Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10990

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of a lowland forest mosaic landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States

Countries
Nigeria

Agency(ies)
FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)
Federal Ministry of Environment

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Biodiversity

Sector
AFOLU

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Public Campaigns, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, Field Visit, Exhibit, Innovation, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Knowledge Generation, Seminar, Training, Workshop

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

Significant Objective 1

Submission Date

Expected Implementation Start

1/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

12/31/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

332,782.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	1,401,188.00	13,000,000.00
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	GET	2,101,780.00	15,065,201.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**3,502,968.00**	**28,065,201.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of a lowland forest landscape in order to protect globally significant biodiversity and strengthen sustainable livelihoods of local communities

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($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Integrated landscape planning and management	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1 Inclusive integrated landscape management (ILM) plans are in place, enabling conservation and sustainable management of important lowland forest landscapes *Indicators*: *- 2 multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) for ILM functional.* *- 386,939 ha of priority landscapes, including 193,294 ha in Edo State and 193,645 ha in Ogun State, covered by ILM plans.* *- At least six updates / revisions of local and/or state policies, regulations and guidelines on lands,*	1.1.1 Multi-stakeholder mechanisms established for participatory development and coordinated implementation of biodiversity conservation and ILM within two priority landscapes 1.1.2 ILM plans developed for two priority landscapes 1.1.3: Inclusive ILM capacity building program targeting key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders across the two priority landscapes 1.2.1: In-depth core eco-region-level biodiversity assessment 1.2.2 A strategic, core eco-region-level biodiversity	GET	648,904.00	2,400,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		agriculture, forestry, environment, trade, and gender remove barriers to ILM, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes - <u>Outcome 1.2</u> A high-level strategic vision and action plan for conservation of Nigeria?s core lowland forest ecoregion is adopted by four participating states and is supporting scale-up, harmonization and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation action across the ecoregion <u>*Indicators s*</u>*-1,260,622 ha of Nigeria?s*	vision and action plan 1.2.3 Ecoregion-level information and monitoring system			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		core lowland forest ecoregion covered by an ecological assessment and providing adequate and updated data and information needed to underpin a science-based, biome-level conservation strategy and action plan	*- Vision and action plan for Nigeria?s core lowland forest ecoregion, covering 1,260,622 ha, adopted and helping to leverage at least $10 million in additional cofinancing*			
			- At least 50 regular contributors sharing data and information within multi-stakeholder, lowland forest monitoring network,			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		providing a hub for tracking ecological change across core area of lowland forest biome				
2. Implementation of biodiversity conservation and restoration in priority landscapes	Investment	Outcome 2.1 Core biodiversity areas in the landscapes are better protected, connected and effectively managed *Indicators*: **-** *269,612 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management, including: (i) Okomu National Park, (ii) Gilli Gilli Forest Reserve, (iii) Omo Forest Reserve* *- 10,000 ha of forest / forest land under restoration*	2.1.1 Detailed mapping and designation of priority areas for intensive conservation and restoration efforts within priority landscapes, including Okomu National Park, Omo and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves 2.1.2 Site-level management and action plans developed and implementation initiated 2.1.3 Financial sustainability strategies developed for conservation of Okomu and Omo landscapes	GET	1,342,532.00	2,300,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Implementation of sustainable practices in connecting, productive agricultural areas of the priority landscapes	Investment	Outcome 3.1 Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices and livelihoods within priority landscapes - *Indicators*: *- At least 60,000 ha of corridors and buffer zones of protected areas under sustainable practices* *- 10,000 men and 10,000 women (combined 50% youth) in forest-dependent communities directly supported to embrace sustainable livelihoods*	3.1. Develop priority landscape level strategies for promoting biodiversity-friendly production practices and value chains 3.1.2 Strategic support to value chains for forest restoration, agroforestry and NTFPs 3.1.3 Rehabilitation, restoration and capacity building strategy for community forests developed and implemented 3.1.4. Innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable use and restoration piloted	GET	837,876.00	21,178,800.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
4. Knowledge management and M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 4.1 Ideas, innovations and knowledge are being effectively captured, diffused and utilized at multiple scales, including site, landscape, national and international *Indicators*: - *At least eight solutions / lessons learned transformed into knowledge products* - *At least 50% of individuals directly benefiting from project activities are women* - *Recent data and information re. 1,260,622 ha of Nigeria?s lowland forest biome*	4.1.1 Communication, knowledge products, tools and approaches are developed and shared widely 4.1.2 Capacity building and awareness raising of officials and civil society representatives of all lowland forest states (including also Okun, Ekiti and Oyo States) 4.2.1 Operational monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems implemented	GET	506,856.00	850,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
		is widely available to researchers, practitioners and policy makers <u>Outcome 4.2</u> Project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated through a gender-sensitive M&E strategy <u>*Indicators*</u>: - *Project M&E system operational, with protocols for collection and analysis of results in place*				
				Sub Total ($)	**3,336,168.00**	**26,728,800.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET		166,800.00		1,336,401.00	
Sub Total($)			**166,800.00**		**1,336,401.00**	
Total Project Cost($)			**3,502,968.00**		**28,065,201.00**	

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Edo State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,217,201.00
Recipient Country Government	Edo State Government	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,150,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ondo State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ondo State Government	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	2,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ogun State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,987,500.00
Recipient Country Government	Ogun State Government	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,800,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Delta State Government	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,987,500.00
Recipient Country Government	Delta State Government	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	3,800,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Okomu National Park Services	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	550,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Okomu National Park Services	Public Investment	Investment mobilized	1,270,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Africa Nature Investors (ANI)	Other	Investment mobilized	816,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Civil Society Organization	Nigerian Conservation Foundation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	330,500.00
Civil Society Organization	SW / Niger Delta Forest Project	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	256,500.00
Civil Society Organization	Farmers Development Union (FADU)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**28,065,201.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

State Governments have made commitments to provide direct investment for project activities, with specific allocations in state budgets.

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($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Nigeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,502,968	332,782	3,835,750.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**3,502,968.00**	**332,782.00**	**3,835,750.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Nigeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	**164,250.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**150,000.00**	**14,250.00**	**164,250.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
299,093.00	269,612.00	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)
299,093.00	269,612.00	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)
Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve	36988	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	31,567.00	31,012.00			34.00		
Okomu Forest Reserve	36989	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	114,626.00	87,860.00			34.00		
Okomu National Park	36979	National Park	22,400.00	20,240.00			32.00		
Omo Forest Reserve	36820	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	130,500.00	130,500.00			40.00		

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	10,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10000.00	50000.00	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)
10,000.00	50,000.00		

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (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)	4344013	0	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)	4,344,013			
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Anticipated start year of accounting	2023			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
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 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	10,000	10,000		
Male	10,000	10,000		
Total	20000	20000	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

Core indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares) Four protected areas, covering a combined

area of 269,612 ha, located within two priority landscapes, are being targeted for improved management for conservation and sustainable use. These are: ? Okomu National Park (20,240 ha); ? Okomu Forest Reserve (87,860 ha); ? Omo Forest Reserve (130,500 ha), which includes a proposed elephant conservation area (55,000 ha) and a Strict Nature Reserve (640 ha); ? Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve (31,012 ha). Core indicator 3: Area of land restored (Hectares) A total of 10,000 ha of native forest will be under restoration in protected areas, buffer zones and corridor areas related to the three protected areas identified in the previous indicator. Core indicator 4: Area of landscape under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares) Given the range and extent of challenges facing the priority landscapes and their locations bordering multiple states and Local Government Areas (LGAs), a selective jurisdictional approach has been taken in defining target areas of the landscape for improving practices. As a result portions of four LGAs?Ijebu East and Ijebu North in Ogun State and Ovia South West and Ovia North East?will receive direct on-the-ground support under Component 3, based on LGA-level plans to be developed under Component 1. Areas of landscape within these LGAs totalling 50,000 ha. will be targeted for introducing improved agricultural and agro-forestry practices. Core indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment At least 20,000 members of forest communities within the FRs and NP, their buffer zones, and corridors linking them, including 10,000 women and 5,000 youths, will be socially prepared and supported to access innovative finance and invest in sustainable livelihood options, thereby reducing pressure on forest resources.

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)

Context

Nigeria has some of the richest floral and faunal biodiversity in Africa. The country?s wide variety of ecosystems?ranging from semi-arid savanna in the north and lowland rainforests across the Niger Delta region in the south?host over 864 bird species, 117 species of amphibians, 203 reptile species, over 775 fish species, 285 mammals and over 4,715 plant species[1][1].

Nigeria?s biodiversity and ecosystems provide important global environmental benefits and contribute to multiple sectors of the economy, including agriculture, water resources, health, tourism and industrial development. They are a key source of food and livelihoods, supporting 70-80% of food requirements of 70% of rural Nigerians[2][2]. Forest resources play a significant role in Nigeria's national economy. Over the past two decades, the sector has accounted for approximately 2% of GDP. It provides employment for an estimated 1.8 to 2 million people, including those involved in the supply of fuel wood, poles, and the log processing sector, which employs around 75,000 individuals.

However, Nigeria?s biodiversity is highly threatened, with 309 threatened species on the IUCN Red List in 2013[3][3]. Biodiversity loss is driven by land use change and habitat loss associated with agricultural expansion and unsustainable practices, over-exploitation of resources, environmental pollution, and climate change.

Deforestation and forest degradation in Nigeria is among the highest in the world. According to Nigeria?s National REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) Strategy, in 1978, 25.7% of the country?s land area of 92.4 million ha, or approximately 23.7 million ha, was forested. By 1995, forest cover had fallen to 16.6% and 15.3 million ha, respectively; by 2016, a mere 7.7% and 7.1 million ha of forest remained. Altogether, in less than four decades, an estimated 16.6 million ha were deforested, representing a mean area of some 426,351 ha (hectares) / year. More recent data from the Global Forest Watch ([GFW], 2023) show that between 2001 and 2021, Nigeria lost 156,000 ha of its humid primary forest and 1.14 million ha of its tree cover, equivalent to an 11% decrease in tree cover since 2000.

In recognition of the importance of biodiversity and the need for its conservation and sustainable use, Nigeria adopted the goals of the Global Strategy for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in its NBSAP[4][4] 2016-2020. The NBSAP included the following relevant key targets: Target 3: adoption of a national

ecosystem-based spatial planning process and plans, promoting the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustain development; Target 4: Up to 15% of the areas of degraded ecosystems in Nigeria are under programmes for restoration and sustainable management; Target 6: at least 10% of Nigeria?s national territory is sustainably managed in conservation areas at varied levels of authority, with representation of all ecosystem types; Target 12: community participation in project design and management of key ecosystems is enhanced in one (1) each of the six (6) ecological zones; and Target 14: the capacity of key actors is built and gender mainstreaming carried out for the achievement of Nigeria?s biodiversity targets.

Project target landscapes

The project target landscapes are located within Nigeria?s lowland rainforest ecoregion, which extends from the southwestern border of the country with the Republic of Benin, eastward to the western edge of the Niger River. The ecoregion is bounded by, *inter alia*, the River Niger, the Cross-Niger transition forests and the Niger Delta swamp forests. To the south, it is separated from the coast by a strip of Central African mangroves and inland water; to the north, the forests transition into a mosaic of forest and savanna habitat?the Guinean forest-savanna. The lowland forest is a natural mixed, moist semi-deciduous rainforest. The area can be further divided into a dry evergreen mixed deciduous forest in the northern part and a wet evergreen forest in the southern part. The ecoregion covers some or all of seven Nigerian states, i.e., Edo, Ekiti, Delta, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, and Oyo States.[5][5]

The project target landscapes (**Figure 1**) cover the core, or central area, of the lowland forest ecoregion. This broad landscape covers approximately 1.26 million hectares spread across four states ? Ogun, Ondo, Edo and Delta. It includes the ecoregion?s only national park (Okomu National Park), as well as a high proportion of land designated as forest reserves.

A total of 82 forest reserves (FRs) covering 1.05 million ha have been created within the Nigerian lowland forests ecoregion, or about 15% of the land area covered by the ecoregion as a whole[6]6?a figure which rises to 42% within the biome?s core area, as defined by the project landscape. The more significant among these are described in **Table 1** below.

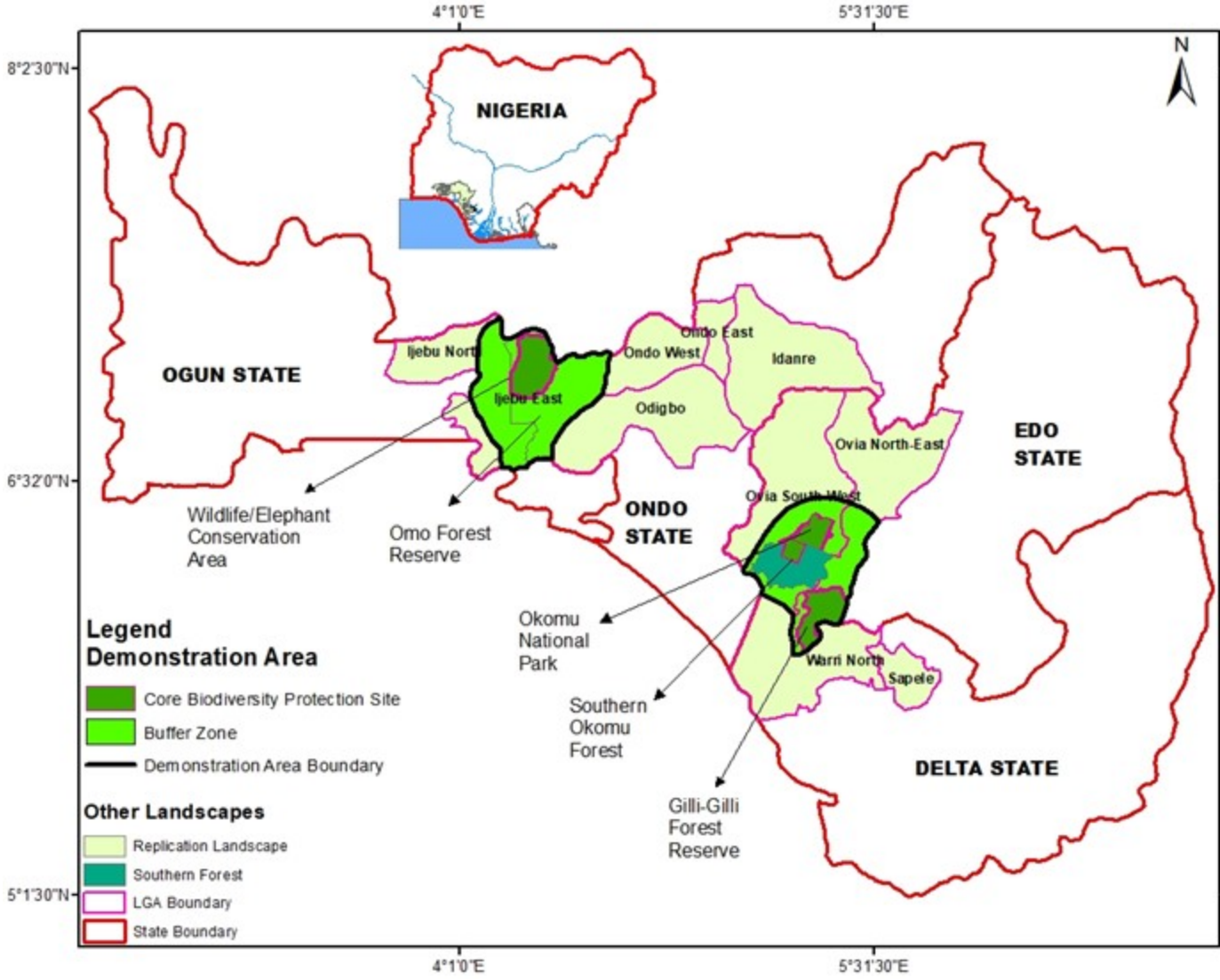


Figure 1: Target landscapes and protected areas

Table 1: Protected areas and biodiversity status in the lowland forest ecoregion

Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Ha	State	LGA(s)	Biodiversity value & Current Status
1. Protected areas in priority landscapes						
Omo Forest Reserve	36820	VI	130,500	Ogun	Ijebu North and Ijebu East	This includes about *55,000 ha* elephant conservation area,[7][7] of which about 14,657 ha remain intact as dense forest,[8][8] and an adjacent & connected *640 ha* Strict Nature Reserve (SNR). These segments have over 200 tree species, 125 bird species, 28 molluscs species from seven (7) families, and are still home to critically endangered African elephants, chimpanzees, and the white-throated guenon monkeys.[9][9],[10][10] The remaining segments are largely plantations for gmelina, teak, rubber, and cocoa.
Okomu National Park	36979	II	20,240	Edo	Ovia SW	A wildlife sanctuary / national park that is home to 33 mammalian species, 150 avian species, 46 species in 11 molluscan families, and over 700 species of colorful butterflies. The mammals include the African buffalo. the endangered African forest elephant, the vulnerable white-throated guenon, and chimpanzees. Others include dwarf crocodiles, red river hog, sitatunga, warthog, civet cat, Maxwell's duiker, grass cutter, mona monkey, Thomas's galago, and tree pangolin. The park is however surrounded by activities of large corporations involved in oil palm as well as logging and farming.
Okomu Forest Reserve	36989	VI	87,860	Edo	Ovia SW	An erstwhile mahogany rich full-canopy natural forest has now been largely taken over by oil palm and rubber plantations in the northern half and farmlands in the southern half.
Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve	36988	VI	31,012	Edo	Ovia NE	This relatively less disturbed FR lying to the south of Okomu is endowed with wide variety of flora and fauna, notably including the African grey parrot, Nile crocodile and the brush tailed porcupine. It is however increasingly plagued by illegal logging, poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
Total area			**269,612**			
2. Other protected areas in the lowland forest biome replication landscapes						
Oluwa Forest Reserve[11][11]	36971	VI	82,900	Ondo	Odigbo	This heavily degraded FR has patches/ segments that are still home to the endangered African elephants, chimpanzees and the white-throated guenon monkey. These are however, heavily threatened by logging, hunting, farming, and human settlements. The State government has awarded a *37, 226 ha concession within* the FR to Rex Forestry Limited, which is

Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN category	Ha	State	LGA(s)	Biodiversity value & Current Status
						investing in tree planting in the degraded part of the FR. An oil palm company has also been given a concession in the remaining segment of the FR.
Akure Forest Reserve			6,600	Ondo	Ile Oluji/ Okeigbo	A Strict Nature Reserve (SNR) set aside for preservation of the genetic diversity of the forest ecosystem in the area. It is however reported to be under increased threat of encroachment since 2015.[12][12]
Idanre Forest Reserve	36842	VI	56,674	Ondo	Idanre	A heavily degraded FR now largely made up of secondary forest and patches of primary forest at higher elevation in rugged terrain, which remain home to endangered primates like the red-capped, mona monkey and white-throated monkey. Other mammals reported in the area include antelopes, bushbuck, Maxwell duiker, yellow-backed duiker, forest buffalo, bush pig and the African civet. This has largely been concessioned to private companies for oil palm production.
Akure Ofosu Forest Reserve[13]13	300863	VI	39,273	Ondo	Idanre	This FR, which has been under increased logging, hunting, farming, and human settlements, remains home to threatened primates like red-capped, mona monkey, and white-throated guenons? monkey, and putty-nosed monkeys, among others.[14][14] It has largely been concessioned to private companies for oil palm production.
Onishere Forest Reserve19	36979	VI	11,556	Ondo	Idanre	A relatively less disturbed FR located south of Idanre FR has similar flora and fauna as Idanre and Akure Ofosu FRs, including significant population of primates. This has largely been concessioned to private companies for oil palm production.
Ekenwan Forest Reserve	36987	VI	21,489	Edo	Ovia NE	This erstwhile biodiversity rich FR has been taken over largely by plantations, urban expansion, and farmland, with only a ribbon of primary forest left along a tributary of the Ossimo River.
Ukpe-Sobo Forest Reserve	36996	VI	11,033	Delta	Sapele	A relatively less degraded FR that is largely made of tree species that thrive in swamp conditions[15][15]
Total area (ha)			**229,525**			

The majority of project activities, particularly those taking at field level, will operate in two **priority landscapes**: (i) Okomu National Park and Gilli Gilli Forest Reserve, consisting of a combined 52,263 ha of PAs, together with about 20,000 ha of ?buffer zone? production landscape areas, all within Edo State, and; (ii) Omo Forest Reserve, which has a total area of 130,500 ha, with conservation efforts focused on 55,000 ha area of proposed elephant sanctuary, along with about 30,000 ha of surrounding ?buffer zone? production landscape areas in Ogun State.

1. Okomu Priority Landscape: The major feature of this landscape is Okomu National Park (ONP) in Edo State. ONP retains an important fraction of the rich forest that once covered the region and is perhaps the best remaining representative of mature secondary forest in southwest Nigeria.[16]16 ONP is among the last remaining refuges for a number of threatened species. It supports a diverse fauna, with 33 species of mammals including the African buffalo and the endangered African forest elephant (though elephant sightings have become increasingly rare in recent years). The site is a stronghold for White-throated guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*, EN) and African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer,* NT). Although no thorough study of the primate population has been undertaken since 1982, the number of chimpanzees living in the ONP was estimated to be 25?50 in 2003. Other fauna found in the park include dwarf crocodiles, red river hog, sitatunga, warthog, civet cat, Maxwell?s duiker, grass cutter, Mona monkey, Thomas?s galago and tree pangolin. The national park is also a Birdlife Important Bird Area (IBA), where some 150 species of birds have been recorded, including Angolan pitta, grey parrot, wrinkled hornbill, fish eagle, hawks, woodpeckers, great owl, grey hornbill, cattle egret, black-casqued hornbill, yellow-casqued hornbill, Sabine?s spinetail, Cassin?s spinetail, black spinetail, white-breasted negrofinch, chestnut-breasted negrofinch, pale-fronted negrofinch and yellow-throated cuckoo.[17]17

Gilli Gilli is a relatively less disturbed FR lying to the south of Okomu and is endowed with wide variety of flora and fauna, notably including the African grey parrot, Nile crocodile and the brush-tailed porcupine.

The ?buffer zone? production landscape areas are occupied by a combination of agricultural plantations, smallholder agricultural holdings, and human settlements. Estimates based on available statistics and baseline data collected during the PPG suggest that about 100,000 live within the landscape. The people are predominantly native Bini and Ijaw people of Edo State. These are predominantly farmers, growing arable crops like cassava, yam, maize, plantain, banana, and vegetables as well as cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, kolanut, and rubber. [18][18]

A sizable number of inhabitants in both Okomu and Omo landscapes are fishers settled around major rivers. Virtually all, particularly women and the elderly, are forest dependent ? harvesting non-timber forest products (NTPFs) like firewood, forest fruits, snails, and mushrooms, among several other NTFPs for home use and as supplementary means of livelihoods. A significant number, particularly men, are involved in lumbering and hunting. There are also a few industries, hotels, and government establishments across the two landscapes, including notably the Okomu Oil Palm Company Plc. Other important economic activities engaged in by the people include hunting, craftsmanship, and weaving

and dyeing of textile materials. Overall, the people are predominantly poor and lack access to most social amenities. The poverty incidence for the states at large is 45 ? 60%, with the figure expected to be much higher in the target landscapes, given that incidence of poverty is generally much higher in rural communities in Nigeria compared with the national average.

2. Omo Priority Landscape: Located in Ogun State, Omo Forest Reserve (OFR) was gazetted in 1925 . Located only 150 km northeast of the city of Lagos, Omo covers an area of about 130,500 ha and includes a 460 ha Strict Nature Reserve (SNR) at its core. It derives its name from the Omo River that traverses the reserve. In 1977, Omo Forest Reserve was designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. However, this did little to slow the pace of logging and farming within its boundaries. Today, it is estimated that more than half of the forest reserve has been converted to farmland and *Gmelina* plantation. In a bid to protect the remaining forest, a proposal to convert 55,000 ha of the reserve into a wildlife sanctuary (no logging, hunting, or farming) was submitted to Ogun State Government. This proposal has not yet been approved.

Omo is contiguous with four highly degraded forest reserves?Oluwa, Shasha, Ife and Ago-Owu?the largest of which is Oluwa Forest Reserve to the east. The vegetation in Omo is mixed moist semi-evergreen rainforest. Due to selective exploitation in the past, the forest is largely mature secondary, with pockets of primary forest along river courses and in other areas where logging is difficult. In addition to forest elephants (2015-2016 surveys estimated the elephant population at 28), Omo contains populations of the Nigerian-Cameroonian chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) and the Nigerian white-throated monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster pococki*).

Omo Forest Reserve receives limited support from Ogun State Government. The area is protected by 12 rangers ? two of whom are employed by Ogun State Government and the remainder consisting of locally-employed scouts funded through Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF)/Wild Planet Trust. These rangers protect a relatively small area in and around the SNR and Erin Camp but have been powerless to address logging and illegal farming within broader areas of the reserve. The Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) is responsible for the SNR itself, although they lack capacity for regular patrols. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) provided limited training for the Omo rangers in 2019.

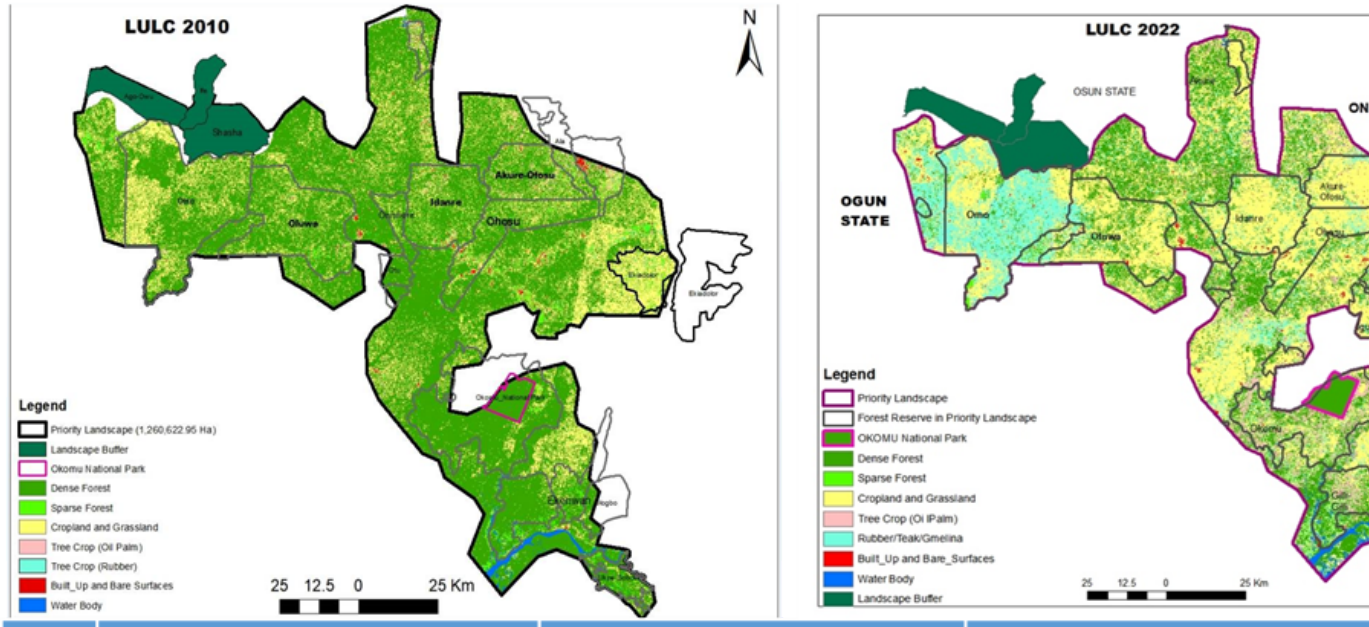
About 84,000 people, predominantly Yoruba, currently live within the Omo landscape. Similar to Okomu, most are farmers, growing arable crops like cassava, yam, maize, plantain, banana, and vegetables as well as cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, kolanut, and rubber.

The most serious threat to Omo is the presence of numerous illegal farms inside the reserve and the clearing of forest to cultivate cocoa and plantains. Recently, the cultivation of *Cannabis* by criminal gangs, operating deep within the reserve, has become a significant issue. Logging is also a major threat to Omo. While most of the logging to date has been selective in nature, the new Shagamu?Benin expressway threatens the reserve by facilitating the transport of logs from the reserve. Reforestation with exotic species has also compromised the ecological integrity of the reserve, with approximately 20% of the reserve having been cleared and replanted with *Gmelina arborea*.

Deforestation, biodiversity loss and key drivers in project landscapes

The project landscapes have experienced a dramatic loss and degradation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the period between 2010 and 2022 as seen in **Figure 2**. There has been a sharp reduction

in area identified as ?dense forest?, from an estimated 895,153 ha in 2010 to approximately 302,064 ha in 2022. During this same period, cropland area has doubled (from 291,396 ha to 585,159 ha), while combined areas of oil palm, rubber, teak and *Gmelina* have increased exponentially. Degraded forest area has also doubled during the period.



S/N	Land Use Land Cover (LULC)	LULC 2010		LULC 2022	
		Area (ha)	Share (%)	Area (ha)	S
1	Dense Forest	893,153.88	70.9	302,064.00	
2	Sparse Forest	39,350.25	3.1	78,798.00	
3	Cropland	291,396.51	23.1	585,159.00	
4	Oil Palm	21,582.36	1.7	102,781.00	
5	Rubber/Teak/Gmelina	1,593.99	0.1	169,457.00	
6	Built-up	5,831.64	0.5	9,672.00	
	Water	7,614.42	0.6	12,670.46	
		1,260,523.05	100.0	1,260,601.46	

Figure 2: Land Use Land Cover (LULC) change in the project landscapes

With the massive deforestation and forest degradation, and extensive destruction of habitats, wildlife has declined throughout the landscapes. Moreover, poaching and illegal trade (local and international) in wildlife species such as pangolin, elephants, primates, and big cats have quickened the pace at which

many of these species have become endangered.[19][19] **Figure 3** presents the frequency of mention of various wildlife species considered by community members that participated in various community consultations across the landscape during the PPG as threatened (rarely seen again)/extirpated.

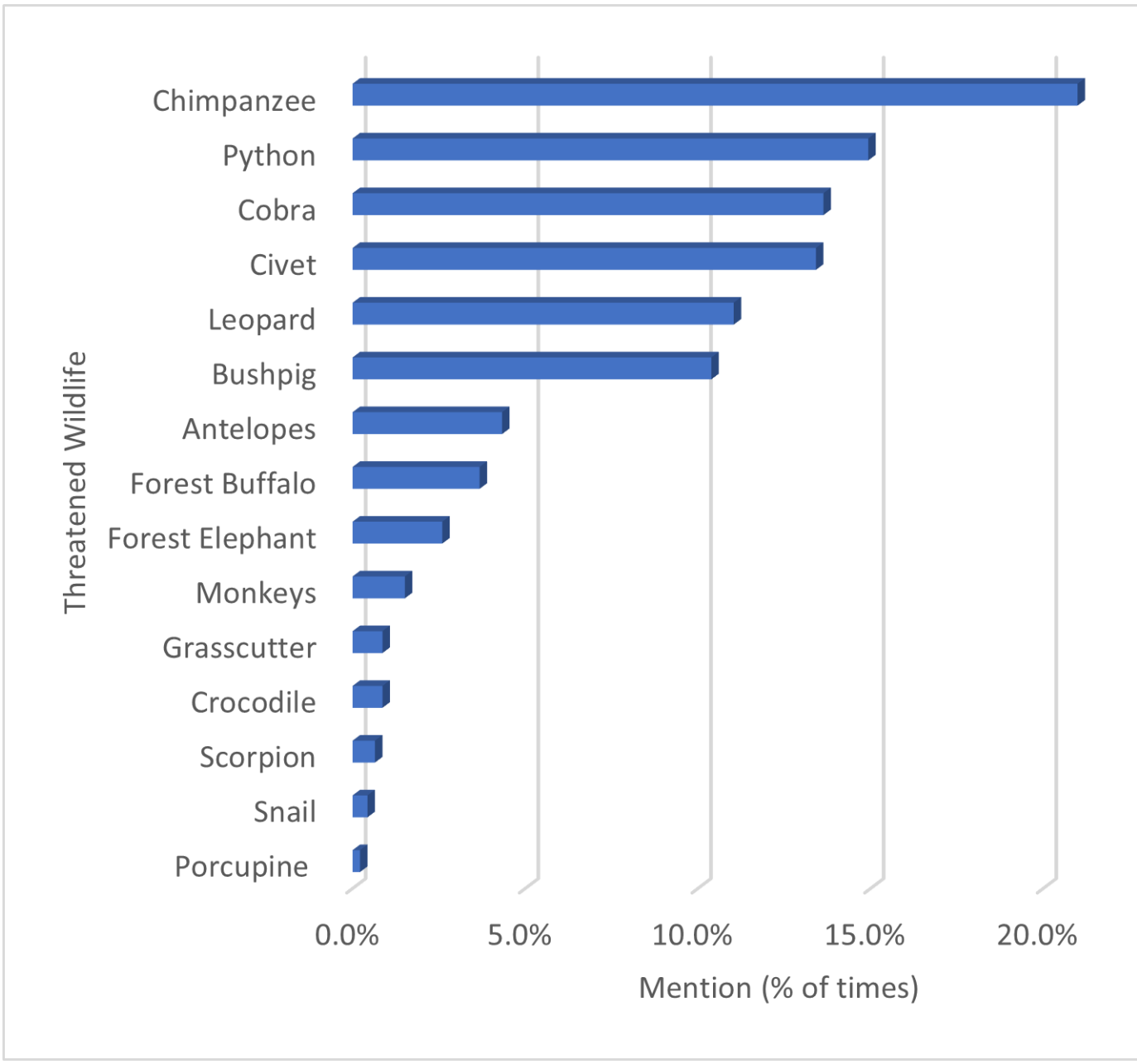


*Figure 3: Frequency of mention of various wildlife species considered threatened by residents of forest communities in the project landscapes**[20]***[20]

A range of factors directly drive the deforestation and biodiversity loss in the target landscapes, including the national park, forest reserves, community forests and the wider production landscape. These are described below.

1) *Expansion of commercial tree crop agriculture*: Expansion of commercial oil palm and cocoa production through new estate development directly drives deforestation. This process involves companies purchasing land, e.g., a community forest or de-reserved section of a forest reserve, from the state or community, clearing forest on the land, and establishing an intensified plantation. While this production system is typically branded as ?intensification?, the model is characterized by large scale conversion of forests. Certification of production, e.g., by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), may mitigate some of the impacts of oil palm expansion on biodiversity?for example, through requirements to conserve high conservation value forest?but such efforts will be insufficient over the medium and long term when not integrated within broader, landscape level strategies.

2) *Expansion of low productivity smallholder agriculture*: Rapid expansion of low productivity, smallholder agriculture has been a major factor driving deforestation, habitat destruction, and loss of ecosystem health with far reaching socio-economic and ecological implications. Smallholders growing permanent tree crops, like cocoa and oil palm, typically establish plantations with low yields when they do not have suitable access to factors of production?land, capital, training on sustainable, productive practices, inputs including high quality seedlings and technology. Low-yield plantations combined with low-yield management practices by definition require larger areas to produce comparable levels of output. Smallholders also grow seasonal food crops (maize, cassava, and yam) in landscapes alongside cocoa and oil palm, where they again typically achieve only low levels of productivity, as reflected in national food production statistics showing low and declining yields of rice, sorghum, soya bean, cassava, and yam except for maize from 2015 to 2018, despite an increase in harvested area.[21][21] The expansionary nature and clearance of forests by these smallholders operates somewhat differently than with permanent crops like cocoa and oil palm. In this case, cultivation practices are typically characterized by high soil nutrient and organic matter losses. Once depleted, land is abandoned and left to fallow while new areas of forest are cleared, through slash and burn, to create new, fertile cultivation areas. As a result of these and other drivers, according to Nigeria?s Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme, 360,340 ha of forestland had shown declining productivity while 178,620 ha of forestland showed early signs of decline. The report also noted that the average soil organic carbon stock for the country is 37 ton/ha and estimated a total soil organic carbon loss of 1,307,187 tons due to changes of forest land to other land use.[22][22]

3) *Illegal and unstainable logging and extraction of fuelwood and charcoal production*: Illegal logging is a significant problem throughout the target landscapes, involving a variety of actors. Some state governments, including Delta and Ogun, have established task forces to combat illegal logging, but these have been hampered by lack of funding and personnel and governance issues.

More than 70% of Nigeria?s population depend on fuelwood and charcoal for energy,[23][23] particularly in rural, suburban and even urban areas. Rural and forest-dependent communities serve as hubs and sources of production of firewood and charcoal. The big cities and towns constitute the major markets

creating high demand. For southwestern and part of the Niger Delta, Lagos remains the biggest market for the fuelwood and charcoal business and other cities including Asaba, Sapele, Warri, Benin, Auchi, Ekpoma, Akure, Ondo town, Abeokuta, the increase in consumption can be attributed mainly to availability, accessibility and affordability of fuel wood against alternatives such as kerosene, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and solar that are relatively more expensive. Species commonly used for production of charcoal include Axle wood *(Anogeissus leiocarpus*), Shea tree *(Vitellaria paradoxa*), Satin wood (*Pericopsis laxiflora),* Pheasant berry *(Margaritaria discoidea),* Kosso *(Pterocarpus erinaceus),* Dwarf red ironwood *(Lophira lanceolata),* Bilinga *(Nauclea diderichii)* etc.[24][24] Charcoal production is a major cause of deforestation and also has other significant ecological and environmental consequences.

4) *Illegal hunting for bushmeat trade*: Illegal hunting remains prevalent, particularly within forest reserves in the landscape. For example, a recent survey at Idanre Forest Reserve[25][25] shows high levels of illegal hunting within the reserve. According to the survey, poaching activities were very high, with traps and snare counts ranking highest, along with spent cartridges and ash deposits from hunter?s fires. Target species include African forest elephant (Loxodonta cyclotis), Mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), Nigerian white throated monkey (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*), putty-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*), red-capped mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus*), and Maxwell?s Duiker (*Philantomba maxwellii*). Others are the brush-tailed porcupine and red river hog. Illegal hunting also persists at Okomu National Park.[26][26]

In addition to bushmeat hunting for consumption and sale, there is a significant, illegal live animal trade within the target landscapes. It is enabled by a network of hunters, middlemen and traders who capture, transport, and sell wildlife to local markets and larger cities.

A series of underlying factors combine to amplify the direct drivers of habitat and biodiversity loss. These include high population growth and increased pressure on land and forest ecosystems, poverty and limited livelihood options, and climate change.

Nigeria is experiencing many hazards related to climate change (Third National Communication, 2020), which are only expected to increase. In the Niger Delta region, precipitation shows a decreasing trend with a decrease in total annual precipitation ranging between -53mm/decade and -18mm/decade in the period 1971 to 2020[27][27]. At the same time, the number of days with extreme precipitation (P > 50 mm/day) per year has increased (Earth Map, 2020). Overall, climate change impacts are expected to exacerbate the impacts of human pressure on forest ecosystems and services they provide.

Barriers to effective conservation and sustainable use

Despite ongoing policy efforts aimed at addressing the above threats and associated underlying causes (see section on baseline projects below), a number of **barriers** continues to stand in the way of successful conservation of globally significant biodiversity within the project landscapes and analogous landscapes throughout Nigeria. These are summarized in the project?s theory of change (see **Figure 8**) and are described below.

1) *Compartmentalized agriculture, forest sector and conservation agendas*: Horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (level of government) compartmentalization of policy and implementation is an important barrier to improved forest and biodiversity management. At the federal level, agricultural policy focuses narrowly on agricultural success metrics and does not set tangible objectives for reducing forest loss or encouraging forest recovery within agricultural landscapes. For its part, forest policy is narrowly focused on protected areas?national parks, wildlife preserves, game reserves and forest reserves?without consideration given to broader, landscape-level issues. This kind of horizontal compartmentalization is replicated at state and local levels: management of natural resources (land, water resources, fisheries, forestry, wildlife, etc.) by state governments falls under often conflicting mandates of multiple state Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), which have few mechanisms for coordinated action. For their part, local governments and communities have limited capacity to harmonize agriculture, forest sector and conservation activities. Instead, their immediate needs are served by compartmentalized, ?top down? agricultural plans that have stronger budget lines than those available for sustainable forest management. Overall, the resulting siloed approach makes area-based planning and coordination very difficult, particularly where inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms are lacking.

2) *Policy, legal and institutional barriers*: Nigeria?s forestry and wildlife laws are outdated. Some laws, e.g., the 2020 forestry policy and the national strategy to combat wildlife crime from 2021 to 2025, have been updated (see baseline section below for details). However, governance issues within many government departments and agencies have hindered implementation of these and other laws. Inadequate budgetary allocations have undermined the activities of the forestry department. The neglect of forestry and wildlife policies within the country?s legislation has allowed illegal activities like logging and hunting to thrive with little or no enforcement by relevant authorities. The dysfunctional legal framework has encouraged people to encroach into forest reserves with impunity.

3) *Limited engagement of local communities / stakeholders in forest management*: Local Government Councils (LGCs) and local communities have the statutory responsibility to manage and control land use in the rural areas where most forest resources are found. In addition, by virtue of Section 36 of the Land Use Act, local communities and families in possession of rural lands in use for agricultural purposes prior to the enactment of the law remain the *de facto* owners of such lands. Consequently, most rural lands and associated renewable natural resources?including farmland, forest, water bodies, etc.?are under the control of communities and families, who govern the use of these resources through local laws and traditions. These local laws and traditions are often gender-biased, driving a wide gender gap between men and women in terms of access to and control of natural resources. This tends to raise vulnerability of women, women-headed households and their children to climate-related hazards.

4) *Planning-related barriers*: In the absence of land use plans within their governing frameworks, local communities degrade government-established forest reserves in search of farming land or fuelwood. The absence of land use plans has helped to enable deforestation across the target landscapes. Failure to effectively bring forests and other natural resources that are under the control of LGCs and communities under the umbrella of land use planning limits ILM coverage to government-acquired land?mainly forest reserves, national parks, and pockets of land acquired for other purposes?to the exclusion of substantial areas of community forests. Concerted outreach is essential in order to bridge this gap.

5) *Information-related barriers*: As noted above, addressing competing land uses and pressure on the remaining lowland forests and key biodiversity areas in the project landscapes requires an integrated, area-based management approach. However, creating such an approach is currently constrained by a variety of limitations on state and local technical capacities. Successful integration of multiple objectives across a landscape?including agricultural, forest and other sectoral objectives?requires diagnostic information, decision tools and a multi-stakeholder decision process, based on which plans and concrete targets can emerge. The types of information that are needed, and that are currently lacking, include clearly defined current and future scenario land use maps, High Conservation Value (HCV)/ High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest maps, agricultural data (particularly for cocoa and oil palm sectors), climate scenarios, restoration opportunity analysis and monitoring systems.

6) *Capacity-related barriers*: Implementation of area-based strategies and management requires a variety of capacities. In the case of forest protection, effective enforcement of laws intended to prevent poaching requires infrastructure, equipment, numbers, training, strategy and mobility, as well as to a variety of factors linked to policy design and implementation, awareness and governance. Meanwhile, within the production landscape, a comparable set of capacity constraints related to effective and sustainable production practices prevents local communities and stakeholders from effectively and efficiently utilizing the natural resources at their disposal in order to increase their incomes in a sustainable manner.

Within the landscapes? protected areas, the National Park Service and the Ministry of Environment under the Department of Forestry have the legal responsibility to monitor and manage activities. Forest guards and extension workers oversee the day-to-day activities of legal timber contractors and concessionaires and ensure the protection of reserve boundaries. Unfortunately, many of these personnel lack proper training and equipment to undertake these responsibilities effectively. Shortcomings in dedicated, skilled manpower and well-equipped field staff are contributing to the failure to address illegal activities taking place across the country?s forest reserves and PAs.

7) *Financial barriers*: According to the World Bank,**[28]**[28] Nigeria?s GDP per capita was US$2,097 in 2020. The federal government budget for 2023 totaled 21.8 trillion naira, or $47.4 billion. [29][29] While there are significant oil revenues, adequate funding for protected areas and related priorities remains a challenge. For example, out of the 21.8 trillion naira allocated in the 2023 national budget, the Federal Ministry of Environment, which includes forestry among its mandates, had a budget of only about 26.4 billion naira for recurrent expenditure and 21.3 billion for capital expenditure, which jointly amount to less than 1% of the national budget. However, the budget included approximately 38.8 billion naira worth of bilateral/multilateral loan-funded projects in the ministry. Issues related to awareness, incentives, and governance continue to affect budgeting decisions, while governance issues compound the effect on delivery of public sector services such as conservation. While some federal forestry programmes extend to community lands, funding for these programs is scarce, particularly in comparison to federal agricultural programs that, as noted, mostly ignore forest-related objectives.

8) *Knowledge barriers*: Overlapping with the above, given that knowledge is an important component of capacities, is a set of knowledge-related barriers that, again, undermine the implementation of good practices and effective plans. These barriers operate at multiple levels, constraining, at the micro level,

individuals who lack knowledge of good practices and, at the macro level, limiting collective capacities, whether led by Government or more broad-based coalitions, to implement solutions, all the way up to the scale of the landscape as a whole.

9) *Gender inequality and land tenure insecurity barriers*: In rural Nigeria, land and associated natural resources are largely governed by local laws and traditions, resulting in poorly defined land tenure and property rights (LTPRs) and insecure title *de jure*. This deprives most smallholder farmers of opportunities to leverage their farmland for financial capital and limits the adoption of new technologies.[30]30, [31]31 The insecurity of LTPRs is much worse among women[32]32 due to socio-cultural and religious systems that discriminate against them, leading to a significant and increasing gender gap in access to various forms of livelihood capital in Nigeria.[33]33 This gender inequality in LTPRs makes women more dependent on forests and other natural resources, leaving them more vulnerable to climate change and other natural hazards compared to men. These factors have a substantial negative impact on women?s livelihoods and food security in households headed by women. [34]34

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2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

This section describes baseline activities at national, state and target landscape levels

A. National-level policies, projects and baseline scenario

At **national level**, the following policies, programmes and commitments stand out, providing important elements of the institutional and policy baseline within which the above-described challenges facing Nigeria?s lowland forests and biodiversity are currently being addressed and upon which the present project will build:

1) *National Forest Policy (2020)*: A revised National Forest Policy (NFP) was approved by the Federal Executive Council in 2020, updating the previous policy which dated back to 2006. The policy identifies a number of priorities that are expected to translate into actions in the near future. Among the policy?s guiding principles are the following:

? Address the drivers of deforestation and forestland degradation, including overgrazing, extensive agricultural practices, mining, infrastructural development with the engagement of all stakeholders

? Mobilize the community and civil society organization in forestry development

? Promote partnership with the private sector and Civil Society Organisation(s)

? Promote biodiversity conservation and environmental functions of forest ecosystems.

The NFP goes on to identify a set of specific strategies for forest reserve management, several of which may be relevant to the present project. These include:

? Provide and implement forest management plans for each forest reserve

? Involve communities in the management of forest reserves with clearly defined roles and responsibilities

? Promote equitable benefit sharing and designate roles and responsibilities amongst stakeholders

? Protect the forest estate from fire and encroachment

? Encourage multiple-use concepts in the management of forest reserves

? Support the states to protect forests against deforestation and forestland degradation with strong community participation.

Regarding conservation of biodiversity, the NFP aims, *inter alia*, to: (1) develop *in-situ* conservation areas, (2) ensure enforcement of the National Wildlife Species Protection Act, and (3) establish partnerships with ?host communities around protected areas and offer conservation training, with a view to providing employment, alleviating poverty and effective empowerment.?

2) *REDD+ Strategy*: Nigeria?s National REDD+ Strategy is designed to be implemented in three phases over a 30-year period. Phases 1 and 2, each of which the present project will partially overlap with, have the following goals:

? Short-term Goal, to be achieved in the first five years of implementing the strategy (2021 ? 2025), involves the strategic improvement of institutions and governance systems, as well as spatial plans and the investment environment, in order to fulfil Nigeria?s national commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic growth.

? Medium-term Goal, for the 10 years following the short-term goal period (2026 ? 2035), is aimed at achieving the implementation of governance systems in line with policies, measures and procedures developed by relevant institutions at the national and sub-national levels, and their application to the spatial and financial mechanisms developed and established in the previous phase, to achieve a targeted 20 percent reduction in emissions by 2035.

By 2020, with support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), six Nigerian states?including three of the four project states (Edo, Ondo, and Ogun)?had entered the full-fledged REDD+ readiness process, joining Cross River State[35][35], where readiness efforts had commenced with the support of UN-REDD in 2010.[36][36] State-level activities in Edo, Ondo and Ogun are discussed below.

3) *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan*: The NBSAP includes five national goals, all of which are relevant to the present project. These are:

? National Goal 1: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity into national planning and societal values

? National Goal 2: Reduce the direct pressures on Nigeria?s biodiversity resources and promote sustainable use.

? National Goal 3: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

? National Goal 4: Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services to all.

? National Goal 5: Promote participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building as an integral part of implementation of biodiversity management

4) *Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):* Nigeria submitted its First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in July 2021 to UNFCCC, following the submission of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2017. In the NDC, Nigeria identified the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector as the second largest contributor to Greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, with emissions from the AFOLU sector amounting to 25% of total GHG in 2018. Most relevant among the NDC strategies proposed for GHG mitigation within Nigeria?s AFOLU sector are:

- Promoting climate smart agriculture (CSA), with emphasis on agroforestry, residue retention, and intermittent aeration of rice paddy fields;
- Improved natural forest management in areas totalling 128,528 ha of natural forests in the southern belt and southwest quadrant;
- Forest restoration covering 115,584 ha of degraded forest across the southern belt, southwest quadrant and savanna; and
- Increased forest protection covering 46,219 ha throughout the country
- Reduction of 19,346 ha of area of forestland used for fuelwood harvest.

There are currently few concrete actions being taken at the national, State, LGC or community levels to deliver on the NDC targets.

5) *Presidential Tree Planting Initiative*: This initiative was established in order to deliver on President Buhari?s commitment, made at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Climate Change Summit, to plant 25 million trees in Nigeria. It was the president?s ?hope that the planted tree species would be properly utilized to mitigate biodiversity loss and climate change and improve the nation?s natural habitats.? The initiative also aims to get youth involved in tree planting activities.

The Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) has been tasked with coordinating this initiative, as a part of which it has been investing in tree seedling plantations/nurseries in several states. Current

production capacity nationally exceeds five million seedlings per year of mainly native tree species, a significant proportion of which is in the project states.[37][37]

6) *Agricultural Development Programs (ADPs)*: All four states have ADPs that provide extension services to smallholder farmers through a field school approach. The focus of each program is broadly on ?increasing food production and raising the incomes of smallholder farmers?. Each ADP extends technical assistance services through extension to all LGAs in each state. During project preparation, it was noted that one of the primary barriers to improving extension support in general was a lack of ?training and capacity building?. With respect to promoting climate smart agriculture, the two state ADPs reported minimal involvement, and noted their need for support in training personnel in these innovative approaches and practices.

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In summary, the initiatives, commitments and frameworks described above provide a well-developed national policy and programmatic framework for biodiversity conservation and forest protection and restoration. However, as discussed in the barriers section above, capacities to implement these initiatives remain limited. In particular, successful examples of area-based integration and coordination are lacking. Under the baseline scenario, these shortcomings can be expected to persist.

B. State, local and landscape-level policies, projects and baseline scenarios

At **state, local and landscape levels**, the following policies, programmes and commitments stand out, providing important elements of the institutional and policy baseline within which the above-described challenges facing Nigeria?s lowland forests and biodiversity are currently being addressed and upon which the present project will build:

1) *Protected area management in Okomu priority landscape*: Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation is actively engaged in conservation efforts in the Okomu landscape. They have signed a 30-year Partnership Agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to protect and develop Okomu National Park and a 30-year agreement with the Edo State Government for a Biodiversity Conservation and Eco-Tourism Concession, covering Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve and the southern section of Okomu Forest Reserve, spanning 1,000 square kilometers.

Since May 2022, 40 local community rangers have been recruited, trained, and equipped to patrol and combat illegal activities like logging, encroachment, and poaching in Okomu National Park in addition to the existing 81 Park Rangers in Okomu NP. The Arakhuan camp is being upgraded to serve as a base for ranger operations. For the remainder of 2023, plans include demarcating the southern boundary of Okomu National Park, improving road access, and conducting joint waterway patrols with the Edo State Government. Socio-economic surveys will be conducted in Okomu and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves to inform a livelihood intervention strategy, including agricultural support, agro-forestry, agri-processing, and education. A vegetation analysis will inform a wildlife corridor establishment with farmers and explore carbon credits through tree planting.

Eco-tourism and carbon credits are being assessed as potential sustainable financing sources for activities in the Okomu landscape. Beyond 2023, protection activities are expected to be extended to

southern Okomu and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves, with technical cooperation planned between ANI and the Edo State Government in ranger training and tree planting in other forest reserves.

ANI has partnered with local communities to establish Savings and Loans Groups focused on sustainable Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) harvesting, processing, and marketing, ensuring conservation aligns with community development.

2) *Protected area management in Omo priority landscape*: Omo Forest Reserve receives support from Ogun State Government. The area is protected by 209 rangers consisting of 198 from Ogun State government while 10 and 1 are locally employed scouts funded by Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) respectively. These rangers protect a relatively small area in and around the SNR and Erin Camp but have been powerless to address logging and illegal farming within broader areas of the reserve. The Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) is responsible for the SNR itself, although they lack capacity for regular patrols. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) provided limited training for the Omo rangers in 2019.

NCF?s overall objective at Omo Forest Reserve is to protect the area?s biodiversity, foster community engagement and promote responsible environmental management. Ongoing efforts encompass a wide range of activities aimed at safeguarding its natural resources, includes surveillance patrols conducted with the help of 10 Community Scouts and six Forest Guards. NCF has re-established boundaries to enhance protection efforts and the integrity of the proposed Omo Wildlife Sanctuary. Its Education Team visits schools and communities, teaching environmental education weekly, and has established Conservation Clubs to enhance awareness and public engagement. They also conduct research and biological monitoring of fauna and flora, work on livelihood enhancement, and promote nature interpretation and ecotourism development. NCS has established a Steering Committee for Omo Forest Reserve and works with stakeholders like FRIN and KOIKA to enhance conservation efforts there.

3) *Other biodiversity conservation efforts*: In addition to its work in the Niger Delta,[38][38] the Foundation for the Sustainability of Ecosystem, Wildlife, and Climate (also known as SW/Niger Delta Forest Project) maintains a regional office in Ondo State where, beginning over a decade ago, it had proposed the creation of strict conservation areas in the Idanre Forest Cluster. The ?Cluster? was a number of administratively separate forest reserves with shared boundaries and included eight contiguous forest reserves, mainly in Ondo State, with shared boundaries. The aim was to protect chimpanzee and forest elephant populations. In 2013-14, the organization proposed the establishment of a conservation management landscape of about 438.7km2 in the Idanre forest cluster (180km2 in Akure-Ofosu forest reserve, 198.4km2 in Idanre forest reserve and 60.3km2 as a conservation area to ensure habitat connectivity), which it offered to help manage during its initial five years following its establishment. While its proposals were not acted upon by the State Government, the foundation did carry out regular monitoring of known chimpanzee populations and other critical wildlife species in these forests through 2021. Its chimpanzee monitoring and research efforts helped to bridge the information gap that existed on the genetic linkage of chimpanzees in SW Nigeria?a feat sought for about 20 years prior by primatologists from Europe and the U.S. By collecting genetic samples from wild chimpanzee populations, it was able to determine the evolutionary relationships of the chimpanzee population, which revealed that they form a distinct group from *Pan troglodytes ellioti*, a sub-species

found in Nigeria and Cameroon subspecies?a finding that has reinforced the importance of preserving representative groups of this great ape

4) *Initiatives for sustainable palm oil production*: In Edo State, the Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI) has supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform, through which state-level elements of the National Initiative for Sustainable Climate Smart Oil Palm Smallholder (NISCOPS) are being delivered. The platform aims to address challenges affecting the livelihoods of smallholder producers in the region, who have struggled with low productivity and low profits in the production of fresh fruit bunches (FFBs), which has created incentives to expand, rather than intensify, production. Edo State is thus making smallholder development an integral part of concession allocations to companies. Finally, the Edo platform is developing guidelines for Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) to ensure full engagement of indigenous peoples and local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). There have been discussions about expanding the platform into a regional one by including Ondo and four other states.[39][39]

Within the Okomu priority landscape, Okomu Palm Oil Company, in cooperation with IDH?s Sustainable Trade Initiative, aims to integrate 5,000 smallholder farmers into their supply chain to fulfil their processing capacity needs while investing in the local economy.[40][40] To this end, IDH has supported the development of a service delivery model (SDM) analysis in order to assess ?supply chain structures that provide farmers with services such as training, access to inputs, finance, and information. SDMs can sustainably increase the performance of farms while providing a business opportunity for the service provider.? The analysis is meant to ?inform the design of an inclusive, sustainable and commercially viable smallholder palm oil program managed by the Okomu Oil Palm Company in Edo State, Nigeria.?[41][41] This work falls under IDH?s NISCOPS, which is a partnership between the NGO Solidaridad and IDH designed to support stakeholders to meet the Paris Agreement commitments. The work is also supported by 2SCALE, which serves as an ?incubator and accelerator program? with a portfolio of public private partnerships for inclusive businesses in agro-food sectors and industries.

The processes supported by these organizations has so far resulted in increased adoption of RSPO management requirements at state level (e.g., Edo State) and by at least five companies in the region.[42][42]

5) *REDD+ initiatives*: As noted above, three of the target States?Ondo, Ogun, and Edo?are participating in the REDD+ programme, and have functional REDD+ units established with a full complement of staff. In recent years, personnel from the States? REDD+ Units have participated in various activities and workshops, including a stakeholders? workshop on the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for Nigeria, REDD+ retreats, field training and data collection techniques on National Forest Carbon Inventory and capacity development training to develop the skills of the participants in management of performance-based projects. Funds for REDD+ activities usually come either directly from international financing schemes, particularly the World Bank-coordinated Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), or from the Federal government. There is also an ongoing effort

by the National REDD+ Secretariat to assist some of the REDD+ States in Nigeria?including Edo, Ogun and Ondo?to secure funding for a jurisdictional REDD+ project called the J-REDD Facility by Mercuria.[43][43] Finally, each participating State Government is directly responsible for the recurrent expenditure of the State?s REDD+ Secretariat, including personnel and other operational costs, which have been mainstreamed into the regular annual budgetary systems of the States? governments

In parallel with the national coordination mechanism, participating states are also setting up mechanisms for governance at state level, including State Technical Committees, Stakeholders? Sub-committees, State Climate Change Committees, MRV Sub-Committees, State REDD+ Stakeholders? Forums, Safeguard Working Groups and Forest Management Committees. At local level, additional bodies are being established, including representatives of local governments, NGOs, civil society, academia, the private sector, local communities, and traditional authorities working in the field of environment and forestry or other natural resource management.[44][44]

6) Local Government Councils, community-level forestry and related NGO support: By virtue of the Land Use Act of the Nigerian constitution, Local Government Councils (LGCs) across the Federation are vested with responsibility for management and allocation of all lands in the rural areas that have not been designated for Federal or State use. These generally include community forests and agricultural areas. However, according to stakeholder consultations conducted during the PPG, most LGCs lack financial resources and institutional capacities to play a meaningful role in these areas. Hence, most community forest areas are managed/used by traditional institutions under their native customs and practices, which some argue contributes to more sustainable management and conservation of biodiversity.[45][45] This includes designation of some forests as groves/sacred forests, with indigenous traditional knowledge, beliefs and cultural systems observed to enhance nature conservation. Like other baseline efforts, these need to be fully incorporated within overall biodiversity conservation strategies in Nigeria.[46][46]

With the increasing recognition of the importance of forest and biodiversity conservation, there are growing numbers of NGOs across the four States involved with initiatives to promote tree planting and community sensitization on biodiversity conservation. These include, *inter alia*, GROWIT, Mega Impact Foundation, Fight Against Desert Encroachment (FADE Africa), 2Scale, Bernadette Strebel, Sepa, Da-Silva Foundation, Necor, Netlink, Gloseed Foundation, and Genuine Care and Impact Initiative, each of which is engaged in advocacy and other actions in the project landscape and/or states.

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In summary, the initiatives and structures described above are providing a baseline of support for biodiversity conservation and forest protection and restoration within the project landscapes. However, as was case for national-level initiatives (see also the barriers section above), capacities to implement these initiatives remain limited. In particular, successful examples of area-based integration and coordination are lacking. Under the baseline scenario, these shortcomings can be expected to persist,

with the result being continuing loss of biodiversity, including globally significant species and ecosystems.

3) The proposed alternative scenario and description of components

The project?s theory of change identifies a complex set of *problems* facing Nigeria?s lowland forest biodiversity. Multiple drivers are underlying a rapid rate of deforestation and forest degradation, causing habitat loss for globally significant fauna, together with direct depletion of globally significant and other wildlife due to uncontrolled hunting. As environmental impacts mount and multiple ecosystem services formerly provided by forest ecosystems decline rapidly, economic and socio-economic costs are increasingly felt, particularly by women and other vulnerable groups. Dwindling stocks and flows of natural capital create a downward spiral for local communities which find themselves in increasingly desperate circumstances?ones further exacerbated by local conflicts, insecurity and increasing impacts from climate change.

Attempts to address the above problems face a challenging and intertwined set of *barriers* to change. Governmental capacities to support local populations?whether in terms of establishing basic conditions of security, creating and implementing an effective policy enabling environment or providing technical support and extension and education to rural populations?remain limited by funding, technical and governance constraints. Policy agendas that are often carefully formulated and approved at high levels tend to be compartmentalized, both vertically and horizontally, limiting their effectiveness. Gender barriers constrain women?s abilities on multiple levels.

The project identifies four *solution areas* that need to operate synergistically in order to address the above barriers. First, integrated landscape policy, planning and management will be put in place within two priority landscapes centred on key remaining protected areas in order to break down management silos and ensure full participation of local communities. Second, improved conservation planning and management will help to raise the effectiveness of protected areas and increase their financial sustainability. Third, sustainable and, where appropriate, intensified forms of agricultural, agro-forestry and NTFP production will be supported, aimed at raising local incomes while reducing forest dependence.

Under the fourth solution area / component, ideas, innovations and knowledge will be actively disseminated to encourage their rapid diffusion and uptake at larger scales. This critical element of the project aims to ensure its significance well beyond the project?s two **priority landscapes** and across much wider **replication landscapes** (see **Figure 1** above). A key element of the project?s theory of change is the weaving together of these two geographic levels of action, the latter reflected in the development, under Outcome 1.2, of a detailed assessment, vision and action plan at this expanded scale.

The project?s theory of change (see **Figure 4** below) places the above outcomes within a broader context of threats, challenges, impacts.

As per STAP Guidance, the theory of change reflects experience and lessons learned by a broad range of GEF and other projects, as captured in a number of guidance documents and project and programme evaluations.[47][47] Key strategic elements thereby identified and incorporated into the project?s theory of change include the following:

? The need for a landscape-level approach integrating management of protected areas with management of surrounding productive landscape: This approach, a key element of GEF-8 Programming guidance, is designed to enhance connectivity and to integrate protected areas into broader strategies for sustainable development. The project follows this logic by integrating direct support to biodiversity conservation through strengthening protected area management (Component 2), with integrated landscape planning (Component 1) and support for sustainable livelihoods (Component 3) and knowledge acquisition (Component 4).

? The importance of taking a wider, biome-level approach to conservation, where the global benefits accruing at site level can immediately be applied and extended at larger scales: The project strategy focuses on a core area of Nigerian lowland forest biome, and aims to stimulate and extend lessons being learned at priority landscapes within this broader biome, a.k.a. replication landscape. This effort will be further strengthened through a biome-level strategy and action plan (see Outcome 1.2) The goal will be to enhance the viability of what are otherwise increasingly isolated and fragmented refugia while encouraging wider, accelerated adoption of transformative strategies.[48][48]

? *Tailored strategies for addressing commodity-driven deforestation*: As developed under the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP)[49][49] and then GEF-7 FOLUR, landscape-level approaches are well adapted to tackling situations of commodity-driven deforestation. In the case of the present project, landscapes encompass significant areas of oil palm, rubber and cacao production. Expansion of these plantation areas, as well as demand-driven impacts on nearby smallholders, are crucial drivers of deforestation that need in the first instance, to be channeled and harmonized with the needs for conservation, including responding to persisting encroachment into protected areas. Integrated landscape management (Component 1) and support to smallholder producers (Component 3) will support this approach.

? *The importance of incorporating supply-side incentives*: A recent review of project experience in West Africa[50][50] highlights the critical importance of supply side incentives in efforts to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity by inducing behavioral changes facing local communities and other stakeholders. Project success thus depends on taking into account the socio-economic interests of local populations, including potential transitional costs (see below). The review also notes that, ?human capital deficiencies? can be an important barrier to establishment of diversified livelihoods. In line with this finding, under Components 3 and 4, the project will seek to build skills and knowledge needed for such diversification.

? *The critical need for stakeholder engagement, participation and relationship building at all levels*: Reviews of SFM projects[51][51] in particular have highlighted the following key elements, all of which are being followed by the present project: conducting a stakeholder analysis at the beginning of the project; regularly communicating with key stakeholders (especially in their local language); holding stakeholder workshops; clearly identifying roles and responsibilities of project partners; and using a participatory approach with local communities.

? The importance of a robust monitoring framework, including quantitative indicators, as a way of measuring impact and the process of transformation: GEF experience has demonstrated the need for strong M&E design and implementation in mainstreaming projects, including quantitative measurement of biophysical and socioeconomic impacts.[52][52] Projects like the IAP Production project[53][53] have pioneered tools like the Landscape Accounting Framework, aimed at measuring impacts across larger geographic scales, which may serve as a model for the project under Outcome 1.2. In addition, programmatic evaluations have shown the need to identify and analyze benefits and trade-offs between socio-economic and ecological outcomes, including potential transitional costs, as key determinants of long-term success.[54][54]

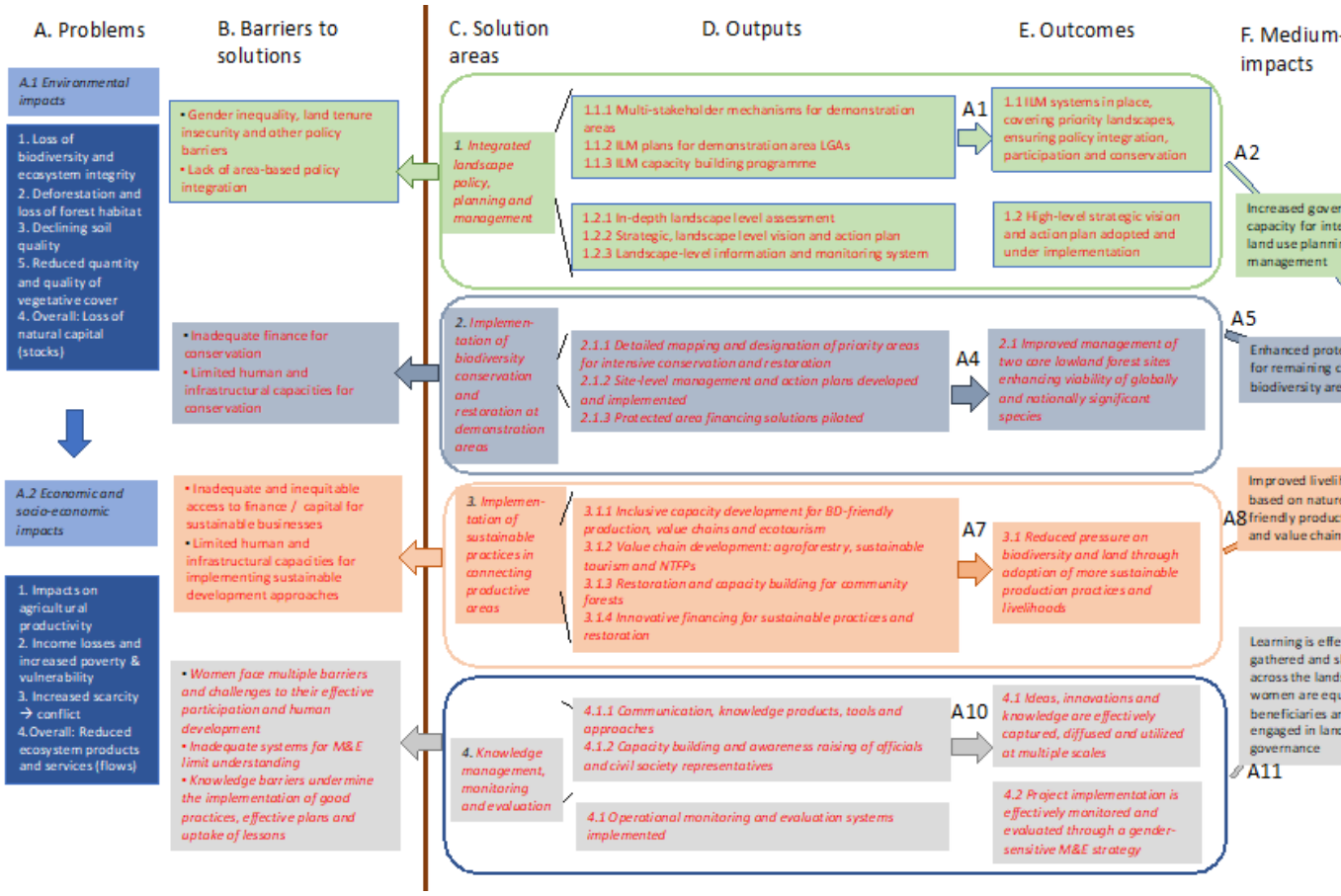

Figure 4: Project Theory of Change

Component 1: Integrated landscape policy, planning and management

Outcome 1.1: *Inclusive integrated landscape management (ILM) plans are in place, enabling conservation and sustainable management of important lowland forest landscapes.*

Under this outcome, participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive ILM plans will be developed and implemented to strengthen biodiversity conservation and connectivity, and sustainable management and use of land and forest resources across the landscapes, in an integrated manner. The project will provide technical assistance to: 1) establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms for ILM; 2) develop ILM plans for the two priority landscapes; and 3) capacity building.

Output 1.1.1 *Multi-stakeholder mechanisms established for participatory development and coordinated implementation of biodiversity conservation and ILM within two priority landscapes*

These mechanisms, or platforms, will be designed to integrate biodiversity conservation and coordinated implementation of ILM within the priority landscapes. This will include representatives of the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) included in the landscapes, namely Ovia South-West and Ovia North-East in the Okomu landscape Ijebu East and Ijebu North LGAs in the Omo landscape.

Platforms will provide forums for engagement with, and among, key public and private sector stakeholders and representatives from participating local communities and civil society. Special attention will be paid to ensuring full representation of women, youth and vulnerable groups. The platforms will contribute to, and ensure coordination and participation in, landscape-level planning processes (see Output 1.1.2) designed to ensure biodiversity conservation across each of the landscapes. In each case, they will build on and aim to strengthen, existing mechanisms. Finally, they will provide an opportunity for protected area managers to demonstrate and raise awareness of the importance of conservation among representatives of communities and officials surrounding the core conservation areas, including their actual and potential contributions to local economies.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.1.1: Validate / update stakeholder mapping and analysis conducted during the PPG to further specify key public and private sector stakeholders and representatives within each priority landscape and to elaborate their potential roles.

Activity 1.1.1.2: Develop landscape- and state-level communications and outreach plans to engage with key stakeholders and generate awareness and participation in the multi-stakeholder mechanisms.

Activity 1.1.1.3 Organize and facilitate a series of multi-stakeholder workshops to build consensus around landscape-level conservation priorities and any needed modifications to baseline platforms (e.g. new technical committees).

Activity 1.1.1.4 Establish partnerships with relevant private sector actors, including agribusinesses, to promote sustainable practices and conservation of biodiversity within the landscape.

Activity 1.1.1.5 Support platforms as they provide oversight / monitoring to formulation and implementation of ILM plans, ensuring the input and perspectives of all stakeholders and alignment with national and international conservation targets and policies.

Output 1.1.2 *ILM plans developed for two priority landscapes*

Based on a combination of remote sensing data analysis and ground truthing efforts, along with survey data concerning local livelihoods, gender and other social aspects, landscape-level biodiversity, habitat and social assessments, integrated landscape management plans will be developed for the two priority landscapes., in a participatory manner that ensures local community participation and buy in ? and equitable participation of women, youth and vulnerable groups. The plans will be developed in close coordination with emerging state-level REDD+ and oil palm platforms and other coordination mechanisms in order to ensure buy-in and compliance from stakeholders in these areas, including local communities and private sector interests.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.2.1: Building on PPG work, conduct detailed socio-economic and biodiversity assessments of each demonstration site, including biodiversity, ecosystem services, challenges and opportunities

Activity 1.1.2.2: Engage with all stakeholders (via platforms being supported under 1.1.1) to determine interests and roles in ILM implementation and to build ownership of the plan

Activity 1.1.2.3: Analyze the political economy of land use and landscape management in the sites, and determine gaps in state policies, legislations, and guidelines needed for effective ILM, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation

Activity 1.1.2.4: Conduct a spatial planning exercise, leading to identification / agreement on priority areas for restoration, conservation, PA expansion, agricultural intensification and sustainable management efforts

Activity 1.1.2.5: Prepare an overall ILM plan that clearly delineates the roles of each participating LGA

Activity 1.1.2.6: Ensure adoption of ILM plans and integration of key responsibilities into individual LGA planning mechanisms

Activity 1.1.2.7: Support updating/revision of policies, regulations and guidelines on lands, agriculture, forestry, environment, trade, and gender needed to remove barriers to ILM, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation.

Output 1.1.3 *Inclusive ILM capacity building program targeting key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders across the two priority landscapes*

Capacity assessments undertaken during the PPG phase will be further refined as details of the planned actions emerge, in order to optimize the delivery of capacity building support. Key technical areas for capacity building are expected to include: (1) monitoring, data collection and management; (2) protected area management, particularly the role of local communities; (3) conflict resolution.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.1.3.1: Building on work conducted during the PPG, to assess the current capacity of both governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in landscape management in each state, identifying gaps and areas where capacity building is most needed.

Activity 1.1.3.2: Based on the results of the capacity assessment, develop a comprehensive training program on integrated landscape management and deliver to relevant government agencies, civil

society organizations, and community groups. The training will be designed to build skills in integrated landscape planning, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation

Outcome 1.2: *A high-level strategic vision and action plan for conservation of Nigeria?s core lowland forest ecoregion is adopted by four participating states and is supporting scale-up, harmonization and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation action across the ecoregion.*

In order to support a transformative outcome reaching well beyond the priority landscapes, the project will provide parallel support for a larger-scale action plan for biodiversity conservation covering the core lowland forest ecoregion (1,260,622 ha). It will aim, *inter alia*, to stimulate further investment in conservation, SLM and SFM, including community forestry, in line with the models and lessons being generated at the priority landscapes. Cross-fertilization between this broader landscape level of action and work at the priority landscapes will be an important feature.

Output 1.2.1*: In-depth core eco-region-level biodiversity assessment*

The assessment will employ a multi-faceted approach combining field surveys, remote sensing, and analysis of available historical data in scientific literature, anecdotal reports from local interviews and stakeholder consultations. Field surveys will involve expert-led teams conducting species inventories, identifying and documenting flora and fauna, and assessing ecological parameters. Remote sensing techniques, such as satellite imagery and aerial surveys, will be utilized to gather landscape-level data on habitat types, forest cover, and land use patterns. The collected data will be analyzed using advanced statistical methods and modeling techniques to assess biodiversity patterns, identify key ecological hotspots, and evaluate the overall health and conservation status of the lowland forest biome landscape. In addition, a synthesis report and widespread public dissemination will be supported under Outcome 4.1.

Building on work done during the PPG, the project will support the preparation of a comprehensive assessment of the current status of remaining lowland forests in the core of the ecoregion, including their biodiversity, ecosystem services and threats to their conservation. Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.2.2.1: Confirm the occurrence, status, distribution and dispersal of critical biodiversity features; flora, fauna and habitats of global, regional or national significance (e.g., endemism, IUCN red list status, refugia) will be systematically recorded;

Activity 1.2.2.2: Assess habitat types and quality, with emphasis on areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situation, i.e., areas that function as natural barriers to the spread of fire and areas that are important for the prevention of erosion and sedimentation.

Activity 1.2.2.3: Gather and collate on-site evidence of threats i.e., anthropogenic activities that threaten survival of species and habitats;

Activity 1.2.2.4: Investigate activity patterns and conservation management approaches by mapping land use, access, rights and claims;

Activity 1.2.2.5: Determine administrative authority over key forest areas via broad and inclusive consultations with local communities and government officials and by accessing archived records of the relevant ministry e.g. gazettes, policy documents etc.

Activity 1.2.2.6: Identify conditions for habitat connectivity and feasibility for establishing habitat corridors for species conservation action plans. The assessment will consider the vegetation within forest patches and diversity of habitat types for key species whose landscape-level conservation are critical. Also, habitat suitability will be determined by using Ecological Niche Modelling (ENMs) for species of high conservation importance.

Activity 1.2.2.7: Derive and assess alternative potential conservation management strategies for monitoring, maintaining and enhancing habitat connectivity.

Output 1.2.2 *A strategic, core eco-region-level biodiversity vision and action plan*

Based on the results of the A strategic biodiversity visioning exercise will help harmonize, guide and/or reflect efforts in all four within-state portions of the replication landscape. In doing so, the project will demonstrate practical approaches that states can use to work together to address shared environmental challenges. This will include strengthened commitments by the four participating states to addressing threats like illegal logging and hunting. Development of the vision and action plan, and oversight of its implementation, will take place under the auspices of a landscape-level, multi-stakeholder platform, possibly under a technical committee to be established for this purpose.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.2.2.1: Develop a draft strategic biodiversity vision and action plan outlining the major objectives, targets, and actions needed to conserve and restore the lowland forests of the four states, based on a participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders, including state and local government representatives, traditional authorities, private sector actors, and civil society organizations. The plan should include identification of additional[55][55] priority areas for restoration, conservation and SLM / SFM efforts

Activity 1.2.2.2: Conduct stakeholder workshops to present and discuss the draft strategic biodiversity vision document with key stakeholders to provide an opportunity for feedback and inputs and help to build consensus around the vision and its priorities.

Activity 1.2.2.3: Refine the draft strategic biodiversity vision document based on feedback from the stakeholder workshop, and finalize it for endorsement by the four state governments. This would involve technical reviews and consultations with state government agencies and other stakeholders.

Activity 1.2.2.4: Organize a high-level meeting or summit of the four state governors to formally endorse the strategic biodiversity vision document and commit to its implementation over a 10-year period. This would provide a platform for the governors to reaffirm their commitment to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in their respective states, and to coordinate their actions towards the shared goal of conserving the region?s remaining lowland forests

Output 1.2.3 *Eco-region-level information and monitoring system*

A core eco-region-level monitoring system will be established to harmonize geo-spatial data collection and to ensure data sharing within the defined area, in line with the key indicators of biodiversity intactness. A publicly accessible online platform will be developed to ensure transparency and sharing

of data. Data gathering techniques, including the use of camera traps and systems for bioacoustic monitoring will be piloted at select locations, in cooperation with local NGOs.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 1.2.3.1: Building on indicators developed for the results framework, develop a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators for long-term tracking of biome-level change, including land use and land use change, habitat loss, biodiversity health indices, and other relevant parameters, covering the lowland forest biome.

Activity 1.2.3.2: Develop a standardized framework that outlines objectives, indicators, and methods for data collection, analysis and reporting. The framework would be based on best practices, adapted to the specific context of the participating states and focused on key targets of the strategic vision / action plans.

Activity 1.2.3.3: Engage key stakeholders, including representatives from government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to gather input on the design of the monitoring system, in coordination with the landscape-level platform (see Output 1.1.1.1).

Activity 1.2.3.4: Develop a publicly accessible online platform to share data collected through the monitoring system to allow stakeholders and the general public to access, visualize and download the data for research, conservation planning and management purposes

Component 2: Implementation of biodiversity conservation and restoration in priority landscapes

Outcome 2.1: *Core biodiversity areas in the landscapes are better protected, connected and effectively managed*

Under Component 2, the project will invest in improved protected area management, biodiversity conservation and targeted restoration in the two priority landscapes. This will be based on initial landscape-level biodiversity assessments, assessing remaining forest cover, presence of globally significant biodiversity and opportunities for restoration. Opportunities to conserve and enhance / restore the connectivity of forest fragments will be among the options to be identified.

Site-specific conservation, restoration and sustainable use plans will be developed and implementation begun, under the aegis of the ILM plans developed under component 1 above. The process will engage local communities, including women and youth and vulnerable, at each step along the way; in particular, community conservation areas (CCAs) will be supported wherever feasible.

Work under this component will provide incremental support to, and work in close cooperation with, Government and NGO partners leading baseline activities in the landscapes and protected areas . These will include: (i) the National Park Service (NPS), which is the executing entity for the project as a whole and is co-managing Okomu National Park; (ii) Africa Nature Investors (ANI), which has co-management agreements covering Okomu National Park, the southern portion of Okomu forest reserve and Gilli-Gilli forest reserve, and; (iii) Nigeria Conservation Foundation, which is managing the Omo elephant conservation area located in the northern section of Omo Forest Reserve.

Output 2.1.1 *Detailed mapping and designation of priority areas for intensive conservation and restoration efforts within priority landscapes, including Okomu National Park and Omo and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves*

This output will complement, and provide an increased level of granularity compared to, the larger-scale, i.e. core eco-region level, assessment being prepared under Outcome 1.2.1 above. As with all of the project?s data gathering and assessment work, it will also feed into the project?s landscape-level information and monitoring network. It will include consultations with relevant stakeholders aimed at increasing participation, buy in and ongoing support. Finally, the work will serve as the information basis for site-level management and action plans to be developed under Output 2.1.2 below.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.1.1: Validate, extend and update the PPG desk review of existing biodiversity data and maps across the sites, to assess threats, identify gaps and prioritize areas for field-level assessment / ground truthing

Activity 2.1.1.2: Collect and analyse satellite data to understand current forest cover and to identify potential connectivity corridors and buffer zones

Activity 2.1.1.3: Conduct field surveys to collect additional data on forest cover, biodiversity, and threats across the priority landscapes, using standardized methods designed to be inter-comparable with those being utilized across the broader landscape under Output 2.2.1. Use of camera traps, and analysis of resulting data, will be supported

Activity 2.1.1.4: Analyse collected data to identify priority areas for conservation, threat reduction and restoration, including the identification and mapping of core areas, buffer zones, and connectivity corridors

Activity 2.1.1.5: Engage with local communities and relevant stakeholders throughout the process, to solicit input on proposed priority actions and to build support for specific conservation efforts, including local participation

Activity 2.1.1.6: Develop local monitoring protocols for priority areas to assess changes in biodiversity and threats over time

Output 2.1.2 *Site-level management and action plans developed and implementation initiated.*

Continuing to work in parallel with the overall landscape plans developed under Component 1, the project will work with partners, including ANI and ONP at Okomu and NCF and the State Forest Department at Omo FR, to develop and implement action plans for conservation and restoration of each of the prioritized protected areas.[56][56] Once approved by the Project Steering Committee, these site-level action plans will be directly supported by the GEF project, including identified co-financing.[57][57] Among thematic areas to be supported are the following:

(i) Threat removal / stabilization strategies: This would include the development and implementation of plans to address illegal hunting and logging, agricultural encroachment and overharvesting of NTFPs.

(ii) Biodiversity monitoring and species recovery plans: Priority species being targeted across the two priority landscapes would include forest elephants, pangolins, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, red capped mangabey monkey, white throated guenon monkey, forest buffalo, yellow backed duiker, African grey parrot, and yellow casqued hornbill.

(iii) Capacity building of protected area personnel: Training, equipment and enhanced infrastructure (including lodging / camps) would be provided for enhanced patrolling, monitoring and threat reduction measures.

(iv) Pre-feasibility studies for ecotourism:[58][58] Over time, as management of protected areas at the two sites improves, opportunities for ecotourism and to capture non-consumptive use value of forest biodiversity at the sites, will begin to emerge. The relative proximity of sizeable and growing urban areas such as Benin City and Lagos serve to underlie this potential. As an initial step in this direction, the project will undertake pre-feasibility analysis of ecotourism potential at both of the priority landscapes.

(v) Ecosystem restoration, e.g., through naturally assisted regeneration: The project will provide incremental support to existing restoration initiatives, including those being undertaken under the Presidential Tree Planting Initiative (PTPI). Selection of native species and locations within protected areas would be aimed at maximizing biodiversity and benefits. In particular, the selection of specific locations for restoration would be made in the context of broader plans being developed under Output 1.1.2 to ensure that such efforts are taking advantage of opportunities to enhance connectivity. Lessons being learned by the GEF-7 FOLUR project, particularly in Ondo State, would be applied here as they emerge, while newly learned lessons by the present project would likewise be made available for replication across the broader landscape and wherever the Presidential Tree Planting Initiative (PTPI) is implemented. Co-operation with, and co-financing from, FRIN is also envisaged here.

In all cases, local communities will be engaged and empowered to participate fully in, and benefit from, conservation actions.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.2.1: Engage with local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including awareness raising and capacity building, to support participation in the development and implementation of conservation and restoration plans for: (a) the Elephant Conservation Area in the Omo FR; (b) Okomu National Park and (c) Gilli-Gilli FR. Examples might include seed collection and seedling production and other NTFP collection.

Activity 2.1.2.2: Build operational capacities of protected area personnel through provision of relevant equipment, infrastructure and training, including: (i) construction of two park/ranger facilities (one ach at Okomu and Omo) , including water, solar power and diesel backup, satellite internet and GSM booster; (ii) ranger patrol kits, including uniforms, backpacks, etc.; (iii) Ultra-high Frequency (UHF) communication systems, including towers, antenna, repeaters and hand-held radios; (iv) initial training course delivered to rangers, followed by annual refresher training.

Activity 2.1.2.3: With support of newly capacitated ranger teams, develop and implement threat reduction strategies, including illegal hunting and logging, agricultural encroachment, and

overharvesting of NTFPs in core areas and corridors, as well as biological monitoring for contributing to site- and landscape-level information systems.

Activity 2.1.2.4: Develop and implement Strategic Management Plans which will identify, *inter alia*, KPIs and monitoring protocols.

Activity 2.1.2.5: Develop and begin implementation of species recovery plans covering forest elephants, pangolins, Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee, red capped mangabey monkey, white throated guenon monkey, forest buffalo, yellow backed duiker, African grey parrot, and yellow casqued hornbill

Activity 2.1.2.6: Prepare ecotourism pre-feasibility studies for both priority landscapes.

Activity 2.1.2.7: Estimate overall restoration potential within priority landscapes, and select BD priority locations, based, inter alia, on application of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM).

Activity 2.1.2.8: Work with selected local communities to establish two tree nurseries, one at each demonstration area, to produce seedlings for indigenous species, to be used for agro-forestry, tree plantations and enrichment planting / restoration

Activity 2.1.2.9: Develop and implement ecosystem restoration activities, including naturally assisted regeneration, to enhance forest cover and biodiversity in prioritized areas.

Output 2.1.3 *Financial sustainability strategies developed for conservation of Okomu and Omo landscapes*

The project will undertake detailed pre-feasibility assessments of financing needs and opportunities in each of the priority landscapes. These will elaborate a range of possible financing options, including user fees, carbon finance, ecotourism and other options. The project will also support pilot implementation of two of the identified options, one per priority landscape, together with training to relevant protected area staff. Further uptake, particularly within the lowland forest ecoregion, will be encouraged under Component 4.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 2.1.3.1: Conduct a detailed assessment of financing needs and opportunities, including a review of existing financing mechanisms, revenues and potential new sources of funding.

Activity 2.1.3.2: Develop financial sustainability strategies and pre-feasibility assessments for two protected area landscapes, i.e., Okomu landscape (Okomu National Park, Okomu South FR and Gilli-Gilli FR) and Omo landscape (Omo Elephant Wildlife Sanctuary and wider Omo FR).

Activity 2.1.3.3: Implement financing pilots in the two landscapes to test different revenue generation mechanisms and to identify best management practices.

Activity 2.1.3.4: Establish partnerships with the private sector and other potential funders to secure additional financing for protected areas.

Component 3: Implementation of sustainable practices and livelihoods in connecting productive areas

Outcome 3.1: *Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices and livelihoods within priority areas of the target landscapes.*

To deliver this outcome, the project will invest in improved, biodiversity-friendly practices amongst target communities at the priority landscapes. The theme underlying and determining this support will be to identify and support pathways by which productive livelihoods can enable habitat and species conservation and connectedness across a mosaic of land uses characteristic of the priority landscapes, and of the broader landscape as a whole. Thematic areas to be supported will include the following: (i) biodiversity-based business, e.g., sustainable collection of non-timber forest products; (ii) support services for ecosystem restoration, including seed and seedling production; (iii) agroforestry methods that help to restore key connective habitat; and (iv) support for agro-ecological production, to reduce pressure to expand into remaining forested areas. This outcome will be designed to complement and support priorities established by ILM plans (under Component 1).

Output 3.1.1 *Develop priority landscape level strategies for promoting biodiversity-friendly production practices and value chains*

Under this output, detailed socio-economic surveys and consultations?building on those undertaken during the PPG?will be conducted among approximately 20 communities located within and surrounding each of the priority landscapes. In some cases, these will include communities located within existing forest reserves. The surveys will focus, *inter alia*, on population, ethnicity, identification of vulnerable groups, traditional leadership systems, aspects of forest dependency, identification of key community groups and institutions, livelihoods and associated challenges, including access to markets. The surveys will also carefully consider gender disparities. Based on the surveys, strategies will be developed for community-level livelihood support aimed at reducing pressures on forest resources and biodiversity. These will focus on alternative, biodiversity friendly production practices as well as awareness raising regarding the importance of conserving forest ecosystems. Rural cooperatives and small to medium-size enterprises (SMEs) will be among the targeted beneficiaries. Specific products and practices identified during the PPG include: integrated soil fertility management and integrated pest management, agroforestry, agro-processing, bee keeping, grasscutter / snail rearing and mushroom production.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 3.1.1.1: Conduct a needs assessment to identify gaps in capacity in biodiversity-friendly production practices within priority landscapes

Activity 3.1.1.2: Develop and disseminate best practices for biodiversity-friendly production practices, based on assessment of local and external knowledge

Activity 3.1.1.3: Develop simple training modules, manuals and materials for capacity building in biodiversity-friendly production practices and ecotourism, in local languages

Activity 3.1.1.4: Organize and deliver training and coaching sessions for rural cooperatives and SMEs on improved production practices related to integrated soil fertility management and integrated pest management, agroforestry, bee keeping, grasscutter / snail rearing, mushroom production, eco-tourism and carbon credits

Activity 3.1.1.5: Provide technical support and training to local communities on agroforestry and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs

Output 3.1.2 *Strategic support to value chains for forest restoration, agroforestry and NTFPs*

Investment in restoration and/or rehabilitation of degraded forests creates a number of economic opportunities for local community members and entrepreneurs. This output will strengthen specific areas along each supply chain that have been identified as barriers. This will include provision of native seedlings, marketing and processing opportunities of agroforestry products. In addition, support will be provided to community agroforestry and sustainable harvesting of NTFPs. While priority will be given to strengthening service providers either based in, or already working with, communities located in priority landscapes, other service providers operating in the broader landscape may also participate in, and benefit from, project activities, if they provide services to the target landscapes.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 3.1.2.1: Conduct value chain analysis to identify opportunities for investment in agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, NTFPs, agro-processing enterprises and forest restoration

Activity 3.1.2.2: Develop marketing tools and strategies to promote sustainable, responsible, and efficient value chains for biodiversity-based business

Activity 3.1.2.3: Establish partnerships with relevant institutions and organizations to support biodiversity-friendly production practices

Activity 3.1.2.4: Organize, socially prepare, and empower vulnerable women, youths, and the physically challenged to embrace sustainable livelihoods

Activity 3.1.2.5: Provide input support and facilitate access to high-value markets to VC actors that embrace sustainable livelihoods

Output 3.1.3 *Rehabilitation, restoration and capacity building strategy for community forests developed and implemented*

Under this output, the project aims to address the management and productivity of community-managed forest areas within the core priority landscapes. The primary objective is to alleviate pressure on natural forests caused by fuelwood demand, while simultaneously conserving or enhancing ecosystem services, including connective habitat for wildlife. Building on skills, practices and value chains developed under outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3, this output will facilitate the rehabilitation and improved management of approximately 5,000 hectares of priority community forest areas. Several approaches will be employed, including assisted natural regeneration, establishment of woodlots, agroforestry and capacity building for local forest management. By implementing these measures, the project aims to revitalize community forests, ensuring their long-term sustainability and productivity.

The strategy will include measures to strengthen the capacity of community members involved in forest management, ensuring they possess the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed decisions and undertake effective conservation and sustainable use practices. Community forests, by definition, will be located outside of gazetted forest reserves. Co-operation with, and co-financing from, FRIN is also envisaged here.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 3.1.3.1: Identify and prioritize community forest areas for restoration based on ecological and socio-economic criteria and in ways that complement and reflect ILM plans (ref. 1.1.2).

Activity 3.1.3.2: Develop and implement community-based forest management plans for the restoration of at least 10 priority community forest areas.

Activity 3.1.3.3: Conduct tree planting activities in degraded areas using native seedlings.

Activity 3.1.3.4: Establish woodlots for fuelwood production

Activity 3.1.3.5: Conduct capacity building activities for forest management, including training on forest restoration techniques and management of community forests.

Outputs 3.1.4 *Innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable use and restoration piloted*

In a manner analogous to work being undertaken under Output 2.3, but in this case looking at areas within the surrounding production landscape, the project will develop and test financing approaches designed to enhance conservation incentives. Building on discussions held during the PPG, the project will work to finalize the details of a partnership with Sterling Bank Plc to establish a window for biodiversity-friendly lending in the project landscape. Under such a partnership, Sterling Bank would adopt criteria for small loans that required borrowers to meet certain area-based and thematic criteria in order to qualify for loans. Such borrowers would benefit from project support for development of simple business plans and technical support for implementation. The aim would be to increase investment in nature-positive business opportunities in key areas of the landscape, including the project?s two priority landscapes.

This work will be closely coordinated with, and designed to complement, efforts to develop and implement a strategy for sustainable financing of forest landscape restoration being created under the FOLUR project.

Specific activities will include:

Activity 3.1.4.1: Establish partnerships with financial institutions, private sector actors, and government agencies to support the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms

Activity 3.1.4.2: Finalize pre-feasibility assessment and selection of innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity-friendly practices in agriculture / agro-forestry, ecotourism, NTFPs and community forest restoration and management

Activity 3.1.4.3: Pilot testing of innovative financing mechanisms in priority areas

Activity 3.1.4.4: Conduct awareness raising activities on innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development

Activity 3.1.4.5: Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for innovative financing mechanisms

Activity 3.1.4.6: Provide technical assistance to local communities and businesses in accessing and using innovative financing mechanisms

Activity 3.1.4.7: Develop and implement a sustainability and exit strategy for innovative financing mechanisms

Component 4: Knowledge management and M&E

Outcome 4.1: *Knowledge and innovation are effectively captured and shared at multiple levels including landscape, state, biome and national.*

The aim of this component is threefold: (i) communication and outreach to stakeholders at landscape, state, and federal levels to enhance their engagement, support and ownership of the project and its objectives ? and to communicate impact; (ii) knowledge generation and dissemination (and linkage with the GEF-7 FOLUR project in Cross River State and Ondo State); and (iii) effective monitoring and evaluation of results.

Output 4.1.1: *Knowledge management and communications strategies implemented, and knowledge exchanged with GEF-7 FOLUR project in Nigeria and other initiatives*

The strategies will be developed within the first 6 months of project implementation and reviewed and refined periodically based on feedback from stakeholders and target audiences (both internal and external to the project). The activities will include:

Activity 4.1.1.1: Design of the knowledge management and communication and outreach strategy. The activity will involve: review of the current situation regarding knowledge management and communications about ILM and biodiversity conservation; and defining goals, target audience and dissemination platforms, and preparation of the strategies based on the review.

Activity 4.1.1.2: Sharing knowledge, communication products and tools including: annual outcome stories (case studies documenting project impact, lessons learned and best practices, capturing women empowerment, shared with multi-stakeholder platforms, NGOs, private sector, civil society and communities); policy briefs; thematic technical papers/publications; newsletters, posters, billboards, social media posts; etc.

Activity 4.1.1.3: Support uptake of lessons learned in all states that continue to hold portions of Nigeria?s lowland forests, in addition to the four main project states, stakeholders from Osun, Ekiti and Oyo States will be engaged through awareness raising, workshops and site visits. REDD + initiatives in these states will be targeted as part of this effort. The aim will be to initiate a transformative impact across the ecoregion, within and beyond the replication landscape, based on demonstration and diffusion of lessons learned, including strategies to transform incentives in order to support conservation.

Outcome 4.2: *Project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated through a gender sensitive M&E plan.*

Output 4.1.2*:* Project monitoring and evaluation plan implemented and M&E system operational.

This output will support adaptive management, learning and accountability to stakeholders and beneficiaries. It is through this output that the global environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project will be measured.

Activity 4.1.2.1: At project inception, the project M&E plan will be reviewed and further elaborated by the project teams in consultation with partners. This will entail defining specific requirements for each indicator ? data collection methods, frequency, responsibility for data collection and analyses, taking into consideration costs and budget availability.

Activity 4.1.2.2: M&E system(s) in place. Following available guidelines (from FAO and other partners), the project will help set-up system(s) that will track progress and impact at target landscape level (to be linked to relevant existing state-level/federal monitoring systems for sustainability).

Activity 4.1.2.3: Independent mid-term (end of project year 2) and final evaluations (to be launched 6 months before project end) conducted.

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

The project is well aligned with GEF-7 programmatic strategy. It aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation across sectors as well as landscapes by enabling informed spatial and land-use planning in landscapes hosting biodiversity of global relevance (Component 1) and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations in agricultural sector and through nature-based solutions (Component 3). In addition, it will address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management of Nigeria?s lowland forest protected areas by landscape-level planning (Component 1) and strengthening of site management (Component 2). Component 4 of the project, for knowledge management and M&E, will support both of the above-mentioned focal area objectives.

The GEF FOLUR project, which is due to run from 2022 ? 2026, is an important element of the project baseline. The objective of the project is ?to transform the Niger Delta cocoa and oil palm production systems and landscapes towards sustainability and resilience, delivering multiple environmental and social benefits?. As part of this effort, the project will provide support in the following highly relevant areas:

? FOLUR will carry out a comprehensive assessment of land use and land-use change, including HCV/HCS forest areas, important ecosystems, protected areas, etc, including within forest reserves of the ?Idanre forest cluster?, an area which is located within the lowland forest landscape. Based on this assessment, the FOLUR project will develop and implement an ILM plan for these areas.

? FOLUR will design and implement participatory forest restoration action plans within forest reserves, buffer zones and community forests, again within, *inter alia*, the Idanre forest cluster. Support will include training and provision of seedlings to foresters from state forestry commissions/departments and extension agents.

? FOLUR will establish unified multi-stakeholder platforms in Ondo state.

As is the case with other elements of the above-described baseline, the present proposal has also been carefully designed to extend, and synergize with, the above-described elements of the FOLUR project. The project will build close links to the work of the FOLUR impact program in Ondo State, and will build project results into its landscape-level work, particularly under the present project?s Outcome 1.2.

Finally, while funded under GEF-7, the project anticipates many of the themes taken up by the GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes (CFB) Impact Program. It will therefore liaise closely with the CFB IP regional project, in order to ensure maximum lesson learning and two-way exchange.

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

The project baseline includes some significant policy developments and plans, both at national level as well as those associated with international environmental conventions. Notable among these, for example, are the National Forest Policy and the National REDD+ Programme. Both call for a range of policy actions and investments that are expected to be implemented during the project period under the baseline. These actions represent the bulk of spending identified as project co-financing. They include actions funded by Edo and Ondo States, by the National Park Service and by Nigerian Conservation Foundation.

The alternative project will have four components where incremental GEF support builds on the strong national baseline to strengthen land policy, planning, management, and knowledge sharing that will eventually lead to biodiversity mainstreaming and addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.

Table 1 below summarizes the project?s incremental cost reasoning.

Project component	**Baseline scenario**	**Alternative scenario**

1: Integrated landscape planning and management	Under the baseline scenario, there would be a continuation of sectorally driven, poorly coordinated efforts to increase agricultural production with little mainstreaming of biodiversity or recognition of the importance of planning at larger, landscape scale. Horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (level of government) compartmentalization of policy and implementation would remain an important barrier to improved forest and biodiversity management in Nigeria?s lowland forest biome. The resulting siloed approach would make area-based planning and coordination very difficult, particularly where inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms were lacking. Local communities and stakeholders would be insufficiently engaged in planning efforts In addition, the current lack of knowledge and understanding of the extent of biodiversity loss within the biome, and important implications for communities and for development prospects, would remain limited and largely local in nature. It is unlikely that any biome-level strategy would emerge under this scenario.	Under the alternative scenario, participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive ILM plans will be developed and implemented within priority landscapes to strengthen biodiversity conservation and connectivity, and sustainable management and use of land and forest resources across the landscapes, in an integrated manner. Multi-stakeholder platforms for ILM will develop ILM plans for two priority landscapes, while capacities required for their implementation will be built. In parallel, at a larger geographic scale, an action plan for biodiversity conservation covering the core lowland forest ecoregion (1,260,622 ha) will be developed. The plan will stimulate further investment in conservation, SLM and SFM, including community forestry, in line with the models and lessons being generated at the priority landscapes. Cross-fertilization between this broader landscape level of action and work at the priority landscapes will be an important feature and will contribute to the overall transformative impact of this scenario.

2: Implementation of biodiversity conservation and restoration within protected areas and buffer zones of the landscape	Under the baseline scenario, Federal and State authorities would continue to support provide limited financial and management support for Okomu National Park and for the three forest reserves within the priority landscapes. NGOs such as NCF and ANI would contribute to these efforts under a gradually evolving model of co-management. However, these efforts would likely be unable to stem the ongoing tide of threats that have led to widespread deforestation in recent years. These include expansion of commercial tree crop agriculture, and low productivity smallholder agriculture, illegal and unsustainable logging and extraction of fuelwood and production of charcoal, and illegal hunting. To the extent that forest restoration took place within the landscapes and the broader biome, insufficient attention would be paid to the needs of biodiversity for connectivity and habitat afforded by native species.	Under the alternative scenario, investments would take place in improved protected area management, biodiversity conservation and targeted restoration in the two priority landscapes. These will be based on initial landscape-level biodiversity assessments, assessing remaining forest cover, presence of globally significant biodiversity and opportunities for restoration. Opportunities to conserve and enhance / restore the connectivity of forest fragments will be among the options to be identified and implemented. Site-specific conservation, restoration and sustainable use plans will be developed and implementation begun, under the aegis of the ILM plans developed under component 1 above. The process will engage local communities, including women and youth and vulnerable, will be engaged at each step along the way.

3: Implementation of sustainable production practices and nature-based tourism in connecting, productive agricultural areas of the landscape	Under the baseline scenario, a key factor underpinning the cycle of environmental degradation in the project landscapes?namely the low baseline agricultural yields among smallholder farmers?would largely persist. Linked to low levels of inputs and shortcomings in practices, this would have the inevitable effect of encouraging continuing land clearance, with concomitant loss of ecosystem services. In this scenario, smallholder farmers in particular would also lack access to loan capital and technical knowledge needed to raise their generally low yields.	Under the project alternative, investments will be made to encourage improved, biodiversity-friendly practices amongst target communities at the priority landscapes. The theme underlying and determining this support will be to identify and support pathways by which productive livelihoods can enable habitat and species conservation and connectedness across a mosaic of land uses characteristic of the priority landscapes, and of the broader landscape as a whole. These will include: (i) biodiversity-based business, e.g., sustainable collection of non-timber forest products; (ii) support services for ecosystem restoration, including seed and seedling production; (iii) agroforestry methods that help to restore key connective habitat; and (iv) support for agro-ecological production, to reduce pressure to expand into remaining forested areas. Work will complement and support priorities established by ILM plans under Component 1.
4: Knowledge management and M&E	Under the baseline scenario, mechanisms will be lacking for encouraging the dissemination and uptake of project-level lessons related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices across multiple states sharing Nigeria?s lowland forest biome. This includes a holistic understanding of the challenges and severe threats facing the biome and its constituent species.	Under the alternative scenario, knowledge and lessons learned by the project will be disseminated throughout the core of the lowland forest biome, instigating uptake and replication. Communication and outreach to stakeholders at landscape, state, and federal levels will enhance their engagement, support and ownership of the project and its objectives and results. Inflows of knowledge from outside of the project, including lessons being generated by the GEF-7 FOLUR project in Nigeria and elsewhere, will also be diffused. Uptake of all of these lessons will constitute a multiplier effect, contributing to the transformation of the current negative trends facing biodiversity across the core area of the biome

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

The main global benefits being generated by the project are associated with the biodiversity focal area, though certain additional, global environmental co-benefits related to land degradation and climate change mitigation are also evident.

The project aims to conserve as representative an example as possible of Nigerian lowland forest, a tropical moist forest ecoregion located in southwestern Nigeria and south-eastern Benin. Given the significant levels of deforestation and forest fragmentation that have occurred in this ecoregion, extant biodiversity, including globally threatened and endemic species, are at high risk due both to continued habitat loss and genetic losses as remaining populations become increasingly isolated. The prospects

for survival of several globally threatened species will be significantly enhanced by the project activities.

Conserving globally and nationally significant biodiversity of this ecoregion will require effective action both within existing protected areas as well as in areas of the production landscape that connects these areas. A more biodiversity-friendly mosaic of land uses across a substantial landscape area will deliver important benefits for conservation, including enhanced survival prospects for a number of key species?notably including the white-throated guenon (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*, EN)?that remain present within the project landscape.

In quantitative terms, the proposed project will deliver global environmental benefits as follows:

Core indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)

Three protected areas, covering a combined area of 182,763 ha, are being targeted for improved management for conservation and sustainable use. These are:

- Okomu National Park (21,251 ha);
- Omo Forest Reserve (130,500 ha), which includes a proposed elephant conservation area (55,000 ha) and a Strict Nature Reserve (640 ha);
- Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve (31,012 ha).

Core indicator 3: Area of land restored (Hectares)

A total of 10,000 ha of native forest will be under restoration in protected areas, buffer zones and corridor areas related to the three protected areas identified in the previous indicator.

Core indicator 4: Area of landscape under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)

Given the range and extent of challenges facing the priority landscapes and their locations bordering multiple states and Local Government Areas (LGAs), a selective jurisdictional approach has been taken in defining target areas of the landscape for improving practices. As a result, , portions of four LGAs?Ijebu East and Ijebu North in Ogun State and Ovia South West and Ovia North East?will receive direct on-the-ground support under Component 3, based on LGA-level plans to be developed under Component 1. Areas of landscape within these LGAs totalling 50,000 ha. will be targeted for introducing improved agricultural and agro-forestry practices.

Core indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

At least 20,000 members of forest communities within the FRs and NP, their buffer zones, and corridors linking them, including 10,000 women and 5,000 youths, will be socially prepared and supported to access innovative finance and invest in sustainable livelihood options, thereby reducing pressure on forest resources.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up

Knowledge sharing, learning and innovation are essential elements in achieving the expected transformative impact of the project. Experiences, models, tools and approaches for landscape-level biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and forest management will be shared extensively within Nigeria and also more widely in West Africa and beyond. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and innovation platforms will be strengthened and will act as important knowledge hubs both for sharing lessons and in maximizing engagement of stakeholders on the ground.

By demonstrating to local, state and Federal government the effectiveness of the proposed innovative tools and by raising awareness of the business potential of nature-based investments, the project will ensure that knowledge is transferred into the local/national government?s action plans to achieve wider scale-up nationwide of the tested innovations. The private sector will also be an important catalyst for scaling and technology transfer both within and outside Nigeria.

Innovativeness: The project is innovative in its eco-regional approach?defining and targeting conservation of priority landscapes at the heart of an eco-region, while simultaneously assessing and prioritizing replication within a much broader replication landscape and, ultimately, the entire lowland forest biome. It is also innovative in terms of the use of technologies and applications for landscape-level conservation. The project aims to bring together national, state and local stakeholders for the conservation and sustainable use of forests, and empower local stakeholders for the integration of biodiversity in territorial planning processes. The project will strengthen capacities for the effective and appropriate use of planning methodologies and decision support that will help to: target interventions; identify and understand the main causes / drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; select and design instruments that optimize net social and environmental benefits, and; highlight the circumstances in which the maintenance of ecosystems and their services will generate higher long-term economic benefits than the introduction of economic processes that degrade and deplete ecosystems. Finally, the project will promote alliances to catalyze innovations in technology, policies, financing and business models for the more sustainable development of productive activities. The project will also develop and implement an innovative financing strategy that incentivizes biodiversity-friendly lending under Output 3.1.4.

Sustainability: Social, environmental and financial / economic sustainability will be achieved through a multi-faceted exit strategy designed to ensure that positive results continue to flow after project termination. The project design, as described here in the PIF, and as it will be further elaborated during the PPG, takes account of the need for sustainability of project results. Specific design elements geared towards sustainability include: (i) efforts to institutionalize training and capacity building efforts; (ii) emphasis on stakeholder participation as a way to lay the groundwork for continued post-project engagement; (iii) development of financial mechanisms aimed at delivering a more sustained flow of resources, particularly for protected area management; (iv) raising awareness among area populations, including urban populations, of nature-based recreational opportunities and associated conservation needs; (v) development of a gender action plan to improve social sustainability by engaging women as change agents, and; (vi) strengthening of incentives for conservation e.g. ecotourism opportunities, which would persist following project completion These elements of project design, and others to be identified during the PPG, will help to ensure the project?s successful ?exit? and the persistence of its benefits.

Potential for scaling up / replication: The project?s complementarity with national policies and plans?National REDD+ Strategy, NBSAP, National Forest Policy and NDC?creates a high potential for replication. The communication and information strategy will help demonstrate the effectiveness of project interventions, i.e. biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, reduction of anthropogenic pressures, intensification of agricultural production, access to markets, income and livelihoods approaches, thus facilitating the replication of experiences and lessons. Alliances with the private sector will allow replicating experiences with sustainable value chains. Alliances with the academic sector will contribute to knowledge dissemination. The socialization of results and the exchange of experiences will contribute to the dissemination of the results obtained. Coordination and articulation among different institutions will allow project actions and results to diffuse to other landscapes where the results can be replicated. The systematization of experiences and lessons learned will help to scale up the results of the project at sub-national, national and international level**.**

The project will also support uptake in other contiguous states that continue to support Nigerian lowland forests. Additional states are: Okun, Ekiti and Oyo States. The aim will be to initiate a transformative impact across the ecoregion, based on demonstration and diffusion of lessons learned, including strategies to transform incentives in order to support conservation.

8) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

Project element	**Alignment with PIF**	**Comments**
Project framework: objective, components, outcomes, outputs	Objective: no change Components: no changes Outcomes: Two new outcomes added by splitting original components 1 and 4 Outputs: Wording and numbering of several outputs changed	Changes to Outcomes under Component 1 and underlying outputs reflect two main factors: (i) reduced scale of ILM planning and policy efforts to focus on landscapes in Ogun and Edo States (omitting Delta State), and; (ii) splitting of Outcome 1 into two outcomes, in order to clearly separate efforts within priority landscapes (Outcome 1.1) from those taking place at the wider, core ecoregion level (Outcome 1.2)
Core indicators	1 ? Terrestrial PAs created or under improved management: reduced from 599,457 ha in PIF[59][59] to 182,763 at CEO submission. 3 ? Area of land restored ? No change 4 ? Area of landscape under improved practices ? increased from 10,000 to 50,000 ha, reflecting opportunities identified within the priority landscapes	Based on the STAP comments and the findings of the PPG field-level consultations, it was decided to intensify the project?s efforts on two priority landscapes, while not losing entirely the broader, core ecoregion level elements of the project. This change reflected the degree of challenge facing biodiversity across the ecoregion. This decision led to

Project element	Alignment with PIF	Comments
Project indicators	Area under ILM: target reduced from 985,000 ha to 386,939 ha Legal and policy frameworks updated ? Changed from unquantified indicator to ?At least six updated / revisions (of local and state policies)? Key indicators added relate to: (i) area covered by ecological assessment (1.26 million ha), (ii) Adoption of vision and action plan; (iii) functioning of monitoring and information network	the reduced ambition of several core and project indicators. However, it is expected that this emphasis on quality over quantity, with clear emphasis on broader uptake and replication, will only lead to greater long-term impacts from the project
Budgetary allocations	No change from component-level breakdowns presented in Table B of PIFPIF	NA

[1] National strategy to combat wildlife and forest crime in Nigeria, 2022-2026.

[2] Nigeria?s Fifth National Report to CBD, 2015.

[3] National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2016-2020.

[4] The country is currently revising its NBSAP to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

[5] Ikemeh, Rachel A. 2013. ?Sustainable forest management in a human dominated landscape and its implications for biodiversity conservation: a Nigerian lowland forest perspective.? Research and Reports in Biodiversity Studies 2013:3 9-23.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Falade, O.F. and Iheke, J.U. (2021). Structural Diversity of Tree Stems of Elephant Camp Natural Forest in Omo Forest Reserve. *Environmetal Science Proceedings 3*(1), 75; https://doi.org/10.3390/IECF2020-08087

[8] Based on report of a study and associated maps provided to the PPG team by ANI Foundation, and verified through satellite image analysis.

[9] Omoregie , Q., & Egonmwan R.I, O. B. &. (2020). Presence and Distribution of Relict Loxodonta Cyclotis (African Forest Elephant) Populations in Southern Nigeria. *UNILAG Journal of Medicine, Science and Technology*, *8*(1), 1-15. Retrieved from http://ujmst.unilag.edu.ng/article/view/1010

[10] Oke, C.O. (2013). Terrestrial mollusc species richness and diversity in Omo Forest Reserve, Ogun State, Nigeria. *African Invertebrates* **54** (1): 93?104. https://hdl.handle.net/10520/EJC134532

[11] The reserve, which is reportedly inhabited by over 10,000 cocoa farmers that have been cultivating cocoa within it over the last two decades is also a subject of government ? community conflicts. See: P.M. News (pmnewsnigeria.com)

[12] Monitoring Akure Forest Reserve Change Over Time ? Sambus Geospatial

[13] About 30,000 ha of the forest reserve along the Ofosu-Onisere axis of Idanre LGA, which have largely been converted to farmlands, was reportedly sold (concessioned) to a consortium (SAO Group), and this has been a subject of legal dispute between the communities and the State Government. See: sunnewsonline.com)

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[36] National Strategy for Nigeria REDD+ Programme

[37] Personal communication with FRIN Director General, 4 July 2023

[38] In 2020, the foundation established the Apoi Community Conservation Area, which today is the last stronghold for the endemic and critically endangered Niger delta red colobus monkey (*Piliocolobus epieni*) in Bayelsa State. This effort has successfully brought a species back from the brink of extinction. The population of the monkey is now increasing steadily such that they are being photographed easily compared to a time prior to the protection efforts when there would only be glimpses of the monkey after several weeks of surveys.

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[42] These include: (i) *Premium Edible Oil Products Limited,* which refines crude palm kernel oil, crude palm oil and crude soyabean oil into refined oil and distilled fatty acids; (ii) *Venus Processing and Packaging Limited,* which manufacture Frozen Fruits and Vegetables with the brand name Sympli; (iii) *Mykee. Com Limited,* which is in the business of trading of agricultural products like dried cassava, palm kernel shells and palm oil; (iv) *Golden Oil Industries Limited,* engaged in the processing of palm oil to produce Refined palm Oil, palmOlein and Stearine; and (v) *Dufil Prima Food Plc,* engaged in manufacturing of noodles, under the Indomie & Minimie brand, manufactures and distributes/markets other complementary products in Nigeria such as flour, seasoning, oil, pasta, snacks as well as flexible packaging solutions**.**

[43] https://mercuria.com/

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[47] See, e.g.: Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), *Evaluation of GEF Support to Mainstreaming Biodiversity*, Evaluation Report No. 134, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2019; Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), *GEF Support to Sustainable Forest Management*, Evaluation Report No. 156, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2022; Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), *Biodiversity Focal Area Study*, Evaluation Report No. 132, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2018; Ola, Oreoluwa and Emmanuel Benjamin. 2019. ?Preserving Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in West African Forest, Watersheds and Wetlands: A review of incentives. *Forests* 2019, 10, 479; Manikowski, Stanislaw. 2020. Niger Delta Biodiversity Project, GEF Project ID 4090. Terminal Project Evaluation; Asesoramiento Ambiental Estrate?gico (AAE). 2022. Reducing Deforestation from Commodity Production, GEF Project ID 9180.

[48] See Stafford Smith, M., Ratner, B.D., Metternicht, G., Carr, E.R., Bierbaum, R., and Whaley, C. 2022. *Achieving transformation through GEF investments. A STAP Advisory Document*. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.

[49] AAE 2022

[50] Ola and Benjamin 2019.

[51] GEF IEO 2022.

[52] GEF IEO 2019.

[53] AAE 2022.

[54] GEF IEO 2019.

[55] That is, ?additional? to the core priority landscapes already identified.

[56] As part of a strategy aimed at consolidating limited financial and other resources and rewarding conservation efforts, protected areas, e.g. forest reserves, whose biodiversity, habitat and development trends were assessed during the PPG to provide very limited opportunities for conserving globally significant biodiversity will not be directly supported by GEF under the present project. Depending on their trajectory going forward and the assessment and action plan being developed under Outcome 1.2, some of these areas may eventually benefit from leveraged cofinancing.

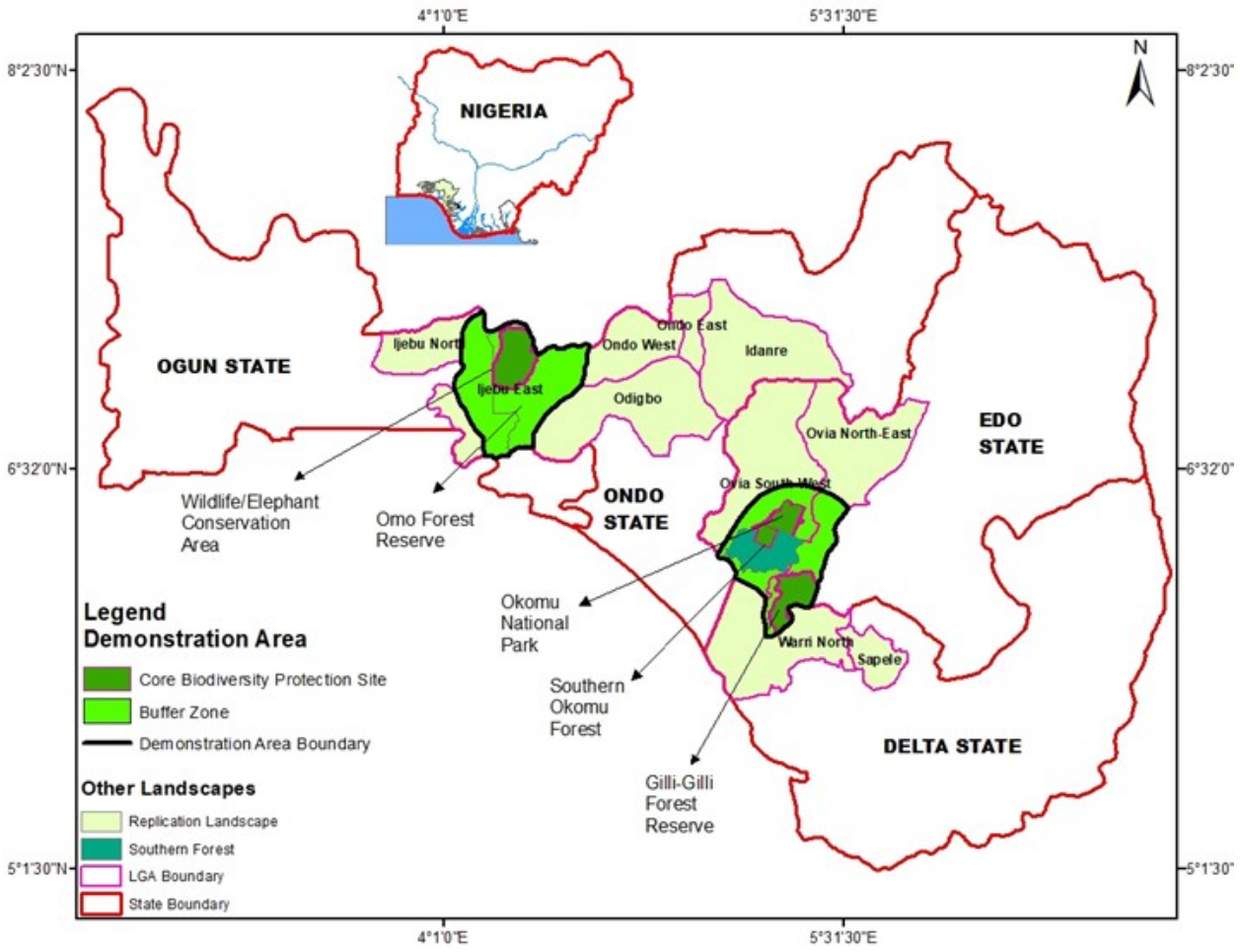
[57] Action plans and promotional material (see Component 4 below) will be utilized in an effort to identify and engage additional sources of leveraged cofinancing.

[58] For baseline info. see, e.g., Digun-Aweto et. al. 2015. Attitude of local dwellers towards ecotourism in the Okomu National Park, Edo State Nigeria. Czach Journal of Tourism 4 (2) 103-115.

[59] The PIF had indicated the need to assess the ?condition and viability? of the forest reserves originally identified, a process which led to many of these areas being deemed unsuitable for biodiversity conservation efforts.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

During the PPG phase, a participatory design process inclusive of all project stakeholders was undertaken. Engagement of project stakeholders during the design phase included community and household surveys, key informant interviews, focus group meetings and regular meetings with key resource persons and representatives of stakeholder groups including women, youth and local communities within each of the states covered within the targeted landscape.

The field mission for stakeholder consultations and data collection was undertaken between April 1 and April 30, 2023, starting with a State-level Stakeholders Workshop in each of the four States within the target landscape - Ogun, Delta, Edo, and Ondo. The workshops were attended by representatives of State Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) with mandates in Forestry, Environment, Lands, Agriculture, Women Affairs, and Rural Development, among others. Other key participants included representatives of Local Government Councils (LGCs) that host protected areas, NGOs/CSOs active in the landscape, Universities and Research Institutes, and key private sector players within the forestry sector, among others. The State-level stakeholders? workshops were aimed at facilitating participatory determination of baseline activities and scenarios across the landscape, including biodiversity conservation, livelihood activities, challenges, barriers, and ongoing/past interventions within the landscape. It also enabled collecting stakeholders? inputs into potential project outcomes, outputs, and activities to achieve conservation and socio-economic benefits. The workshop included high-level presentations as well as discussions in mixed-gender, multi-stakeholder, and component-focused thematic sessions to which participants were assigned in a manner to ensure diversity of perspectives. Each of the thematic discussions across the four States were led by a leader, an alternate leader, and a secretary elected by the session participants, on the condition that each of these must include at least a woman as the leader/alternate leader and youth. The sessions were also facilitated in a manner that allowed perspectives of women, men, and youth to be heard on each of the issues discussed. Topics included identifying constraints facing men, women, and youths in the landscape and determining how best each gender-age group can be supported to embrace sustainable livelihoods, conserve biodiversity and become less forest-dependent.

Each State-level stakeholders? workshop was followed by community-level stakeholder consultations and data collection covering nine LGAs and over 40 forest communities. **Table 3** provides a list of communities engaged during this stage of the process. The relevant LGAs and forest communities were identified and those selected for further consultations prioritised by the State-level stakeholders based on agreed criteria that include location within the targeted forest biome, relevance, and potential for impacts, among others. The LGAs were: Ijebu East & Ijebu North in Ogun State; Ethiope West & Sapele in Delta State; Ovie South-West & Ovie North-West in Edo State; and Idanre, Ondo West, and Odigbo in Ondo State. The consultations and data collection process follow strictly the FAO Guidelines on securing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Evidence from desk review, the national Stakeholders Inception Workshop held on November 30, 2022, and confirmed by State-level stakeholders workshops showed there are no officially recognised indigenous people within the target landscape. However, several local communities exist that may be impacted by the proposed project, hence the FPIC process was focused on local communities. Entry into the selected communities was facilitated through official communication and/or sending of

emissaries by the State Government to traditional authorities in the selected local communities while community-level consultations were generally started with convoking a general assembly of the community members, including the leaders and members, and ensuring even participation by women, men, youths, migrants, and the physically challenged, among others. During each of the community-level consultative meetings, information on the proposed project was disclosed to the communities, their questions / concerns (including concerns that the project might be another avenue for unfair land expropriation by political elites) addressed, and verbal consents of the community leaders and individual members were sought and secured prior to proceeding with subsequent gender-level (men and women separately) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). Across the landscape, a total number of 2,052 community members (including 994 or 48.4% women) participated in the community consultation and data collection across 40 communities, nine LGAs, and four states.

The PPG team also organized bilateral virtual/physical meetings with key actors involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods in the landscape. These included follow-up virtual/physical consultations with representatives of Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation, Okomu National Park, Rex Forestry Limited, Foundation for Sustainability of Ecosystem, Wildlife and Climate (FSEWC), Farmers Development Union (FADU), the MDA in charge of forestry in each State, the State REDD+ units, IDH, and Sterling Bank. The objective of these meetings was to help identify key hotspots for biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and landscape restoration under the project, as well as to learn more about activities of these organizations as potential collaborators and sources of co-financing.

Table 3: List of communities engaged in community-level stakeholder consultations across the landscape

S/No	State	LGA	Community	Latitude	Longi-tude	Community Leader	YM	YW	OM	OW
1	Ogun	Ijebu North	Apora	6.979248	4.326871	Chief Fatai Odebowale	7	5	11	15
2	Ogun	Ijebu North	Sojukorodo	6.940589	4.332143	Ibrahim Hussein	7	6	4	5
3	Ogun	Ijebu North	Etemi	6.979836	4.370878	Abdulrasaq Odebowale	10	4	10	20
4	Ogun	Ijebu North	Eseke	6.915905	4.332009	Alufa Adeotan AlAminu	17	10	9	29
5	Ogun	Ijebu East	Tamitami	6.887207	4.331373	Chief Muili Asimi	15	4	10	18
6	Ogun	Ijebu East	Bridge	6.890871	4.338448	Mr. Dele Odebode	2	2	4	10

S/No	State	LGA	Community	Latitude	Longi-tude	Community Leader	YM	YW	OM	OW
7	Ogun	Ijebu North	Osoko	6.919773	4.386590	Chief Olasunkanmi Clement	15	6	11	28
8	Ogun	Ijebu North	Etemi Gerald	6.936216	4.350593	Mr Akinbowale Abiodun	4	3	3	9
9	Ogun	Ijebu North	Korede	6.931841	4.319738	Mrs Mulikat Moshood	5	6	6	5
10	Ogun	Ijebu North	Fatai	6.950434	4.310856	Mr Jimoh Olaide	5	5	4	3
11	Ogun	Ijebu East	Imoba	6.901263	4.294121	Mr Abraham Makinde	6	11	12	39
12	Ogun	Ijebu East	Onigburugburu	6.866528	4.316590	Mr Rauf Olatunji	7	4	3	7
13	Ogun	Ijebu East	J6 Camp	6.711935	4.322656	Chief Adekunle Eweje	2	2	3	19
14	Ogun	Ijebu East	Ajebandele	6.739766	4.401253	Alhaji Kuku Moshood Abiola	5	6	11	8
15	Delta	Sapele	Obotie	5.819687	5.600179	Mr Timothy Ololo	6	3	2	4
16	Delta	Ethiope North	Owe 2	5.990224	5.796650	Jude okpadike	30	28	15	10
17	Delta	Sapele	Ugbukurusu.	5.818625	5.601344	Robinson urueshone	30	10	10	10
18	Delta	Ethiope North	Ugbakele_207	5.975902	5.792797	Saturday odudu	80	60	30	25
19	Delta	Sapele	ikeresa	5.789112	5.597701	Ikoyo Isiorho	20	15	10	10
20	Delta	Sapele	Arowun	5.932682	5.520818	Ukawa joseph	35	35	30	10
21	Delta	Ethiope North	Owe	5.990093	5.798657	Johnson Otogbono	40	60	25	15
22	Delta	Sapele	Oton	5.897156	5.613360	Austin ariaja	30	25	8	12
23	Delta	Sapele	Ugborhen	5.807143	5.623421	Johnson lkpen	20	20	5	10
24	Delta	Ethiope North	Ruben camp	6.090418	5.744371	Frank Eyenuko	20	15	20	8
25	Delta	Ethiope North	Afro Camp	6.083519	5.764193	Afro Onigba	5	8	3	4
26	Delta	Ethiope North	Edu- uvu 2	6.109373	5.761994	Enoferhi David	10	6	20	5
27	Delta	Ethiope North	Edu- uvu	6.090358	5.744264	Dafe Unah	30	8	3	15
28	Delta	Ethiope North	Otefe	6.001026	5.779741	Sunday Oduduh	8	5	3	2
29	Edo	Idanre	Udo	6.472885	5.356407	Chief Patrick E. I. Igbinidu	1	5	12	7

S/No	State	LGA	Community	Latitude	Longi-tude	Community Leader	YM	Y W	O M	O W
30	Edo	Ovie North-west	Ughoton	6.168157	5.362390	Chief Victor Aigbovbiosa	2	1	5	10
31	Edo	Ovie North-west	Gele-Gele	6.155056	5.345133	Chief Macaulay Ayiwe	1	9	13	8
32	Edo	Ovie South-west	Urhezen	6.481113	5.251296	Omosigho Hitler	0	0	5	7
33	Edo	Ovie South-west	AT & P (Maghioba)	6.398697	5.282736	Chief Monday Osemwughe	4	11	15	20
34	Edo	Ovie North-west	Ikpako	6.182596	5.383422	Isaac Osamuyi			6	17
35	Edo	Ovie North-west	Evbuorokho	6.167038	5.406847	Elder Emmanuel Obabueki	2	5	9	14
36	Ondo	Odigbo	OMI-FUNFUN	6.874492	4.922277	MR OLAMIGOKE BOBOYE	2	2	5	8
37	Ondo	Odigbo	AMUSA	6.842569	4.936310	MR DELE EMAYE	10	15	15	10
38	Ondo	Idanre	JINGBE	6.996715	5.187387	ELDER SMART EJIDAKINRO	5	6	10	15
39	Ondo	Idanre	JINGBE OKE ?B?	6.991679	5.186888	MR KAYODE AKINKUSOTE	8	3	15	15
40	Ondo	Odigbo	Asejire community Odigbo	6.770084	4.985513	Abubakah Udu				
41	Ondo	Odigbo	Omotosho community	6.722400	4.649575	Omotosho community	8	10	11	9
42	Ondo	Ondo West	Erinla camp	6.964846	4.815842	Obajulaye Cornileou	11	9	14	12
43	Ondo	Ondo West	Orunbatan community	6.972987	4.830643	Abiodun Olamide	8	117	9	18

Finally, following circulation of the draft project document, a Validation Workshop was organized in order to obtain comments, suggestions and validation of the project design. Comments from this workshop were incorporated into the finalized submission documents.

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

Based on the above-described extensive series of consultations, roles and responsibilities of key project stakeholders have been determined and are presented in **Table 4** below. For key stakeholders, these roles are further elaborated in the section on Implementation Arrangements.

Table 4: Project stakeholders, roles and responsibilities

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
UN Organization	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	***GEF Implementing Agency***: provides project cycle management services as per GEF rules. Responsible for oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with the approved project document, GEF and FAO rules and requirements.	GEF agency oversight and supervision. Member of the Project Steering Committee (PSC).	All project components
Federal MDAs	National Park Service (NPS): Okomu National Park Authority	***Lead Government Partner*****:** (i) provide strategic leadership to implementation of the project, working closely with other Federal MDAs, particularly FMEnv, FMARD, FMWASD and FMFBNP; (ii) host, and nominate the Chair of, the National Project Steering Committee; and (iii) convene multi-stakeholder dialogues at national level.	- Hosts Project Management Unit (PMU) at Okomu NP HQ - Chair of PSC - Coordination: ensure delivery of technical and co-financing inputs to the project as well as its coordination and coherence with other relevant ongoing projects and programs. - Executing partner for implementation of activities at Okomu landscape - Cofinancing: the project will utilize NPS personnel, patrol vehicle, infrastructure and equipment in its work at Okomu NP	All project components

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
	Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv)	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with national policies and commitments on biodiversity conservation.	Member of Project Steering Committee	All
	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with national policies and commitments on agricultural and rural development.	Member of Project Steering Committee	Sustainable livelihoods support under Component 3 (all outputs)
	Federal Ministry of Forestry	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with national policies and commitments, including the National Forest Policy	Member of Project Steering Committee	All
	Federal Ministry of Women?s Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD)	***Government partner*:** provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with policies on gender equality and mainstreaming, and on preventing and addressing child labour.	Member of Project Steering Committee	See Gender Action Plan for specific areas of potential engagement

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
	Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning (FMFBNP)	***Government Partner***: support the above-mentioned Federal Government Ministries in the strategic management and provision of Federal co-financing of the project; and facilitate the integration of project objectives and priorities, outcomes and lessons into national planning and budgetary processes.	Member of Project Steering Committee	All
	Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN)	***Government Partner***. Role is expected to consist of operational support for species selection and implementation of forest restoration in wildlife corridors and other priority biodiversity areas, including community forests, identified by the project.	Member of Project Steering Committee. Stakeholder platforms.	Forest restoration
	National Environmental Standard and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA)	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with national policies and commitments related to illegal hunting and logging	NESREA will be engaged at the national level and their participation requested at state and LG level to ensure compliance with the law against poaching and illegal logging	Component 2
	National REDD+ Program	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with policies on REDD+ and carbon finance, particularly as a source of finance for demonstration and other protected areas	Member of Project Steering Committee	All project components

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
State Government & MDAs	Governor?s office of Edo, Ondo, Delta and Ogun States	***Government Partner***: Honorary chair of in-state and multi-state platform (latter on rotating basis) leading development of lowland forest vision and 10-year action plan	Political leadership and official endorsement for Lowland Forest Vision and Action Plan	All project components
	State Ministries of Environment in Edo, Ondo, Delta and Ogun States	***Government Partner***: Play key roles in: supporting project interventions across the target landscapes, including co-financing of activities contributing to the intended outcomes of the GEF-funded project; provision of extension services to land users; formulation of related policies and guidelines; and support and coordination of land use planning, monitoring and evaluation	Member of Project Steering Committee	All project components
	State Ministries of Agriculture in Edo and Ondo States	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with state policies and commitments	Extension personnel will contribute to training of local communities.	All project components
	State Ministries of Forestry (Edo and Ogun States), including forest reserve managers and staff	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with state policies and commitments	Members of multi-stakeholder platforms. Participants in forest reserve planning and implementation of plans. Beneficiaries of capacity building support.	All project components

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
	Edo and Ogun State REDD+ Secretariats	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with state policies and commitments	Participate in multi-stakeholder mechanisms, providing technical support and guidance for REDD+ and forest carbon aspects, including carbon financing opportunities	All project components
Local Government & Communities	Local Government Councils of Ijebu East and Ijebu North (Ondo State) and Ovia South-west and Ovia Northeast in Edo State	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with LGC policies and commitments	Participate in multi-stakeholder mechanisms; provide political leadership and implementation support for ILM plans covering priority landscapes.	1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3
	Traditional chiefs and other local community representatives and committees (e.g., village management committees)	***Government Partner***: provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with community-level policies and commitments	Sources of extensive traditional knowledge systems regarding land management and associated governance systems. Key role in securing FPIC from local communities. Entry point for community-level training and capacity building efforts.	All project components
Civil society & NGOs	Farmers Development Union (Association of agricultural cooperatives)	Collaborating Partner and beneficiary. To work with the project. Promotion of the objectives of the project among members, sharing knowledge and sustainable practices. Will be engaged through the multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity building activities	Engaged in implementation of project activities, particularly at landscape level.	All project components

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
	Local community members	***Project beneficiaries***: Direct or indirect beneficiaries of all project outputs and outcomes	Multi-stakeholder platforms and capacity building.	All project components
	Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF)	***Executing Partner.*** To provide technical, advocacy and co-financing support for project implementation at the Ogun landscape	Executing partner through letter of agreement, playing a lead technical role (in partnership with Omo forest reserve management) at Okomu landscape. Participate in multi-stakeholder mechanisms, providing technical support and guidance.	All project components
	Africa Nature Investors (ANI)	***Executing Partner.*** To provide technical, advocacy and co-financing support for project implementation at the Okomu landscape	Executing partner through letter of agreement, playing a lead technical role (in partnership with NPS Okomu) at Okomu landscape. Source of cofinancing for their role at Okomu NP. Participate in multi-stakeholder mechanisms, providing technical support and guidance.	All project components
	SW/Niger Delta Forest Project (SWNDFP)	***Executing Partner.*** To provide technical, advocacy and co-financing support for project implementation at the lowland forest ecoregion level.	Executing partner through letter of agreement, playing lead technical role in Outcome 1.2	Outcome 1.2 (Outputs 1.2.1-1.2.3)
	IDH ? the Sustainable Trade Initiative		Participation in multi-stakeholder platforms	All project components

Category	Partner organization	Primary role	Mode of engagement and areas of responsibility	Key compo-nents, outputs & themes
	Other local NGOs, e.g. GROWIT, 2Scale, Da-Silva Foundation, Netlink Environmental Conservation Organisation (NECOR), Global seed Foundation		Participation in multi-stakeholder platforms.	
Private sector	Sterling Bank PLC	***Collaborating partner.***	The project intends to partner with Sterling Bank to establish lines of credit for biodiversity-friendly businesses at the priority landscapes and in the wider landscape	
	Okomu Palm Oil Company, PLC	***Private sector partner.***	Important participant in multi-stakeholder platform at Okomu landscape. To be engaged as manager of significant remaining wildlife habitat, potentially providing additional connectivity for Okomu NP.	

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

According to a recent UNDP Human Development Report[1], Nigeria ranked 181 of 193 countries on the Gender Equality Index. Reasons for its low score include: poor resource allocation in the economic and social sectors, frequent conflicts, forced displacements and inadequate inclusion of women and girls? perspectives in policy-making decisions, and low representation of women in governance and politics.

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) has shown an increasing commitment to supporting gender equality over the years. The 1999 Nigerian Constitution Chapter IV Section 42 (I), (a) and (b); (2); and (3) prohibits discrimination based on gender, religion, ethnicity, age, or circumstances of birth. In 2011, the Legal Aid Act was reviewed and expanded to cover crimes against human body and sexual offences. The first National Women Policy was drafted in 2000, followed by the National Gender Policy in 2006, with a goal to make gender equality a driver of growth and good governance. The National Gender Policy was followed by the National Plan of Action with a comprehensive plan of action for the delivery of the National Gender Policy.

Across the forest communities in the priority landscape, gender analysis revealed that women are generally at a disadvantage in terms of access, ownership, and control of productive resources when compared to men (**Annex K**).

The following key challenges came out strongly from the gender analysis conducted in the target landscape:

Limited access to social infrastructure[2]: Except for few sub-urban forest communities that are close to the protected areas in Benin (Edo State) and Sapele (Delta State), most of the forest communities across the landscape have very limited or no access to basic social infrastructure: tarred road, electricity from the National Grid, portable water, heath services, etc. This underlies their excessive forest dependence for wood fuel, herbs, Across the landscape, none of the selected forest communities have access to commercial banks and microfinance institutions.

Low level of education: Generally, there is gender differential in the literacy and education level as well as agricultural extension & advisory services across the landscape. About half of the women in the forest communities in the landscape are illiterate ? not able to read or write in any language, as against about one-third of men. Similarly, less than 2% of the women had access to extension services as against the equally low extension contact (about 9%) among men. This no doubt explains the relatively higher forest dependence (NTFP collection) among the women, which if addressed can greatly enhance their livelihood and reduce forest dependence.

Access to land: Huge and widespread gender inequality exist in access, ownership, and control of land and natural resources across all the forest communities, and this is linked to an entrenched and largely unchallenged patriarchal system that denies women rights to inherit land and/or grant unequal access to men and women in land and other natural resources use. This make women more vulnerable to shocks, and limits their economic potentials, which can only be addressed through deliberate financial

empowerment to enable them purchase land and by promoting changes of the negative cultural norms and values through policy, legislation, and institutional reforms.

Limited access to physical capital such as access to technologies, fertilizer, and large industrial market. Limited access to these resources leaves women in selected forest communities at a severe disadvantage to pursue sustainable livelihood options rather than depending on the forest reserve. Closing this gap between men and women could drastically reduce their dependency on forest.

Limited access to capital for investment: Both men and women in the landscape face a major constraint in access to finance. This possibly might be because commercial banks and/or microfinance institutions are not available within 2km radius of the community coupled with fewer assets that can serve as collateral and women spending most of the time on unpaid domestic work, which prevent them from participating in networks that can impact their means of livelihood greatly.

The absence of women in decision-making spheres: Analysis of gender relation shows that there is low participation of women in professional/community organizations and in decision-making processes within the forest communities, particularly in Edo, Ogun, and Ondo states.

Gender roles & responsibilities: Significant gender differences exists in the reproductive (home caring) as well as productive (livelihood) roles of men and women in the landscape, with women providing most of the financial unrewarded roles ? cooking, caring for young ones and the sick, while men dominate most productive roles. across the target landscape are huge (Annex K) especially for women in Edo and Ogun states. At the livelihood end, significant gender-based specialization also exists across the landscape, with women being more involved in arable crop production, NTFP collection, petty trading, and waged work (menial jobs) than men which dominate cash crop production (cocoa, rubber, and oil palm), lumbering, hunting, and bee keeping among others.

The patriarchal system of inheritance across the landscapes have much more devastating impact on widows, particularly those that do not to bear a male child to their late husband. Landed property linked to the late husband are transferred to male children, leaving the woman (and her female children, if any) with nothing. Such widow, who are often blamed for the death of their husbands, may also no longer have access to use land for their usual arable crop production. Such are often among those that most dependent on forest resources.

Actions to address these issues have been incorporated in the project design, as recommended in the gender action plan presented in **Annex K**.

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[1] Human Development Report 2019 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf

[2] Social infrastructure is available if it is within 2km radius of the community.

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.

The participation of the private sector and access to financing is essential for the sustainability of the forest and biodiversity outcomes in the project landscape. Recognition of the role of the private sector is increasing in the country, and the project design takes advantage of this trend. The private sector, ranging from agricultural cooperatives to a national commercial bank, constitutes a crucial set of actors determining forest and biodiversity outcomes in the project landscapes and others like them across Nigeria. Private sector entities and individuals involved in the tourism sector, including those operating in areas related to the wildlife economy, were engaged during the PPG stage at both federal and state level. This included dialogues with relevant businesses operating along BD-related value chains within the target landscapes. The private sector therefore has a crucial role in the project and in transforming biodiversity conservation and restoration of degraded forests in a sustainable manner.

The project has been designed to organize and facilitate key private sectors and other stakeholders through multi-stakeholder mechanisms for participatory development and coordinated implementation of ILM. These stakeholders will be engaged throughout the project, beginning with their expected presence on the multi-stakeholder mechanisms being established under Component 1. They will be targets for support via awareness raising and the introduction of SLM and SFM concepts, particularly among smallholder farmers. Private sector actors will be encouraged to adopt environmentally and socio-economically sustainable technologies. Finally, they may provide co-financing of activities, thereby contributing to the intended outcomes of the GEF-funded project.

The project is engaging Sterling Bank Plc?a full service national commercial bank in Nigeria?and will leverage the bank?s wide range of agricultural credit schemes as (loan) co-financing to support development of innovative financial product as part of strategies to investment in biodiversity conservation and ecotourism and promote sustainable / alternative livelihoods in forest-dependent communities.

Across the landscape, the project will work with agricultural cooperatives and associations to support extension services and awareness raising on SLM, SFM and LDN concepts, promotion of environmentally and socio-economically sustainable technologies and value chains.

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):

Section A: Risks to the project

Table 5 below summarizes the identified risks as well as their impact levels, likelihood of occurrence, corresponding mitigation measures, and the responsible individuals.

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
Political Risks					
1	**Insufficient government support**.	**High:** Key aspects promoted by the project, particularly ILM plan, biodiversity conservation & restoration within protected area & buffer zones, and implementation of sustainable production practices & nature-based tourism will rely on government commitment and support.	**Medium**	**1) Diversify project support at multiple levels:** This project will be designed to mobilize support at federal, state, and local levels. This approach diversifies stakeholder buy in at multiple levels, such that if support for project approaches at one level of project management erodes, it has been diversified and institutionalized within others to offset the change. **2) Communication of results:** Through the multi-stakeholder platforms and communication products.	National PMU, State PIUs, State Steering Committee

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
2	**Limited support from Local Government Councils (LGC) and traditional leaders**	**Medium:** Local government councils and traditional authorities play an important role in the land use planning process and their support will be needed by the State Steering Committees. Traditional authorities have a significant influence over customary land at the local level, and impact the land use systems to a high degree. This can constrain access to customary rights of occupancy, particularly for women and youth.	**Medium**	**1) Ensure buy in of priority LGC members.** As a part of the selection criteria for ?priority? LGAs, interest and enthusiasm local government council?s authorities was factored into the selection process, ensuring that project activities being carried out on the ground receive support from LGC members. **2) LGC Representation in State Steering Committee**: LGC member representatives have been included in the State Steering Committee so that their LGA?s priorities are addressed. It is imperative that the State PIU and State Steering Committee actively engage LGC representative members in coordination, advisory, and feedback. 3) **Ensure buy in of priority traditional leaders**: As part of its support to land use planning (Component 1), the project will dedicate resources to working with traditional authorities, with a focus on the needs for women?s inclusion in customary rights allocation and in selected SLM and SFM value chains. The project will plan to engage traditional authorities with the LGC?s land planning process, to ensure that their concerns are met alongside women and youth inclusion. Operating partners will be engaged with traditional authorities, particularly in the land use planning process with the LGCs, in order to mitigate this risk.	State PIUs, State Steering Committee Operational partners
National/Global Health Risks					

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
3	**Health Hazards:** 1) Risk of co-financing. Government priorities to address disease outbreaks such as Diphtheria, Lassa and Yellow fever among others could have an effect on funding for key federal and state government programs that the proposed project builds upon. 2) Availability of technical staff and ability to interact with local communities. 3) As Nigeria strives to recover from the economic downturn, there could be additional pressure on forests being converted to agricultural land.	**Low:** The overall risk impact is considered low. Depending on the level of disease outbreak during project implementation, the project activities that support face to face collaboration and engagement may be moderately impacted, which could have a medium level of impact on land planning activities and cross sector collaboration. Such impacts would be minimal for the project and thus the impact of this threat is designated as ?low?.	**Low**	1) The project will actively explore additional cofinancing sources, including private financing, during the PPG phase to ensure a minimum level of viable cofinancing is guaranteed. 2) Adherence to basic health precautionary measures such as vaccination, Personal Protection Devices (Face Masks, Hand Sanitizers, etc.) while all team members shall be encouraged to reduce the need to travel.	State PIUs
Climate Risks[1]					

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
4	**The climate risk is substantial**	Substantial: possible impacts of different weather-related hazards (exacerbated by climate change) on SLM and SFM approaches - Drought/High temperature: It can results to high seedling mortality, disease increase in wildlife, reduction in leaf and girth size, stem extension and root proliferation for trees, decline in leaf expansion, reduction of photosynthetic machinery, premature leaf senescence, and associated reduction in food production for trees. - Prolonged heavy rainfall: This can leads high seedling mortality, increase in pest and diseases, flower abortion, topsoil erosion and soil nutrient depletion. - Heat-stress effect: High seedling mortality, threatens tree survival and forests.	**Substantial**	Integrated landscape planning & management to be developed taking into account the current climate trends and projected changes in the landscape and target states ? including selection of climate-resilient local/indigenous species for restoration. Promotion of climate-smart SFM practices incl. agroforestry systems e.g., selection of the most appropriate tree species and seed-sources for tree-based restoration, adaptive forest management approach, minimum tillage techniques, etc. Livelihoods diversification in form of on-farm, off-farm, and non-farm activities.	National PMU; State PIUs;
Project Management Risks					

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
5	Project management risks such as delays, overspending, lack of coordination	**Moderately High**	**Low**	The PMU will be composed of qualified personnel. Oversight by implementing partners, presence in targeted landscapes and well-established processes and monitoring activities will favor an early identification of issues that may hinder project implementation.	National PMU, State PIUs, PSC,
Social Risks					
6	**Insecurity**	**High:** This risk is certainly pressing within the landscape.	**High**	High volatility and multidimensional security issues in the landscape, which could affect personnel working for the project. In this context, FAO will provide training - Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) ? a comprehensive safety and security training to project personnel. FAO will closely monitor the security situation in the target project landscape, through established collaboration with State Security Services (SSS), one of the primary intelligence and security organizations in Nigeria.	FAO Project Steering Committee
Environmental Risks					

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Planned mitigation actions	Responsible party
8	**Deforestation events**: deforestation events resulting from illegal logging, hunting, expansion of cropland.	**Moderate:** This threat is considered moderate since it serves as revenue generation to the state government and forest dependence communities.	**Moderate**	? Sensitization of the state government on the danger of de-reserving the existing forest reserves. ? Stakeholder mapping to identify key stakeholders driving deforestation across the priority landscape, understand their needs and expectation as well as develop strategies to manage them effectively. ? Alternative internally generated revenue to the state governments in form of carbon credits. ? Alternative sustainable source of livelihood to forest dependent communities. For instance, capacity building of women and other vulnerable groups on snail rearing, bee keeping, fishery, mushroom production, grasscutter farming, among others. ? Provision of solar stove or fuel-efficient stoves to discourage local communities from cutting down trees as source of fuel wood for cooking. This will reduce emissions and harness the potential of women as actors for mitigation measures.	National PMU; State PIUs

Section B: Environmental and Social risks from the project ? ESM Plan

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management	Lack of coordination and conflict across multiple Federal and State MDAs as well as LGCs make land use policies ineffective.	Review of existing legislations and policies to eliminate conflicts in natural resource management. Strengthening of the landscape multi-stakeholder mechanisms for participatory development and coordinated implementation of ILM. Establish partnerships with relevant private sector actors, including agribusinesses, to promote sustainable practices and conservation of biodiversity within the landscape.	Federal Ministry of Environment working closely with members of the State PIUs;	The first two years of the project.

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats	The growing tendency by the State government in the landscape to de-reserve and concession existing forest reserves wholly or partly to private companies poses a major risk to biodiversity hotspots in the landscape.	The project will work mainly in the core and buffer zones of the protected areas. Under component one, there will be engagement of all landscape stakeholders including REDD+, IDH, protected area managers, among others to jointly discuss and develop an Ecosystem Management Plan for SNRs and/or wildlife conservation zones. The establishment of these multi-stakeholder platforms will provide the space to interact and discuss cross-cutting issues such as wildlife and biodiversity. The project will also provide capacity building of local Community Forest Associations to develop/revise their Participatory Forest Management Plans and implement restoration interventions within the forest reserves. With the support of technical institutions (NCF, ANI, Forestry departments, REDD+, & local NGOs) and experts, localized endemic species will be used to restore degraded forests. The project will also support the forest communities to develop sustainable management plan for the conservation zone and/or strict nature reserve in Omo and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves. Under component three, the interlinkage between the protected areas and the production systems beyond will also be highlighted through the identification of possible sustainable financing schemes to promote conservation and restoration. Component three will also features capacity building of farmers on SFM and SLM such as agroforestry that will make the forest communities to be less dependent on forest. To achieve this, the project will bring on board	National Project Management Unit working closely with members of the State PIU such as REDD+, IDH, Forestry commission, National park, ANI, Sterling Bank, ADP, FADU, knowledge management, communication, and M&E officers among others.	The first two years of the project.

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
		the extension services of State ADPs. Under the fourth component the project will support knowledge sharing through reports, briefs, and infographics to highlight key findings and lesson learned on biodiversity conservation. Indigenous species will be used for restoration of degraded areas within forest reserves across the priority landscape and will be vetted by the relevant project partners such as FRIN. Species, used for agroforestry purposes will be similarly vetted by FRIN and will bank on previous and successful projects by project partners.		

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 8: Gender Inequality	According to a recent UNDP Human Development Report[2], Nigeria ranked 181 of 193 countries on the Gender Equality Index. Reasons for its low score include: poor resource allocation in the agricultural, economic and social sectors, forced displacements and inadequate inclusion of women?s perspectives in policy-making decisions, low representation of women in governance and politics; among others. Data gathered during PPG indicated gender inequality as an important risk in biodiversity and forest restoration across the priority landscape.	Under component three, the project will focus on the following: Promoting the use of efficient energy systems (e.g., special cooking stoves and ovens) as against the energy-inefficient and toxic burning of biomass, such as wood, charcoal or agricultural waste at the household level. This will reduce GHG emissions and increase women?s productivity while reducing her workload and time poverty, hence, availing her time for income-generating activities, education, training or participation in community decision making process. Building capacity on the use of (new) technologies with a special focus on the needs of women and vulnerable groups (for instance, SLM and SFM means of agricultural production, energy-efficient cooking stoves and ovens, renewable energy systems, information and communication technologies). Providing alternative source of livelihood to forest dependent communities. For instance, capacity building of women and other vulnerable groups on snail rearing, bee keeping, fishery, mushroom production, grasscutter farming, among others. Sensitizing forest communities across the priority landscape with particular interest in women and vulnerable groups on gender-based violence and need for women inclusion in customary rights vis-?-vis land tenure and property rights. Planting of trees that not only sequester carbon but also produce a crop (agroforestry), which may provide them with a source of	NCF partnering with other State PIU such as Sterling Bank, FADU, ADP, & other relevant project partners.	Year 2 - 5

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
		income. Such projects could be tied to emissions trading, and reduced emissions resulting from afforestation could be traded in the form of carbon credits. Financial inclusion through access to financial services and products such as value-chain financing, credits, savings, and insurance from commercial banks and farmer?s cooperatives.		

[1] A detailed climate risk screening has been prepared and is attached as Annex L.

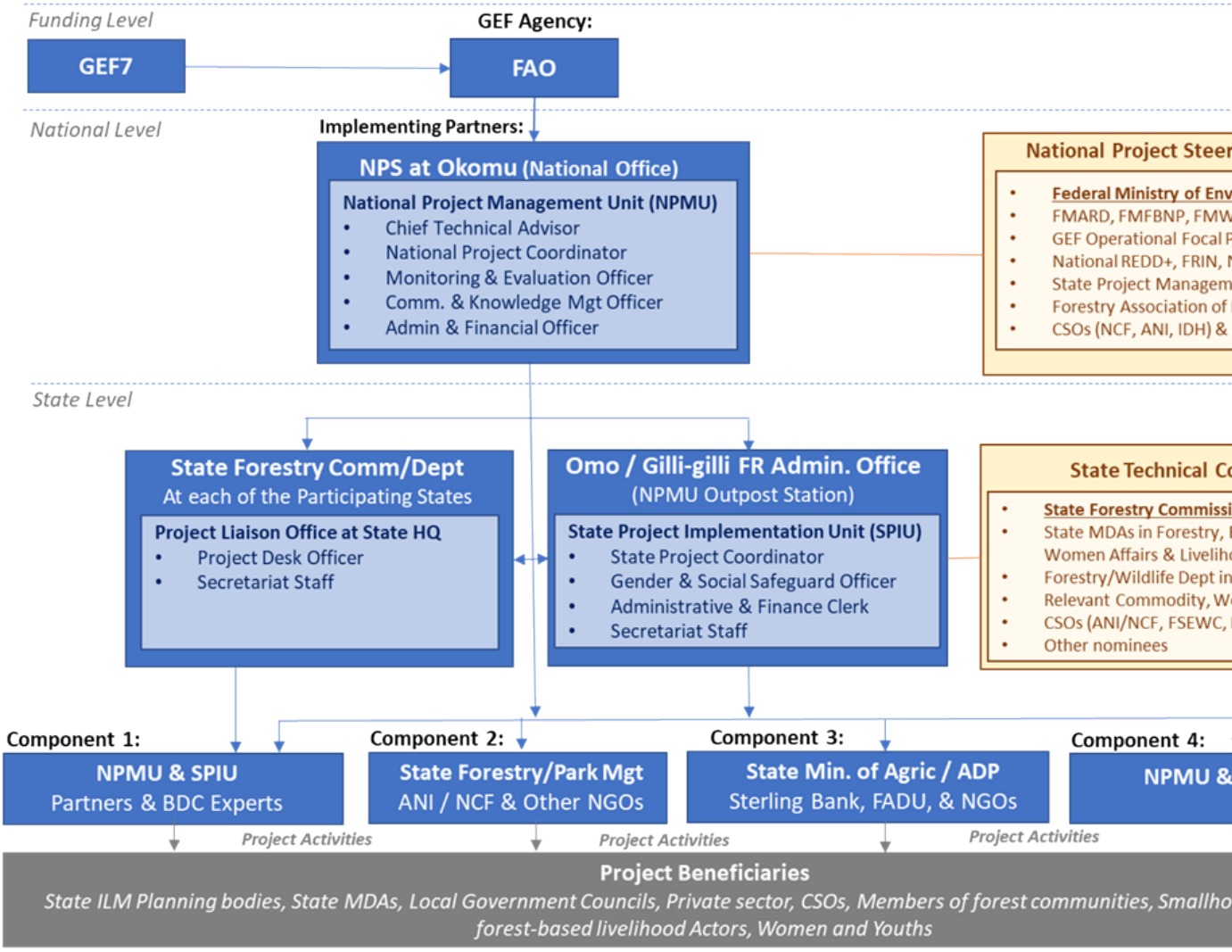
[2] Human Development Report 2019 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

The project implementation structure has been designed taking into account the multi-sectoral, multi-agency, and multi-level nature of the project, and, importantly, taking into consideration alignment with institutional mandates. It is a structure that requires strong collaboration and commitment at all levels, which the project will facilitate and mainstream through establishment/strengthening of multi-stakeholder platforms that bring all stakeholders together to promote collaboration, co-creation, ownership and synergy of actions.

Project implementation arrangements



At the funding level, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** (**FAO**) will be the GEF Implementing Agency, and as such, will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping, and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

As GEF Implementing Agency, FAO will:

? Administer funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, and the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities;

? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and

? Report to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

At national level, the Federal Ministry of Environment (FMEnv), which hosts and chairs the Project Steering Committee, will work closely with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning (FMFBNP), and Federal Ministry of Women?s Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD). FMEnv will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues at national level, ensure delivery of co-financing inputs to the project and ensure coordination and coherence with relevant ongoing programs.

National Project Steering Committee

At the national level, a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprising all key partners representing public and private sectors and NGOs will be constituted and chaired by FMEnv. Membership will include: FMEnv, FMARD, FMFBNP, FMWASD, FAO, GEF Focal Point, Sterling Bank (Financial Institution & Private Sector), representatives of the Project Management Committees of the participating states, and representatives of the Forestry Association of Nigeria. Others will include the National Park Services (NPS), Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), National REDD+ Programme and organizations and development partners such as UNDP, GIZ, and key CSOs (ANI, NCF, IDH, etc.) that may be invited to participate as members or observers, as appropriate. The PSC will: (i) facilitate coordination and knowledge exchange between the project and relevant ongoing projects and programmes; and (ii) ensure timely provision of co-financing to the project.

State Technical Committees

Each of the two states (Edo and Ogun) where field-level activities will take place will set-up a State Technical Committee (STC) to provide multi-disciplinary technical guidance to ensure that the project interventions are technically sound and that there is coordination between the states and executing partners. Membership will be drawn from relevant State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs, including the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development), Agriculture Desk of Sterling Bank in the respective State, Faculty/Department of Forestry in the State and/or Federal Universities in the State, FRIN, and Partner CSOs (IDH, NCF/ANI, FADU, FSEWC, etc).

Operational Partner

Based on consultations and an independent fiduciary capacity assessment conducted during project preparation, the National Park Service (NPS) will serve as the Operational Partner (OP) for the project. Roles and responsibilities of NPS and FAO shall be described in detail in the Operational Partner Agreement (OPA) to be concluded within three months of project approval by the GEF[1]. In summary, NPS will carry out the following tasks:

(i) *Project planning, coordination, management:* Overseeing the day-to-day management and implementation of the project, including the issuing and managing contracts with co-executing partners, overseeing and ensuring delivery of their respective outputs. Providing technical support to ensure quality implementation of the project.

(ii) *Project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting:* Timely, comprehensive, and evidence-based project reporting, in line with the project M&E framework and requirements.

(iii) *Risk management:* Monitoring risks, including environmental and social risks, identified during project preparation, identifying new risks and undertaking appropriate mitigation actions.

(iv) *Procurement:* Procurement of goods and services, including recruitment of experts, in line with the OPA and work plans and budgets approved by FAO.

(v) *Financial Management*: Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets and submission of financial statements to FAO.

To fulfil its role, NPS will establish a National Project Management Unit (NPMU) that will operate from its office in Okomu National Park in Edo State. The NPMU will consist of the following full-time staff: (1) Chief Technical Advisor; (2) National Project Coordinator (NPC), (3) National M&E Officer; (4) Knowledge and Communications Officer; (5) Administrative and finance officer; and (6) Administrative/Secretariat Assistants. Technical support for project activities at national, state, and landscape levels will be provided by the NPMU through: (a) contracts with partner CSOs such as NCF/ANI and FSEWC (Components 1 and 2), FADU & other Local NGOs (Component 3) as well as with part-time individual experts/consultants (national and international) to provide technical support (Component 1 - 3); (b) direct performance-based financing to scale/strengthen activities of key national/State MDAs including FRIN & NPS (Component 1), State Ministry of Forestry/Forestry Commission and Okomu NP (Component 2), State Min. of Agriculture / ADP (Component 3), and relevant partners (Component 4). A safeguards specialist will also be recruited (part-time) to lead the environmental and social risk assessment and development of a mitigation plan, within the first 6 months of project implementation.

National Project Management Team

NPS will designate a National Project Director (NPD), as part of its co-financing to the project. The NPD will be responsible for oversight of the PMU?s delivery of the project, communicating tasks and guiding the Chief Technical Advisor and the Project Management Team on government policies and priorities. A project focal point will be appointed within each of the relevant Federal Ministries (FMEnv, FMARD, FMFBNP, and FMWASD), to work closely with the NPD. The NPD will ensure that the project maintains a strong link with the State Governments and programs.

Other members of the National Project Management team will include:

? A **Chief Technical Advisor** (CTA ? GEF funded), will be recruited by NPS to provide substantial technical inputs to the implementation of the project. To complement the forestry & BD expertise within NPS, the CTA?s main expertise will be in sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, forestry, and/or biodiversity conservation.

? A **National Project Coordinator** (NPC) responsible for the day-to-day planning and coordination of project activities with all national and state institutions, service providers and partners involved in the execution of the various project components. The NPC will also be responsible for identifying opportunities for partnership with new initiatives in Nigeria and with the private sector.

? **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer** (GEF-funded) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the M&E plan, including setting up of M&E systems (project level and landscape monitoring systems) working with the state PIUs and REDD+ units. The M&E officer will train the project team and executing partners on M&E requirements and will also be responsible for the implementation of the knowledge management plan working with the communication officer. Working with the gender and safeguards specialist, the M&E officer will monitor and report on the implementation of the gender action plan and child labour mitigation plan.

? **Knowledge management and communications officer** (GEF-funded) will be responsible for the development and implementation of knowledge and communication strategies working closely with the project team, especially the M&E officer.

? **Administrative and finance officer** (NPS/GEF funded) will be responsible for carrying out administrative and financial management duties associated with project operations. This includes activities related to managing the budget and the project?s procurement plans and preparation of financial statements etc.

The project will set-up **state Project Implementation Units (PIUs)** based in the administrative offices of the two demonstration sites (Omo and Gilli-gilli forest reserves) and a Liaison Office in the Forestry Commission/Department of the four States. Note that the two states (Ondo and Delta) proposed as replication landscapes will only have a Liaison Office. The PIUs shall be responsible for coordination of activities in each state (Edo and Ogun) and shall be directly supported by the NPMU on a day-to-day basis. The Liaison Offices, which shall be run preferably by a Director in the Forestry Commission/Department of the respective States, shall provide liaison services between the project and the respective State Government, and shall also chair the State Technical Committee in the two States (Edo and Ogun) that will host demonstration sites.

The PIUs will be led by a **State Coordinator** (GEF-funded) who will report directly to the CTA and will be assisted by a Gender and Social Safeguard Officer (GEF-funded). The day-to-day responsibilities of the State Coordinator will be oversight of the operating partner?s delivery of their respective project outputs. This includes close coordination on output status, implementation progress, identifying and mitigating project risks. The Gender and Social Safeguard Officer shall work with partners to ensure effective implementation of the gender action plan. The State Project Coordinator will receive support from appointed staff of state MDAs through co-financed secondments. These will include a State Administrative & Finance Officer/Clerk and Clerical & ICT personnel that the Forestry Ministry/ Commission will second to the project as part of co-financing.

Component executing teams: The project activities build upon a number of key programs, notably the Multi-stakeholders Platform (MSP) under REDD+ program; IDH partnership with national and state governments as well as the private sector in the landscape (particularly Edo and Ondo States) in convening,

co-creating, and co-financing inclusive and sustainable market-driven solutions that create value for people and planet; ongoing partnership between ANI and Okomu National Park for the management of the park; and ongoing partnership between NCF and Ogun State Government to establish a Wildlife Sanctuary in Omo Forest Reserve. Others include ongoing activities of various State and National MDAs as well as NGOs. While various partners and independent Biodiversity Conservation Experts will support the NPMU and the SPIUs to drive component 1 activities, ANI in Edo and NCF in Ogun will be key delivery partner for component 2. FSEWC shall also be the partner to help drive Community Forest Management (CFM), leveraging on its similar experience in CFM in Ekiti and Cross River State. Sterling Bank, FADU, State ADPs, and local NGOs shall also be key delivery partners for component 3 activities. Services of the delivery partners shall be based on contract between it and the NPMU.

The project will be coordinated with a number of relevant ongoing initiatives through the various existing and new multi-stakeholder mechanisms to be set-up by the project (i.e. Project Steering Committee and Technical Committee). Linkages with the following GEF-financed project and related initiatives will be established.

Table *6*: Relevant GEF-financed projects and other relevant initiatives

Project name	Relevance and coordination strategy
GEF-7 FOLUR project in Nigeria	This project includes work in forest areas of Ondo State which are among the most biologically significant areas within the present project?s replication landscapes. Coordination between these two FAO-implemented projects will be a central element of the project strategy. Emerging lessons related to ecosystem restoration, sustainable financing and other aspects of knowledge management and dissemination will be broadly shared across the projects and associated landscapes.
Green Innovation Centre for the Agriculture and Food Sector ? Nigeria	The objective of the initiative is to increase income of smallholder farmers in rural districts in 8 states ? funded by GIZ in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD). The initiative has developed tools and manuals that will be useful for the capacity building work under component 3. The linkage with the project will be through FMARD.
Traceability and Resilience in Agriculture and Cocoa Ecosystems of Nigeria (TRACE)	USDA-funded cocoa productivity and marketing project ($21.3 million) aims to increase productivity in the cacao value chain by applying climate-smart agriculture and to expand the market through traceability back to its source. The project, which will be active in several states within the lowland forest ecoregion, has important potential benefits in terms of reducing pressure on remaining forests.
Niger Delta Biodiversity Project (ID: 4090)	The project objective is ?to mainstream biodiversity management priorities into the Niger Delta oil and gas (O&G) sector development policies and operations.? The present project will exchange lessons learned with this project.
Partnership for Forests (P4F)	This regional program includes support to the Africa Palm Oil Initiative (APOI), which is active in the project landscapes.

Project name	Relevance and coordination strategy
UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions): Assuring Forest-positive Exports from Nigeria: A Regional Demonstration	UK PACT is a flagship programme under the UK?s International Climate Finance (ICF) portfolio. The programme is committed to tackling climate change and is investing ?11.6bn over five years to March 2026 to support projects uses technical assistance to improve key capabilities, helping Nigeria to accelerate its low-carbon transition and maximise emissions reductions. It aims to achieve its objectives through nature-based solutions for climate mitigation such as agroforestry, improved forest management, and forest restoration. This UK PACT funded project aims to accelerate decision-support for emissions reductions from deforestation, degradation and land-use in Nigeria and increase ambitions for the NDC. The project focuses on developing models for monitoring and assuring forest-positive commodities, sharing experience with Ghana.
UK PACT: Mangrove restoration and social protection for fisheries and forestry dependent coastal communities of Nigeria	This project, for which FAO is implementing partner, is focusing on rehabilitation of coastal ecosystems and increasing climate resilience of mangrove ecosystems and their forest- and fisheries-dependent communities. The project aims to promote conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services and ensure that communities in and around Cross-River State have improved social protection through alternative nature-based livelihoods. Given that Nigeria?s lowland forests are contiguous with important mangrove areas, and that movement between the two biomes by local inhabitants is a common occurrence, FAO will ensure close coordination here.
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) activities	These consist of: support to the National Park Service and CRS Forestry Commission to protect forests and watersheds in CRNP and Afi Mountain Sanctuary, by providing training to ranger patrols, training, and equipment and infrastructure rehabilitation; working with farmers to improve sustainability of cocoa and cassava production, and women?s groups to improve sustainability of bush mango; and support to transboundary collaboration between Nigeria and Cameroon.
Nigeria Conservation Foundation (NCF)	NCF is implementing a biodiversity conservation project in eight buffer zone communities of CRNP, with funding from NABU Germany. It also manages the nearby Becheve Nature Reserve. NCF is also a partner in the present projet
Nigeria Community-based REDD+ Programme	The objective of this programme is to strengthen participatory forest management and conservation and improve community livelihoods. The programme accompanies communities in the development of management plans for community forests and lands, forest restoration and development of non-timber forest products. The programme is also promoting agroforestry systems on agricultural lands.

[1] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) or OP, results to be implemented by the OP and budgets to be transferred to the OP may change due to FAO internal partnership and agreement procedures which have not yet been concluded at the time of submission.

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.

The project has been designed in a manner that is informed by, and aims directly to support, several national strategies, plans and associated targets and priorities, as follows:

? National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP): The NBSAP includes 14 National Targets, including the following to which the present project would directly contribute:

o Target 1: 30% of Nigeria?s population is aware of the importance of biodiversity to the ecology and economy of the country.

o Target 3: adoption of a national ecosystem-based spatial planning process and plans, promoting the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustain development.

o Target 4: up to 15% of the areas of degraded ecosystems in Nigeria are under programmes for restoration and sustainable management

o Target 6: at least 10% of Nigeria?s national territory is sustainably managed in conservation areas at varied levels of authority, with representation of all ecosystem types.

o Target 12: community participation in project design and management of key ecosystems is enhanced in one (1) each of the six (6) ecological zones.

o Target 14: the capacity of key actors is built and gender mainstreaming carried out for the achievement of Nigeria?s biodiversity targets

? National REDD+ Strategy: The Strategy defines four strategic priorities, the first two of which are considered of particular importance to the present project. These are:

o *Strategic Priority 1: Reduce deforestation and carbon losses from forestry and agriculture as well as other fluxes including bush burning, charcoal production, mineral exploitation and grazing* - Under this priority, actions for sustainable restoration, forest protection and reforestation, along with linked efforts to promote Climate Smart Agriculture. Notably, the first action identified here is to organize a national conference to develop ?a National Action Plan and programme for adopting *integrated landscape management approaches*? (see Strategic Option 1.1). Other relevant actions include reducing bush burning (Option 1.2), controlling overgrazing of forest reserves (Option 1.4) and sustainable intensification of agriculture and agroforestry (Option 1.6).

o *Strategic Priority 2: Increase the country?s network of forest reserves and conservation areas* - This strategic priority includes planned actions to designate new forest reserves and protected areas, while also improving the management of existing protected areas, including ?work[ing] collaboratively with communities to build their capacity in the management of community conservancies and sanctuaries, especially those contiguous with protected areas and other critical ecosystems and wildlife corridors, as

well as joint management of buffer zones of protected areas.? It acknowledges links to the objective of achieving at least 25% forest coverage for the country[1] (based on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) and the attainment of SDG Goal 15[2].?

? National Forest Policy: The Policy describes 32 ?priority areas for sustainable forest management (SFM). For each of these areas, the document presents a brief policy statement, a series of objectives and a set of strategies. Among the key topic areas to which the project will contribute most significantly, from the incremental perspective of biodiversity mainstreaming and protected areas management, are: 3.3.1 Forest management; 3.3.2 Biodiversity conservation, including protected areas; 3.3.4 Supply of seeds and seedlings; 3.3.5 Forest fires; 3.3.8 Environmental services of forests; 3.3.13 Non-timber forest products; 3.3.14 Agro-forestry; 3.3.15 Community participation; 3.3.16 Private sector participation; 3.3.20 Gender issues; 3.3.22 Forest administration; 3.3.25 Training and capacity building; 3.3.26 Education and awareness creation; 3.3.27 Information and database management; 3.3.28 Land, tree tenure and conflict resolution; 3.3.30 Cross-sectoral cooperation. For each of the areas mentioned, the project will identify specific opportunities to incrementally support the respective objectives and strategies.

? UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): The NDC, which was updated in 2021, ?*recommits* to its ambitious *relative* emission reduction targets from the 2015 NDC, namely an unconditional contribution of 20% below business-as-usual by 2030 and a 45% contribution conditional on international support.? It refer3ences a validated Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL), based on revised data and emissions projections for the forestry sector. The NDC notes that ?The objective of the National REDD+ Programme is to implement the forest sector plan for achieving Nigeria?s NDC aimed at reducing GHG emission.? A key element of the NDC is the potential role of nature-based solutions, which the report defines as ?actions that protect biodiversity, sustainably manage and/or restore ecosystems, while simultaneously contributing to the achievement of multiple sustainable development goals, including national goals for climate, food security, water security, disaster risk reduction and livelihoods.? It goes on to identify the ?top three nature-based solutions for climate mitigation [as] agroforestry, improved forest management and forest restoration, with a combined mitigation potential of 89 Mt CO_2e/year.? The present project will contribute to implementation of these solutions while generating co-benefits related to mitigation.

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[1]http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4793e.pdf

[2]https:/www.sdgfund.org/goal-15-life-land

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 project will benefit from close cooperation with the Nigeria FOLUR project and, by extension, will be informed by FOLUR global learning processes. This will be particularly important given the significant presence of oil palm and cocoa within the project landscape.

Under Component 4, a strategy on knowledge sharing and strategic communication and information management will be carried out in order to capture, analyse and share lessons learned for biodiversity

conservation and sustainable agricultural development across landscapes. The project will facilitate a lesson learning process as part of the day-to-day work of the project team. The lessons will feed into an adaptive management process and will be shared with stakeholders on a continuous basis. Knowledge management will include documentation of best practices, impacts and an evolving theory of change. Information will be produced and packaged for targeted stakeholders, including local government officials and producer associations and forums. Capacity building events will supplement existing knowledge materials with ones developed by the project, the latter to be updated as project lessons are learned. Media and local means of information dissemination will be targeted under the project; project results and lessons learned will be shared through printed and online media, as well as radio and television. The project will carry out regular participatory monitoring and evaluation of project activities, which will be documented as part of the project?s reporting requirements. To broaden the range of dissemination of lessons learned, the project will explore opportunities for meaningful participation at specific events e.g. at symposia and other events where landscape management and biodiversity conservation are being discussed.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project oversight will be carried out by the National Project Steering Committee (PSC) and FAO. Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental and socio-economic benefits are being delivered.

FAO will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Day-to-day project monitoring will be carried out by the National Project Management Unit (PMU). Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E system, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E Officer. Project indicators shall always include GEF core indicators.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

M&E Activity	**Responsible Parties**	**Timeframe**	**GEF Budget (USD)**
Monitoring system implementation and reporting	**Evaluation specialists (x2)**	Continuous	7,000
Monitoring system implementation and reporting	M&E officer	Continuous	70,020
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	PMU	Annually in July	M&E Officer + PMU
Co-financing Reports	PMU	Annually	Co-financing

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Mid-term Evaluation	Independent consultant(s), organized by FAO.	At the end of year 2	40,000
Final Evaluation	Independent consultant(s), organized by FAO.	To be launched 6 months before operational closure	50,000
Terminal Report	Independent consultant(s), organized by FAO	At project end	7,000
Total Budget			**174,020**

Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the GEF Monitoring Evaluation Tracking Tools against the baseline (completed during project preparation) will be required at midterm and final project evaluation. In each of the reports a dedicated session will be included with information on gender-related progress made and results achieved, with some sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive lessons learned.

Project Inception Report. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will prepare a project inception report in consultation with project partners and FAO. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B). The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with FAO and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop (IW) inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the IW to the BH. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. The AWP/B must be linked to the project?s Results Framework indicators so that the project?s work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the Project Steering Committee.

Project Progress Reports (PPR). PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework (Annex A). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan.

Annual Project Implementation Review. FAO in collaboration with PMU will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) for submission to the GEF Secretariat. The PIRs will be circulated to the PSC and the GEF Operational Focal Point for information.

Technical Reports. Technical reports will be prepared as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The FAO Lead Technical Officer will be responsible for ensuring

appropriate technical review and clearance of technical reports. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Project Steering Committee as appropriate.

Co-financing Reports. The PMU will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document. The co-financing report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR.

Terminal Report. Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PMU will submit to FAO, a Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the GEF with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluation provisions

A mid-term evaluation will be undertaken at project mid-term to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving the project objectives, outcomes and outputs. Findings and recommendations of this evaluation will be instrumental for bringing any necessary improvement in the overall project design and execution strategy for the remaining period of the project?s term.

The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

The FAO Budget Holder will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date. The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects.? FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), OED and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

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)?

Component 3 of the project in particular is designed to support implementation of sustainable livelihood practices and livelihoods in connecting productive areas of the landscape. While the focus will be on reducing pressures on natural areas, particularly forests, this work will also deliver important and multiple

socio-economic benefits to members of rural, forest-dependent communities, including smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups, including women. These community members will have their livelihoods enhanced, based on increased productivity and income, more diversified income sources and increased resilience to climate shocks among smallholder farmers. Support to SMEs is expected to benefit agri-entrepreneurs, including youth, by removing important barriers that stand in the way of making agricultural value chains more sustainable, resilient, productive and profitable. Forest restoration will be among the targeted value chains, with a range of expected benefits to incomes, employment and welfare.

The resulting socio-economic benefits, several of which are included in the project results framework, are expected to include the following:

•Knowledge building: Training and coaching sessions will be delivered to an estimated 20,000 members of local communities, including 10,000 women, and 5,000 unemployed youths. Training will be designed to raise skills and introduce improved practices in multiple value chains. These knowledge transfers will have long-term benefits over the course of these individuals? productive lives.
•Increased incomes: Baseline household incomes in the targeted areas of the landscape are approximately N450,000. Training and technical and financial support provided by the project are together expected to raise local real incomes among 20,000 direct beneficiaries by an average of 25%.
•Increased access to small-scale lending / capital: Working with commercial lenders like Sterling Bank, the project will help to develop lending criteria and associated mechanisms that will enable enhanced access to funds by micro-entrepreneurs associated with targeted value chains. This, in turn, will have knock-on benefits to employment and incomes, along with the reduced environmental impacts due to biodiversity-friendly criteria. About 2,000 borrowers are expected to benefit in this way.
•Women, youth and vulnerable groups: A characteristic of each of the above benefits will be its emphasis on reaching women, youth and vulnerable groups. By targeting these groups, which in many cases face the greatest socio-economic hardships, the project will have positive impacts on income inequality and will maximize the benefits associated with any given income increase, for example. It is expected overall that 50% of those benefitting from knowledge building, income increases and improved access to lending will be women, youth and/or members of vulnerable groups.
•Improved productivity: A key factor underpinning the cycle of environmental degradation in the project landscapes is the low baseline agricultural yields among smallholder farmers. Linked to low levels of inputs and shortcomings in practices, this has the inevitable effect of encouraging ongoing land clearance, with concomitant loss of ecosystem services. Breaking this cycle requires a form of sustainable agricultural intensification, a key factor in which is improved yields. To this end, the project aims to deliver an average of 10% yield increases in key sectors amongst target beneficiaries.
Furthermore, the project contributes to two of the four pillars[1] of decent work:

•Pillar 1: Employment creation and enterprise development, which contains specific elements on: supporting smallholder farmers in accessing modern markets and modern value chains; and supporting MSMEs in accessing markets, training, financial services and productive assets, including land.
•Pillar 4: Governance and social change, with engagement of rural communities and smallholder farmer associations and groups including women and youth, in integrated landscape planning and policy processes, and in implementation.

[1] http://www.fao.org/3/i1937e/i1937e.pdf

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	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.

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management	Lack of coordination and conflict across multiple Federal and State MDAs as well as LGCs make land use policies ineffective.	Review of existing legislations and policies to eliminate conflicts in natural resource management. Strengthening of the landscape multi-stakeholder mechanisms for participatory development and coordinated implementation of ILM. Establish partnerships with relevant private sector actors, including agribusinesses, to promote sustainable practices and conservation of biodiversity within the landscape.	Federal Ministry of Environment working closely with members of the State PIUs;	The first two years of the project.

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats	The growing tendency by the State government in the landscape to de-reserve and concession existing forest reserves wholly or partly to private companies poses a major risk to biodiversity hotspots in the landscape.	The project will work mainly in the core and buffer zones of the protected areas. Under component one, there will be engagement of all landscape stakeholders including REDD+, IDH, protected area managers, among others to jointly discuss and develop an Ecosystem Management Plan for SNRs and/or wildlife conservation zones. The establishment of these multi-stakeholder platforms will provide the space to interact and discuss cross-cutting issues such as wildlife and biodiversity. The project will also provide capacity building of local Community Forest Associations to develop/revise their Participatory Forest Management Plans and implement restoration interventions within the forest reserves. With the support of technical institutions (NCF, ANI, Forestry departments, REDD+, & local NGOs) and experts, localized endemic species will be used to restore degraded forests. The project will also support the forest communities to develop sustainable management plan for the conservation zone and/or strict nature reserve in Omo and Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserves. Under component three, the interlinkage between the protected areas and the production systems beyond will also be highlighted through the identification of possible sustainable financing schemes to promote conservation and restoration. Component three will also features capacity building of farmers on SFM and SLM such as agroforestry that will make the forest communities to be less	National Project Management Unit working closely with members of the State PIU such as REDD+, IDH, Forestry commission, National park, ANI, Sterling Bank, ADP, FADU, knowledge management, communication, and M&E officers among others.	The first two years of the project.

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
		dependent on forest. To achieve this, the project will bring on board the extension services of State ADPs. Under the fourth component the project will support knowledge sharing through reports, briefs, and infographics to highlight key findings and lesson learned on biodiversity conservation. Indigenous species will be used for restoration of degraded areas within forest reserves across the priority landscape and will be vetted by the relevant project partners such as FRIN. Species, used for agroforestry purposes will be similarly vetted by FRIN and will bank on previous and successful projects by project partners.		

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
ESS 8: Gender Inequality	According to a recent UNDP Human Development Report[1], Nigeria ranked 181 of 193 countries on the Gender Equality Index. Reasons for its low score include: poor resource allocation in the agricultural, economic and social sectors, forced displacements and inadequate inclusion of women?s perspectives in policy-making decisions, low representation of women in governance and politics; among others. Data gathered during PPG indicated gender inequality as an important risk in biodiversity and forest restoration across the priority landscape.	Under component three, the project will focus on the following: Promoting the use of efficient energy systems (e.g., special cooking stoves and ovens) as against the energy-inefficient and toxic burning of biomass, such as wood, charcoal or agricultural waste at the household level. This will reduce GHG emissions and increase women?s productivity while reducing her workload and time poverty, hence, availing her time for income-generating activities, education, training or participation in community decision making process. Building capacity on the use of (new) technologies with a special focus on the needs of women and vulnerable groups (for instance, SLM and SFM means of agricultural production, energy-efficient cooking stoves and ovens, renewable energy systems, information and communication technologies). Providing alternative source of livelihood to forest dependent communities. For instance, capacity building of women and other vulnerable groups on snail rearing, bee keeping, fishery, mushroom production, grasscutter farming, among others. Sensitizing forest communities across the priority landscape with particular interest in women and vulnerable groups on gender-based violence and need for women inclusion in customary rights vis-?-vis land tenure and property rights.	NCF partnering with other State PIU such as Sterling Bank, FADU, ADP, & other relevant project partners.	Year 2 - 5

Risk Identified	Social & Environmental Risks and Impacts	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Timeline
		Planting of trees that not only sequester carbon but also produce a crop (agroforestry), which may provide them with a source of income. Such projects could be tied to emissions trading, and reduced emissions resulting from afforestation could be traded in the form of carbon credits. Financial inclusion through access to financial services and products such as value-chain financing, credits, savings, and insurance from commercial banks and farmer?s cooperatives.		

[1] Human Development Report 2019 http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
ESS FULL Screening Checklist BD PIF Nigeria May 9th	**Project PIF 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).

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
Objective: To improve the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of a lowland forest landscape in order to protect globally significant biodiversity and strengthen sustainable livelihoods of local communities						
Objective-level indicators						
GEF-7 core indicators	*Core indicator 1:* **Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	0	269,612 ha	269,612 ha	METT analyses (see Component 2 indicators)	Protected areas remain sufficiently connected to landscape to avoid island effect over longer term
	Core Indicator 3: Area of **land restored** (hectares)	0	4,000 ha of former forest land in BD-priority locations under restoration with native tree and shrub species	10,000 ha under restoration	Field-level monitoring surveys; project reporting	Final selection of locations for restoration takes full account of, and carefully balances, biodiversity considerations and local community needs
	Core Indicator 4: Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	0	25,000 ha	50,000 ha	Project reporting	Sustainable practices are adequate to sustain biodiversity connectivity over time

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
	Core Indicator 11: Number of **direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender** as co-benefit of GEF investment	0	10,000 men 10,000 women (50% youths)	10,000 men 10,000 women (50% youths)	Project reporting	
Component 1: Integrated landscape policy, planning and management						
Outcome 1.1: Inclusive integrated landscape management (ILM) plans are in place, enabling conservation and sustainable management of important lowland forest landscapes	Platforms for participation and decision-making regarding key protected areas and buffer zones	0	2	Two multi-stakeholder platforms, for integrated and sustainable decision-making, covering a total of 386,939 ha are in place, meet regularly and are enabling broad and equitable participation by stakeholders and their representatives, including women and youths	Reports of platform meetings	Platforms are following relevant guidance from gender action plan and stakeholder plan to ensure full and equitable representation, including of disadvantaged groups
	# ha of landscape covered by ILM plans adopted by key stakeholders	0	386,939 ha	386,939 ha	Project reporting	

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
	Effective biodiversity conservation management enabled through updated legal and policy frameworks and institutional arrangements	0	At least three updates / revisions of local and/or state policies, regulations and guidelines on lands, agriculture, forestry, environment, trade, and gender remove barriers to ILM, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation in the landscape	At least six updates / revisions of local and/or state policies, regulations and guidelines on lands, agriculture, forestry, environment, trade, and gender remove barriers to ILM, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation in the landscape	State and LGA official reporting	Implementation of policies, regulations and guidelines follows their adoption
Outcome 1.2: A high-level strategic vision and action plan for conservation of Nigeria?s core lowland forest ecoregion is adopted by four participating states and is supporting scale-up, harmonization and effectiveness of biodiversity conservation	Area of Nigeria lowland forest biome covered by an ecological assessment and providing adequate and updated data and information needed to underpin a science-based, biome-level conservation strategy and action plan	0	1,260,622 ha	1,260,622 ha	Final landscape assessment	Security conditions are adequate to sustain an effective and detailed, field-based approach

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
action across the ecoregion	Adoption and financing of a lowland forest landscape vision and action plan	0	Lowland forest vision and action plan drafted and submitted for state Governmen t approval	Lowland forest landscape vision and action plan covering 1,260,622 ha adopted and has leveraged at least $10 million in additional cofinancing and benefiting at least two states	Project cofinancing report	Project awareness raising efforts and demonstration impacts create sufficient momentum to ensure implementatio n of action plan following its adoption
	Landscape-level information and monitoring	Ad-hoc and uncoordinate d research and data collection efforts	Initial data sharing and incorporate d into data managemen t system	At least 50 regular contributors sharing data and information within multi-stakeholder, lowland forest monitoring network, providing a hub for tracking ecological change across core area of lowland forest biome	Project reporting	Enhanced data and information flows are contributing substantially to on-the-ground improvements in management and land use
Component 2: Implementation of biodiversity conservation and restoration within protected areas and buffer zones of the landscape						

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 2.1: Core biodiversity areas in the landscapes are better protected, connected and effectively managed	Management effectiveness of three target protected areas	METT scores: Okomu NP: 32 Okomu FR: 34 Gilli-Gilli Forest reserve: 34 Omo forest reserve: 40	METT scores: Okomu NP: 50 Okomu FR: 40 Gilli-Gilli Forest reserve: 40 Omo forest reserve: 48	METT scores: Okomu NP: 65 Okomu FR: 46 Gilli-Gilli Forest reserve: 46 Omo forest reserve: 55		Protected areas remain sufficiently connected to landscape to avoid island effect over longer term
	Total area of forest / forest land under restoration	4,000 ha	7,000 ha forest land under restoration with native species and in prioritized locations to benefit biodiversity	14,000 ha forest land under restoration with native species and in prioritized locations to benefit biodiversity	Independent field surveys conducted by project	Selection of locations and species for restoration is science-based and reflects connectivity issues
	Site-level species recovery plans	0	2	4	Project reporting	Sustainability of financing for implementation beyond project life; connection to broader ecoregion analysis helps to prioritize / rationalize efforts
Component 3: Implementation of sustainable practices in connecting, productive agricultural areas of the landscape						

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 3.1: Reduced pressure on biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable production practices and livelihoods within priority areas of the target landscapes	Use of sustainable production practices	0	20,000 ha of corridors under sustainable practices	50,000 ha of corridors under sustainable practices		Use of sustainable practices leads to reduction in pressures on remaining natural ecosystems
	Income levels of target beneficiaries within forest-dependent communities	Appx. 450,000 Naira per annum	10% increase over baseline among 5,000 men and 5,000 women (combined 50% youth)	25% increase over baseline 10,000 men and 10,000 women (combined 50% youth)	Socio-economic surveys	Increases in income are correctly attributed by beneficiaries and observers
	Productivity levels of target beneficiaries in three selected value chains	TBD for value chains selections under Output 3.1.1	10% yield increases	20% yield increases	Project monitoring	Increases in productivity are correctly attributed by beneficiaries and observes
	Forest area rehabilitated / restored	0	5,000 ha	10,000 ha	Project monitoring	Areas and species are selected based, in part, on potential to deliver biodiversity benefits
	Access to small-scale lending for BD-friendly investments	Limited to none	1,000 new loans	2,000 new loans	Project and lender monitoring	BD criteria are closely followed and implementation tracked
Component 4: Knowledge management and M&E						

Results	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions
Outcome 4.1: Knowledge and innovation are effectively captured and shared at multiple levels including landscape, state, biome and national	Number of solutions / lessons learned transformed into knowledge sharing products	0	3	8	M&E reports	Knowledge sharing products are reaching key decision-makers and practitioners
	% of individuals directly benefiting from project activities that are women	NA	50%	50%	M&E reports	Women?s rights being respected.
	Area of Nigeria lowland forest biome for which updated data and information is widely available to researchers, practitioners and policy makers	0	1,260,622 ha	1,260,622 ha	M&E reports	Updated data and information is then applied to design of new interventions
Outcome 4.2: Project implementation is effectively monitored and evaluated through a gender-sensitive M & E plan	Project M&E system operational, with protocols for collection and analysis of results in place	0	1 Quality M&E information and reports, as scheduled.	1 Quality M&E information and reports, as scheduled.	M&E reports	M&E findings are acted upon in a timely manner

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).

STAP comment	Response
Summary comment ??this proposal addresses important issues for conservation of biodiversity and has sufficient justification and information for this stage of project development. It could be strengthened by addressing several issues outlined under the relevant topics below. In summary, these include: a clearer identification of the barriers and how they are addressed by the project; better use of existing published information on threats, conservation challenges and possible solutions as there seems to be have been quite a bit of research in the area over the past decade; more detailed analysis of the baseline so that it is possible to measure the impacts of the project; a clearer identification of assumptions in the theory of change so that these can be adequately dealt with in project design; and greater clarity regarding innovations (e.g. innovative financing) in order to manage the relative risks-rewards and to plan for scaling.	These issues have all been addressed in the project document. Please see responses below
1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description) *Is the problem statement well-defined?* ??there seems to be a considerable amount of relevant literature that has not been referenced to better understand the problem. This is unfortunate as the problem statement would be strengthened by using data from these studies, such as the extent, nature and trends of incursions into the national park (Olaleru Egonmwan 2014), the budget and capacity constraints experienced in the park (Nchor & Ogogo 2012), perceptions of surrounding communities, and opportunities and challenges for ecotourism (several references). STAP recommends that the evidence from the available studies is used to inform the project proposal during the next stage of development.	Through field visits and consultations with PA managers and other stakeholders, the project team has gathered up-to-date information on the status of threats, budgets, opportunities, etc. These are reflected in the baseline description, references and in the design of the GEF Alternative. These insights have been complemented by review of, and reference to, published literature, where the latter is still current, i.e. information from publications more than 5 years old requires checking due to fast changing circumstances on the ground.

STAP comment	Response
Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references? ?The description of the threats and barriers is plausible, but the supporting data and references are weak. It may be that the information does not exist (the proposal states that survey data is out of date) but some of the narrative. implies the existence of some data, e.g. the threat of illegal logging refers to factors that were ?..widespread during the study period?. There does seem to be other available literature that is not referenced (A brief search for information on Okomu National Park yielded at least 10 relatively recent papers- see list appended to the screening document). Several are particularly relevant to this proposal because they deal with threats, barriers, drivers and community perceptions, and they research possible solutions such as ecotourism which is a proposed solution. As it stands, the barriers are not fully described and substantiated to a level that is possible to determine whether the proposed interventions will be sufficient to overcome the barriers. For example, under financial barriers, it is implied that funding exists and that the main constraint is limited awareness of financial needs and the importance of conservation. This does not seem to align with the proposed solution to secure innovative financing as part of the project. A recent statement by the Society for Conservation Biology (March 2022: Salvaging Okomu National Park from Ruin: Proposals for Sustainability in Critical Times) also listed additional barriers such as land tenure and user rights and it is important to be clear about whether these are addressed by the project or at least won?t undermine the intended outcomes of the project. **STAP recommends** that the project team strengthen the identification and circumscription of barriers to ensure that the activities and outputs being planned will adequately address the barriers and reduce threats.?	Based on literature review and an extensive field visit, the project has incorporated a more detailed discussion of barriers and developed a measured approach to their removal, recognizing their extent and degree of severity and associated risks. Additional references to the literature have been included.

STAP comment	Response
For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well- defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs? The project primarily focuses on biodiversity with an acknowledgment that there are co-benefits for land degradation and climate change. Aspects of the project are aligned with REDD+ objectives. Since a major part of the project focuses on integrated land management, it would strengthen the project if it was clear how the co-benefits might influence cooperation from other sectors such as agriculture and forestry.	The project is funded entirely under the biodiversity focal area, with, as noted, expected co-benefits related to land / forest degradation and climate change. As noted, it will work to ensure ongoing alignment with developing REDD+ strategies at state level. The integrated land management aspects of the project have been scaled back somewhat, as the project design had to be brought in line with the scale of challenges found to be facing the landscape. Thus, a smaller number of LGAs is being engaged?four in total?with enhanced focus at the level of priority landscapes, and on the protected areas themselves. The primary project activity associated with land degradation will be forest habitat restoration under Component 2

STAP comment	Response
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects *Is the baseline identified clearly?* The baseline is reasonably well identified, at least in broad terms. The current institutional arrangements and existing projects are identified and these provide a solid baseline especially for Component 1 of the project. What is less clear is the baseline for the other three components: the current condition of degraded lands (as a baseline for restoration); agricultural productivity (to measure changes in intensification); levels of legal and illegal hunting and logging; livelihood data (to measure improved livelihoods); current knowledge management systems. It seems that some of these metrics may emerge from the FOLUR project and some are planned during the PPG stage but they will be crucial in order to measure the impact of the project. **STAP recommends** that the baseline situation is more clearly spelt out in the next phase of project development.	Published literature provides some broad indicators in these areas, for example: ? According to the UNCCD, as of 2018, 360,340 ha of forestland had shown declining productivity while 178,620 ha of forestland showed early signs of decline (see above, p.21). ? National food production statistics show low and declining yields of rice, sorghum, soya bean, cassava, and yam except for maize from 2015 to 2018, despite an increase in harvested area Specific information regarding baselines in each of the areas mentioned by the comment will be secured for the priority landscapes during the project inception, and for the remainder of the landscape as part of the assessment being undertaken under Outcome 1.2.

STAP comment	Response
Are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described? The main linkage is to the FOLUR project. This project is still being implemented so the lessons learned will only be available later in project development. What is missing is any reference to other GEF projects trying to achieve similar outcomes. The GEF has supported numerous projects on integrated land management, restoration and alternative livelihoods and these could better inform aspects of this project. **STAP recommends** that the proponents look at other similar GEF projects to identify possible lessons and particularly to interrogate some of the assumptions relevant to this project.	A detailed discussion of lessons learned, including by GEF and other projects, has been incorporated into the theory of change discussion (p. 30-31). Assumptions used in developing the project, including its results framework, are included in the theory of change discussion (p. 29-30)
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project *Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?* The TOC would be strengthened by including some of the more fundamental assumptions relating to the project, e.g. that an integrated planning framework will result in more biodiversity friendly land use patterns; that small-scale producers can and will intensify production rather than convert new areas; that ecotourism livelihoods can displace livelihoods based on hunting or logging; that disseminating knowledge is sufficient to change behavior.	The theory of change has been updated and now includes explicit assumptions (p. 29-30)
Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes? There is mention of the need to be adaptive but there is no specific attempt to identify parts of the project where a more adaptive approach will be required. Usually this would be associated with those components with the greatest uncertainty.	An adaptive approach is required in responding to an evolving threats landscape at the project priority landscapes. Also, strategies for broader landscape-level uptake will need to be defined in light of the findings of the detailed landscape assessment being developed under Outcome 1.2, including the agreed Action Plan.

STAP comment	Response
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) *Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?* The GEBs are well defined in the problem statement. For clarity, they should be repeated in the section under GEBs. What is missing is an explanation of how GEBs would be affected if the project did not go ahead, e,g what would the impact be on forest elephant populations or the white throated guenon.	GEBs are described in both sections. Loss of GEBs under a baseline scenario is discussed in the section on incremental cost reasoning
Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation? The indicators are provided at a high level, e.g. ha under Integrated land management, ha restored. The proposal does not mention specific methods to demonstrate improvement in GEBs. STAP recommends that the full project proposal provides relevant information on methods to measure change in GEBs.	Baseline surveys of key species being targeted in the priority protected areas will be conducted during year 1 of the project and at the end of the project. Under Outcome 1.2, forest transect methods will be used in various locations across the core biome area.
7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up *Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?* The project self identifies as innovative. It refers to innovative financing, but no detail of the proposed financing is mentioned. In terms of understanding the possible gains and what innovations might be tested in this project, more details of innovative mechanisms should be provided.	The project is innovative in its eco-regional approach?defining and targeting conservation of priority landscapes at the heart of an eco-region, while simultaneously assessing and prioritizing replication within a much broader replication landscape and, ultimately, the overall lowland forest biome. The project will also develop and implement an innovative financing strategy that incentivizes biodiversity-friendly lending (see Output 3.1.4 description).

STAP comment	Response
Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors? No. the mention of financial innovations does not provide further detail of the nature of the innovation, nor how it can be scaled. The proposal also considers some of the aspects of integrated land management as transformative but does not specify how this will be achieved.	Output 3.1.4 provides a brief description of the planned biodiversity-friendly lending approach, which will be further elaborated during the project?s first year.
Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability? The more fundamental change that is envisaged in this project is the integration of activities across ministries and sectors. This implies transformation of existing systems. The FOLUR project should provide critical information to support this aspect of the project. **STAP recommends** that the project proponent refers to relevant STAP papers on integration, e.g. multi-stakeholder dialogue, policy coherence, and transformational change and draws lessons from other GEF projects where similar change has been achieved.	Lessons drawn from GEF program and project level evaluations, as well as outside analysis, has been added (see p. 30-31). STAP papers, including ?Achieving transformation through GEF investments? have also been referred to (see p.30).
5. Risks *For climate risk, and climate resilience measures:* ●*How will the project?s objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately?* ●*Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?* ●*Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?* ●*What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?* This part of Nigeria, and the country as a whole will be subject to significant climate impacts, therefore STAP recommends that a detailed climate risk screening be carried out for the project, and mitigation measure for identified risk be put in place during the implementation phase.	A detailed climate risk screening has been prepared and is included at Annex M.

STAP comment	Response
6. Coordination The proposal does not reference many other projects except the FOLUR project which is being implemented in part of the geographic area of this project. **STAP recommends** that the project team look at other GEF projects relating to the main components (integrated land management, restoration, livelihoods) in order to distil lessons learned and to strengthen the current project design.	Lessons drawn from GEF program and project level evaluations, as well as outside analysis, has been added (see p. 30-31). In terms of coordination with ongoing projects and IPs, the Critical Forests Biomes (CFB) West Africa IP will be an important interlocutor.
8. Knowledge management *What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?* The proposed approach comprises development of knowledge products and tools relating to land management, capacity building and M&E. At this stage there is little detail of the intended mechanisms. The intention to track the conditions under which interventions have worked is an important contribution.	As described under Component 4,

STAP comment	Response
What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience? The intention is to share results and lessons across the wider area in Nigeria and encourage uptake in these areas where the project was not active. If this is intended to be one of the main options for scaling out then it will be important to provide more detail on how this is expected to happen and what information stakeholders will require in order to replicate successes from the project.	The project?s multi-level approach to scaling is considered one of its innovative aspects. From priority protected areas to surrounding productive landscape and associated LGAs, from priority landscapes to state-level and a multi-state replication landscape, and from the latter to the overall lowland forest biome, the project will be making continuous attempts to ensure diffusion and dissemination of knowledge and innovations across these geographic and jurisdictional levels. Component 4 includes a description of the tools and mechanisms needed to ensure success of this approach.

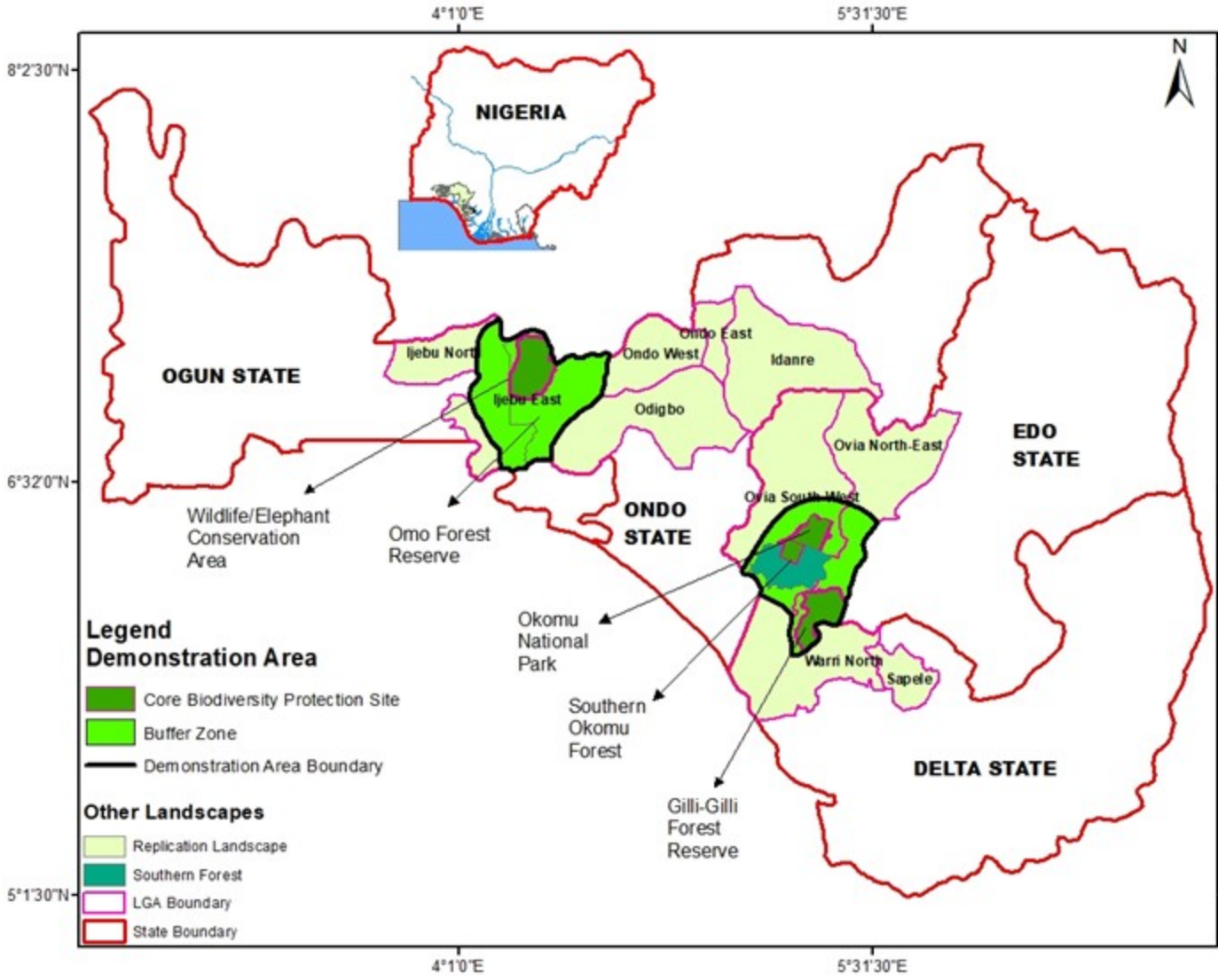
Council Comment	Response
Canada: The security risks are not taken into consideration in the Risks to Achieving Project Objectives (point 5 of the PIF). While ISWAP?s stronghold is in northeast Nigeria, experts are noticing what appear to be an expansion of ISWAP?s activities westwards and southwards in Nigeria. In Ondo State, a state where this project will be implemented, the June 5 attack in a Catholic Church in Owo that killed 40 people illustrates the serious security risks that are present in Nigeria, even in southeast sates like Ondo which is not usually the target of such violent attacks. Moreover, this project will be implemented in lowland forest areas and insurgents and bandits are known to hide and hold camp in forests (insurgents are mainly active in the northeast and bandits in the northwest, however with the expansion of insurgent activities and the potential for further attacks in the southwest, this factor should not be neglected). Considering the high volatility and multidimensional security issues across Nigeria, WWB considers the lack of consideration for security risks to be a red flag for this project. Security threats could affect project assets as well as personnel working for the project.	FAO also considers this to be a serious risk. In this context, FAO will provide training - Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) ? a comprehensive safety and security training to project personnel. FAO will closely monitor the security situation in the target project landscape, through established collaboration with State Security Services (SSS), one of the primary intelligence and security organizations in Nigeria.
Germany: There is a close link and seemingly partial overlap with the FOLUR project. While the project proposal describes activities under each Component that are complementary to the FOLUR project, at seems that there is still some overlap in activities planned under Component 1-3. Germany would like to stress that in order to ensure efficient and effective use of GEF funds, the proposed project should by all means avoid any duplication in activities of the FOLUR project.	The project document, particularly as formulated since the PIF submission, carefully avoids any overlaps with the FOLUR project and, instead, is designed to synergize, and exchange lessons, with that project.
United Kingdom: This proposal does potentially overlap with the P4F (Partnerships for Forest) programme?s work in Okumu National Park in Nigeria, so we need close coordination between this project and the FCDO Nigeria office to avoid duplication. In addition FAO is the implementing partner for work under UK PACT in Cross River state Nigeria. The project is titled ?Integrated management of mangrove ecosystem and expansion of social protection for fisheries and forest dependents in the coastal communities of Cross Rivers State, Nigeria?. UK PACT also works on assuring forest-positive commodity exports from Edo and Cross Rivers states of Nigeria. It will be helpful to receive reassurances from FAO that outcomes of these projects are differentiated, rather than duplicated, and that FAO are not over-stretching themselves in terms of managing multiple related projects concurrently.	The project will coordinate with, and learn from, P4F efforts related to APOI, including work undertaken in the Okomu landscape, given that Nigeria?s lowland forests are contiguous with important mangrove areas, and that movement between the two biomes by local inhabitants is a common occurrence, FAO (as IA for both projects) will ensure close coordination here.

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: ***150,000 (NIR/903P/GFF)***			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent To date***	***Amount Committed***
(5013) Consultants	92,000	74,089	0
(5014) Contracts	5,000	4,250	0
(5021) Travel	27,000	40,046	0
(5023) Training	19,000	31,615	0
(5027) Technical Support Services	7,000	0	0
Total	150,000	150,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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



Okomu National Park: 6?20?0?N 5?16?0?E

Okomu Forest Reserve: 6?25?0?N 5?28?0?E

Omo Wildlife Sanctuary: 6?0?N 35?50?E

Gilli-Gilli Forest Reserve: 6?4'60" N 5?19'60" E

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as:https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Compone Total	Compone Total	Compone Total	Compon Total	M&E	PMC	Total	OP: NPS	FAO Support Services	Total GEF	Year 1	Year
5011 salaries professionals															
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
5012 GS Salaries															
5012 Sub-total GS salaries				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
5013 Consultants															
Biodiversity specialist: landscape survey and strategy development	Days	60	1,500	**90,000**	-	-	-			**90,000**	90,000		90,000	18,000	18,0
Sustainable finance specialist	Days	50	1,200	-	**30,000**	**30,000**	-			**60,000**	60,000		60,000	12,000	12,0
Gender specialist	Days	75	900	**18,000**	**18,000**	**31,500**	-			**67,500**	67,500		67,500	13,500	13,5
BD-friendly production practices	Days	50	1,500	-	-	**75,000**	-			**75,000**	75,000		75,000	15,000	15,0
Sub-total international Consultants				***108,000***	***48,000***	***136,500***	-	-	-	***292,500***	*292,500*	-	*292,500*	*58,500*	*58,5*
Chief Technical Advisor	mm	30	2,336	**28,032**	**14,016**	**18,688**	**9,344**			**70,080**	70,080		70,080	14,016	14,0
National Project Coordinator	mm	60	1,000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		60,000	**60,000**	60,000		60,000	12,000	12,0
Administrative and finance assistant	mm	60	200	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		12,000	**12,000**	12,000		12000	2,400	2,4
Project Desk Officer NPS (HQ)	mm	30	350						10,500	**10,500**	10,500		10500	2,100	2,1
State Project Coodinator (x2)	mm	30	350						10,500	**10,500**	10,500		10500	2,100	2,1
State Policy & Stakeholder Advisors (x2)	mm	60	1,334	**80,040**			**0**			**80,040**	80,040		80,040	16,008	16,0
M&E officer	mm	60	1,167				**0**	**70,020**		**70,020**	70,020		70,020	14,004	14,0
Knowledge mgmt / comms. officer	mm	60	1,334				**80,040**			**80,040**	80,040		80,040	16,008	16,0
Gender and safeguards officers (x2)	mm	120	1,334	**64,032**	**32,016**	**42,688**	**21,344**			**160,080**	160,080		160,080	32,016	32,0
Sustainable intensification specialist	mm	12	3,500	-	-	**42,000**	-			**42,000**	42,000		42,000	8,400	8,4
Forest restoration specialists	mm	12	3,500	**3,500**	**38,500**	-	-			**42,000**	42,000		42,000	8,400	8,4
Value chains specialist	mm	8	3,500	-	-	**28,000**	-			**28,000**	28,000		28,000	5,600	5,6
Policy specialist	mm	8	3,500	**28,000**	-	-	-			**28,000**	28,000		28,000	5,600	5,6
ILM specialist	mm	9	3,500	**31,500**	-	-	-			**31,500**	31,500		31,500	6,300	6,3
Evaluation specialists (x2)	mm	2	3,500				-	**7,000**		**7,000**	7,000		7,000	1,400	1,4
Innovation, knowledge and dissemination specialist	mm	12	3,500	-	-	-	**42,000**			**42,000**	42,000		42,000	8,400	8,4
Sub-total national Consultants				***235,104***	***84,532***	***131,376***	***152,728***	***77,020***	***93,000***	***773,760***	*773,760*	*0*	*773,760*	*154,752*	*154,7*
5013 Sub-total consultants				**343,104**	**132,532**	**267,876**	**152,728**	**77,020**	**93,000**	**1,066,260**	**1,066,260**	**0**	**1,066,260**	**213,252**	**213,2**
5650 Contracts															
1 - Conservation & restoration actions planned and implemented at Omo Forest Reserve (NCF)	Contract	1	340,000	**0**	**340,000**	**0**	**0**			**340,000**	340,000		340,000	68,000	68,0
2 - Conservation and restoration actions planned and implemented at Okomu National Park and Gilli Gilli Forest Reserve (ANI)	Contract	1	480,000	**0**	**480,000**	**0**	**0**			**480,000**	480,000		480,000	96,000	96,0
3 - Development and pilot testing of financial sustainability strategies	Contract	1	100,000	**0**	**100,000**		**0**			**100,000**	100,000		100,000	20,000	20,0
4 - Landscape level BD assessment, and strategic plan (Niger Delta Northwest Biodiversity Project)	Contract	1	110,000	**110,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**110,000**	110,000		110,000	22,000	22,0
5 - Eco-region level information and monitoring system	Contract	1	60,000	**60,000**	**0**		**0**			**60,000**	60,000		60,000	12,000	12,0
6 - Support to value chain development, including (2 contracts)	Contract	2	100,000	**0**	**0**	**200,000**	**0**			**200,000**	200,000		200,000	40,000	40,0
7 - Technical support for BD-friendly business plans and smallholder credit	Contract	2	60,000	**0**	**0**	**120,000**	**0**			**120,000**	120,000		120,000	24,000	24,0
8 - Conservation and restoration consultation, planning and implementation at Community Forests (Exact locations TBD)	Contract	1	110,000	**0**	**20,000**	**90,000**	**0**			**110,000**	110,000		110,000	22,000	22,0
9 - Improvements to working space at the two project PMU locations: NPS Okomu and Omo Forest Reserve	Contract	2	75,000	**0**	**150,000**	-	**0**			**150,000**	150,000		150,000	150,000	
Independent mid-term review (including travel)	Lumpsum	1	40,000	**0**	-	-	**0**	**40,000**		**40,000**		40,000	40,000	8,000	8,0
Independent final evaluation (including travel)	Lumpsum	1	50,000	**0**	-	-	**0**	**50,000**		**50,000**		50,000	50,000	10,000	10,0
Audit (1 per year)	Contract	5	9,500	**0**	-	-	**0**		**47,500**	**47,500**		47,500	47,500	9,500	9,5
Spot-checks (1 per year)	Contract	5	4,500	**0**	-	-	**0**		**22,500**	**22,500**		22,500	22,500	4,500	4,5
Terminal Report	Lumpsum	1	7,000	**0**	-	-	**0**	**7,000**		**7,000**		7,000	7,000	1,400	1,4
5650 Sub-total Contracts				**170,000**	**1,090,000**	**410,000**	**0**	**97,000**	**70,000**	**1,837,000**	**1,670,000**	**167,000**	**1,837,000**	**487,400**	**337,4**
5021 Travel															
International travel: International experts travel, participation in relevant national and international meetings / workshops, including CFB-related	Trip	7	5,000	**35,000**	-	-	-			**35,000**	35,000		35,000	7,000	7,0
National travel: National meetings and workshops	Trip	66	800	**20,800**	-	**16,000**	**16,000**			**52,800**	52,800		52,800	10,560	10,5
5021 Sub-total travel				**55,800**	**0**	**16,000**	**16,000**	**0**	**0**	**87,800**	**87,800**	**0**	**87,800**	**17,560**	**17,5**
5023 Training															
National inception	Event	1	20,000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**20,000**			**20,000**	20,000		20000	4000	4
State-level inception	Event	2	5,000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**10,000**			**10,000**	10,000		10000	2000	2
National Project Steering Committee Meetings (Hybrid meetings)	Event	5	5,000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**25,000**			**25,000**	25,000		25000	5000	5
State Project Management Committee Meetings (2 states, annual meetings)	Event	10	2,000	**0**	**0**	**0**	**20,000**			**20,000**	20,000		20000	4000	4
ILM Multi-Stakeholder Platforms and policy dialogues (Conservation area level- 2 areas, semi-annual meetings)	Event	20	2,000	**40,000**	**0**	**0**	-			**40,000**	40,000		40,000	8000	8
Capacity building for BD-friendly production practices	Event	12	5,000	-	**0**	**60000**	-			**60,000**	60,000		60,000	12000	12
Capacity building and awareness raising of officials and civil society representatives across landscape	Event	6	10,000	-	**0**		**60,000**			**60,000**	60,000		60,000	12000	12
Landscape strategy consultations (Multi-state, covering at least 4 states)	Event	8	5,000	**40,000**	**0**	**0**	-			**40,000**	40,000		40,000	8000	8
5023 Sub-total training				**80,000**	**0**	**60,000**	**135,000**	**0**	**0**	**275,000**	**275,000**	**0**	**275,000**	**55,000**	**55,0**
5024 Expendable procurement															
Communication products and dissemination, including printing, etc	lumpsum	1	29,108	**0**	**0**	**0**	**29,108**			**29,108**	29,108		29,108	5,822	5,8
Office supply and IT	lumpsum	1	3,800	-	-	-	-		**3,800**	**3,800**	3,800		3,800	760	7
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				**0**	**0**	**0**	**29,108**	**0**	**3,800**	**32,908**	**32,908**	**0**	**32,908**	**6,582**	**6,5**
6100 Non-expendable procurement															
Three-wheeled motorcycle trucks		8	3,000	-	-	**24,000**	-			**24,000**	24,000		24,000	4,800	4,8
Establishment of strategically located native tree nurseries	Nursery	3	60,000	-	**120,000**	**60,000**	-			**180,000**	180,000		180,000	36,000	36,0
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				**0**	**120,000**	**84,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**204,000**	**204,000**	**0**	**204,000**	**40,800**	**40,8**
5028 GOF budget															

SUBTOTAL Comp 1	648,904
SUBTOTAL Comp 2	1,342,532
SUBTOTAL Comp 3	837,876
SUBTOTAL Comp 4	332,836
M&E Budget	174,020
Subtotal	3,336,168
Project Management Cost (PMC)	166,800
TOTAL GEF	3,502,968

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).