41] Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales.*** Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[42] USAID (2016). Lac T?l?-Lac Tumba Landscape. Washington D.C. USA, United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1860/CAFEC_Lac_Tele-_Lac_Tumba_Fact_Sheet.pdf

[43] See more details in https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/pag_017.pdf.

[44] Marcot, B.G. & Alexander, R. (2004). *Exploratory trip to Democratic Republic of the Congo, August 20?September 15, 2004*. Report for International Programs Office, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC, USA.

[45] Inogwabini, B.I. (2005) *Preliminary Conservation Status of Large Mammals in the Lac Tumba ? Lac Mai-Ndombe Hinterland, with Emphasis on Identification of Biologically Important Zones*. Report submitted to WWF-US as an annual report to the CARPE-USAID Programme.

[46]Toham, K.A., D'Amico, J., Olson, D.M., Blom, A., Trowbridge, L., Burgess, N., Thieme, M., Abel l, R., Carroll, R.W., Gartlan, S., Langrand, O., Mussavu, R.M., O'Hara, D. & Strand, H. (eds) (2006) *A Vision for Biodiversity Conservation in Central Africa: Biological Priorities for Conservation in the Guinean-Congolian Forests and Freshwater Region*. WWF, Washington, DC, USA.

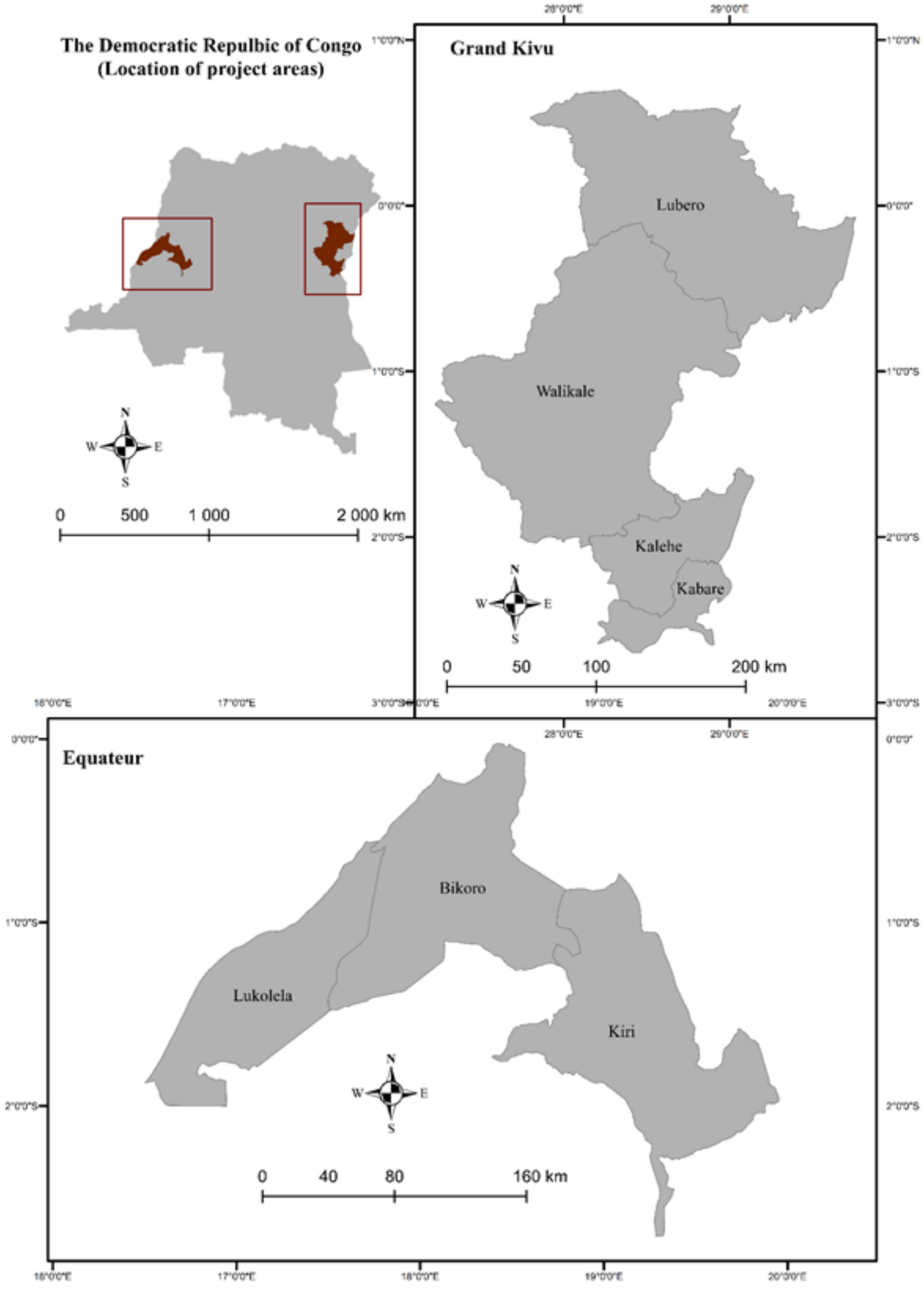
[47] Ibid Marcot, B.G. & Alexander, R. (2004).

[48] See the thematic study for a detailed description of the characteristics, potentials and challenges of these protected areas and reserves: Jo?l Bernardin KIYULU N?YANGA - NZO (2020) ***Rapport d?Etude sur la Thematique Populations Autochtones et Communautes Locales.*** Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[49] WWF 2008. Africa announces world?s largest protected freshwater site. World Wildlife Fund (WWF). https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?141861
[50] WWF 2008. Africa announces world?s largest protected freshwater site. World Wildlife Fund (WWF). https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?141861

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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


The Democratic Repulbic of Congo
(Location of project areas)
N
W
E
S
0
500
1 000
2 000 km
Grand Kivu
Lubero
Walikale
Kalehe
Kabare
0
50
100
200 km
Equateur
Bikoro
Lukolela
Kiri
0
40
80
160 km

1c. Child Project?

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

The current project is also well anchored with all for components of the Congo IP. This anchor is well illustrated through the project Outputs that are connected to Congo IP program Components, as see in the table below.

CBSL Program components	DRC Project Outputs addressing Congo IP Components
1. Enabling framework for countries in targeted transboundary landscapes to plan, monitor and adapt land management and leverage local, national and international investments for SLM/SFM	**? ILUP methodologies are defined under national orientations and support following local free, informed and prior consent (FPIC) (Output 1.1.1)** **? Related LUP information collected with participation of all partners (IPLC , Local Government entities, FAO, WWF, etc.) are consolidated and available under one database (Output 1.1.2)** **? Proposed zoning plan for community based natural resources management (CBNRM) in priority conservation areas is integrated into provincial LUP and tenure rights are recognized to communities on ancestral lands (Output 1.1.3)** **? Four integrated SIG / database system (3 at provincial level, one at national level) put in place in order to manage and share information consolidated (Output 4.1.1)** **? The multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives (put in place by previous project) on: monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms are improved and strengthened (Output 4.2.3)**
2. Long-term viability of forest providing important habitat to endangered species and critical ecosystem services	**? Effective measures and type of priority conservation areas (eg. ICCA, CFC, CPA, etc.) to meet biodiversity conservation national priorities are defined under participatory process (Output 2.1.1)** **? More than 600 000 ha of priority conservation area (other than national PA) are identified and integrated under provincial LUP (Output 2.1.2)** **? At least, 600 000 ha of priority conservation area are managed using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity. Output 3.1.2: ? Investments derived from result based payment for ecosystem services contracts are secured by the project and applied to restore, improve carbon stock and biodiversity in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands (Output 2.1.3)**

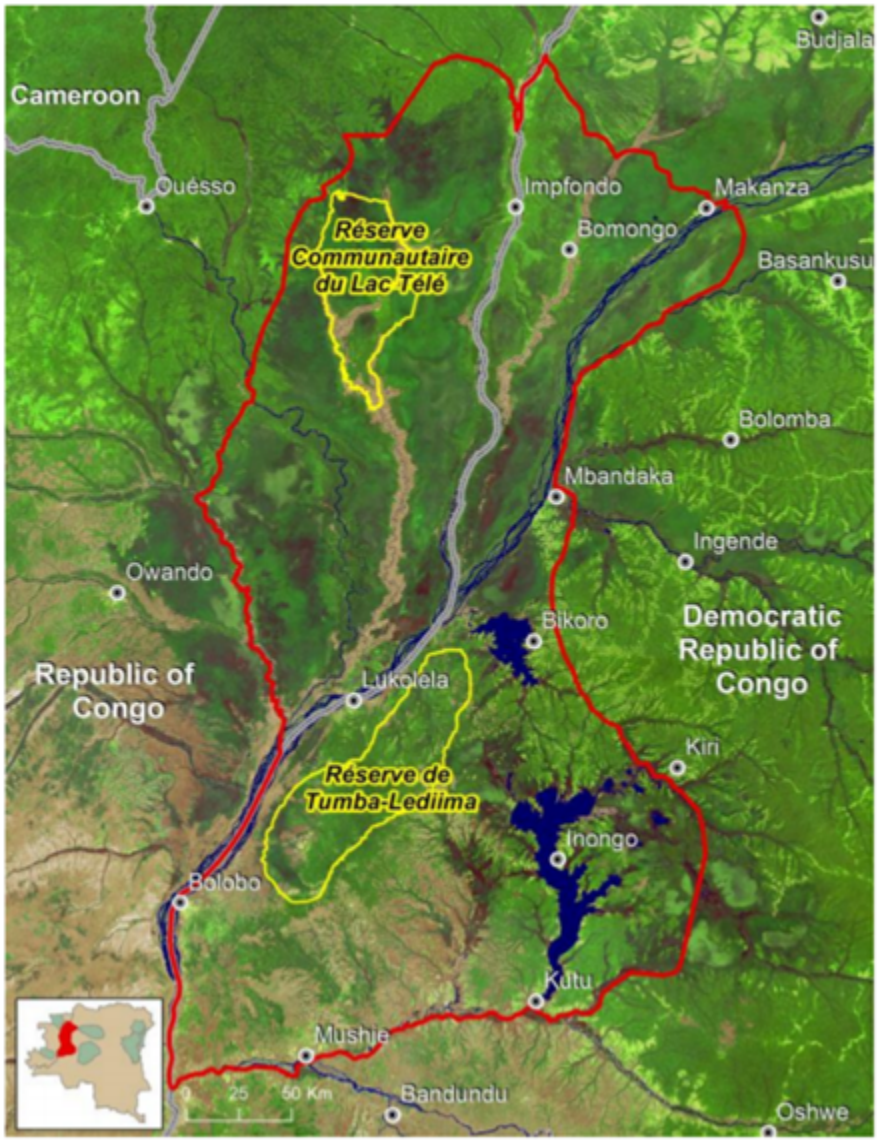
3. Reduced community and production sector impacts on important services of forests in landscapes	**? Progress towards SDGs in the project area monitored using Rural Development SDG monitoring tool (developed by MRD) (Output 4.1.2)** **? The multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives (put in place by previous project) on: monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms are improved and strengthened (Output 4.2.3)** **? At least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization) are supported under IPLC management with active integration of women and private partners engagement (Output 3.1.1)**
4. Capacity building, knowledge management, and regional cooperation	**? Lessons learned on effective conservation approaches as per outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 are consolidated and shared (communicated) both among national stakeholders and regionally (Output 4.2.1)** **? Project lessons learned and communication are documented and shared at local, national and regional level (Output 4.2.2)**

Links between two major transboundary landscapes in the Congo Basin IP

The current project is strongly tied with another child project within the Congo IP. This is the project titled: ?Integrated Community-Based Conservation of Peatlands Ecosystems and Promotion of Ecotourism in Lac T?l? Landscape of Republic of Congo?. The Lac Tumba in the DRC side is a continuation of the Lac Tele Landscape in the RoC side of the border, forming a near seamless ecoregion with substantial environmental significance for both countries. Characterized by swamp-forests, grasslands, floating prairies, seasonal lakes, ponds and rivers, the landscape is extraordinary for its biodiversity, the Lac T?l?-Tumba landscapes in the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) harbors the world?s largest freshwater swamp-forest and the second largest freshwater, non-coastal wetland. Together, these landscapes consist of approximately 70 percent of swampy, seasonally flooded forest. The remaining 30 percent consists of dry land and savannah. These landscapes play an essential role in the climate and hydrology of the Congo Basin, as well as in the management of water resources in Africa and the rest of the world[1]. Studies have discovered that this landscape is in the midst of the world?s largest tropical peatland estimated to store the equivalent of three years? worth of the world?s total fossil fuel emissions[2].

The peatlands cover 145,500 km2 ? an area larger than England[3], and extend as a continuous formation from Lac Tele Landscape into the Lac Tumba Landscape in the DRC. The swamps could lock in 30bn tons of carbon, making the region one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth[4]. These peatlands therefore constitute a resource whose exploitation would have implications far beyond the geography of their location. The process of managing natural resources shared by two or more nations represent a significant opportunity for both the development of peaceful co-operation and the effective and equitable management of resources to the benefit of the local, regional and international community. Benefits from the successful transboundary management of natural resources can include reduction of conflicts, the promotion of peace, more effective management of natural resources and

environments, promotion of the economic welfare of a region?s communities and the preservation and enhancement of cultural values.



The Lac Tele and Lac Tumba Landscapes are one - located in different national territories (Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic respectively), but share relatively the same geographical, biological, and ecological characteristics. This includes their being home to significant portions of the Congo Basin peatland system .

Efforts of conservation of these landscapes for both countries can be evidenced through the existence of protected areas on both sides of the border ? the Lac Tele Community Reserve in the RoC, and the Tumba-Lediima Reserve in the DRC.

With regards to activities that address the transboundary nature of both the peatlands of the Equateur Province and the biodiversity-rich landscapes of the Grand Kivu, the project will undertake the following: (a) Organize knowledge?sharing events between transboundary communities and between provinces in the project locations on lessons learned on effective conservation approaches. (b) Organize two regional knowledge? sharing events between transboundary countries that will bring together

project communities with communities in similar environmental and socio-economic conditions across the borders of DRC. (c) Develop and implement an awareness?raising strategy to disseminate lessons learned on effective conservation approaches across transboundary communities. (d) Design a biodiversity vigilance program (involving cross-border communities located around protected, conserved areas of forest reserves) to detect illicit activities and report their existence to the relevant authorities. (e) Identify a basic set of indicators for the community monitoring of the performance and effectiveness of the program. (f) Organize and training of a volunteer task force to undertake monitoring, surveillance and reporting activities.

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[1] Boyzibu Ekhassa and Pierre Oyo, 2012. Lac T?l? ? Lac Tumba Landscape. Climate Change and Forests in the Congo Basin: Synergies between Adaptation and Mitigation. Center for International Forestry Research. http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/cobambrief/3929-cobambrief.pdf

[2] Dargie, G. C., et al. (2017). "Age, extent and carbon storage of the central Congo Basin peatland complex." Nature **542**(7639): 86.

[3] Dargie, G. C., et al. (2017). "Age, extent and carbon storage of the central Congo Basin peatland complex." Nature **542**(7639): 86.

[4] Fatoyinbo, L. (2017). "Ecology: Vast peatlands found in the Congo Basin." Nature **542**(7639): 38.

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder engagement plan

Stakeholder engagement is an important feature of the project covering site-based arrangements for forest and peatland landscape resources management, the development of strategic and relevant knowledge products, bringing together stakeholders to foster mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in forest and peatland landscapes, and working within a multi-stakeholder context to achieve project goals.

The following principles will be upheld during consultations and other forms of engagement: *(i) Commitment:* by recognizing the need to understand, engage and identify the stakeholders and

consulting them in formulation process. Further, engaging approval processes that secure institutional commitment to the project. *(ii) Integrity:* ensuring that consultations and engagement are conducted in a manner that fosters mutual respect and trust. *(iii) Respect:* of rights, cultural beliefs, values and interests of stakeholders and affected communities. d. Transparency: ensuring that stakeholder and community concerns are responded to in a timely, open and effective manner. *(iv) Inclusiveness:* ensuring that broad participation is encouraged and supported by appropriate participation opportunities., including unlimited access to consultations meetings. *(v) Trust:* through open and meaningful dialogue that respects and upholds a stakeholders and community?s beliefs, values and opinions.

The preparation of this project has included a number of consultation and information sharing activities with various actors that have a key stake in the proposed project. These engagement approaches will be sustained during the implementation of the project. These activities and the stakeholders involved are summarized in the Table below.

- Project stakeholder engagement plan.

Engagement technique	**Stakeholders and partners**	**Purpose of engagement**
Information Centre and Information Boards	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Establish Information Boards in each Project area community.
Correspondence by phone, email, text, and instant messaging	? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners	? Distribute project information to government officials, organizations, agencies and companies ? Invite stakeholders to meetings
Print media and radio announcements	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Disseminate project information to large audiences, and illiterate stakeholders ? Inform stakeholders about consultation meetings
One-on-one interviews	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations	? Solicit views and opinions ? Enable stakeholders to speak freely and confidentially about controversial and sensitive issues ? Build personal relations with stakeholders ? Recording of interviews

Formal meetings	? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners	? 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	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? Local communities ? National institutional partners	? Present project information to a large audience of stakeholders, and in particular communities ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Distribute non-technical project information ? Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations, posters, models, videos and pamphlets or project information documents ? Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses
Workshops	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities ? National institutional partners	? 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, analyse information, and develop recommendations and strategies ? Recording of responses
Focus group meetings	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? 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
Surveys	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Gather opinions and views from individual stakeholders ? Gather baseline data ? Record data ? Develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts

[1] CFT : Compagnie Foresti?re et de Transformation
- FOLAC : Foresti?re du Lac
- SCIBOIS : Soci?t? Congolaise Industrielle du Bois
- SIFORCO : Soci?t? Industrielle et Foresti?re du Congo (http://www.siforco.com)
- SODEFOR sprl : Soci?t? de D?veloppement Forestier (http://www.sodefor.net)
- SOFORMA : Soci?t? Foresti?re et des Mati?res Ligneuses Africaines (http://www.soforma.net)

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

Key identified project stakeholders

The success of the project intervention requires the active involvement and participation of the various stakeholders. The main project stakeholders are (i) the national ministries and affiliated bodies; (ii) multi-lateral organizations; (iii) national and local non-governmental organizations; (iv) local stakeholders, including vulnerable groups such as women, youth and indigenous peoples.

National Ministries and Affiliated Bodies

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD): The Ministry?s mandate is to promote, supervise, and coordinate all activities relating to the environment with the realization of this mandate based on the current progress of science. The Ministry ensures the oversight and mentorship of ICCN as one of its institutions. The role of the Ministry or of experts in its Sustainable Development Division. At the level of the project locations, the ministry is represented by the Provincial Coordination of the MEDD in the Lake Tumba Landscape and in North Kivu. The Provincial Coordination is responsible for fulfilling the role of the MEDD at the provincial level including the coordination and monitoring of on?the?ground activities in the province. This ministry has a number of key departments and directorates that are directly useful in the implementation of key aspects of this project. They include among others: (i) The Forest Management Department (DGF): Management of forest resources. (ii) The Reforestation and Horticulture Department (HRD): reforestation and agroforestry activities. (iii) The Forest Inventory and Management Department (DIAF): relating to forest zoning, inventories and forest management, development of forest management plans. (iv) The Nature conservation department (DCN): ensure the management of protected areas and related reserves of water, forest and wildlife ecosystems

Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN): ICCN is a parastatal organization under MENCT charged with the management of DRC?s protected areas. ICCN?s mandate is to control and patrol these protected areas, to collect and analyse data from the field and to facilitate tourism activities where possible. ICCN?s vision is to ensure the conservation and the effective and sustainable management of biodiversity in the national network of protected areas of the DRC in cooperation with local communities and other partners for the well-being of the Congolese people. At the provincial level, ICCN has five provincial directorates in: North Kivu in Goma; South Kivu in Bukavu; Katanga in Lubumbashi; Orientale in Kisangani; and Equateur in Mbandaka.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Husbandry (MINAGRIPEL) via IPAPEL: IPAPEL is in charge of coordinating all the interventions in the agricultural, fisheries and livestock husbandry sectors, and of implementing the corresponding sectoral laws, strategies and plans including the National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA) at the provincial level. The Provincial Inspectorate for Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock (IPAPEL) implements planning and monitoring mechanisms for

all agricultural, fisheries and livestock?husbandry interventions and provide support for investors in these sectors.

Ministry of Mining: It manages, monitors and controls all mining activities in the country. It also managed the issues related to environment protection in collaboration with MEDD.

Provincial Ministry of Rural Development via the Rural Development Inspectorates (IPDD): IPDD focuses on elaborating and monitoring development projects in rural areas, and implementing the policies in this sector. This includes improving the organisation of the rural areas through the development of autonomous structures such as cooperatives, developing agricultural activities and connecting rural production zones to urban areas. As part its attribution, IPDD support women and youth associations.

Provincial Coordination of the MATUH: The MATUH designs land?use plans, and monitor and control their implementation. It oversees the implementation of the national policies for improved distribution of human activities in the country

Multi-lateral Organizations

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS): WCS is the lead for Landscape 7?Lac Tele?Lac Tumba Swamp Forest with consortium partners WWF and Private Agencies Collaborating Together (PACT). The Congo River runs through the heart of this landscape and separates many species including the region?s highest density of western lowland gorillas in the Republic of Congo and a population of bonobos in the DRC. WCS operates in Lac Tele on the ROC side, while WWF works in Lac Tumba on the DRC side. As a consortium partner in the Virunga landscape, WCS works with the governments of Uganda, Rwanda and the DRC to develop a strategic plan for the conservation of this rich landscape. The goal is an effectively co-managed, protected area network allowing wildlife numbers to be maintained or increase. WCS is training park authorities in wildlife surveying and monitoring, as well as effective law enforcement. WCS is also supporting transborder collaboration between the countries and reducing conflicts between the parks? staff and surrounding communities so they can successfully protect this diverse ecosystem.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF has helped promote sustainable livelihoods, provided environmental education and increased protection of critically endangered species like the mountain gorilla. WWF is currently active on the ground to reduce the environmental impacts of this conflict in concert with those addressing humanitarian needs. WWF and ICCN are currently working to restore patrols and asses the health of the park?s wildlife whenever the security situation permits. WWF has been supporting the Salonga National Park since 2004. Its support focuses on anti-poaching activities and law enforcement monitoring; logistics and infrastructure support; strengthening of the park?s management capacities; zoning and land use planning; community support for participatory natural resource management; research and development of sustainable financing mechanisms; and coordination of the various conservation partners involved in the Salonga National Park. More recently, WWF has led large-scale efforts to set up Local Development Committees 30 in the Corridor and other parts of the landscape, formalizing committees within a total of 137 villages. Those committees were set up to give villages the possibility to seek funds and develop projects to improve livelihoods, which now forms the basis for the delivery of WWF?s planned agricultural support activities. As a consortium partner in Landscape 7 (Lac Tele?Lac Tumba Swamp Forest), WWF works with local communities and international partners to improve sustainable development in the landscape and preserve biodiversity, ensuring that local economies are based on sustainably managed natural resources. WWF works for the conservation of bonobos through strengthening local communities and helping them partner with local governments. WWF also works with the Bonobo Conservation Initiative to improve conservation awareness on the DRC side of the landscape.

World Resources Institute (WRI): WRI monitor forest cover at the global scale. It also provides support to government institutions and local communities for improved forest management, developing cartographies for the distribution and condition of natural resources, and on challenges associated with natural resources management. WRI on?the?ground interventions focus on improving communities? livelihoods, as well as on conservation, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.

National and Local Non-governmental Organizations

University of Kinshasa, Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, Congo Basin Water Resources Research Center (Universit? de Kinshasa, Facult? des Sciences Agronomiques, Centre de Recherche en Ressources en Eau du Bassin du Congo (CRREBaC)): CRREBaC has been working in the Lac Tele-Lac Tumba region on various research projects in hydrology, geomorphology, and geospatial sciences. For example, they have been carrying out studies on aspects of land use ? land cover changes and the source to sink of sediment and carbon budget in the Congo basin, as well as catchment monitoring, and hydrological assessments in the Congo basin. Their work also includes (among other things) quantifying current and possible future impacts of climate and water-driven migration in the Congo Basin for socially vulnerable groups both in the incoming and resident population, and examine the range of gender- sensitive policy options to reduce the adverse impacts on these groups. In the current project, CRREBaC will be the main go-to resource for scientific grounding of project outputs. It will establish and head a Scientific Committee for the project, as well as implement outputs related to scientific knowledge development in the project focus areas. Hence, specifically, among other things, CRREBaC will: (i) Develop specialist competence in key areas of the project implementation; (ii) Build transdisciplinary capabilities - learning pathways that are embedded in practice; (iii) Mobilize all knowledge sources ? academic, practice-based, local; (iv) Implement training- aimed at effecting practical solutions to pressing land use-climate change challenges; (v) Collect reliable data through efficient sampling methods for the peatland?s biodiversity; (vi) Analyse the functioning and dynamics of the wetlands including peatlands of the study sites to develop a better understanding of the Climate-Forest-Water Nexus; (vii) Build a knowledge-based interface that will be translated into a GIS platform that allows a wide range of end users including research organizations, government agencies, private industry, investors, and NGO?s to easily access information to guide and inform decision-making; and (viii) Provide consistent guidelines to enable societal resilience to detrimental impact of environmental change.

Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC): REPALEAC aims to increase and guarantee the participation of indigenous and local populations in the management of forest ecosystems in Central Africa in accordance with sub-regional guidelines on the participation of indigenous and local populations in sustainable forest management. The REPALEAC aims among other things to: (i) guarantee the participation and empowerment of indigenous and local populations in the process of sustainable management and conservation of forest ecosystems; (ii) support development actions initiated by associations and national networks of REPALEAC in the context of improving the livelihoods of indigenous and local populations, the fight against poaching and illegal exploitation, and abusive forest ecosystems; (iii) promote conflict management in the management of forest ecosystems, to prevent the negative consequences that may arise between managers of protected areas and forest concessions and the indigenous and local populations of Central Africa in the context of respect customary use and enjoyment rights of indigenous and local populations; (iv) to promote communication relating to the situation of the indigenous and local populations of Central Africa; (v) to strengthen the organizational and institutional capacities of national networks and national associations of indigenous and local populations for sustainable forest management; and (vi) to work for gender mainstreaming and the active and effective participation of indigenous women and young people in the conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa.

African Women Network for Sustainable Development (R?seau Femmes Africaines pour le D?veloppement Durable ? (REFADD)): Created during the first Conference on the Ecosystems of the Dense and Wet Forests of Central Africa (CEFDHAC), and focusing on women, environment and sustainable development, REFADD aims to: (i) identify the ways and the methods to increase the participation of the women in natural resource management and the conservation of the biodiversity; (ii) identify environmental strategies to support the participation of NGOs of the Congo basin in the development and the realization of the national and regional programs on natural resource management and the conservation of the biodiversity; (iii) support the participation of women in the natural resource management, with information, training and through the active participation of women in decision-making on questions related to the management of forests and the environmental protection; and (iv) improve communications between NGOs in the Congo Basin.

The National League of Indigenous Pygmy Associations of Congo (La Ligue Nationale des Associations Autochtones Pygm?es du Congo (LINAPYCO): LINAPYCO is a framework of consultation and dialogue for the integral development of the DRC?s Batwa/Bambuti communities. It has 30 association members at the provincial level, with active programs in South Kivu, North Kivu, Katanga and Eastern Province representing about 200 Batwa/Bambuti communities. LINAPYCO?s vision is the internal and external self-determination of Batwa/Bambuti of the DRC. Its mission is to improve the living conditions of the Batwa/Bambuti in all the sectors of life?political, social, economic, cultural, environment and religious. LINAPYCO areas of intervention include human rights, community development, women and youth programs and the environment (forest, and peatland ecosystems).

The Forest Working Group (Groupe de Travail Forets (GTF)): Created in 2001 and active in the Provinces of Equateur, Orientale, Bandundu, Bas Congo, and Kasai Occidentale, GTF?s objective is to contribute to the improvement of forest governance. GTF works in the areas of advocacy for sustainable natural resource management, forest governance monitoring, community conservation, and community development for forest populations. GTF has been active in popularization of the forest code, the legal review of forest concessions, and strengthening local community capacity.

Natural Resources Network (R?seau Ressources Naturelles (RRN)): Created in Kinshasa in 2003 and with 11 current provincial focal points and 256 member organizations, RRN?s goal is to visions is to safeguard ecosystems while striving to bring the interests of local communities and indigenous groups into DRC?s natural resource management equations, by promoting and defending the rights of these groups. RRN works on a number of themes including: ensuring the participation of local communities in the forest title conversion process; active local participation in forest zoning; the promotion of new alternatives to the industrial exploitation of wood; ensuring local participation in the renegotiation of the mining contracts and the legal framework for artisanal mining; popularization of the Mining and Forest Codes and application measures; and the popularization and the application of the Corporate and Social Responsibilities Code.

Local Stakeholders

Local Administration (local, territorial, provincial): The local administration will be involved in formalizing project outputs, such as recognizing village boundaries, creating Local Development Committees, attributing community forests and recognizing its sub- committees. Its local-based representatives are also expected to support the dissemination and implementation of best agricultural and forest management practices. It is the administration?s responsibility to monitor the respect of the rules of attribution of forest communities and their concessions, as well as issue permits needed for their operation.

The Private Sector:
There are two main groups of private sector actors (one from industrial forest concessions and another from artisanal miners) within the Project catchment area, whose activities are directly relevant to the project implementation and the success of deliveries. They can support the implementation of some activities, and be engaged in support of partnerships in the achievement of social, economic and environmental goals of the project.

(1) The Federation of Wood Industry (F?d?ration des Industriels du Bois (FIB)) is a federation of companies working in the forest sector in the DRC. It brings together a group of forestry companies located in the project area, notably in the Equateur province. The FIB is working in collaboration with several partners in the DRC to supervise industrial forest concessionaires, such as the collaboration that the FIB has with the International Technical Association of Tropical Timber (ATIBT). Thus, the FIB?s mandate and work are aligned with the focus of the project, and avenues to foster collaboration and support are possible during implementation of the project. The additional point that strengthens collaboration and support is the fact that the FIB also works with local communities and indigenous people as well as local authorities within the framework of social specifications. This component notably includes support for the structuring of local organizations such as local development committees, which are essential for the child project in the DRC. The FIB maintains databases for the management of forest concessions. This could contribute to the land use planning process and even the

delimitation of forest concessions from local communities and indigenous and community heritage areas. *Their role in the project:* The FIB will play an important role in component 1 activities, particularly in the High-level Interprovincial Consultation Framework on Land Use Planning Questions, taking into account the gender dimension and in providing technical assistance to communities. for in the land use planning and use planning process.

In Component 2, in particular the activity aimed at supporting mapping on the location of indigenous peoples and their organizations in the two landscapes, because forest concessionaires work with these local communities and indigenous peoples.

(2) The Congolese Association of Loggers (Association Congolaise des Exploitants du Bois (ACEFA)) is an association which brings together the artisanal operators of the wood sector in the DRC. The Association also works with technical and financial partners in the organization of artisanal logging and in the fight against deforestation across the country. *Their role in the project:* ACEFA will be able to support in the community capacity building process (taking into account men, women and young people) the participatory land use mapping in the context of Component 1. ACEFA will be able to support the Project in the activity aimed at supporting mapping on the location of indigenous peoples and their organizations in the two landscapes in Component 2.

The list above (indicating the two main private sector actors that were consulted during the project preparation phase) may be supplemented by other associations working in the field with possibilities of co-financing (see the table below).

Table 6. Logging operations in the Lac Tele and Lac Tumba Landscape (Source: Atlas Forestier de la RDC, WRI-DIAF, 2016) [1]

ID	Company name	Title number	Date GA	Area allocated	Territories	FSC	CCS
1	CFT	012/03	25/03/2003	250000 ha	Bomongo/Kungu	-	Yes
2	FOLAC (NST)	024/05	27/04/2005	179300 ha	Kutu/Inongo	-	Yes
3	NBK Services	041/05	22/08/2005	64464 ha	Mushie	-	Yes
4	SCIBOIS	093/03	03/06/2003	229400 ha	Lukolela/Bikoro	-	Yes
5	SIFORCO	018/00	09/11/2000	160000 ha	Bolobo	Yes	Yes
6	SODEFOR 1	019/03	04/04/2003	38000 ha	Kutu	Yes	Yes
7	SODEFOR 2	026/03	04/04/2003	160350 ha	Lukolela/Inongo	-	Yes
8	SODEFOR 3	027/03	04/04/2003	86000 ha	Bikoro	-	Yes

9	SODEFOR 4	032/03	04/04/2003	113900 ha	Inongo	-	Yes
10	SOFORMA (SDF)	005/03	25/03/2003	96000 ha	Lukolela	-	Yes
11	SOMICONGO	034/97	07/05/1997	235432 ha	Inongo	-	Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; No

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

In the DRC, the question of gender is governed by several legal texts in particular the Charter of the United Nations (June 26, 1945), the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (December 18, 1979), the African Charter on Human and Peoples 'Rights (June 27, 1981), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (July 11, 2003), the Rio on Earth, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Treaty of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), etc. At the national level, the Constitution of the DRC (article 14), the national gender policy, law 15/013 of August 1, 2015 on the modalities of application of women's rights and parity, the family code of 1987 as modified to date, the forest code of 2002, the law relating to the Conservation of Nature of 2014, the law on fundamental principles relating to the protection of the environment of 2011, Decree n ? 14/018 of August 02, 2014 setting the terms for allocating forest concessions to local communities, Ministerial Order No. 025 laying down specific provisions relating to the management and exploitation of forest concessions of local communities, etc.[1].

Notwithstanding the legal protections and provisions above, gender inequality is pervasive in DRC and is a significant underlying factor that exacerbates food insecurity and malnutrition. One of the clearest manifestations of this relationship is, as noted previously, the high fertility rate which reflects how women are valued, and the prevalence of early marriage and adolescent pregnancy among girls 15?19 years, all of which reflect prevailing gender norms that discriminate against women and girls and contribute significantly to chronic undernutrition in their children[2]. Nationally, about 13% of women

are married by the age of 19 compared to only 1% of men; however, 51% of women begin childbearing by 19 years of age[3]. In many respects the gender issues that exist nationally are magnified further in the Kivus; in almost every instance, gender indicators for Katanga Province in which the Kivus are found are worse compared to other provinces and the whole nation[4].

As in other parts of DRC, women are very active in the agricultural sector in the study areas - 63.4% participate in agriculture in North Kivu, and 70.7% in South Kivu - but few are able to own or inherit land[5]. Although the DRC?s constitution espouses equality for women, many of the country?s laws do not reflect this[6]. For example, previous studies indicate that a married woman is unable to purchase or lease land, or open a bank account without her husband?s permission[7]. Although women are expected to grow food for the family?s consumption on land provided by their husbands, they do not own the land. Since the conflict began in this area 20 years ago, women have found it increasingly difficult to access land due to the presence of armed militias, which contribute to their displacement and sexual violence against them.

The majority of women across DRC and in Grand Kivu and the Lac Tumba Landscape reported earning less than their spouses, according to the most recent demographic and health survey[8]. In addition, less than 30% of women nationally and 25% in Grand Kivu reported having control over how to use their income. Importantly, while 34% of women nationally reported participating in household decisions, less than 25% of women in Katanga reported participating in household decisions in contrast with 45% in North Kivu and 51% in South Kivu[9].

Women?s limited control over their own income, their lack of participation in household decisions, and the extremely high fertility rate directly impacts women?s control over food access and subsequently undermines their capacity to provide optimal care to prevent stunting and other poor outcomes in their children.

Conformity with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

This project is consistent with the commitments of the Government of the DRC within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). This framework outlines the strategic direction and results expected from cooperation between the DRC and the UN Country Team (UNCT) for the period 2017-2021. This cooperation is underpinned by the principles of ?leaving no one behind? and on ?sustainable development & resilience? while meeting the central objective of poverty reduction. The inclusive approach of this project to supporting the sustainable management and use of natural resources is therefore in line with and supports the vision of UNDAF. The Project Task Manager will liaise with the UN Environment Offices in the Congo IP countries to ensure that the project?s contribution to UNDAF 2017 ? 2021 is properly captured and reported.

The project is in line with the commitments and initiatives of the DRC in a gender balanced development ? buttressed by the Women?s Act of 2010, and its amendment of 2015. These pieces of legislation define the commitment to gender equality and women?s empowerment not only as human rights but also because they are a pathway to achieving the project?s goal of protecting and managing biodiversity and natural resources on a sustainable basis. Gender equality and women?s empowerment will be mainstreamed into project activities, ensuring that women have a real voice in project governance as well as implementation. Women will participate equally with men in any dialogue or decision-making initiated by the project and will influence decisions that will determine the success of the project and ultimately the future of their families. UNDAF?s Strategic Result 3, targets Sustainable Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change Management. This strategic result specifically calls for a gender-balanced approach in the management of natural resources and gender-responsive extension and research works to support value chain development.

How the project integrates gender

During the thematic studies that supported this project development, close consultations with local peoples, and communities in the project areas ? particularly with women and women?s common initiative groups led to the identification of two main ways in which the current project can

appropriately ensure that women?s participation is equal and beneficial. These includes by ensuring[10]: (i) gender mainstreaming in policies, programs and projects, as well as in community-based management processes for sustainable land, forest and water in Project areas; and (ii) that institutions set up for sustainable land and forest management in project areas benefit from support for the understanding of, and adequate integration of gender considerations in the implementation of their activities.

This project uses a pragmatic approach to integrate gender across all levels and processes of the project life-cycle. This approach has been guided by a number of principles put in place from the project development, and integrated into the project implementation, with considerations of post project developments related to gender. The principles include:

1. Integrate gender from the inception of the project and undertake a robust gender analysis during the first year of implementation. Integrating gender any later is too late, because how the project is implemented depends on a sound understanding of and approach to addressing gender issues that affect men and women?s participation in program activities.
2. Train staff on gender in the first year of the project so they gain a better understanding of gender issues in the project context and appreciate why these issues are important to address through their daily work responsibilities.
3. Hire staff with expertise in gender at the start of the project to ensure and oversee the integration of gender across the project. These staff serve as stewards of gender integration in a project, but are not solely responsible for its effective integration. Establishing a gender-focused position at a high enough level is also important to provide the authority to direct and oversee how gender is integrated, and hold staff accountable. Investing in such staff also reflects the commitment of the project to addressing gender issues.
4. Adopt a gender and development approach that engages men and women to promote gender equality and transform gender relations in project locations. Using a win-win approach in which men and women perceive gains in shifting gender norms is also important to support sustainable change.
5. Integrate gender evenly and consistently across all project objectives to achieve the intended impact of promoting gender equality and improving household food security.
6. Include gender in the development and implementation of strategies to ensure that the relevant audiences are engaged to shift normative beliefs and support the adoption of improved practices. Efforts to engage the community through radio spots have been particularly successful. Key audiences that need to be targeted include community gatekeepers, development practitioners, local level policy-makers, and religious leaders.
7. Develop a project-wide plan aimed at anticipating and addressing sexual and gender-based violence and protection issues as they are likely to arise over the life of a project.

Issues of gender will be considered as one of the key performance indicators in project supported activities especially in conservation activities, capacity building, and pilot community development grant programs. Gender issues will be explicitly addressed in conformity with UNEP Guidelines on Gender. Specifically, this will include but not be limited to the: (i) incorporation of gender topics into the development/preparation of relevant lectures; (ii) creation of additional opportunities for female staff to attend project sponsored training courses; and (iii) promotion of equal participation and expanding the role of women in project sponsored activities. Specifically, with respect to the two aforementioned project supported grant programs this would be achieved through the development of gender-sensitive application criteria, selection of applicants, approval and contracting of grant activities, and their implementation and management[11].

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will appoint a staff member to coordinate project supported activities related to gender issues and make sure gender considerations will be integrated into all project sponsored activities. The two Information Officers (one for each project location) will be contracted to provide capacity building on gender issues and facilitate gender mainstreaming as an

integral part of the overall project implementation, project monitoring, as well as reporting. The PMU will provide M&E reports to PSC annually, in which gender participation in Project Management and project activities will be included. The project-related gender indicators will include but not be limited to: (i) number of female staff and women trained by the project (presented as numbers, percentages over time); (ii) number of female staff and women that participate and play a role in project activities (also with accompanying data on rates and percentages); and (iii) benefit rates of grantees separated by gender in the project sponsored grant program.

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[1] LILAKAKO MALIKUKA et Felix Credo (2020) ***Analyse des opportunit?s de prise en compte de la dimension genre***. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[2] Murphy, Emmet; Glaeser, Laura; Maalouf-Manasseh, Zeina; Collison, Deborah Kortso; and Sethuraman, Kavita. 2015. USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Katanga, North Kivu, and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Washington, DC: FHI 360/FANTA.

[3] Minist?re du Plan et Suivi de la Mise en oeuvre de la R?volution de la Modernit? (MPSMRM), Minist?re de la Sant? Publique (MSP), et ICF International. 2014. Enqu?te D?mographique et de Sant? en R?publique D?mocratique du Congo 2013-2014. Maryland: MPSMRM, MSP, et ICF International.

[4] Ibid. Murphy, Emmet et al. (2015).

[5] Minist?re du Plan et Suivi de la Mise en oeuvre de la R?volution de la Modernit? (MPSMRM), Minist?re de la Ibid. Sant? Publique (MSP), et ICF International (2014).

[6] Ibid. Murphy, Emmet et al. (2015).

[7] USAID/DRC. 2010. Property Rights and Resource Governance: Democratic Republic of Congo.

[8] Minist?re du Plan et Suivi de la Mise en oeuvre de la R?volution de la Modernit? (MPSMRM), Minist?re de la Sant? Publique (MSP), et ICF International. 2014. Enqu?te D?mographique et de Sant? en R?publique D?mocratique du Congo 2013-2014. Maryland: MPSMRM, MSP, et ICF International.

[9] Murphy, Emmet; Glaeser, Laura; Maalouf-Manasseh, Zeina; Collison, Deborah Kortso; and Sethuraman, Kavita. 2015. USAID Office of Food for Peace Food Security Desk Review for Katanga, North Kivu, and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Washington, DC: FHI 360/FANTA.

[10] LILAKAKO MALIKUKA et Felix Credo (2020) ***Analyse des opportunit?s de prise en compte de la dimension genre***. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

[11] See the thematic study for additional direct actions that will be taken to ensure gender equality and the full participation and benefits of women in this project: LILAKAKO MALIKUKA et Felix Credo (2020) ***Analyse des opportunit?s de prise en compte de la dimension genre***. Pour le projet ?Gestion Communautaire des Paysages Forestiers du Grand Kivu et des Lacs T?l?-Tumba segment de la RDC?. FEM-7 Programme ? Impact sur les Paysages Durables de Bassin du Congo. Ministere de l?Environnement et de Developpement Durable (MEDD), Kinshasa, RDC.

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?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

There are two main groups of private sector actors (one from industrial forest concessions and another from artisanal miners) in the Project area, whose activities are directly relevant to the project implementation and the success of deliveries. They can support the implementation of some activities, and be engaged in support of partnerships in the achievement of social, economic and environmental goals of the project.

(1) The Federation of Wood Industry (F?d?ration des Industriels du Bois (FIB)) is a federation of companies working in the forest sector in the DRC. It brings together a group of forestry companies located in a Project area, notably in the Equateur province. The FIB is working in collaboration with several partners in the DRC to supervise industrial forest concessionaires, such as the collaboration that the FIB has with the International Technical Association of Tropical Timber (ATIBT). And so the FIB can well support the implementation of the project. Also, because the FIB also works with local communities and indigenous peoples as well as local authorities within the framework of social specifications. This component notably includes support for the structuring of local organizations such as local development committees, which are essential for the child project in the DRC. The FIB maintains databases for the management of forest concessions. This could contribute to the land use planning process and even the delimitation of forest concessions from local communities and indigenous and community heritage areas. *Their role in the project:* The FIB will play an important role in component 1 activities, particularly in the High-level Interprovincial Consultation Framework on Land Use Planning Questions, taking into account the gender dimension and in providing technical assistance to communities. for in the land use planning and use planning process.
In Component 2, in particular the activity aimed at supporting mapping on the location of indigenous peoples and their organizations in the two landscapes, because forest concessionaires work with these local communities and indigenous peoples.

(2) The Association Congolaise des Exploitants du Bois (ACEFA) is an association which brings together the artisanal operators of the wood sector in the DRC. The Association also works with technical and financial partners in the organization of artisanal logging and in the fight against deforestation across the country. *Their role in the project:* ACEFA will be able to support in the community capacity building process (taking into account men, women and young people) the participatory land use mapping in the context of Component 1. ACEFA will be able to support the Project in the activity aimed at supporting mapping on the location of indigenous peoples and their organizations in the two landscapes in Component 2.

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):

Risks that might affect the project achievements	Appraisal L=Low, M=Medium H=High	Mitigation actions
National and local authorities may not consider peatlands important	L	The current regulatory framework does not adequately include conservation and sustainable use measures. Different subnational authorities have already been contacted in relation to the development of this proposal and are involved in initiatives complementary to this project. They are invited to be strategic partners in the project and they can participate in all of its components. The approach of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism will not be solely concerned about peatland conservation, but also about promoting innovative alternatives of commercial use substituting current unsustainable practices that jeopardize the medium-term economic potential of these ecosystems.
Local communities and stakeholders from key sectors do not adopt the proposed good practices and voluntary sustainable management measures	M	Different actors have declared an interest in supporting the piloting of good practices and incentive schemes. PPG stage should allow for the deepening of this discussion and the incorporation of means-tested monitoring tools for such pilot experiences.
Conflict between transboundary stakeholders impedes the achievement of project goals	L	One of the project locations (the Lac Tumba Landscape) constitutes the largest transboundary RAMSAR site worldwide, with the landscape extending into the Republic of Congo. The project will work in close collaboration with countries of the Child Project ?Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin?, to ensure that synergies on objectives, practice and overall strategies are harvested among member countries of the program. This will especially be the case with the Republic of Congo that shares part of the project landscape with DR Congo.
Indigenous communities? lack of commitment	L	If the project fails to accomplish land titling for indigenous communities, it is unlikely that IPs will remain committed. The project team included support to the titling of indigenous lands as a Project activity.

Difficulties in reconciling different stakeholder agendas, interests and positions may limit meaningful participation ? especially the private sector	L	A stakeholder analysis was conducted during the PPG, including interests and potential conflicts, institutional and political contexts. The project will ensure active engagement of all key stakeholders, documenting their roles and attempting to find middle-ground during all phases of design and implementation.
Commercial agriculture enterprises do not engage meaningfully in the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity protection.	M	Both the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and commercial agriculture enterprises will be actively engaged to facilitate their buy-in. Cooperation will be sought with WWF, which has extensive expertise in working with the private sector to mitigate their impact on biodiversity and ecosystems. Being one of the implementing partners, the project, will aim to draw on their expertise and build on existing stakeholder relationships with private sector actors in the project area.
Insufficient political will and capacity to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management.	M	With the growing recognition of the high and unique biodiversity values of the DRC and the resulting extensive donor support that the country is receiving, it is anticipated that these risks will be addressed ? also with support from this proposed project, which aims to ensure that policy and corresponding capacities, enforcement and communication mechanisms are adequately strengthened. The project will have a strong focus on enhancing capacity of targeted stakeholders to ensure that they have the required knowledge (including understanding of the economic benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services) and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned, and uptake good practices.
Mechanisms of incentives for native vegetation conservation and recovery are not implemented	L	This risk will be mitigated by the project through several actions. Some incentives have already been studied and discussed with the stakeholders from the pilot areas throughout the preparation of the project. Furthermore, additional consultations with local stakeholders will be held to determine which incentives are the most viable and accepted. Finally, the reasons why some incentive mechanisms implemented in the region have or have not worked will be assessed.
Existing programmes and projects may be duplicated	M	The development of this project engaged a broad spectrum of key national, multi-lateral, and local stakeholders operating in the peatlands, forests, and livelihoods sectors of the project area (see Annex F). Further engagement effort included sharing the project document for feedback. All of these engagement measures were aimed at eliminating duplication, and finding synergies with existing project. Collaboration will continue in the project implementation phase, with major partners contributing at different levels to the delivery of project Outputs, and being members of the PSC.

Stakeholders of the pilot areas do not engage in project`s activities	L	To prevent non-engagement, the project will be conducted in a bottom-up strategy so stakeholders would be involved in decision making. Throughout the preparation phase of the Project, workshops were held in both pilot areas, and contacts with local associations, state and municipal governments were made and maintained. Furthermore, the projects foreseen events and activities such as raising awareness and training among landowners to mitigate the risk of non-engaging.
The rural landowners do not improve biodiversity conservation in their properties	M	The project will conduct activities that will raise landowners awareness (bottom-up approach) so that they recognize the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services and understand practices that reconcile biodiversity conservation with farming production. Furthermore, extension agents will be trained on how to assist landowners to achieve that. Incentive packages for native vegetation conservation or recovery will be negotiated with banks so that they are available to landowners. Finally, the lessons learned and examples in the pilot areas will provide proof of the economic and environmental benefits of conservation should minimize the risk of landowners not improving biodiversity conservation in the other biogeographical regions in the DRC.
Low replicability, sustainability and amplification of the project	L	There is a specific strategy in the project to systematically disseminate lessons learned so that they can be repeated and magnified in other places. In addition, once core strategies such as improvement of regulations (e.g. sustainable forest management), training of stakeholders (e.g. landowners and extension agents), and development of incentive mechanisms are implemented, they become self-sustainable.
Climate Change and extreme weather events affect negatively the project implementation, SLM, SFM and native vegetation recovery, and biodiversity conservation	H	The project considers possible climate change and variations in weather into its strategies in order to make them more resilient, as well as to mitigate these effects. For instance, the selection of the species to be used in the restoration initiatives will take into account each species vulnerability to climate change. The environmental education and training programmes will pay particular attention to climate adaptation measures, including improved fire management and water resources management techniques. Further, the implementation of the project on the ground and all awareness, training and capacity building efforts will consider practices that contribute to reducing GHG emissions, as well as increasing climate resilience through climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem-based adaptation. Finally, the potential of specific regions to act as climate refugia in the context of climate change will be considered in the development of the databases of the conservation value of private lands.

Local and regional authorities fail to assume their roles in ensuring the participatory management of resources at the productive landscape level and the regulatory support	L	Project design, development and implementation is based on the premise and commitment of multi-stakeholder participation. As such, structures and mechanisms to ensure the active involvement and feedback of stakeholders groups will either be established or strengthened where they exist.
Climate change may increase the threats to peatlands and tropical forests. This may be due to new invasions of exotic species that are more resistant to new climate conditions, through droughts that increases the likelihood of fires, flooding and increase stress of native populations.	M	The design of the project focusing on enhancing the ecosystem services provided by forests and peatlands and their role in the mitigation of adverse climate change impacts e.g. floods, droughts etc. will seek to integrate the system needs into the country?s evolving climate change strategy. The removal of threats, pressures and stresses that impact biodiversity and lead to land degradation will also ensure the ecosystems are more resilient to the impacts of climate change and therefore less vulnerable to its effects. Finally, site-level local communities, government officials and private sector individuals will be trained to better understand the impacts of climate change on biodiversity/ecosystems and to adopt conservation and management strategies for mitigating climate change and enhancing resilience.
Continuous granting of mining permits and licenses	M	Mining activity (especially open cast mining) has the potential of substantially deforming a landscape and contributing negatively to the goals of the current project. Through proactive engagement, with the national government and the private sector, the role of environmental impact assessments will be promoted to support decision-making on the granting of licensing and mining permits
Corona virus interrupts the smooth implementation of project activities	M	The impact of corona virus in sub-Saharan Africa has not been as bad as it has been in many parts of the world. This project will adhere to all governmental efforts at reducing the spread of the virus among populations both in the project area and beyond. These measures in recent months have not been as stringent as they were in the beginning months of the pandemic.
The security situation deteriorates, hampering project activities and efforts	M	The eastern part of the DRC (including zones of Grand Kivu) have come under insecurity in recent years. Some of the insecurity sometimes are caused by and have consequences for neighbouring countries in the region. Contingency plans will be put in place in the early days of the project to ensure that project resources are secure and staff can be safe in the case of such insecurities. Field operations will assess and factor in potential risks associated with the security situation in their quarterly plans

There is need to have a closer look into two main risks that are especially applicable to the project locations. These include the risks associated to climate vulnerability and the risks associated to the politically unstable situation in the Easter DRC.

? Climatic vulnerability challenges for the project locations

The vulnerability of both project locations to the effects of climate changes have been analyzed based on the STAP guidance on climate risk screening (2019), as well as using the hazards analysis and management engine developed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The GFDRR is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Analysis for the two project locations are as follows:

In the Equateur, extreme heat hazard is classified as *medium* based on modeled heat information. This means that there is more than a 25% chance that at least one period of prolonged exposure to extreme heat, resulting in heat stress, will occur in the next five years. Wildfire hazard is classified as *high,* meaning that there is greater than a 50% chance of encountering weather that could support a significant wildfire that is likely to result in both life and property loss in any given year. Climate projections indicate that there could also be an increase in the severity of fire. River flood hazard is classified as *high*, meaning that potentially damaging and life-threatening river floods are expected to occur at least once in the next 10 years. Water scarcity in the Equateur is classified as *very low* or non-existent.

In South Kivu and North Kivu, the wildfire risk is classified as *very high,* while the risks of water scarcity and extreme heat are classified as *medium*. Medium water scarcity means that there is up to a 20% chance droughts will occur in the coming 10 years. In North Kivu, the climate risk is compounded by other geological risks, classified as high, such as the risks of earthquakes, landsides, and volcanic eruptions.

? Conflict Analysis in Kivu

Eastern DRC has been unstable for nearly 30 years, its population terrorized by dozens of militia groups that are chiefly the legacy of two major wars. The conflict in the eastern DRC is affecting four main provinces. These include Ituri, South Kivu, Tanganyika and North Kivu. What has commonly become known as *the Kivu conflict* began in 2004 in the eastern Congo as an armed conflict between the military of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and the Hutu Power group Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Prior to March 2009, the main combatant group against the FARDC was the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP). It has broadly consisted of three phases (2004?2009: Nkunda's CNDP rebellion; 2009-2012; and, 2017?2021: Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and Islamic insurgency). The third of which is an ongoing conflict. Following the cessation of hostilities between these two forces, rebel Tutsi forces, formerly under the command of Laurent Nkunda, became the dominant opposition to the government forces.

In many ways, the conflict can be described as a resource war. Global Witness says that Western companies sourcing minerals were buying them from traders who finance both rebel and government troops. Minerals such as cassiterite, gold, or coltan, which is used for electronic equipment and cell phones, are an important export for the Congo. A UN resolution stated that anyone supporting illegal Congolese armed groups through illicit trade of natural resources should be subjected to sanctions including travel restrictions and an assets freeze[1]. The extent of the problem is not known[2].

These conflicts have the potential of affecting project activities and deliveries in many ways. Examples of these effects, include: (a) The potential disproportionally negative outcomes to women and girls ? increasing the need for a more careful attention to gender inequalities during project implementation. (b) Compounding of the challenges of achieving food security ? hence the need to address these challenges and provide alternatives to violence by building and supporting existing conflict management structures, which will enable communities to be more inclined to access lands without resorting to or being a victim of conflict. (c) Deforestation and the acceleration of and degradation as waring interests exploit natural resources in ungoverned spaces and without any environmental safeguards.

? Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) risk assessment

Community mitigation activities are actions that people and communities can take to slow the spread of a new virus with pandemic potential. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus. Community mitigation actions are especially important before a vaccine or therapeutic drug becomes widely available.

Because COVID-19 is highly transmissible and can be spread by people who do not know they have the disease, risk of transmission within a community can be difficult to determine. Until broad-scale testing is widely implemented or we have a more comprehensive and precise measure of disease burden, states and communities should assume some community transmission or spread is occurring.

Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering (with some exceptions) in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed.

Protecting the public?s health is paramount. As communities work to reduce the spread of COVID-19, they are also addressing the economic, social, and secondary health consequences of the disease. State, local, tribal, and territorial officials are best positioned to determine the level of mitigation required. Mitigation strategies should be feasible, practical, and acceptable; they should be tailored to the needs of each community and implemented in a manner that minimizes both morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 and does not create or exacerbate any health disparities.

This project will borrow from the US Centers for Disease Control in following a number of guiding principles in the incorporation of COVID 19 risk in the implementation of its activities.

? Community mitigation efforts aim to reduce the rate at which someone infected comes in contact with someone not infected, or reduce the probability of infection if there is contact. The more a person interacts with different people, and the longer and closer the interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

? Cross-cutting community mitigation strategies can be organized into the following categories: promoting behaviors that prevent spread; maintaining healthy environments; maintaining healthy operations; and preparing for when someone gets sick.

? Community mitigation strategies should be layered upon one another and used at the same time?with several layers of safeguards to reduce the spread of disease and lower the risk of another spike in cases and deaths. No one strategy is sufficient.

? There are range of implementation choices when setting or adjusting community mitigation plans. These choices offer different levels of protection from the risk of community transmission.

? Communities need to decide the level of risk that is acceptable and make informed choices about implementing mitigation plans accordingly.

? Individuals make choices about following the behavioral practices that are recommended. Compliance to community mitigation decisions will also impact the spread of COVID-19.

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[1] "Mineral firms fuel Congo unrest" Archived 24 July 2009 at the Wayback Machine BBC News, July 2009

[2] Sekyewa, Edward Ronald (12 May 2011). "Trade in Congolese Gold: A dilemma". Kampala Dispatch. Archived from the original on 7 September 2012.

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.

UNEP is the **Implementing Agency (IA)** for this GEF project. UNEP?s ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION shall provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. It shall also in partnership with MTE and other key project partners engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilizing resources and partnership. Project supervision will be entrusted to the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director who will discharge this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director on the Project Steering Committee. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION will perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on an annual basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the Executing Agency (EA) and ensure that the Evaluation and Oversight Unit of UNEP arranges for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office.

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) is the **Executing Agency (EA)** of the project and shall take responsibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the (a) agreement to be signed with UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION, (b) agreed objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also coordinate activities with the other key Government and other relevant partners and address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. As Executing Agency (EA), the Ministry is committed to make best use of project resources and implement the project in the most effective manner.

The Project management structures will be comprised of the following:

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to oversee the GEF project. Strategic monitoring of project activities will be the responsibility of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which acts as the Project Orientation Board. The PSC will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, in order to:

? Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;

? Provide monitoring for project implementation;

? Review and adopt the annual work plans and budgets prepared by the Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UNEP;

? Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by PMU and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary;

? Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented in the project area; and

? Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be taken into account during project implementation.

The members of the PSC will include:

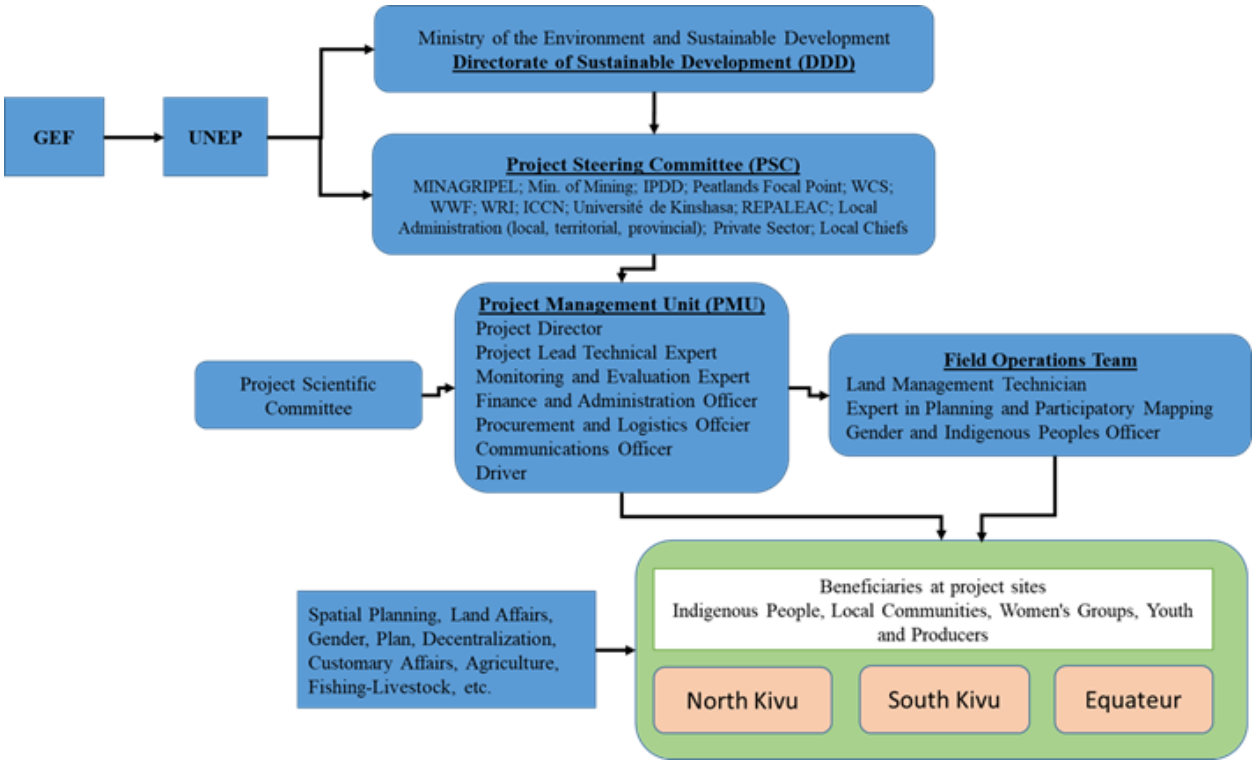
o **Chair**: the designated Senior Staff from the Ministry of Tourism and Environment

o **Co**-Chair: UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Task manager or mandated UNEP Official

o **Members**: GEF Operational Focal Point, and staff from relevant departments from ministries in charge of environment, forestry, protected areas, agriculture, livestock, mining, finance, land reform, scientific research and local administration, as well as special economic areas. Specific roles within the PSC are based on the mandates assigned to each ministry.

The Secretariat to the PSC will be provided by the Project Management Unit.

As may be required on specific issues, an Advisory group can be formed to offer any other guidance or expertise as required by the specific agenda of the PSC.



A Project Management Unit (PMU): The daily management of the project remains with the project team under the watchful eye of the designated Project Director. The PMU will serve as the critical link between the Agency, the project partners assuming the lead of thematic areas, and the different groups engaged in project activities, will ensure project planned activities are adequately executed and that lessons learned are shared among sites and within national committees and to provide visibility of the project at the national and international level. The PMU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all national and international partners. The PMU will elabourate and submit to the IA technical and financial progress reports. The Project Management Unit consists of:

? Project Lead Technical Expert/ Stakeholders mobilisation ? national

? Project Chief Technical Adviser

? Project Director (designated by the Minister of Environment)

? Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert

? Project Gender and Indigenous people specialist

? Financial Officer (Financier) ? national

? Support staff ? national

See Appendix 5: Terms of Reference for Project Personnel for detailed overview of PMU roles.

The PMU will be hosted by the Directorate of Sustainable Development, and will be based at the its premises in Kinshasa. The hosting costs will be covered by the Government. The TORs for staff in the PMU are provided in Appendix 10.

The Field Operations Team: The Provincial Coordination will support the implementation of the project on the ground. It will have a major role in guiding the use of resources for project activities on the ground; supporting the application of project principles in the achievement of project goals (such as ensuring the representativeness of women and indigenous populations in project activities and benefits); supporting information production tailored to respond to local needs and norms; etc. It will also assist the project in the identification of service providers and partners needed for the project implementation.

External Structure

Project activities at the site level will be realized by the local partners including NGOs, the site managers / promoters and by the local communities.

Technical and Financial Partners, Decentralized Technical Services, Regional and Local Authorities, Consultants and service providers are part of the external structure and will contribute to the achievement of the project objectives.

Oversight Mechanism

The PMU will assess, monitor, and control through reports, on-sites follow-up visits while feeding the indicators and disseminating the results to stakeholders and UNEP.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD

- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC

- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC

- Others

The following plans, programmes and initiatives show the willingness of the government to improve the management of natural resources and move towards a more sustainable economy. This project aligns well with them.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) (2016): The NBSAP defines means to protect forest resources and biodiversity in order to implement the CBD. NBSAP was revised in 2016 for the period 2016?2020. The updated document focuses on: i) managing sustainably of protected areas; ii) reducing anthropogenic pressure on natural habitat; iii) increasing the benefits generated from the exploitation of genetic resources and Payment for Ecosystem Services and promoting sharing of these benefits in an equitable manner within local communities; and iv) restoration of critical ecosystem services. However, the implementation of this strategy has not yet started in DRC. The proposed project concurs with the GEF Operational Strategy objectives relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, resources under threat and endemic species for the following important reasons: (i) It strengthens the participation of local communities in the conservation of biological diversity and its components; (ii) It offers a means to long-term conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and can serve an example for other cases in the rest of the DRC, the Congo Basin region and sub-Saharan Africa; (iii) It is aimed at achieving the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components with the integration of social and cultural groups, particularly the indigenous community with a populations within the protected and conserved area?s boundaries.

The Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper (PRSP) in DRC was developed in a consultative manner, evolving from district to provincial to national levels. The vision of the PRSP is a 2-digit GDP growth rate, equitable distribution of wealth, and achievement of the MDGs by 2015. The strategy was based on five pillars (good governance and consolidating peace; economic stability and growth; improving access to social services and reducing vulnerability; combating HIV/AIDS; supporting communities). Under Pillar 2, the identified growth sectors include rural development/agriculture, forestry, transportation, mining, and electricity. Environmental protection is referred to separately in the PRSP under rural development/ agriculture and relates to biodiversity conservation, forestry, and the convention on climate change. The 2002 Forest Code sets the framework for more equitable and balanced forest management including protection of the forest and indigenous peoples? interests. The Priority Agenda contains a set of corrective measures intended to clean up the legacy of the past and to regulate the relaunch of the timber sector. It emphasizes the application of laws and contracts, transparency as a means of eradicating corruption, and accountability. The DRC Government stresses its willingness to protect the rainforest and the interests of local communities. The mining industry is mainly regulated through the new Mining Code (2002) and its ancillary Mining Regulation (2003). The spirit of the PRSP now translates to the SDGs, and some of the key challenges have persisted ? translating to goals that have to be met by the DRC government.

GLOBE International and the Ministry of Environment and its National REDD Coordination (CN-REDD) established an official partnership in 2012, supported by UNEP[1]. This partnership led to GLOBE DRC legislators agreeing on a road map for key legislative proposals in 2014, including reforms related to land tenure, environmental and social safeguards, carbon ownership and benefit sharing. In February 2014 the Law on the nature conservation, which is primarily concerned with biodiversity protection, was adopted. It

also calls for national measures to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and recognizes co-benefits of protecting natural forests (resilience of ecosystems and maintaining the stock of carbon forest).

National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation in DRC Protected Areas (SNCB?AP) (2008): The strategy promotes participatory management of natural resources for biodiversity conservation. In this way, both the needs for biodiversity conservation in protected areas and local community development would be improved. The 14 pillars aim to increasing involvement of local communities in the conservation of natural resources and promoting income?generating activities that improve livelihoods and biodiversity. Community Conservation Committee have been established to achieve the strategy goal. The project supports the SNCB-AP in several ways: (i) It will support an ongoing transformation and consolidate within the peatlands, protected and conserved forest ecosystems, as well as other areas of high biodiversity value or of significant local and global environmental benefits, a new long-term vision for the management of the DRC?s protected areas, based more modern models involving co-management with local populations including indigenous populations. (ii) It promotes the participation of local community and indigenous groups in the design, implementation, management and monitoring of projects to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through established frameworks such as land-use zoning (e.g. for corridors) and community ? indigenous peoples conservation areas. (iii) It also promotes broad stakeholder participation and co-management between government and local communities for protected areas where such management models are appropriate. (iv) It includes long-term financing sources to ensure the financial sustainability of protected areas.

National Strategic Framework for REDD+ (2012), and Preparatory and Investment Plans to reduce carbon emissions in the forestry sector (2013): DRC government engaged into the REDD+ process in 2009. The Strategy promotes the sustainable land use and management to address the drivers of deforestation and stabilize forest cover while ensuring economic growth, increasing population income and improving livelihoods. The objective is to stabilize forest cover to 65% by 2030 and maintain it thereafter. It is divided into seven pillars: land management, land tenure, sustainable agriculture and forest exploitation, mitigation of the negative effects of deforestation and mining, promotion of renewable sources of energy, management of demographic growth, and governance improvement. Under the Preparatory and Investment Plan, 14 programmes have been identified for reforestation and afforestation to fight climate change. For example, Programme 7 focuses on forestation and reforestation of degraded and deforested areas. Programme 11 supports the development and management of intensive agriculture to rehabilitate old and recent plantations in savannas. Programme 12 will reduce the demand for fuelwood through improving the energy production strategies, and increase the sustainable production of fuelwood.

Second National Programme for Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity (PNEFEB2) (2013-2023): The objective of this programme is environment protection and sustainable management of natural resources to maintain ecological, economic, social and cultural systems relying on them. The six pillars of PNEFEB2 include inter alia ?Regeneration, reforestation, forestation and agroforestry? and ?environment monitoring, climate change mitigation and valuation of environmental services?. Based on PNEFEB2?s implementation strategy, Provincial Programmes as well as Local Programmes for Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity should also be created. As part of the PNEFEB2 targets, a National Plan to restore the Forest Capital should be developed and implemented by 2018. In addition, best fuelwood transformation and use techniques are used by at least 50% of urban population by 2020. By 2023, at least 100,000 ha of forest capital is built or restored. For forest and agroforestry development, PNEFEB2 suggests the use of assisted natural regeneration techniques in highly degraded provinces and the duplication of agroforestry models. Last, PNEFEB2 recommends the use of community? based forestry to promote the development of multi? beneficial plantations that produce fuelwood and NWFPs, and reduce erosion.

National Action Programme against Land Degradation and Deforestation (PAN?LCD) (2006): The PAN?LCD describes the factors contributing to land degradation and deforestation as well as specific actions to be undertaken by DRC under the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification, namely restoring degraded ecosystems and improving production systems. This document guides the interventions of government, NGOs and international partners. The current child project is particularly well aligned with the programmes goals of capacity strengthening for improved land use and sustainable management of forest resources, and the development of knowledge of ecosystems, reconstitution of degraded ecosystems,

and improvement of production systems. The interventions identified in the PAN? LCD are to promote local species that increase soil fertility, other soil improvement techniques (e.g. compost, manure, mulch), and establishing multiple?use, living windbreaks. Limited interventions have been implemented to date because of gaps in the national policy framework to enable strategic and sustainable management of natural resources particularly land.

National Programme for Food Security (PNSA) (2011-2020): The PNSA focuses on reducing food insecurity and improving community livelihoods through increasing productivity and income per household. PNSA objectives include: i) increase agricultural production through improved productivity, diversification of agricultural products and strengthening of production systems; ii) improve value?chains for agricultural, animal (fish and livestock) and NWFP products through improved storage, preservation and processing methods; iii) improve access to subsistence products, their nutritional value and their sanitary condition; and iv) increase capacity of local communities in addressing all dimensions of food security issues within their household and their communities. The PNSA is the reference document for the relevant ministries to address the four dimensions of food insecurity, namely food availability, economic and physical access to food, utilization of food items and the stability of the first dimensions over time.

National Plan for Agricultural Investment (PNIA) (2013-2020): This plan is focused on supporting the growth of the agricultural sector to reduce poverty levels and unemployment, and increase food security. It is the national planning framework for national and international funds in the agricultural and rural development sector. It coordinates the on?going and planned programs and projects in the sector. PNIA has five priority objectives, the fifth one is to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change. The current project aligns with its goal of promoting the integrated management of soil fertility, establish resilient agroforestry systems, improve watershed management including the implementation of erosion? control interventions, and support the REDD+ process (i.e. support natural regeneration of forests, tree planting on slopes against erosion and siltation of water bodies, implement community forests, and promote private and community?based reforestation activities).

National Strategic Plan for Development, vision for DRC by 2050 (2016-2050): One of the seven pillars of this plan targets environment protection, sustainable development, and access to water and sanitation. Under this pillar, the main objectives regarding the environment are to establish a balance between the exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems protection, and to restore the environment in degraded areas.

National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change (2016-2020): This strategy promotes the integration of climate change into socio?economic development within all the sectors affected by climate change ? such as agriculture, forests and energy ? to improve community livelihoods and reduce CO_2 emissions by 17% by 2030. The four pillars of the strategy are: i) a multi? sectoral approach to climate change mitigation involving all relevant public and private actors; ii) implementing interventions for climate change mitigation and adaptation; iii) strengthening the development of innovations, research, and implementing existing and new technologies; and iv) developing a financial strategy.

Strategy Document Growth Poverty Reduction (DSCRP) South?Kivu (2011-2015): This strategy was created to support the implementation of the DSCRP 2 at the level. The objective is to achieve by 2035 ?a society of hope, able to take DRC to the human development level of middle?income countries and move towards the Sustainable Development Goals?. The identified means of achievement of this objective are: i) strengthening governance, peace and government authority; ii) diversifying the economy, accelerate growth and promoting job creation; iii) improving access to social services and strengthening human capital; and iv) protecting the environment and mitigating climate change. One of the main challenges to be overcome is to reverse the current trend of environment degradation and carbon emissions induced by this degradation and deforestation.

Five?year Plan for Growth and Employment in South?Kivu (2011-2015): This plan was created to support the implementation of the provincial strategy for the Second Strategy Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction. It was a fully decentralized management tool. It was divided in four components including a component on ?environment protection and climate change mitigation. The objectives of the interventions under this component were sustainable management of forests, biodiversity conservation, environment protection, development of agriculture with low impact on forests, fight against the degradation of agricultural land, and promoting agro?ecology to increase

production sustainably. This Plan was implemented with the support of GIZ as part of the Programme on Biodiversity and Forests.

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[1] GLOBE International/CN-REDD, Rapport REDD+ en RDC : cadre juridique et institutionnel de la mise en ?uvre de la REDD+ en RDC, octobre 2013.

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.

The CBSL regional project will establish mechanisms for assimilating, documenting and sharing knowledge gained through project experiences. The intention is to address the needs of critical knowledge areas for the project include causal knowledge (know-why), declarative knowledge (know-what), and procedural knowledge (know-how). This project will therefore take advantage of the regional project?s overall knowledge management strategy, which will involve: (i) Empowering project countries to implement effective Knowledge Management (KM) and learning activities at national level that respond to their needs (relevance);This activity will done on continuing basis ensuring that at each project stage KM activities support stakeholder understanding and engagement (ii) Providing regional KM instruments in support of project countries and incentivizing regional sharing and learning to foster synergies (coherence), reduce overlaps (efficiency), and facilitate knowledge uptake, innovation and scaling (effectiveness); and (iii) Harnessing knowledge and achievements of project countries to raise the visibility of the program.

The GEF KM strategy will guide this project?s KM approach, which will be mainstreamed into the project?s design, its M&E system and adaptive management, ensuring that risks are identified and addressed, and successes and failures are documented and shared. Activities to share learning among agricultural producers, NTFP harvesters, community forest managers, amll and medium-sized enterprises, political decision-makers and civil society organizations will include development and dissemination of communications materials, organization of exchange visits, and participation in national, regional and international conferences on land use planning and sustainable land management. Cross-learning and experience-sharing will follow a two-tiered approach: Tier 1 will ensure that project learnings are captured, compiled and systematized. Tier 2 will ensure that project knowledge is shared with, and used by relevant stakeholders, thus promoting its scaling out to future projects, improved practices and policies.

While technical assistance enables change towards more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices, the project will dedicate time and resources to strengthen CSOs in their organizational capabilities at their early engagement stage. Organizational strengthening will provide continuity well beyond the lifetime of the project and allow CSOs to grow their impact within their field of expertise. Modules developed by the project will be handed over to CSOs to widen the reach of these activities, as well as shared within fora and among policy makers for a potential replication more broadly in the Congo Basin region.

A project site will be created during the first year on web-based intranet, which will serve as a repository of project documents in which evidence, reports and communication materials will be stored.

Also, lessons learned from the establishment and use of SLM, SFM, and IWT-reducing strategies will be of relevance to other countries in the regional project, as well as those involved in the TerrAfrica program. As one of the country partners in the TerrAfrica program, The DRC will periodically participate in regional and continental meetings, and fora organized by TerrAfrica and also contribute to the development of the TerrAfrica Sub-Saharan Africa SLM Knowledge Base. This will allow The DRC to share the lessons learned from project implementation with other countries enabling the successful SLM approaches and practices from the GEF component.

Results from the project will be disseminated as soon as available but at least at mid-term and last year of the project within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. This includes networks, forums and events organized by the project itself as well as project-sponsored events (e.g. side events) at national and international fora. In addition, the project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in UNEP-GEF sponsored networks, organized for Senior Personnel working on projects that share common characteristics.

UNEP-GEF Coordination Office has established an electronic platform for sharing lessons between the Project managers. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation though lessons learned. The project will identify, analyse, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analysing lessons learned is an on-going process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project?s central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every twelve (12) months. UNEP-GEF shall provide a format and assist the project team in categorizing, documenting, and reporting on lessons learned. Specifically, the project will ensure coordination in terms of avoiding overlap, sharing best practices, and generating knowledge products of best practices in the area of SLM, SFM, peatland management, and biodiversity management.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures for GEF projects. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in Appendix 8 of the Project Document, the Costed M & E Plan (see Table below). Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.
The project?s M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan has been provided in Appendix 4, including the indicative budget and time frame for its implementation. The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 4 includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix 6 will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators, as well as other M&E related costs, are presented in the Costed M&E Plan in Appendix 7 and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-?-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Baseline data gaps will be addressed during the first year of project implementation. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Coordinator or Manager to inform UN Environment of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF (USD)	Budget co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP	45000	25000	Within 2 months of project start-up

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF (USD)	Budget co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Inception Report	PMU		30000	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU/ Project team	50000	20000	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP and FAO	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	79000	2000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	95000	113000	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	0	2000	Annually
PIR	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	0	2000	Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	Project Lead Technical Expert PMU UNEP	145000	55000	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	95000	60000	At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	110000	125000	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	PMU	0	50000	Annually
Project Final Report	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	0	2000	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	Project Lead Technical Expert and input from other co-financiers	10000	7000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF (USD)	Budget co-finance (USD)	Time Frame
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	Project Lead Technical Expert with inputs from partners	25000	30000	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		**654,000**	**496,000**	

The project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UN Environment concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UN Environment and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager in UN Environment-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UN Environment. Risk assessment and rating are an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

In-line with UN Environment Evaluation Policy and the GEF?s Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation. Additionally, a Mid-Term Review will be commissioned and launched by UN Environment before the project reaches its mid-point. If project is rated as being at risk, a Mid-Term Evaluation will be conducted by the Evaluation Office instead of a MTR. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see sections A3. Stakeholders above). The project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UN Environment Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented or not and offer technical support as deemed necessary.
The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UN Environment, the GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.
The draft Terminal Evaluation report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalised and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process

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 is designed to strengthen on-going efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as in the greater Congo Basin region to conserve globally significant biodiversity within forest landscapes and sustainably manage a big tropical peatland found within the country, and extending into neighbouring countries. Livelihood options are limited in rural landscapes on the DRC generally. In the project sites, livelihoods depend mainly on agriculture (small-scale subsistence of food crops and animal keeping), the harvesting and in some cases sale of Non-timber forest products (NTFP) (which include forest nuts, medicinal plants, mushrooms, edible caterpillars, etc; and rarely artisanal mining. The project will, however, deliver tangible economic benefits to local communities within target areas. These will be related to the benefits which will be generated from 6000 farmers engaged in climate smart production; 1000 climat smart projects (agroforestry, animal production, transformation, NTFP exploitation, etc); and 125 climate smart production and land use practices with socioeconomic impacts on IPLC. The project will contribute to assisting the local communities to enhance income from alternative livelihoods improvements, non-destructive collection of NTFPs, value addition, and other forms of alternative livelihood practices (Output 3.1.1). Another key livelihood opportunity that will be supported by the project will be the potential of sustaining ecosystem services, and benefiting financially from the initiatives, as well as sharing carbon finance for the local communities and helping them in harnessing such resources (Output 3.1.2). The project will thus contribute to increase local communities? income in the long-term including income from sustainable agriculture through the creation of agricultural products collect, transport, processing and trading and develop their partnership with private agricultural companies, which could commercialize their processed production.

The socioeconomic benefits will also be achieved at systemic level through developing and implementing land use management plans, improving the legal and policy framework, and improving environmental management within project area to help maintain existing livelihoods. The project will strengthen resource use governance at the landscape level by developing and implementing the landuse panning to benefit biodiversity conservation and nature protection, while safeguarding the natural resource based to support local and national development. It will work with national and sub-national level stakeholders to engage economic sectors, and negotiate the application of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use measures, and bring about necessary policy change. In line with the strengthening of resource use governance, the project will enhance the knowledge and understanding of the role of ecological processes and the services that biodiversity provides in benefit of local development. The related indicator to monitor progress in the efforts towards the strengthening of capacities will also be a global indictor: ?*Number of institutional staff members having strengthened capacities with regard to in-situ conservation and sustainable use of peatlands, forest and biodiversity (30% women)*?.

The project will engage with relevant sector ministries (e.g. agriculture, forestry, nature protection, pubic administration, etc.) and the private sector, in discussions and negotiations, where biodiversity and ecosystem conservation will be presented as an essential part of development planning, introducing a long term and sustainable development vision. In this respect, the project will promote the negotiation of trade-offs between conservation and development partners, with the aim to enhance environmental considerations within development planning; and will provide guidance and information to the government on the mitigation hierarchy, which can be applied when negotiating with large-scale investment projects. This will be monitored using another global indicator: ?*Strengthened policy, regulatory and strategic frameworks at provincial level support in-situ conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and forests, as indicated by legislations on indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights*?.

The project will promote a multi-sector and transboundary landscape governance structure enhancing the negotiating capacity of local stakeholders, such as community members living in and around protected areas, hence building their knowledge and capacity to defend their rights to a safe environment and strengthening their ability to monitor potential violations on protected areas. Communities will be able to participate actively in decision making regarding land use planning, and safeguard their environment and their livelihood base. This wi be assessed with an indicator in Outcome 4.2: ?*Strengthened transboundary cooperation leads to more effective approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and forest landscapes, including improved control and management of threats from IWT*?.

The project would promote sustainable forest management in the forests and peatlands of the project locations for biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and securing forest ecosystem services i.e. provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services.

This project will build on the communities? potential for sustainable forest management through civil society organizations and community organizations by developing their capacities on key aspects relevant for the sustainable management of forests and peatlands. This organization and capacity-building will improve awareness on local environmental challenges, mobilization and organization skills for co-managing local natural resources, management effectiveness to ensure the sustainable use of local resources, and economic incentives to effectively manage or participate in SFM, biodiversity conservation and mitigation of climate change. The project will improve forest and peatland biodiversity resources by decreasing anthropogenic pressures, controlling forest fires, enhancing conservation measures and creating additional resources through afforestation, reforestation and rehabilitation. It will contribute to assisting the local communities to enhance income from alternative livelihoods improvements, non-destructive collection of NTFPs, value addition, and other forms of alternative livelihood practices (Output 3.1.1). Another key livelihood opportunity that will be supported by the project will be the potential of sustaining ecosystem services, and benefiting financially from the initiatives, as well as sharing carbon finance for the local communities and helping them in harnessing such resources (Output 3.1.2). The project will thus contribute to increase local communities? income in the long-term including income from sustainable agriculture through the creation of agricultural products collect, transport, processing and trading and develop their partnership with private agricultural companies, which could commercialize their processed production.

A major aspect of the project involves the strengthening and enforcement of regulations on anti-trafficking activities on monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms (Output 4.2.3). The related activities undertaken during the project will trigger a stronger and more efficient legal mechanism with better crime scene management and criminal investigations, as well as a stronger capacity of protected are managers and patrols to prevent and address wildlife crime in the project area. Local communities will thus benefit from an improved security in the zone, with better surveillance of routes and hubs preventing armed groups from freely entering the area.

The project will support social cohesion in the regional transboundary area by fostering increased cooperation between stakeholders over essential issues concerning natural resources management and biodiversity conservation (Outputs 4.2.2. and 4.2.3). Consultations platforms will enable stakeholders to negotiate and solve issues concerning logging concessions for instance. In this process indigenous people and small local communities will be given the opportunity to participate to the decision-making process to ensure their fair representation and appropriation of the development process of the zone. These communities will also receive support to develop community-based forest management through the biological resources access.

In the project landscapes, women are mainly responsible for collecting fuelwood and water and livestock rearing, so they are most adversely affected by deforestation and forest degradation. During the social and environmental screening process for gender equality and women?s empowerment (during the project preparation thematic study phase), it was found that it was highly unlikely that the proposed project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women if adequate safeguards are not put in place. This project has put in place special and specific guidelines ensure representation of women equitably and fairly at all levels of project decisionmaking and access to benefits during project implementation. Guidelines on SLM, SFM, biodiversity conservation and landscape management plans,

baseline studies and all other planning processes, implementation and reporting activities will integrate gender and ensure involvement of women and youth in decision-making and active participation in project activities. Improvement of products, access to market and business opportunities for income generation would be undertaken with the intent of actively seeking the participation of women, The project will undergo systematic screening and adjustment in activities at inception planning stage, after the results of baseline study becoming available, during annual work planning, and after formal external midterm review to improve and engage women in the project activities.

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/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

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.

See section 5 above.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
DR Congo SRIF PRC_ rev	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).

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
Project Objective To scale up and improve forest landscapes through community-based natural resources management in targeted transboundary landscapes.	Area of landscapes under participatory conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	None	At least 25,000 hectares of landscapes under participatory conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	At least 25,000 hectares of landscapes under participatory conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Progress reports based on results of monitoring & evaluation of demonstration landscape activities.	Active participation by local farmers and other stakeholders. Cofinancing pledges materializes as planned.
	Number of institutional staff members having strengthened capacities with regard to in-situ conservation and sustainable use of peatlands, forest and biodiversity (30% women)	None	At least 180 (with a male to female ration of 1:1)	At least 350 (with a male to female ration of 1:1)	Socioeconomic surveys of demonstration landscapes based on a statistical representative sampling of households.	Targeted trainings for institutional staff will be sufficiently popular to induce high levels of participation.

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
	Strengthened policy, regulatory and strategic frameworks at provincial level support in-situ conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and forests, as indicated by legislations on indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights	Under-representation of indigenous people and local communities in land tenure policy and regulatory frameworks	Draft policy, regulatory and strategic framework on indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights completed and under review	Draft policy, regulatory and strategic framework on indigenous people and local community land tenure and resources user rights submitted to the Provincial Government	Activity report	Through proactive advocacy and stakeholder engagement, there will be sufficient time and commitment to advance the regulatory reforms.
Component 1: Mainstreaming Integrated Land use Planning (ILP) for conservation and sustainable development						

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
Outcome 1.1.: Three Provincial Governments (Equateur, North Kivu and South Kivu) have indicative zoning plans. **Outcome 1.2.** Legislations on Indigenous People and Local Community land tenure and resources user rights promulgated at the national level	Level of institutional capacities for integrated land use planning, management and monitoring of peatlands and protected forest areas as measured by UNDP?s capacity development scorecard	Limited institutional capacities for planning, management and monitoring of peatlands and protected forest areas - the baseline value as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard will be established during project inception	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 5-point increase in UNDP?s Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline values	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by 20 points in UNDP?s Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline values	UNDP capacity scorecard Progress reports	-The districts and local governments will take active part in developing the strategies and implementation using new knowledge and skills provided by the project -Local communities are convinced mainstreaming biodiversity into key development sectors in peatlands and protected forest areas is in their long-term interests

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
	Gender-responsive measures in place for conservation, sustainable use, and equitable access to and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems	Gender based policies and practices not adequately addressed due to lack of awareness, capacity and commitment	At least 3 policy/ planning frameworks (one in the Lac Tele; and 2 in Grand Kivu) are implemented at the provincial level that are gender responsive in relation to conservation, sustainable use, and equitable access to and benefit sharing of natural resources	At least 3 regulatory frameworks (one in the Lac Tele; and 2 in Grand Kivu) are implemented at the provincial level that are gender responsive in relation to conservation, sustainable use, and equitable access to and benefit sharing of natural resources	Progress reports Policy documents Notification of regulations Staffing reports	There is adequate awareness and commitment within national and sub-national entities to improve gender participation; Staff are adequately trained and sensitized to gender issues and concerns
1.1.1. ILP methodologies are defined under national orientations and support following local free, informed and prior consent (FPIC).						
1.1.2. Related LUP information collected with participation of all partners (IPLC, Local Government entities, FAO, WWF, etc.) are consolidated and available under one database						
1.1.3. Proposed zoning plan for community based natural resources management (CBNRM) in priority conservation areas is integrated into indicative provincial LUP and tenure rights are recognized to communities on ancestral lands.						
Component 2: Ensuring Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscapes						

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
Outcome 2: 400,000 ha of conservation areas (other than national PA) in the targeted landscape targeted have an efficient management in order to ensure the protection of	Hectares of land under improved management in the project targeted landscapes	None	At least 200,000 hectares of peatland and forest area in the Lac Tumba Landscape; and at least 300,000 hectares of forests in Grand Kivu is under protection	At least 400,000 hectares of peatland and forest area in the Lac Tumba Landscape; and at least 600,000 hectares of forests in Grand Kivu is under protection	Project reports resulting from field surveys Analysis using Collect Earth and a resulting report	Competent national experts can be identified and recruited following a transparent process to support technical project interventions.

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
the habitat of vulnerable species, the promotion of ecosystem services and the improvement of their connectivity.	Improved understanding among key stakeholder groups of the value of peatlands and forest, and the importance of in-situ conservation, as indicated by results of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) surveys (disaggregated by women and youth), among the following stakeholder groups: (a) Provincial governmental stakeholders; (b) Local governmental stakeholders; (c) Farmers; (d) Agricultural associations and enterprises;	None. Baseline KAP surveys will be made during project inception phase.	Provisional mid-term targets: (a) Increase of at least 20% percentage points (b) Increase of at least 30% percentage points (c) Increase of at least 50% percentage points (d) Increase of at least 20% percentage points	Provisional end targets: (a) Increase of at least 30% percentage points (b) Increase of at least 30% percentage points (c) Increase of at least 50% percentage points (d) Increase of at least 350% percentage points	KAP survey results	The design of the KAP survey will be participatory and lead to a genuine assessment of the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices among project stakeholders. Priority is given to completing the design and baseline KAP survey during project inception.
2.1.1. Effective measures and type of priority conservation areas (e.g. ICCA, CFC, CPA, etc.) to meet biodiversity conservation national priorities are defined under participatory process						
2.1.2. More than 600 000 ha of priority conservation area (other than national PA) are identified and integrated under provincial LUP.						

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
2.1.3. At least, 600 000 ha of priority conservation area are managed using best practices approaches that protect wildlife population, ecosystem services and lead to improved connectivity.						
Component 3. Promoting effective sustainable land use in priority landscape						
Outcome 3.1 25% of IPLCs in priority areas implement climate smart best practices with regard to land use.	Number of climate-smart production and land use best practices adopted by local communities and indigenous peoples (disaggregated by gender, individual or common initiative group, and indigenous or non-indigenous group)	There are no climate-smart production practices in the project locations	At least 70 climate-smart production and land use best practices adopted by local communities and indigenous peoples (with at least 25 coming from the Lac Tumba Landscape)	At least 125 climate-smart production and land use best practices adopted by local communities and indigenous peoples (with at least 60 coming from the Lac Tumba Landscape)	Project report	Excitement about the potential for climate-smart land use and production practices will be high and sustained in project locations

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
	Number of farmers engaged in climate-smart land use practices	None	At least 2500 farmers (with at least 35% from the Lac Tumba Landscape)	At least 6000 farmers (with at least 35% from the Lac Tumba Landscape)	Socioeconomic surveys of demonstration landscapes based on a statistical representative sampling of households. Results of other project monitoring & evaluation efforts documented in progress reports	The best practices demonstrated through the project will provide benefits to all farmer households in the target landscapes. Incentive mechanisms are developed in time and available to farmers, farmer associations and enterprises.
3.1.1. At least 100 sustainable climate smart projects (agroforestry production, animal husbandry, transformation and commercialization are supported under IPLC management with active integration of women and private partners engagement						
3.1.2. Investments derived from result-based payment for ecosystem services contracts are secured by the project and applied to restore, improve carbon stock and biodiversity in at least 500 000 ha of IPLC lands.						
3.1.3. The capacity of IPLC community development committees in project development, implementation, climate best practices and monitoring are strengthened.						
Component 4. Improving capacity, knowledge management and trans-boundary collaboration.						
Outcome 4.1: Three DRC provinces have the capacity to monitor wildlife trafficking,	Availability of agricultural scientific data and statistics from a centralized geodatabase source	No such database exists	Four Geodatabases exist (1 centralized at national level, and 3 at provincial level)	Geodatabases are populated with existing secondary data as well as data derived from project intervention.	Technical report	Key stakeholders are willing to share relevant data to populate this geodatabase

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
land use change, SDG progress in priority areas.	Strengthened institutional capacity for monitoring wildlife trafficking, land use changes and SDGs is limited of forest and peatlands landscapes, as indicated by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard	Capacities for monitoring wildlife trafficking, land use changes and SDGs of forests and peatland landscapes is limited - the baseline value as measured by UNDP Capacity Development Scorecard will be established during project inception	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by a 7-point increase in UNDP?s Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline values	Average increase of institutional capacity as measured by 25 points in UNDP?s Capacity Development Scorecard from baseline values	UNDP capacity scorecard Progress reports	Implementation of the project stakeholder engagement plan will facilitate active involvement by key institutional stakeholders. Capacity assessments are carried out consistently, with representative participation.
4.1.1. Four integrated SIG / database system (3 at provincial level, one at national level) put in place in order to manage and share information consolidated						
4.1.2. Progress towards SDGs in the project area monitored using Rural Development SDG monitoring tool (developed by MRD)						

Project title: Community-based forested landscape management in the Grand Kivu and Lake Tele-Tumba.						
	Indicator	*1. Baseline*	*2. Mid-term target*	*3. End of project target*	**Sources of verification**	**Assumptions**
Outcome 4.2: The Governance structure (under current treaty) improves transboundary coordination and actions against wildlife trafficking.	Strengthened transboundary cooperation leads to more effective approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and forest landscapes, including improved control and management of threats from IWT	There is no formalized transboundary cooperation initiatives in the Lac Tumba and the Grand Kivu landscapes	At least one Transboundary Coordination Committee established and providing advisory support to the project on transboundary cooperation. Through the efforts of the Transboundary Coordination Committee, at least two coordination meetings are organized to support transboundary cooperation in the management of forests and peatland landscapes and resources	Through the efforts of the Transboundary Coordination Committee, at least five coordination meetings are organized to support transboundary cooperation in the management of forests and peatland landscapes and resources	Committee meeting minutes	There will be wide interest for collaboration among transboundary communities of the project area Congo IP project leaders will promote active engagement with the coordination committees.
4.1.1. Lessons learned on effective conservation approaches as per outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 are consolidated and shared (communicated) both among national stakeholders and regionally.						
4.1.2. Project lessons learned and communication are documented and shared at local, national and regional level.						
4.1.3. The multi-stakeholders cross-border initiatives (put in place by previous project) on: monitoring and enforcing trade regulations, monitoring biodiversity, developing financial mechanisms are improved and strengthened.						

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 (and References)
Council comments	

Canada Comments	Identifying and addressing the barriers to scaling and transformation, particularly with regard to vested interests:
The technical advisory panel made interesting observations which may be useful to highlight again:	Particular attention has been taken in the analysis of barriers to address issues of scaling and transformation, particularly with regard to vested interests. There is a specific barrier named *?(viii) Absence of incentives for the application of SFM, INRM, SLM and conservation practices*? that addresses the problem of diverging interests ? particularly vis-?-vis the private sector involved in investments on forest and peatland landscapes, with local communities. ***Reference: See Barriers in Section 2.3.***
1? There are two particular deficiencies: identifying and addressing the barriers to scaling and transformation, particularly with regard to vested interests; and articulating a clear theory of change (TOC) that links drivers of deforestation/forest degradation and their root causes to project structure, outcomes and overall objective, and which identifies critical assumptions. STAP recommends further clarification of barriers and how to address them, along with the development of a clear, detailed TOC with a clear logical sequence of the steps and assumptions required. In the PPG phase, the CBSL should provide detailed and realistic objectives that can be monitored and measured (and adjusted if necessary) over time.	A clear theory of change (TOC) that links drivers of deforestation/forest degradation and their root causes to project structure, outcomes and overall objective, and which identifies critical assumptions. The theory of change has been designed to clearly capture the links between drivers of deforestation/forest degradation and their root causes. It also clarifies these links (both in the figure and its accompanying description) with key project activities and outcomes. ***Reference: See Section 3.3*** Clarification of barriers and how to address them, along with the development of a clear, detailed TOC with a clear logical sequence of the steps and assumptions. The theory of change has been designed to clearly capture the links between drivers of deforestation/forest degradation, and peatland degradation and their root causes. It also clarifies these links (both in the figure and its accompanying description) with key project activities and outcomes. ***Reference: See Section 2.3 and 3.3*** Detailed and realistic objectives that can be monitored and measured (and adjusted if necessary) over time. The project objective has been clearly defined and indicators for measuring progress defined in the project results framework. ***References: Project objective Section 3.2; and Results Framework Appendix 4.***

Norway-Denmark Comments	
1? Our constituency welcomes this project but is very concerned about possible overlap with the work of the Central Africa Forest Initiative, CAFI which Norway, among others, is an important donor to. We would strongly encourage finding mechanisms that will ensure the best possible coordination between these two programs and avoid any double reporting. Coordination meetings should take place at the country level since each country has different projects. More specifically:	This project recognizes the efforts and initiatives supported by CAFI to protect the country's forests and accelerate the fight against climate change. It includes ambitious commitments that underline the country's particular willingness in this regard: non-conversion of High Carbon Stock (HCS) and High Conservation Value (HCV) forests, setting a ceiling on the conversion of non-HCS/HVC forests, protection and sustainable management of peatland areas so that they are neither drained nor dried out, and orientation of agricultural activities in adequate areas.
a? In terms of the results and indicators, how to ensure that there is no double reporting compared to CAFI-funded programs?	a? In terms of the results and indicators, how to ensure that there is no double reporting compared to CAFI-funded programs? Indicators for the current project have been designed to complement, rather than replicate CAFI indicators. ***References: See the Results Framework***
b? 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	b? Component 1 of the program ?Enabling integrated framework for countries ? for SLM/SFM? as well as the land use planning methodology ? on-going work already funded by CAFI. The Lac Tumba Landscape falls within those described as CARPE Landscapes. For these landscapes, land use management plans were developed within the framework of the CARPE programme. The current project will therefore not be developing land use management plans. Instead, effort and resources will be directed towards ensuring that these plans are endorsed and anchored into relevant national policies and legislative processes to ensure their use in development planning. The CAFI was consulted on a one-on-one meeting during the development of this project, and the project document was shared for comment and inputs during the project development stage. The project document was also shared for comments and feedback with CAFI.
	c? Equateur provincial program in DRC (FAO and WWF as implementing agency, approved in 2018): It would be important that in the program development phase the deliverables of the CAFI program could be mapped and a gap analysis be conducted to make sure that the GEF program in the same area does not duplicate those efforts.

United States Comments *The below comments from the United States were provided prior to the Council meeting. An initial agency response was provided and can be found in the list of documents specific to the project in the GEF Portal.* 1? 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.	For DRC, we confirm that no logging will be conducted in the framework of the project. More importantly, Child Project has a dedicated provision to raise awareness of the wood compagnies for sustainable wood logging in their concessions and to encourage them to adhere to international standards. The project efforts on land rights will be another vehicule for the private sector to move toward sustainability and the participation of JADORA ? SAFBOIS consortium is an opportunity to engage with private sector on conservation	

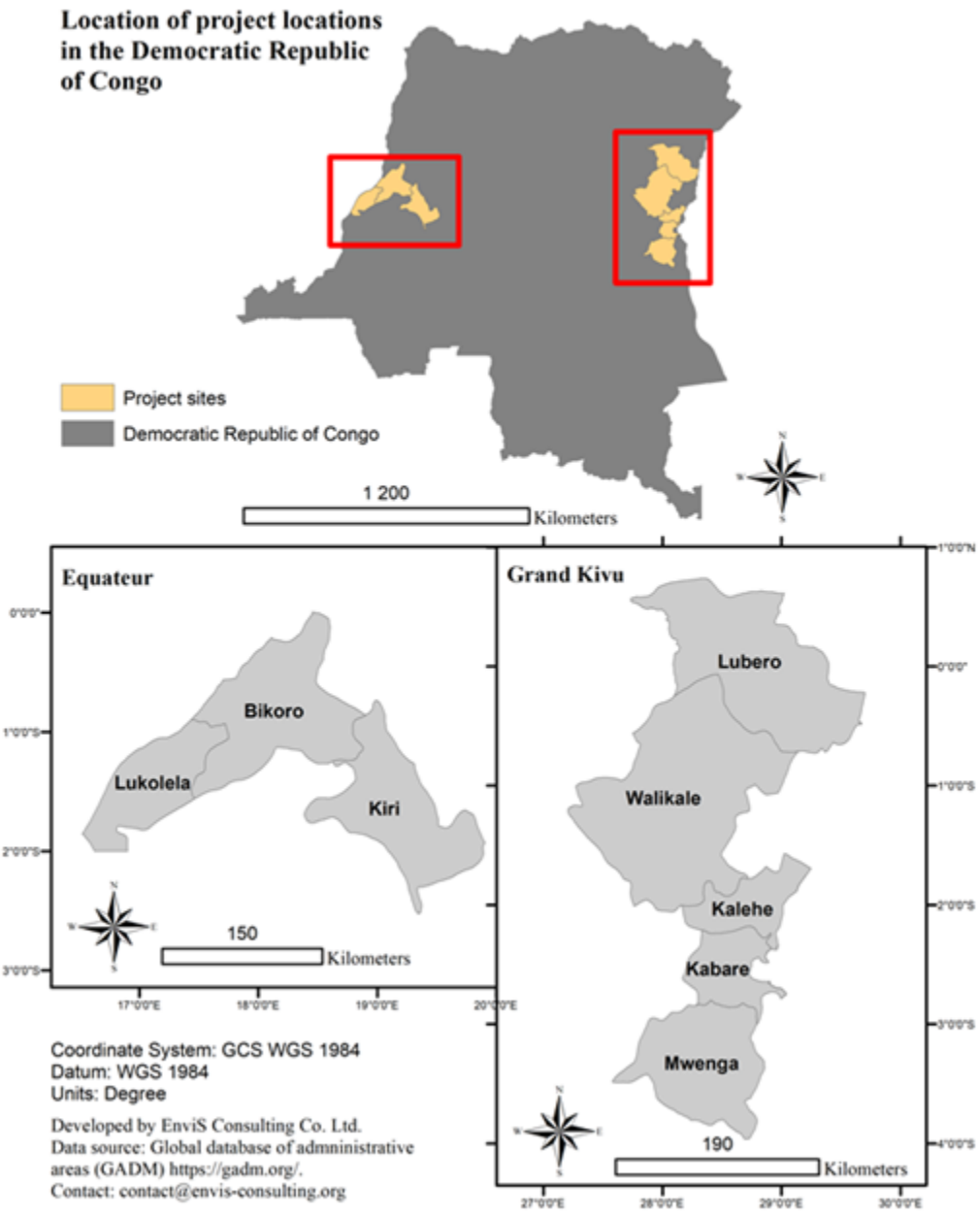
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)*		
	Budgeted Amount	*Amount Spent Todate*	*Amount Committed*
Consultants	125000	125000	0
Travels on Official Business	100,000	100,000	0

Meetings/Stakeholders consultation	50,000	50,000	0
Translation, office supplies, communications	25,000	25,000	0
Total	300,000	300,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Refer to annex F1 and F2 for the detailed GEF and Cofinance budgets

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. 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

Instructions. 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).