GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Addressing the harmful effects of illegal gold mining on the environment and populations in the N'Zi region of Côte d'Ivoire: An integrated pilot approach to ecological restoration and social justice.

Region	GEF Project ID
Africa	12304
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Cote d'Ivoire	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	10508
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment, and Ecological Transition (MINETE)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	3/10/2026

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Taxonomy

Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity Development, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Land Degradation, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Land Cover and Land cover change, Forest and Landscape Restoration, International Waters, Freshwater, River Basin, Climate Change, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Climate Change Mitigation, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Type of Engagement, Local Communities, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Focal Areas

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,676,856.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

254,301.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 2,931,157.00	Total Co-financing 9,550,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 100,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 9,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 109,500.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 3,040,657.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”.(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Project Summary

Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) in Côte d’Ivoire’s N’Zi region is expanding rapidly, causing mercury pollution, deforestation, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. These impacts are driven by limited awareness, lack of cleaner technologies, weak governance, and scarce livelihood alternatives, leaving communities dependent on unsafe mining practices. Under the current baseline, national frameworks on biodiversity, land, and chemicals exist but are weakly implemented, clean mining is not widely adopted, and local initiatives remain fragmented. Sustainable land-use practices in agriculture and forestry are also not scaled, allowing environmental pressures and community vulnerabilities to intensify.

The proposed GEF alternative introduces an integrated intervention to : i) improve and changing production practices in the N’Zi region including agriculture and ASGM to be more biodiversity-positive and to promote sustainable use of biodiversity through reduction of mercury use and mercury pollution and integration of agroecological practices for food and livelihood security; ii) improve sustainable forests management and agroforestry practices to restore degraded forests and promote nature-positive land use practices that improve sustainable livelihoods; and iii) Support nature-based and agroecology enterprises and value chains as a sustainable alternative land use strategy.

The project will deliver Global Environmental Benefits by improving management of 25,525 ha of classified forests, applying SLM on 100,000 ha, training 1,000 miners, and supporting 25,000 beneficiaries to adopt sustainable practices. Results will be sustained through strengthened community governance, improved market access for green value chains, knowledge platforms, and scalable models for clean mining and agroecology.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To reduce the harmful social and environmental impacts of illegal artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in the N'Zi region through an integrated approach that reduces degradation, restores ecosystems, and promotes inclusive and sustainable livelihood practices.

Project Components

Component 1. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations, SLM investments and pollution-free practices into N'Zi landscapes through strengthened policy implementation and enforcement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,463,247.00	5,988,500.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1 Biodiversity-sensitive ASGM mercury-free practices are adopted and sustained through strengthened policy implementation, technical capacity, and enforcement mechanisms.

Indicators and targets:

Indicator: Number of national and sub-national regulatory instruments and ASGM policies updated and operationalized to reduce the impact of ASGM on biodiversity

Target: at least 1 national and 1 sub-national regulatory instruments updated and implemented

Indicator: Number or percentage of ASGM sites adopting mercury-free techniques, and under strengthened regulatory oversight and enforcement protocols

Target: at least 5 sites (TBC during PPG phase)

Indicator:

Number of miners trained using PlanetGold training materials and percentage of trained miners demonstrating adoption of mercury-free gold processing techniques.

Targets: 1000 gold miners trained and at least 60% demonstrate adoption of best practices (TBC during PPG phase).

Outcome 1.2:

SLM interventions implemented in the wider N'Zi landscape to sustain agroecosystem functions through improved land use planning and management regimes

Indicators and targets:

Indicator:

Number of ILM plans developed and approved for implementation

Target: at least 1 ILM developed and approved

Indicator 1: Area of forest ecosystems (FC Ahoua and FC Abéanou) under improved management effectiveness *(GEF CI. 1.2)*

Target: 25,525 ha and % METT (TBC at PPG phase)

Indicator:

Area (ha) of landscape under sustainable land management in production system *(GEF CI 4.3)*

Target: 100,000 ha

Indicator:

Number of people trained on ILM and sustainable land use practices

Target: 300 (at 50% women)

Output:

Output 1.1.1. National Action Plan for ASGM and related regulatory instruments operationalized and strengthened to integrate biodiversity conservation, land degradation neutrality, and mercury elimination, including enhanced sub-national enforcement and monitoring capacity, building on and complementing the PlanetGOLD programme**.**

Output 1.1.2.
Capacity building conducted on best mercury-free techniques for ASGM such as Best Available Techniques (BAT)/ Best Environmental Techniques (BEP)) for resulting waste management.
Output 1.2.1
Integrated land use plans developed for N'Zi region to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM in line with LDN, NBSAP and NDC targets.
Output 1.2.2. Local institutions including CSO, land users, local authorities and private sector trained on integrated landscape management practices

Output 1.2.3. Forest co-management approaches formalized with communities to reduce forest loss and promote forest restoration while improving access to community benefits from conservation

Output 1.2.4.
SLM interventions implemented across N'Zi landscape to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion, pollution risks, degradation and fragmentation of water resources.

Component 2. Sustainable practices and community-led innovations strengthen socio-ecological and livelihood resilience

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
842,365.00	2,390,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Resilience of local community livelihoods enhanced through sustainable land-management and biodiversity-friendly practices

Indicators and targets

Indicator:

Number of beneficiaries adopting SLM/agroecology technologies and practices

Target: 25,000 (50% are women)

Indicator:

Percentage increase in household income and jobs, access to food from sustainable livelihood activities compared to the baseline.

Target: TBC (at PPG phase)

Indicator: Number of people benefiting from GEF investments *(disaggregated by sex and age)*

Target: 29,400 (*GEF CI. 11)*

Output:

Output 2.1.1.
Communities, land users and stakeholders in N'zi ASGM landscapes supported to establish/strengthen landscape partnerships/multistakeholder platform for pollution and deforestation-free agroecological transition

Output 2.1.2 Capacity building and financial support for local farmer groups towards adoption and scaling of sustainable agriculture and agroecological practices for food and nutrition security

Output 2.1.3
Women and youth-led/owned nature-based and agroecology enterprises and value chains supported for alternative and sustainable jobs and incomes and market access

3. Environmental education, knowledge management and social innovation for improved local environmental stewardship

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
165,810.00	418,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1 Community and stakeholder knowledge and awareness enhanced on environmental health, pollution prevention and management and ecologically responsible practices leading to behavioural change at community and landscape levels

Indicator: Number of targeted community members reached through awareness raising initiatives, demonstration pilots and messages on environmentally-friendly practices.

Target: TBC during PPG

Indicator: Improvement in behavioural change and adoption rates for environmentally friendly practices influenced by project-generated knowledge

Target: TBC during PPG

Indicator 3.1.3: Knowledge management platform and/or community of practice established and operational, enabling exchange between local, national, and regional stakeholders

Target: at least 1 platform with clear action plan

Output:

Output 3.1.1.
Awareness-raising and behavioural change campaign and communication strategy developed and implemented in collaboration with the planetGOLD and NZNP projects in Cote d'Ivoire

Output 3.1.2. Capacity-building initiatives and targeted training programmes developed and delivered at local and regional/ landscape levels to strengthen environmental awareness and stewardship among community members and other stakeholders to transform nature-positive land use practices

Output 3.1.3.

Knowledge management and stakeholder networks strengthened through a community of practice and digital platforms linking local, national and regional initiatives to global knowledge and solutions *(e.g., PANORAMA Solutions for a Health Planet, WOCAT)* on pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation, SLM and restoration

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
77,965.00	276,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1. Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies realized.

Indicators and targets:

Indicator: Annual PIRs and TE delivered on time and according to expected quality.

Indicator: Increased capacity of National Commission -GEF (NC-GEF) to oversee, coordinate and monitor project implementation

Output:

Output 4.1.1. Project M&E plan implemented, and results reported through Project Board, quarterly along with annual reports (PIRs) and TE.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations, SLM investments and pollution-free practices into N'Zi landscapes through strengthened policy implementation and enforcement	1,463,247.00	5,988,500.00
Component 2. Sustainable practices and community-led innovations strengthen socio-ecological and livelihood resilience	842,365.00	2,390,000.00
3. Environmental education, knowledge management and social innovation for improved local environmental stewardship	165,810.00	418,000.00
M&E	77,965.00	276,000.00
Subtotal	**2,549,387.00**	**9,072,500.00**

Project Management Cost	127,469.00	477,500.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**2,676,856.00**	**9,550,000.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

A. Project Rationale

1. Gold mining in Côte d'Ivoire and associated environmental problems

Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa, bordering Liberia and Guinea to the west, Mali and Burkina Faso to the north, Ghana to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. According to recent data from the National Agency of Statistics (ANSTAT)[1][1], in 2025, Côte d'Ivoire's population was estimated at 32,8 million inhabitants spread across its 322,462 km² territory. With a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 48,294 billion CFA francs in 2023 (approximately USD 86.5 billion), the country is an economic pillar in the region. The country's economy is largely dominated by agricultural activities, which generate 22% of its GDP, as well as 75% of its exports. Although the mining sector, particularly gold and diamonds, is booming, the economy has suffered from the COVID-19 pandemic and annual GDP growth only resumed in 2021, reaching a rate of 6% in 2024 and reaffirming the country's position as both a regional hub and a destination for many nationals from across the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Among others, mining, particularly gold mining, is a key activity which contributes to the country's economy. But although mining activities are considerable sources of income for communities, resulting impacts on human health and the environment are increasingly concerning. It is in such context that Côte d'Ivoire became a signatory to the Minamata Convention in 2013 and ratified it in 2019[2][2], consequently to the successful implementation of mercury reduction programme by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) between 2012 and 2016. UNIDO's mercury programme contributed to minimizing mercury use, emissions and releases with the promotion and introduction of best available technologies and best environmental practices through awareness raising, capacity building and technology transfer.

In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire finalized its Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA)[3][3], which outlines the country's profile in terms of the use of mercury and its compounds, including sources of emissions and releases. Also, following proper notification to the Minamata Convention Secretariat, in 2023 the country published its National Action Plan (NAP)[4][4] to reduce and where feasible, eliminate the use of mercury in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector under the framework of Article 7 of the Minamata Convention and related Annex C[5][5].

Indeed, ASGM has become a predominant activity in Côte d'Ivoire, directly involving approximately 500,000 miners, according to data collected by the Ministry of Mines, and indirectly affecting the livelihoods of an even greater number of individuals. Historically, mining activities in the region dates back to the second half of the 17th century, particularly around veins and alluvial deposits. Communities involved in mining provided guidance to early colonial explorers and European prospectors. The Baoulé region, in the centre of present-day Côte d'Ivoire, was a hub for gold mining in the 18th century, while neighboring regions focused on the slave trade. The social and economic role of the precious metal in Baoulé and Akan communities has also been described.

Nowadays, artisanal mining is mainly located in the centre-east, north-east and north-west of the country. Gold is mined in 24 of Côte d'Ivoire's 31 regions, with a concentration around Bouaflé, Oumé, Bouaké and Katiola. In the latter region, up to 28 legal artisanal areas were identified by the government in 2017. The sector is regulated by the Ministry of Mines, with the vast majority of artisanal mining being gold mining. In 2020, a total of 42 artisanal mining licences were in operation, a significant increase from 29 the previous year. Of these 42 operations, 38 were for gold (the other four were for diamonds). However, beyond the legal sites, a vast network of illegal operators extracts gold in the country. An IMPACT report estimated that approximately 500,000 artisanal miners are active in the country, many of whom are migrants from neighboring countries or even from the sub-region. In general, the artisanal mining population is predominantly young and uneducated. Surprisingly, in the three regions of Hambol, Poro and Bagoué, research conducted by Allou et al. (2020) found that the average age of the mining population was at least 35 years old. Finally, only 5% of miners are believed to have moved to the mining sites with their families. However, Allou also showed that 68% of mine workers earn less than 60,000 CFA francs (approximately 104 USD).

Finally, over the past few decades, the country has also faced critical challenges that have profoundly affected the sector. The first military-political crisis in 2002 and the second military-political conflict (2010-2011) profoundly reshaped the economic situation of the country's population, pushing many toward artisanal and often clandestine mining. This activity was a significant source of funding for rebel groups during and after these crises.

Although gold panning represents a significant source of income for communities, mining using mercury contaminates the soil over vast areas. Agricultural activities near these mining operations are impacted. The NAP reports a change in the landscape in these areas with soil exposure. At the sites visited, vegetation has been destroyed, and arable land has been excavated to make way for pits and piles of earth. The

erosion of exposed soil, extracted minerals, spoil heaps and fine materials in rock waste piles pose risks to surface water and water drainage channels.

2. Use of mercury and mercury-free technology

The use of mercury in ASGM was introduced relatively late in Côte d'Ivoire, mainly by migrant populations from neighboring countries. It appears that until 2002 and the onset of the first socio-political crisis, little or no mercury was used by miners. However, during the rebellion, a massive influx of small-scale gold miners from neighboring countries, primarily Burkina Faso, was observed in the northern part of the country, introducing amalgamation techniques. The Association of Artisanal Miners reports that nearly 95% of miners come from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Ghana and even China. Large quantities of mercury were reported to be used, but no precise figures existed and a mercury/gold ratio of 2:1 is generally reported.

Estimates of mercury consumption by artisanal gold miners are significantly increasing. . In 2017, the UNEP emissions inventory suggested that approximately 56% of mercury emissions into the atmosphere came mainly from artisanal and industrial gold mining. Additionally, the 2018 inventory report of the Ministry of Health, Environment and Sustainable Development estimated that the mining sector, including EMAPE, released approximately 10,224 kg Hg/year. At national level, the EMAPE National Synopsis in Côte d'Ivoire then found an Hg to Au ratio of between 1.24 and 1.49 and an annual mercury consumption of up to 9,979 kilograms.

Finally, more recently, the National Action Plan (NAP Côte d'Ivoire, 2023)[6][6] estimated that for every gram of gold amalgamated, approximately 1.37 grams of mercury are required, resulting in an estimated 12,973.57 kg of mercury used annually at gold mining sites nationwide. The central-eastern region has the highest mercury content for amalgamation, amounting to 3,685.73 kg Hg/year with an Hg/Au ratio of 1.45, which is above the national average.

The NAP notes that mercury use varies greatly from site to site. The study identifies sites using as little as 5 grams per day and others using more than 1,800 grams per day. This corresponds to annual consumption ranging from 1.5 kilograms to 558 kilograms. A study conducted at sites with the highest mercury concentrations revealed that large rivers had concentrations above 100 mg L-1. The lowest concentration was found in the watershed of the abandoned Abouilié mine, at 47 ± 2 mg L-1. The highest concentration was found in a small waste basin associated with commercial mining activities outside the village of Bonikro, at 297 ± 34 mg L-1.

Many abandoned mining sites in the country have been recolonized, turning these sites into serious mercury hotspots. This is particularly problematic in the Tchianan site in the northern department of Tengrela, the commune of Hiré, and the locality of Kokoumbo in central-western Côte d'Ivoire. Mercury trade has increased significantly over the past decade, although it has been proven challenging to find relevant and reliable data. According to research, three routes for mercury imports can be identified: (1) Burkina Faso and Mali supplying the northern and the north-central regions; and (2) Guinea supplying the western region. The same study quotes a mining site owner in the north of the country. He claims that the supply of mercury for ASM in the region is organized by miners, buyers, and suppliers in Burkina Faso. Suppliers work with Ghanaian wholesalers, preventing site owners from buying directly from wholesalers.

Finally, financiers also supply mercury to miners, and sometimes large-scale miners supply mercury to ASGM miners when they buy their gold.

3. ASGM in the N'zi region: resulting impacts on human health, the environment and interactions with biodiversity

The N'zi region is not spared from the key issues of chemical pollution and destruction of biodiversity resulting from ASGM practices. Located in the centre-east of Côte d'Ivoire (see map below), it is one of the country's 31 administrative regions. According to the RGPH, the region's population is estimated at 254,623 inhabitants in 2021, covering an area of 4,772 km2, or 1.5% of the national territory. The region is subdivided into three departments, Kouassi-Kouassikro, Bocanda and Dimbokro, with the latter two accounting for more than 85% of the region's total population. According to ANSTAT, the region's economy is mainly based on agriculture, with crops grown on more than half of the regional territory, livestock farming, fishing, trade, crafts and tourism. In addition, there is a growing practice of gold panning, increasingly to the detriment of agricultural activities.

Historically an agricultural and forested area, the N'Zi region is currently considered a key hub of ASGM activities. The Boore areas (Etienkro, Djangokro, Bassa Kouadiokro) and Tanoh Akakro are among the most affected, with a concentration of thousands of gold miners, sometimes exceeding 3,000 illegal gold miners operating on a single site (AEIE, 2021) - the vast majority of whom come from neighboring countries - operating without authorization and in disregard of environmental and social standards (AEIE, 2021).

This observation is particularly noticeable in the department of Bocanda, where gold panning is widespread in all its prefectures, bringing together not only the youngest local and national populations (44% of those involved) but above all populations from the West African sub-region (54% of those involved), with a small presence of Chinese (2%) whose role is nonetheless significant. Field studies in this department have identified two different approaches to artisanal gold mining: underground mining, which involves extracting concentrated ore from the vein using tools such as pickaxes, picks, shovels and winches, among others; and open-pit mining, which involves digging a few meters deep on sites that have been stripped of all vegetation.

It goes without saying that these gold panning practices have numerous adverse effects on the surrounding ecosystems. Firstly, mining activities are reported to be a major anthropogenic driver for deforestation and land degradation, including in the N'Zi region. With the increase in mining activities in recent decades,https://climate-diplomacy.org/magazine/environment/extracted-forests-unearthing-role-mining-related-deforestation-driver-globalKramer et al. (2023) points out that globally, "almost 63% (approximately 8,600 km^2) of deforestation caused by the expansion of global mining activities in the past 20 years took place after 2010 and only 37% in the period 2001 to 2010." Targeted areas under this project are also experiencing accelerated deforestation, soil erosion, and chronic pollution of surface and groundwater. More specifically, the anthropisation/conversion of the ecological environment is illustrated in particular by soil degradation and the destruction of vegetation, resulting in loss of flora and fauna. In this region, 37.27% of the soil has been degraded, 23.63% of the vegetation destroyed and nearly 10% of the flora and fauna impacted by gold panning (Kouadio et al., 2021).

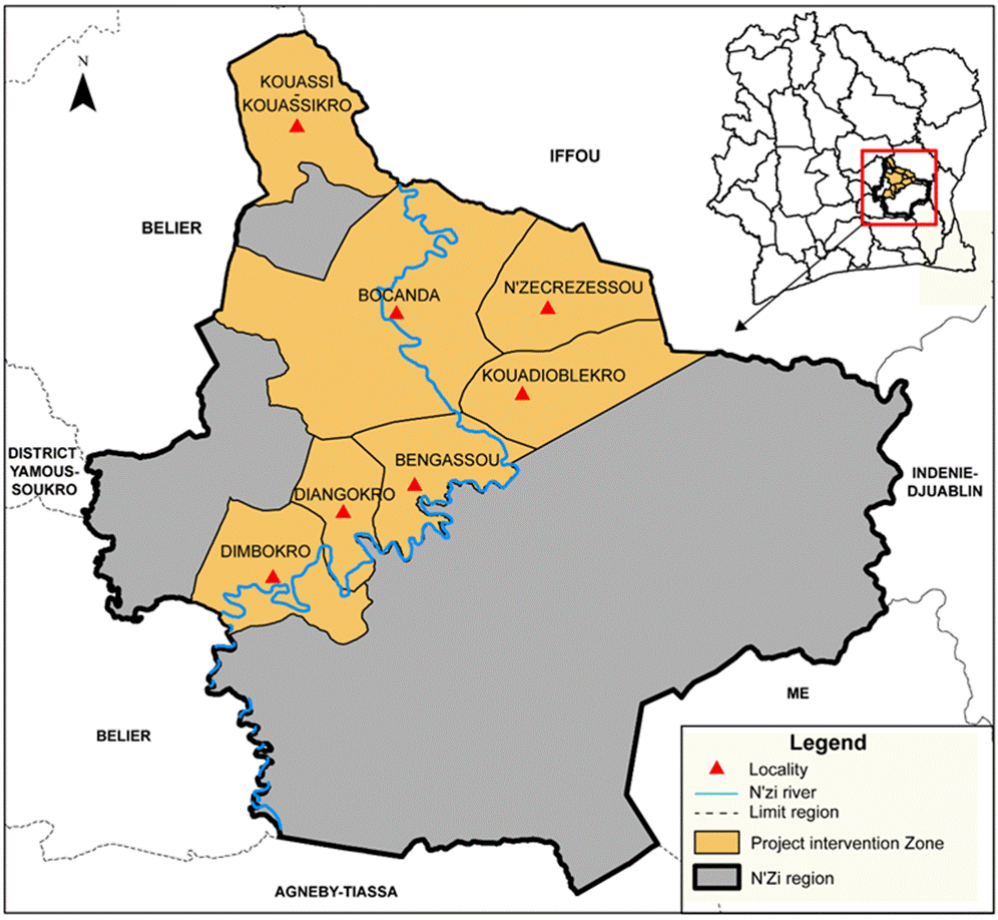


Figure 1: PROJECT INTERVENTION ZONE

The region has witnessed the proliferation of informal, unregulated ASGM sites and practices over the past decades, strikingly illustrating the interaction between chemical pollution, land degradation, biodiversity loss and social vulnerability increasingly observed today. Indeed, miners' actions may have irreversible impacts on biodiversity and surrounding ecosystems, contributing to the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution (Villegas et al. 2012,https://www.profor.info/sites/profor.info/files/Methodological%20Toolkit.pdfHinton and Hollestelle 2012,https://www.academia.edu/13492363/Effect_of_recent_artisanal_small-scale_gold_mining_on_the_contamination_of_surface_river_sediment_Case_of_Gambia_River_Kedougou_region_southeastern_SenegalNiane et al. 2014,https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa7dabAsner and Tupayachi 2017,https://doi.org/10.3390/rs10121903Espejo et al. 2018,https://matheo.uliege.be/handle/2268.2/8406Atangana 2019,https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/36088UNEP 2021,https://mercuryconvention.org/en/resources/webinar-managing-mercury-contaminated-soils-and-sitesUNEP 2022).

The use of mercury in artisanal gold mining is a major environmental and health concern, impacting agriculture and entire ecosystems. Located in the tropics, the country's high rainfall further increases soil and water pollution from mercury emissions. However, in Côte d'Ivoire, mercury emission levels are around 0.09 grams per person per year, well below the global average. ASGM in Côte d'Ivoire leads to high concentrations of mercury and methylmercury dissolved in waterways and soils. Studies reported total mercury contamination in sediments to exceed 100 ng per gram, while methylmercury contamination

ranged from 0.03 to 4.4%. Concentrations in fish exceeded 0.3 µg per gram of wet weight, particularly for carnivores and fish caught in the western part of the country (Robert P.M et al., 2019).

Artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) activities in the broader landscape have contributed to localized environmental degradation, including contamination of soils and water bodies with mercury and other heavy metals. Mercury used in informal gold extraction can enter waterways and surrounding ecosystems, where it poses risks to biodiversity and to communities relying on affected rivers for agriculture and fishing. Recent environmental assessments have reported elevated concentrations of heavy metals in the N'Zi River, an important source of irrigation for local populations (UNDP, 2023; Ministry of Hydraulics, 2023; PlanetGOLD Project, 2022).

While the project will not directly address ASGM pollution, these conditions form part of the broader environmental pressures affecting ecosystem health and community resilience in the target area. The presence of mercury and other contaminants highlights the need for integrated landscape management, strengthened monitoring, and improved environmental governance to reduce cumulative impacts on biodiversity and human well-being.

The consequences are even more serious as this pollution is accompanied by irreparable losses of arable land, the destruction of native vegetation, and a drastic reduction in local biodiversity (OIPR, 2024). As an illustration, a study carried out in the neighboring region of Moronou reveals a 40 to 60% drop in agricultural yields on plots bordering gold mining sites, due to soil compaction and contamination by chemicals (Université FH Boigny, 2021). In the department of Bocanda, there has also been a decline in ecosystem services and, consequently, an increase in food insecurity. Since the vast majority of the mining workforce is young, the fields are being neglected, leading to food shortages (Kouadio et al., 2021).

4. Socio-economic and health considerations

In several regions, ASGM is an important source of income for communities because it provides quick earnings that enable them to meet their daily needs. However, although beneficial from an economic point of view – at least in the short term – gold panning leads to labour migration from other sectors.

Illegal gold mining contributes to significant social pressures, including weakened community structures and rising school dropout rates. Local authorities in areas such as Booré and Etienkro have reported more than 200 children abandoning classrooms to work at mining sites (AEIE, 2021; OIPR, 2024). Limited school meal availability and increasing food costs further heighten risks of food insecurity. In communities where mining has expanded, the influx of informal workers has also been linked to greater insecurity and related illicit activities, undermining social cohesion (CNDDR, 2023). While not addressed by the project, these issues they form part of the broader socio-economic context affecting community resilience in the landscape.

From an economic perspective, the cost to the state is considerable: losses from illegal gold mining in Côte d'Ivoire are estimated at more than 3,000 billion FCFA per year, due to the lack of taxation, resource evasion, and the destruction of legally exploitable deposits (Ministry of Mines, 2023; Pôle Mines PND 2021-2025). At the same time, local food sources are being depleted due to the scarcity of arable land, pollution of water used for irrigation, and the disruption of food markets (Ministry of Agriculture, 2023), the loss of fish in waterways (N'Zi River), and the accumulation of residual toxins in fish resources. On World Food Day 2023 in Dimbokro, the Minister of Agriculture warned of the impact of illegal gold mining on food prices, pointing to the polluted N'Zi River as a major driver of the local food crisis. Due to insufficient

agricultural production, the prices of foodstuffs such as chillies, aubergines and okra have quadrupled, rising from 25 to 100 CFA francs per pile; the price of certain fruits and meat has even increased fivefold (Kouadio et al., 2021).

Another important aspect is health and the associated costs. It goes without saying that artisanal mining causes various health problems not only for gold miners but also for traders and local communities in general. Among gold miners, for example, malaria is the most common disease, as miners often stay in improvised shelters on the sites or sleep on the ground in the open air, without any protection against mosquitoes. The mining activity itself and the physical movements it requires cause pain such as lower back pain. Other common illnesses among those involved in the sector include respiratory diseases such as coughs, sinusitis and acute bronchitis, and skin diseases (scabies, chickenpox, measles) due to the constant unsanitary living conditions (Kouadio et al., 2021).

Other concerns such as growing insecurity and crime must be taken seriously. Greed and competition between different actors often lead to assaults, thefts and even murders, in some cases for mystical rituals intended to increase profits.

4.1 Impact on livelihoods and food security

As in many West African countries, Côte d'Ivoire faces a range of interlinked environmental and socio-economic challenges within its rural landscapes, of which issues related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) are only one component.

Beyond mining-related concerns, the landscape is experiencing multiple drivers of environmental degradation, including agricultural expansion, shifting cultivation, unsustainable land-use practices, and deforestation, all of which place growing pressure on ecosystem services and rural livelihoods. In the N'Zi region—particularly in Bocanda and Dimbokro—land-use change has accelerated rapidly. Between 2015 and 2023, the surface area converted to gold panning increased from 953 to 12,809 hectares, while crop and fallow land declined substantially, from 30,432 to 14,572 hectares. Over the same period, bare land also expanded from 15,170 to 17,304 hectares (M'Bra et al., 2024). These trends, combined with declining soil fertility, forest loss, and increasing competition over land and water resources, are undermining agricultural productivity, food security, and the resilience of local communities.

As a consequence of these combined pressures, communities are facing several interconnected impacts:

- Soil and water contamination as a result of chemical pollution, directly affecting surrounding environments and wildlife;
- Decline in agricultural productivity mainly due to the reduction of land available for farming;
- Decrease in food availability, linked also to accessibility to quality food;
- Transition to mining activities at the expense of agricultural (and other) activities, directly impacting farming productivity;

- Income instability due to variation in benefits from mining operations, largely dependent on gold price and mining opportunities.

As a result, a region that initially had a diversified agricultural sector, with cash crops covering more than half of the total cultivated area, is losing its crops. For example, the most common crops, namely oil palm, cashew, rubber, cocoa, coffee and cola, are declining. In addition to cash crops, the N'Zi region grows cereals such as rain-fed rice and maize, and tubers such as yams, cassava and plantains, whose production is also declining. The main legume, the groundnut, as well as vegetable and fruit crops such as eggplant, okra and tomato are also affected, hence the general price increase in markets.

5. Key Barriers to reduce ASGM-driven environment degradation in the N'Zi region

Despite ambitious national strategies to protect forests and regulate Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM), several critical barriers prevent the transition to protection of critical ecosystems and sustainable landscape management in Côte d'Ivoire's N'Zi region.

Barrier 1: Fragmented governance and weak enforcement of land of ASGM regulations

While national frameworks exist, they rarely translate into action on the ground. The country has lost nearly 90% of its forest cover since 1960 (Traoré, 2025), with the N'Zi region facing intense land pressure. Landscape governance remains highly siloed across environmental, agricultural and mining institutions, lacking coordinated land-use planning. In remote areas, local services lack staff, training, and resources to enforce rules or help miners adopt safer, mercury-free practices. As a result, ASGM becomes an additional pressure on ecosystems that are already struggling to regenerate.

Barrier 2: Insufficient technical capacity for SLM and pollution mitigation

Farmers and miners in N'Zi live the effects of land degradation daily, yet they often lack practical knowledge and support to adopt more sustainable techniques. Côte d'Ivoire has no ongoing or achieved LDN targets (UNCCD, country profile), reflecting deep gaps in technical capacity. ASGM actors similarly have limited access to training on mercury-free techniques, site rehabilitation, or waste management, keeping harmful practices in place. Consequently, local ecosystems face unmitigated pollution—from toxic residues to severe sediment runoff—with no reliable monitoring systems in place to track contamination before it permanently damages local agriculture and water systems.

Barrier 3: Limited livelihood diversification and continued dependence on ASGM

As land degrades and agricultural yields fall, many rural families have fewer ways to earn a living. Desertification affects 60% of the country, and up to 90% of the north (UNEP/GRID. *Land*), pushing people to migrate toward the forest zones or rely on extractive activities like ASGM. For many youth—especially those without access to land, credit, or training—mining becomes one of the few available livelihood options. But this dependence reinforces environmental pressures, reduces food security, and keeps communities locked in cycles of resource depletion. Without meaningful livelihood alternatives, change will be hard to sustain.

Barrier 4: Weak knowledge systems to catalyze Nature Positive practices

Across Côte d'Ivoire, communities increasingly recognize the impacts of environmental decline—70.6% link deforestation to land degradation, 63.8% to biodiversity loss, 56.9% to climate warming (Kouassi et al., 2021). But awareness alone doesn't translate into action. Many communities and institutions lack opportunities for training, local learning, or peer exchange. Miners often have no access to information on mercury-free techniques or safe waste management. Institutions lack platforms to share data, coordinate, or jointly solve problems. Without stronger knowledge systems, communication channels, and practical demonstrations, communities cannot easily shift to more sustainable routines or influence positive change.

Overcoming these interconnected barriers requires a systemic shift: strengthening cross-sectoral governance, deploying targeted technical training for pollution-free mining and SLM, empowering communities with sustainable livelihood alternatives, and building robust knowledge networks to ensure long-term resilience in the N'Zi landscape.

6. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Côte d'Ivoire's government presented its National Programme for the Rationalisation of Gold Mining (PNRO) in 2013. The framework provides guidelines for better organizing and regulating the ASGM sector in order to integrate it into formal legal activities. The programme was designed by the Ministry of Industry and Mines (MIM) with a budget of 2.3 billion CFA francs (nearly 4 million dollars) and implemented between 2013 and 2016. The programme was defined by the ministry in charge of mines and comprised a five-step approach: (1) preparation, (2) field knowledge, (3) classification and organization, (4) training, and (5) social and environmental impacts. The government stated that it intended to gradually integrate informal workers into the legal system through training, organizing operators in the sector into groups, and teaching numerous new agricultural methods that preserve wildlife.

More recently, the MIA and NAP projects provided opportunities to engage with targeted groups, share information about mercury uses, emissions and releases, including in the ASGM sector, and benefit from communities' knowledge and experience. Key actors, including regional and local stakeholders were also sensitized on mercury exposure and its impacts on human health, the environment and wildlife. Trainings were also organized on the use of specific toolkits such as UNEP toolkit for quantifying mercury uses, emissions and releases. The planetGOLD project in Cote d'Ivoire has also organized a number of awareness-raising, knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, and envisages to directly support about 4,000 artisanal gold miners and to indirectly support 20,000 people in the country's four key ASGM areas, with a target of reducing mercury use by 4.5 tons over the course of the five-year project.

Finally, a number of NGOs are active in the field of mercury reduction, including in the mining sector, in Côte d'Ivoire. CASE has considerable experience in the sector and is notably involved in the planetGOLD project, which has carried out numerous initiatives in the field. Coeur de Mine Côte d'Ivoire, a local partner of Heart of Mine[7], itself an initiative of the GoldFinX[8] Foundation, focuses on mercury reduction in ASM. IMPACT[9] is also present in the country through the Just Gold project, funded by the European

Union. Although the project is not solely focused on mercury reduction, it has worked with a local cooperative to transition to mercury-free technologies, providing an opportunity to leverage the lessons learned from this project and continue efforts to ensure a sustainable transition to mercury-free technology.

Despite important baseline initiatives, significant gaps remain in addressing the barriers affecting the N'Zi region. Existing programmes primarily focus on ASGM formalization, awareness raising, and site-specific mercury reduction, but they do not adequately tackle fragmented governance, weak enforcement, limited technical capacity, insufficient livelihood alternatives, or weak knowledge systems. Moreover, current interventions are geographically limited and lack an integrated landscape perspective capable of addressing the combined impacts of illegal mining, land degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss.

GEF financing is therefore incremental, as it enables an integrated response that directly addresses these systemic barriers and delivers global environmental benefits that would not occur under the baseline alone. The project will improve the management of 25,525 ha of classified forests, apply sustainable land management practices on 100,000 ha, reduce mercury pollution through targeted support to 1,000 miners, and enable 25,000 beneficiaries to adopt sustainable practices. By integrating ecosystem restoration, mercury free mining, agroecology, and strengthened governance within a single landscape approach, the project will reduce pressure on forests, land, freshwater systems, and biodiversity while enhancing long term ecosystem resilience in the N'Zi region.

[1] https://www.anstat.ci/assets/publications/files/Chiffres_Cles_CIV_2025.pdf

[2] https://minamataconvention.org/en/parties/civ

[3] https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/minamata_initial_assessment/Cote-d%27Ivoire-MIA-2021-FR.pdf

[4] https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/national_action_plan/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire-ASGM-NAP-2023-FR.pdf

[5] https://minamataconvention.org/en/documents/minamata-convention-mercury-text-and-annexes

[6] https://minamataconvention.org/sites/default/files/documents/national_action_plan/C%C3%B4te%20d%27Ivoire-ASGM-NAP-2023-FR.pdf

[7] https://heartofmine.foundation/

[8] https://goldfinx.com/

[9] https://impacttransform.org/en/countries/cote-divoire/

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

B. Project Description

Theory of change

The overall objective of the project is To reduce the harmful social and environmental impacts of illegal artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in the N'Zi region through an integrated approach that reduces degradation, restores ecosystems, and promotes inclusive and sustainable livelihood practices, especially in the Booré and d'Etienkro, Djangokro, Bassa Kouadiokro and Tanoh Akakro districts. The project directly supports GEF-8 Biodiversity (BD) Objective 1, by reducing pressures on natural ecosystems, preventing pollution that threatens biodiversity, and promoting the conservation and restoration of degraded habitats in mining-affected landscapes. It also aligns with GEF-8 Land Degradation (LD) Objective 1, by avoiding and reducing land degradation through sustainable land management practices. Finally, it is aligned with GEF-8 Chemicals and Waste (CW) Objective 2, by reducing and eliminating mercury from the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector.

Ultimately, the project contributes to the effective implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, while generating synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and Land Degradation Neutrality, by addressing pollution at source, restoring ecosystem functions, and strengthening community-based stewardship of land and natural resources.

Without GEF intervention, N'Zi's institutions will remain siloed while families continue relying on degrading mining and farming practices to survive. GEF's added value is catalytic: it lowers the barriers to the costly transition to clean technologies that miners cannot afford alone, while funding the unified, cross-sectoral governance that local authorities cannot build on their own.

The project will focus on the following four components:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations, SLM investments and pollution-free practices into N'Zi landscapes through strengthened policy implementation and enforcement
- Sustainable practices and community-led innovations strengthen socio-ecological and livelihood resilience
- Environmental education, knowledge management and social innovation for improved local environmental stewardship
- Inclusive and participatory monitoring, evaluation and coordination for adaptive management, results and impact
- Inclusive and participatory monitoring, evaluation and coordination for adaptive management, results and impact

The project includes, among others:

- Strengthening the capacities of artisanal miners and relevant local stakeholders to adopt and sustain mercury-free, environmentally sound mining practices.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into spatial planning and land-use decision-making to prevent further land degradation and biodiversity loss.
- Building the capacities of local communities to apply sustainable land management and agroecological practices that sustain productive landscapes and livelihoods.
- Supporting the development of diversified, sustainable income-generating activities, with a focus on women and youth (target: at least 50% female beneficiaries), to reduce pressure on natural resources.
- Establishing a digitalized environmental monitoring system to track land restoration, pollution reduction, and ecosystem health and to inform adaptive management.

It also builds on successful pilot community rehabilitation initiatives (notably in Booré Akpokro), demonstrating the technical and social feasibility of ecosystem restoration through agroforestry approaches, improved stoves, and ecological materials (AEIE, 2024; Embassy of Canada, 2024).

The Theory of Change recognizes that capacity building alone is insufficient to deliver Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) in a context of weak enforcement, limited technical capacity, and reliance on ASGM for livelihoods. The critical intermediate step is targeted barrier removal through the transfer of Best Available Techniques and Practices (BAT/BEP) for ASGM, technical support for sustainable land management (SLM), and strengthened local knowledge-sharing. By addressing environmental risks while improving economic viability, these measures enable the sustained adoption of mercury-free mining and SLM by miners, farmers, and cooperatives, an essential condition for lasting mercury elimination and ecosystem restoration.

The expected results of the project are improved land and ecosystem health, enhanced delivery of ecosystem services, strengthened and diversified livelihoods, increased environmental awareness towards positive behavioural change, greater participation and empowerment of women, and improved environmental governance at local and sub-national levels. Collectively, these results contribute to sustaining productive landscapes and livelihoods while reducing pressures on biodiversity and natural resources.

The expected impact of the project is the sustained reduction of environmental and health risks associated with ecosystem degradation and pollution, alongside strengthened community resilience and adaptive capacity through the adoption of sustainable land management and biodiversity-friendly practices.

The ToC is based on these core assumptions:

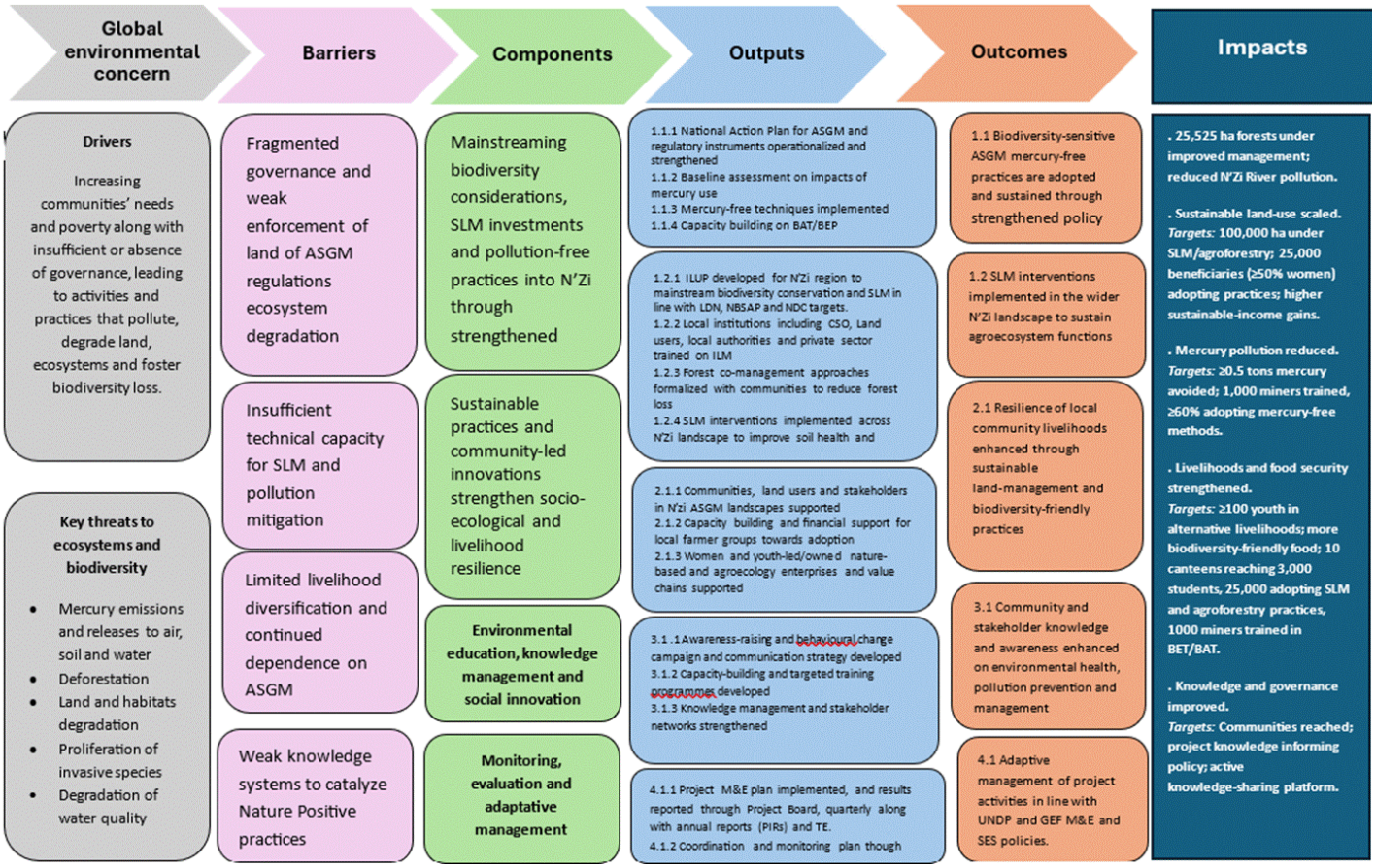
- Sustained political will: Decentralized authorities maintain the commitment to enforce landscape-level mainstreaming and regulations.

- Economic viability: The adoption of BAT/BEP and SLM alternatives generates higher returns than the informal, mercury-based baseline.

- Market responsiveness: local communities are willing to shift practices when provided with technical support and market-based incentives

In the longer term, the project will demonstrate the viability and scalability of an integrated, community-based approach to sustaining productive landscapes, conserving biodiversity and aligning livelihood strategies with environmental stewardship and conservation outcomes. This approach combines ecological restoration, pollution prevention, biodiversity mainstreaming, environmental education, and inclusive local economic development to support a just and sustainable transition toward responsible natural resource management and resilience.

The theory of change is summarized in the figure below. The PPG phase will provide further information on the theory.



Alternative scenario and GEF incremental reasoning

Despite important baseline initiatives, significant gaps remain in addressing the barriers affecting the N'Zi region. Existing initiatives primarily focus on ASGM formalization, awareness raising, and site-specific mercury reduction, but they do not adequately tackle fragmented governance, weak enforcement, limited technical capacity, insufficient livelihood alternatives, or weak knowledge systems. Moreover, current interventions are geographically limited and lack an integrated landscape management perspective capable of addressing the combined social and environmental impacts of illegal mining, land degradation, deforestation, and biodiversity loss.

GEF financing is therefore incremental, as it enables an integrated response that directly addresses these systemic barriers and delivers global environmental benefits that would not occur under the baseline

alone. The project will improve the management of 25,525 ha of classified forests, apply sustainable land management practices on 100,000 ha of production landscapes, reduce mercury pollution through targeted support to 1,000 miners, and enable 25,000 beneficiaries to adopt sustainable land-use practices. By integrating ecosystem restoration, mercury free mining, agroecology practices, and strengthened governance within the wider landscape, applying ILM approach, the project will reduce pressure on forests, land, freshwater systems, and biodiversity while enhancing long term socio-ecological resilience in the N'Zi region.

The project's integrated landscape management approach is innovative in its deliberate linking of governance reform, ecosystem restoration, and mercury-free livelihoods within a single territorial framework. Rather than addressing biodiversity loss, land degradation, and mercury pollution in isolation, the project pilots coordinated regulatory, technical, and livelihood interventions at the landscape level. Durability is ensured through strong institutional anchoring within existing national and decentralized structures, reinforced by substantive government co-financing and alignment with ongoing national programs. Scaling will be supported through piloted regulatory instruments, knowledge platforms, and demonstrated economic viability of mercury-free and nature-positive practices, creating clear pathways for replication within Côte d'Ivoire and across comparable contexts.

Component 1. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations, SLM investments and pollution-free practices into N'Zi landscapes through strengthened policy implementation and enforcement

Component 1 supports the transition to mercury-free, biodiversity-sensitive ASGM in the N'Zi region by strengthening policy and enforcement, reducing pollution at source, and restoring degraded ecosystems through community-based and landscape-level interventions.

Under Outcome 1.1, the project supports the transition of ASGM practices toward mercury-free, biodiversity-sensitive operations through an integrated policy, technical, and capacity-building approach, building on and complementing ongoing initiative such as the PlanetGOLD programme. The National Action Plan for ASGM (2022) and related regulatory instruments are operationalized and strengthened to integrate biodiversity conservation, land degradation neutrality, and mercury elimination, supported by enhanced sub-national enforcement and monitoring capacity. This will be done in coordination with the NZNP IP child project (Component 1).. Building on planetGOLD tools and experience, targeted capacity building for miners and authorities ensures effective adoption of best practices and environmentally sound waste management, leading to measurable reductions in mercury use and pollution. Under Outcome 1.2, the component promotes biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning to prevent further land degradation and biodiversity loss in mining-affected landscapes. Natural forests, wetlands, and riparian ecosystems are conserved and restored through community-based management and strengthened local governance. Watershed management and conservation measures will be implemented to reduce pollution affecting the N'Zi River by addressing upstream sources and restoring degraded riparian and aquatic ecosystems.

Overall, the component prioritizes low-cost, participatory ecological solutions, ensuring strong complementarity with the PlanetGOLD Cote d'Ivoire project, while delivering durable environmental and social benefits.

Outcome 1.1. Biodiversity-sensitive ASGM mercury-free practices are adopted and sustained through strengthened policy implementation, technical capacity, and enforcement mechanisms.

Outputs and related activities:

Output 1.1.1. National Action Plan for ASGM and related regulatory instruments operationalized and strengthened to integrate biodiversity conservation, land degradation neutrality, and mercury elimination, including enhanced sub-national enforcement and monitoring capacity, building on and complementing the PlanetGOLD Programme.

- Policy and regulatory review: Assess the national ASGM strategy, environmental regulations, and sub-national instruments to identify gaps in biodiversity, land degradation, mercury reduction, and enforcement, while mapping synergies with the planetGOLD Programme.
- Updating and operationalizing the National Action Plan: Revise the plan to integrate mercury-free BAT/BEP practices, biodiversity conservation, land degradation neutrality, and site rehabilitation guidelines; develop implementation manuals, monitoring frameworks, and enforcement guidance for sub-national authorities.
- Strengthening sub-national enforcement mechanisms: Support regional and local authorities to implement updated regulations and develop SOPs for inspection, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.
- Capacity building for government and local authorities: Train staff and local authorities on mercury-free BAT/BEP, biodiversity-sensitive ASGM management; leveraging existing tools and training materials, toolkits, and guidelines for replication from the PlanetGOLD programme.
- Stakeholder engagement and policy dissemination: Conduct multi-stakeholder workshops to validate updates; disseminate revised regulations and operational guidance to communities, ASGM operators, and civil society

Output 1.1.2. Capacity building conducted on best mercury-free techniques for ASGM such as Best Available Techniques (BAT)/ Best Environmental Techniques (BEP)) for resulting waste management

- Training of gold miners on mercury-free extraction techniques and BAT/BEP for resulting waste management, in coordination with capacity building delivered and/or planned under the planetGold Cote d'Ivoire project and other initiatives.
- Conduct experience/knowledge sharing experience to foster exchanges between trained miners and others.
- Put in place a monitoring system to ensure new capacities are applied and mercury use and pollution are being reduced (including through water and sediment quality monitoring system including using appropriate digital tools).

Outcome 1.2. SLM interventions implemented in the wider N'Zi landscape to sustain agroecosystem functions through improved land use planning and management regimes

Outputs and related activities:

Output 1.2.1. Integrated land use plans developed for N'Zi region to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM in line with LDN, NBSAP and NDC targets

- Conduct spatial diagnostics and participatory landscape assessments to identify biodiversity conservation priorities, land degradation hotspots, and competing land-use pressures in the N'Zi region.
- Develop biodiversity-inclusive spatial zoning and Integrated Land-Use Plans (ILUPs) for the N'Zi region, supported by GIS-based decision-support tools.
- Strengthen capacities of national and local institutions, planners, and communities to implement ILUPs through targeted training and technical guidance.
- Pilot and operationalize ILUP implementation in priority landscapes, supported by a monitoring and feedback system to track land-use change and inform adaptive management.

Output 1.2.2 Local institutions including CSO, Land users, local authorities and private sector trained on integrated landscape management practices.

- Conduct capacity needs assessments and develop training modules on integrated landscape management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management practices.
- Deliver targeted training and field-based learning sessions for CSOs, land users, local authorities, and private sector actors on integrated landscape management approaches.
- Establish demonstration sites to pilot innovative and biodiversity-friendly land management practices in priority landscapes.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange and technical support mechanisms to promote adoption and scaling of integrated landscape management practices by local stakeholders.

Output 1.2.3. Forests co-management approaches formalized with communities to reduce forest loss and promote forest restoration while improving access to benefits from forest conservation

- Participatory mapping of natural forests, and high-conservation-value areas, including analysis of deforestation drivers linked to illegal mining and land-use change.
- Development and implementation of community-based forest and riparian conservation agreements, with locally defined rules, monitoring, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Restoration of degraded forest and riparian areas through assisted natural regeneration, native species planting, and erosion control.
- Strengthening of inclusive and gender-responsive local forest governance mechanisms and enforcement through training of community committees and participatory decision-making with local authorities.

Output 1.2.4. SLM interventions implemented across N'Zi landscape to improve soil health and reduce soil erosion, pollution risks, degradation and fragmentation of water resources.

- Conduct watershed assessments to identify pollution sources, erosion hotspots, and degraded riparian areas affecting the N'Zi River.
- Develop participatory watershed management plans aligned with sub-national land and water management frameworks.
- Implement SLM and ecosystem restoration measures, including riparian buffers, wetland rehabilitation, and soil conservation practices.
- Apply community-led pollution prevention measures and strengthen local capacities for watershed monitoring and maintenance.

Component 2: Sustainable practices and community-led innovations strengthen socio-ecological and livelihood resilience

Component 2 addresses a key structural driver of illegal gold mining in the N'Zi region: the lack of sustainable and resilient livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and youth. By promoting sustainable land management (SLM), agroforestry, and biodiversity-friendly food systems, the component strengthens local livelihoods, improves livelihood security, and enhances community resilience while reducing dependence on ASGM.

Under Outcome 2.1, the project strengthens community partnerships and capacities to adopt and scale agroecological and SLM practices, including soil fertility management, erosion control, water-efficient practices, and integrated crop–livestock systems. Demonstration sites, peer-to-peer learning, and circular economy approaches—such as composting and biogas production from organic waste—support practical

uptake and sustain land productivity. Agroforestry and biodiversity-friendly production systems are co-designed and implemented to enhance agrobiodiversity, ecosystem services, and income diversification, supported by improved access to markets and value chains.

The component will develop biodiversity-friendly alternative livelihoods to ASGM, prioritizing youth and vulnerable groups through skills development, starter inputs, and links to nature-based income opportunities. Community institutions are strengthened to govern sustainable food and agroforestry systems, including production, processing, storage, and marketing using low-emission technologies. Local food production and consumption systems are reinforced through community, including women and youth-led market gardens, schools and other local institutions, facilitating access to safe, nutritious and sustainably produced food and sustainable incomes for farmers and local producers.

Overall, Component 2 promotes locally owned, inclusive, and nature-positive and resilience livelihoods, empowering women and youth while supporting sustainable landscapes and long-term food security.

Outcome 2.1. Resilience of local community livelihoods enhanced through sustainable land-management and biodiversity-friendly practices.

Outputs and related activities:
Output 2.1.1. Communities, land users and stakeholders in N'zi ASGM landscapes supported to establish/strengthen landscape partnerships/multistakeholder platform for pollution- and deforestation-free agroecological transition

- Conduct a gender- and youth-sensitive and participatory mapping and analysis of stakeholders in the N'Zi landscapes, their roles, interests, needs and concerns regarding natural resources
- Identify land-use conflicts among and across the stakeholder groups, including the differentiated impacts of different land use outcomes on each group to inform a stakeholder engagement strategy
- Support the establishment/strengthening of multistakeholder platforms (formal or informal) to facilitate partnerships and collaborative action towards sustainable and regenerative landscapes through training, capacity building and access to skills, decision-support tools and knowledge

Output 2.1.2. Capacity building and financial support towards adoption and scaling of sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and agroecological practices for food and nutrition security

- Build capacity of community-based organizations, producer groups, and youth and women's associations on agroecological and SLM practices (soil fertility and nutrient management, erosion control, crop rotation, intercropping, mulching, water-efficient practices, and integrated crop–livestock systems) to improve and sustain land productivity.
- Establish demonstration and learning sites for SLM practices and agroecology innovations.
- Build capacities to conserve agrobiodiversity, protect natural vegetation within farms, maintain ecological corridors, and reduce pressure on adjacent natural ecosystems.
- Provide training on crop selection, soil fertility, and sustainable irrigation to optimize yields while maintaining ecosystem health.
- Implement community-led agroforestry and tree-based systems using native and locally adapted species for food, medicinal, fodder, and energy uses, aligned with national restoration and forestry initiatives, including the "One School, 5 ha of Forest" project led by MINEF.
- Organize, equip, and train women's and youth groups and entrepreneurs, MSMEs in production, post-harvest handling, processing, and quality control.

- Build capacities for sustainable production, post-harvest handling, processing, storage, and marketing of food products, including the use of energy-efficient and low-emission technologies to reduce losses and pollution (improved stoves, solar storage, recovery of biowaste and marketing of food products, agro-processing for longer shelf-life and higher value product transformation (e.g. dry tomatoes, garlic / onion powder, cashew butter, cashew fruit juice).
- Peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange mechanisms.

Output 2.1.3 . Women and youth-led/owned nature-based and agroecology enterprises and value chains supported for alternative and sustainable jobs and incomes and market access

- Co-design diversified agroforestry and mixed farming systems with women and youth groups, integrating crops, livestock, and multifunctional tree species (fruit, fodder, medicinal, nitrogen-fixing, and energy species) tailored to local ecological and socioeconomic conditions.
- Support establishment, maintenance, and sustainable management of agroforestry plots to boost agrobiodiversity, soil fertility, microclimate stability, and ecosystem services—all strengthening the productivity and profitability of women- and youth-led enterprises.
- Promote circular bioeconomy solutions by training and equipping groups to convert agricultural and household organic waste into compost or biogas, reducing input costs and environmental pollution.
- Implement community-led tree-based systems using native and locally adapted species, contributing to food, medicinal, fodder, and energy needs and aligning with national restoration programs such as “One School, 5 ha of Forest.”
- Strengthen biodiversity-friendly value chains—including agroforestry products, agro-processing, and non-timber forest products—by improving product quality, branding, certification (where relevant), and linkages to local and regional markets, with priority support for women and youth entrepreneurs.
- Organize, equip, and train women’s and youth groups in production techniques, post-harvest handling, processing, packaging, and quality control to ensure competitive, climate- and nature-positive enterprise development.

Component 3. Environmental education, knowledge management and social innovation for improved local environmental stewardship

Considering the social impacts of gold mining (i.e., school dropouts, youth marginalization, social conflicts), this component aims to invest in education and awareness-raising, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination for a sustainable transformation of behaviors. It will develop educational programs on the impacts of gold mining, chemical pollution, and sustainable resource management, train teachers and local leaders, and support civic and cultural initiatives led by young people and women. It will also enhance local knowledge, biodiversity-friendly practices, and artistic approaches as levers for engagement. In conjunction with the Abidjan Legacy Program (ALP) and the Cote D’Ivoire child project of the GEF planetGOLD programme, this component will also contribute to integrated knowledge management through sharing platforms, multi-stakeholder training, and community campaigns. In particular, it will contribute to strengthening institutional capacities in integrated land and water management through training sessions and sharing experiences between local stakeholders, local authorities and community initiative leaders.

Outcome 3.1. Community and stakeholder knowledge and awareness enhanced on environmental health, pollution prevention and management and ecologically-responsible practices leading to behavioural change at community and landscape levels

Outputs and related activities:

Output 3.1.1. Awareness-raising and behavioural change campaign and communication strategy developed and implemented in collaboration with the planetGOLD and NZNP projects in Cote d'Ivoire project

- Based on achievements of the planetGOLD Cote d'Ivoire and NZNP projects and other initiatives, propose a targeted communication strategy to disseminate key knowledge and capacities for the reduction of mercury pollution and the restoration of degraded land.
- Develop and/or strengthen educational materials on sustainable land management and chemical pollution, in line with and complementary to those developed by planetGold and NZNP projects in Cote d'Ivoire, especially filling gaps on environmental justice, agroecological transformation and community resilience framing.
- Implement behavioural change, information and awareness campaigns on environmental stewardship, in coordination with and complementing those planned under the planetGold and NZNP projects in Cote d'Ivoire, on the health and environmental risks linked to mercury.

Output 3.1.2. Capacity-building initiatives and targeted training programmes developed and delivered at local and regional/landscape levels to strengthen environmental awareness and stewardship among community members and other stakeholders to transform toward nature-positive land use practices

- Facilitate inter-institutional exchanges and cross-project learning with the GEF-PlanetGOLD Cote DIvoire child project and other regional programs.
- Establish youth clubs, participatory forums, and peer-to-peer learning mechanisms to reinforce biodiversity-friendly behaviors and build capacities for local environmental stewardship
- Collaborate with schools, community facilitators and local authorities and other institutions to integrate environmental education and awareness into school curricula, social programs and local development initiatives

Output 3.1.3. Knowledge management and stakeholder networks strengthened through a community of practice and digital platforms linking local, national, and regional initiatives to global knowledge and solutions (e.g., PANORAMA Solutions for a Healthy Planet, WOCAT) on pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation, SLM and restoration

- Develop and operationalize a knowledge management system including a digital platform and community of practice linking local, national, and regional actors.
- Integrate environmental education into rural schools, contextualizing content to local ecosystems, mining impacts, and regional policies.
- Facilitate regular stakeholder dialogues and knowledge-sharing sessions to exchange lessons learned, technical guidance, and social innovation approaches.
- Document and disseminate best practices from local initiatives to national, regional platforms and global platforms such as PANORAMA: Solutions for a Healthy Planet and WOCAT – the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, ensuring accessibility to youth, women, and local institutions

Component 4. Monitoring, evaluation and coordination

To ensure the project's transparency, effectiveness, and accountability, this component will ensure a robust monitoring, evaluation, and multi-stakeholder coordination system. It will include the establishment of an integrated digital environmental and socioeconomic monitoring platform, the development of SMART indicators aligned with GEF objectives, and capacity building for local stakeholders to use these tools and contribute to monitoring project progress and performance and ensure accountability towards results. The project will build on existing planetGOLD digital platforms (developed with EPRM support) to avoid duplication and enhance synergies in data collection, analysis, and reporting.

A central role will be assigned to the National Commission of the GEF (NC-GEF), which will receive targeted support to strengthen its capacities in monitoring, reporting, and strategic coordination. The NC-GEF will also be responsible for overseeing the dissemination of results and facilitating inter-institutional dialogue. A post-project sustainability plan will be put in place to ensure local ownership and the continuation of actions beyond the initial funding.

Outcome 4.1. Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and SES policies realized.

Outputs and related activities:

Output 4.1.1. Project M&E plan implemented, and results reported through Project Board, quarterly and annual reports (PIRs) and TE.

- Develop and implement a digital monitoring and reporting platform (including GIS and ODK tools).
- Train and strengthen capacity of the NC-GEF and local institutions to collect, analyze and report project data
- Carry out quarterly participatory monitoring and evaluation missions, involving local partners.
- Independent project terminal evaluation conducted in line with GEF and UNDP procedures and quality standards.
- Post project sustainability plan developed

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

No. GEF Agency doesn't play an execution role on this project.

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (MINETE), leveraging its mandate on environmental governance and coordination of ASGM and mercury-related interventions. Implementation will be carried out in close collaboration with relevant sectoral ministries responsible for mining, land management, agriculture, and decentralization, as well as the National GEF Coordination Unit (NC-GEF).

At the national level, an inter-institutional steering mechanism will provide strategic oversight and facilitate coordination across sectors and ongoing initiatives. At the local level, decentralized authorities,

producer cooperatives, and community-based organizations will play a central role in implementation, monitoring, and knowledge exchange.

While the PIF establishes these core execution and coordination principles, detailed roles, reporting lines, operational protocols, and stakeholder engagement mechanisms will be defined and validated during the PPG phase, ensuring operational clarity, accountability, and alignment with national systems prior to CEO endorsement.

Possible collaboration with ongoing initiatives and projects:

- The project will support the development and implementation of a number of comprehensive strategies, mercury-free alternatives and restoration techniques building on national strategies provided under the National Action Plan to Reduce Mercury project as well as previous/ongoing work carried out under the ongoing planetGOLD project in Cote dIvoire and on information gathered from previous projects, such as IMPACT's Just Gold project and the Minamata Initial Assessment.

- With regards to promoting 'clean' gold extracted with minimal impact on the environment and ecosystem services, the project will build on the work carried out as part of IMPACT's Fair Gold project, which was implemented from 2019 to 2021 near the town of Dabakala in the Hambol region. The project aimed to pilot the 'Or Juste' model to encourage gold miners, cooperatives and traders to implement a traceability and due diligence system and to use legal sales channels to sell their gold.

- In the same vein, the project will also capitalise on the achievements of initiatives such as the project to support the security and development of artisanal gold mining as a factor for development and social cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire, which has helped to formalise and develop the artisanal gold mining sector so that it contributes to wealth creation and jobs at the local level, thereby preventing violent extremism and avoiding it becoming a source of funding for armed terrorist groups. Synergies could be envisaged in particular for: (i) Structuring and professionalizing the ASGM sector in order to channel the economic benefits and make it a real lever for local development; (ii) Promoting responsible and sustainable ASGM that contributes to reducing the environmental and health impacts of illegal gold mining; (iii) Strengthening territorial networks and local security governance to prevent the risk of criminal groups capturing gold mining resources.

- Close collaboration with the *planetGOLD programme*: in order to prevent duplication, collaboration with the planetGOLD project in Cote d'Ivoire is strongly envisaged for activities related to the reduction of mercury pollution (i.e., mercury-free technologies, awareness-raising and trainings), formalization (i.e., building on strategies and approaches developed under the planetGOLD programme) and capacity building (support the harmonization and coherence of messages, as well as joint communication materials). The current project will also constitute an added value to the planetGOLD project on matters related to restoration and preservation of ecosystem services.

- With regards to land restoration and implementation of SLM and other techniques, the project will ensure close interaction or even join efforts with ongoing initiatives such as the NZNP project

and the project for the restoration and enhancement of land degraded by gold panning in Boore Etienkro, which receives financial support from the Canadian Embassy[1][10], and capitalize on cooperation already established and activities already conducted.

- *Review of Minamata Initial Assessments (MIAs) and the implementation of Article 7 (RIA) under the Minamata Convention:* During the PPG stage, the project may be updated in consideration of upcoming activities to update the MIAs and implement the RIA projects, particularly paying key attention to data update and capacity building activities.

[1] https://www.aip.ci/125473/cote-divoire-aip-les-populations-de-boore-sensibilisees-sur-la-restauration-des-terres-apres-lorpaillage/

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)
25525	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0	0	0	0

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

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)
25525	0	0	0

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)
Foret classée de	300869	Protected area with sustainable use of	21,025.00						

Abéanou		natural resources							
Foret Classee de Ahoua	29580	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	4,500.00						

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
100000	0	0	0

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

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

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)
100,000.00			

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 9 Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)

POPs type	Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.2 Quantity of mercury reduced (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.3 Hydrochloroflurocarbons (HCFC) Reduced/Phased out (metric tons)

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.4 Number of countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

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

Indicator 9.5 Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities (Use this sub-indicator in addition to one of the sub-indicators 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 if applicable)

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

Indicator 9.6 POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.7 Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 9.8 Avoided residual plastic waste

Metric Tons (Expected at PIF)	Metric Tons (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Metric Tons (Achieved at MTR)	Metric Tons (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	11,390			
Male	18,010			
Total	**29,400**	**0**	0	**0**

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

GEF Core Indicator 1.2: 25,525 ha

The project will strengthen the management effectiveness of the Ahoua Classified Forest (4,500 ha) and the Abéanou Classified Forest (21,025 ha), covering a combined landscape of 25,525 hectares. Through improved governance, monitoring, and sustainable forest management practices, the project will help secure these key forest ecosystems and enhance their long-term ecological resilience.

GEF Core Indicator 4.3: 100,000 ha

The project will promote sustainable land management, agroecology and agroforestry practices in the NZi region, where rapid, and often illegal, land expansion is reshaping land use and causing severe environmental degradation, including deforestation, loss of forest ecosystems, land-tenure pressures, and spatial reconfiguration. In response, the project will target 100,000 ha for sustainable land management and agroforestry practices in the production systems.

GEF Core Indicator 11 – Beneficiaries

Though this figure needs to be confirmed during PPG phase, the expected direct beneficiaries of this project are as follows:

- 100 young people (70 male; 30 female) will be permanently removed from gold mining.
- 1000 gold miners trained (700 male, 300 female) and at least 60% demonstrate adoption of best practices.
- 25,000 crop farmers (60% male and 40% female) female) will be directly supported with training in agroforestry and sustainable land management and financial support to adopt sustainable practices.
- 3,000 youth, including school-going children (2,000 male; 1,000 female) across 10 primary schools (300 pupils per school) will be supported to access information, awareness-raising education to strengthen environmental stewardship and to participate in activities related to agroecological production within school and community gardens, strengthening access to safe and nutritious food and improving school attendance and retention.
- 300 people (240 male; 60 female) trained on ILM and sustainable land use practices

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures

CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Likelihood: low to moderate; Impact: moderate Exposure to challenging weather conditions impact project activities • Project activities may be delayed due to climate related impacts, including damage to infrastructure, alteration of the transportation network which may limit the effective organization of field visits, trainings and similar activities in remote areas. • Restoration approaches and/or selected plantations may not withstand certain climate extremes. Possible Mitigation measures: • Conduct a climate risk screening of the project area to identify areas especially vulnerable to climate change effects and natural disasters and to inform the design of the project's activities • Develop a workplan considering seasonal calendar of the targeted regions to ensure field activities are conducted during appropriate periods. Possible Mitigation measures: • Conduct a climate risk screening of the project area to identify areas especially vulnerable to climate change effects and natural disasters and to inform the design of the project's activities • Develop a workplan considering seasonal calendar of the targeted regions to ensure field activities are conducted during appropriate periods. • SLM technologies including (i) Assisted Natural Regeneration (RNA): Prioritizing the protection of resilient, naturally occurring tree shoots over vulnerable new seedlings to ensure higher survival rates; (ii) Soil Moisture Retention: Using heavy mulching and cover crops (e.g., Mucuna) to protect soil from extreme heat and retain moisture on degraded ASGM sites and production landscapes; (iii) Climate-Resilient Agroforestry: Implementing multi-strata systems with drought-tolerant, indigenous shade trees to regulate microclimates..
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Land use conflicts and impacts on livelihoods • ASGM sector represents a considerable source of income for mining communities. As such, miners may be concerned about the reduction of economic benefits generated through ASGM, consequently impacting their livelihoods. Restoration may restrict access to previously mined land. Exacerbation of conflicts between miners and farmers is a potential risk. Exclusion of vulnerable/marginalized stakeholder groups, including women, youth, migrant miners • Vulnerable/marginalized stakeholder groups might not effectively participate in and/or benefit from the project activities. Unintended adverse effects on biodiversity • Application of selected restoration methods may not be adapted to targeted sites, unintentionally introduce invasive species, soil degradation or otherwise lead to unintended adverse effects on local biodiversity if implemented without adequate safeguards. Occupational, health and safety risks • Transition to new technologies might introduce unfamiliar hazards. Personnel involved in remediation activities could be exposed to pollutants and other occupational risks. Inadequate working conditions (lack of

		protective equipment, etc.) and use of child labor. Pollution and waste handling risks • Remediation/restoration, including manipulation of sediments/wastes, of degraded lands could lead to mercury mobilization and re-release into waterways. Ongoing community health risks • Exposure to persistent pollution and to potential re-release of pollutants from on-the-ground interventions Possible mitigation measures: • An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), outlining further assessments and management measures required for the implementation phase, will be developed during the PPG stage, based on a more detailed risk analysis and updated SESP. The ESMF will include any required specific plan/framework, such as a Livelihoods Restoration Plan/Framework to address potential economic displacement. • A comprehensive gender (role and barriers for women on access and management of natural resources, engagement and impacts of ASGM activity on women) and stakeholder analysis (mapping out relations between ASGM and livelihoods, socio-economic context and potential drivers for conflict) will be conducted during the PPG to inform the development of a Gender Action Plan and a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan • Scoped assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan for on-the-ground interventions • Community health awareness campaigns • Participatory community E&S monitoring program and capacity training • Participatory approaches • Gender-sensitive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) at the project level • Information sessions to present benefits, including from new nature-based value chains and enterprises, and long-term advantages for human health, will be organized to ensure targeted groups approve proposed initiatives and are engaged in restoration actions. • Target the most viable priority sites; use adapted local species; combine reforestation, agroforestry and sustainable soil management practices with opportunities for value chain development and restoration jobs.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Institutional and political changes may affect country's priorities and effective implementation of project activities • Changes in political structures and frameworks may affect national and local priorities, resulting in lack of engagement from institutional stakeholders and delays in decision-making towards enforcement measures, but also with regards to the support to restoration measures to be implemented. Furthermore, the absence of clear commitment from government officials may also affect coordination mechanisms under the project. Possible mitigation measures • Formalization of the inter-agency coordination mechanisms may be proposed, along with legally binding agreements to secure institutional engagement. • Develop an internal communication strategy and associated monitoring plan to support the establishment of transparency mechanisms; promote participatory community monitoring; produce regular public reports.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Substantial	Innovative regulatory framework and related enforcement measures impacted by institutional gaps • Updates and strengthening of existing institutional and regulatory frameworks, especially along with enforcement measures would

		be key to ensure sustainable reduction of ASGM impacts on environment and long-term efficiency of restoration actions. However, innovative nature of such approaches may receive certain resistance regarding their adoption and implementation, which could delay project activities and overall progress. Possible mitigation measures • Facilitate specific Prefectural decrees (Arrêtés Préfectoraux) to legally clarify the monitoring roles of decentralized agencies and local committees. • Pilot the new regulatory and zoning frameworks in selected N'Zi municipalities to build local institutional capacity before scaling region-wide. • Build on the PlanetGOLD result to tie compliance with new formalization rules to tangible project benefits, such as priority access to mercury-free equipment and land tenure support. • Operationalize a joint N'Zi landscape committee to resolve jurisdictional overlaps between mining, environment, and agricultural authorities
Technological	Moderate	Challenges in data collection and testing restoration techniques • National capacities for quantifying mercury concentrations in targeted ecosystems may be limited. • Ensuring selected restoration, SLM and free-mercury techniques are pertinent and concretely effective may be needed to support decision-making and communities' engagement. Possible mitigation measures • Directly apply lessons and technical materials from planetGOLD Côte d'Ivoire to select proven, off-grid, and context-appropriate mercury-free technologies. • Train local N'Zi mechanics and artisans to manufacture, repair, and maintain both ASGM and SLM equipment to prevent breakdown and reliance on external experts. • Establish local Farmer/Miner Field Schools to temporarily subsidize and practically demonstrate the profitability and yield benefits of these clean technologies
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Financial unviability of mercury-Free ASGM and SLM Transitions: The transition to mercury-free ASGM and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) requires significant upfront capital. If local microfinance institutions (MFIs) in the N'Zi region perceive these innovative business models as too 'risky' to fund, cooperatives will be unable to afford the clean technologies. Without financial viability, actors will inevitably revert to cheap, environmentally degrading practices.. Possible mitigation measures • Partner with the private especially with local MFIs in the N'Zi region to establish a targeted revolving fund or guaranteed micro-credit lines specifically designed for formalized ASGM cooperatives to purchase clean equipment. • Provide financial literacy training and assist mining and farming cooperatives in drafting formal, bankable business plans to prove the profitability of mercury-free mining and SLM agro-enterprises to local lenders. • Connect SLM-based alternative livelihoods directly to profitable local and regional markets to ensure sustained income and long-term business model viability post-project
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Insufficient capacity of the Executing Agency (MINETE) and local partners to execute complex project activities: Under the National Implementation Modality (NIM), MINETE acts as the Executing Agency. Capacity gaps within MINETE, the Conseil Régional, or local partners regarding complex

		GEF reporting requirements or multi-sectoral ASGM/SLM coordination could cause implementation delays.Mitigation measures • Build on the planetGOLD experience and Conduct thorough capacity assessments during the PPG phase and train MINETE's Project Management Unit (PMU) on specific GEF fiduciary, reporting, and technical standards. • Partner with specialized entities (e.g., Centre Africain pour la Santé et l'Environnement (CASE)) to provide direct technical assistance and implement a structured skills transfer plan for MINETE and local decentralized execution teams. • Establish clear communication and coordination protocols between MINETE, national bodies, and local community leaders (including youth) to streamline decentralized execution. • Institutionalize monitoring via local communities to support MINETE's field-level execution and prevent delays.
Fiduciary	Low	Mismanagement and/or inefficient use of funds. UNDP will ensure compliance with GEF and UNEP guidelines at all times during the project cycle. Work plans, budget estimates and procurement plans will be prepared and approved annually. Furthermore, close coordination and communication with the executing agency and national counterparts will be on a regular basis through both national and local project steering committees and other meetings and information exchange sessions.
Stakeholder	Low	Relevant stakeholders are not engaged and/or committed towards the project. Lack of stakeholder engagement can cause misalignment, poor communication, and resource constraints, leading to delays and budget overruns. Possible mitigation measures Active involvement, clear communication, and engagement strategies are essential to mitigate this risk. Measures include developing and curating a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan during PPG, informed by comprehensive and appropriate stakeholder mapping and consultations to identify key national and local stakeholders and implement effective engagement strategies tailored to different groups. Moreover, the establishment of a stakeholder group acting as a platform to exchange knowledge, experience and mostly progress made under the project, including with broader global stakeholders, will help to maintain engagement and commitment of local, national and global stakeholders.
Other	Low	Possible challenges by challenging gender dimensions at local level may impact the effective implementation of activities As both women and men are involved in ASGM sector and would be concerned, and women are particularly vulnerable to mercury exposure with related health risks. Gender-blind interventions may affect the effectiveness of activities and local ownership beyond the project, as most affected groups may be excluded. Possible mitigation measures Develop a gender-responsive communication plan during the PPG by an expert, informed by a comprehensive gender analysis to ensure that gender considerations and indicators are considered, including throughout all activities.

Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Considering the assessment provided above, the overall project risk is rated as substantial. During the full design (PPG) phase, further risks analysis will be conducted to identify potential risk and their mitigation measures. To prevent such risk, close monitoring and constant communication will ensure appropriate risk management and adaptation

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

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

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

This project adopts an integrated approach to support the **implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, the and the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)**, the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) aligning with key **GEF-8 focal areas**:

- **Land Degradation (LD):** The project will contribute to LD objective 2 to reverse land degradation through restoration of production landscapes. In this regard, the project is anchored in Côte d'Ivoire's voluntary LDN targets to restore 100% of its degraded lands and increase forest cover to 20% by 2030. By focusing on LD-2, the project will implement integrated landscape restoration in the N'Zi region, specifically targeting the Ahoua (4,500 ha) and Abéanou (21,025 ha) forests, and adjacent ASGM-sites and agricultural lands for achieving national Land Degradation Neutrality in this region. The project will also support land users and communities in the project area to adopt practices that facilitate transitions towards agroecological approaches to land use and production.

- **Biodiversity (BD):** While degraded by logging and agriculture, the Ahoua (4,500 ha) and Abéanou (21,025 ha) Classified Forests represent critical remnant ecosystems within the forest-savanna transition zone. Their global significance stems from their function as vital ecological refuges and stepping-stone corridors for regional species amidst rapidly converting landscapes. To safeguard these habitats, the project aligns with GEF-8 BD Objective 1 and Côte d'Ivoire's NBSAP by mainstreaming biodiversity into the ASGM and agricultural sectors. By transforming local production practices to be nature-positive, degradation-free and mercury-free, the project mitigates the direct drivers of habitat loss and protects these last remaining ecological refuges.

- **Chemicals and Waste:** Prevent pollution from harmful chemicals and wastes such as mercury contributing to the achievement of all three objectives: (1): Creation, strengthening and supporting the enabling environment and policy coherence to transform the manufacture, use and sound management of chemicals and to eliminate waste and chemical pollution.; (2): Prevention of future

buildup of hazardous chemicals and waste in the Environment, and (3): Elimination of hazardous chemicals and waste

The project will contribute to the following targets of the KMGBF:

- **TARGET 3**: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas;
- **TARGET 7**: Reduce Pollution to Levels That Are Not Harmful to Biodiversity;
- **TARGET 10**: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry;
- **TARGET 11**: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People;
- **TARGET 14**: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level;
- **TARGET 16**: Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices To Reduce Waste and Overconsumption;
- **TARGET 22**: Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all;
- **TARGET 23**: Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action.

It also reinforces **national strategies**:

- **NBSAP:** Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, ecosystem restoration, and participatory governance
- **NDC:** Climate-resilient landscapes, reduced deforestation, and ecosystem-based adaptation
- **NAP:** Strengthening adaptation planning, institutional capacity, and nature-based solutions
- **LDN targets:** Increasing forest cover; reduce rates of forest conversion to other forms of land use; and improving productivity of agricultural land, among others.
- National Action Plan on ASGM

By linking global and national priorities, the project delivers measurable **environmental benefits**, enhances **community resilience**, and promotes **sustainable livelihoods**, contributing to a cleaner sector, restored ecosystems, and reduced land degradation in Côte d'Ivoire.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during PIF development as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes and plan to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before CEO endorsement has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

Preliminary consultations were held on the sidelines of the first edition of the International Exhibition of Extractive and Energy Resources (SIREXE), organized by the Ivorian Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy, from 27 November to 2 December 2024 in Abidjan, under the theme 'Sustainable development of extractive and energy industries: what policy and strategy'. The African Forum on the Environment in Extractive Industries (FAFEIX), held from 19 to 21 February 2025 in Yamoussoukro under the theme 'Rehabilitation of mining sites in Africa: Challenges and opportunities', was also used for consultations. Several technical discussion sessions were organised between March and July 2025 with the Ministry of Mines, a number of NGOs, the PlanetGOLD project, the FAO the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Finance through the GEF Operational Focal Point, the Ministry of Water and Forests, and the Ministry of National Education.

These consultations will be continued and deepened during the PPG phase with field missions, involving all beneficiaries and potential stakeholders.

Engagement with the following groups of institutions is envisaged:

Governmental institutions

- Ministry in charge of Water and Forests
- Ministry in charge of Economy and Finance
- Ministry in charge of Mines and extractives
- Ministry in charge of Health
- Ministry in charge of Trade
- Regional and local offices representing those key ministries
- Police and customs officers
- Legal professionals
- environmental and public health officials

Civil society organizations and individuals

- Mining organizations, such as cooperatives and/or associations, e.g. COOPEDA, SCOOPS, UNOMICI, etc.
- Miners/miners' representatives
- Community leaders and local government of the gold mining ASGM
- Members of the local community, including vulnerable stakeholder groups such as the youth and immigrant miners
- Representatives of large-scale mining operations
- Other affected landowners
- Gold buyers, gold traders, mercury traders

- Technical expert in gold mining
- Women's organizations involved in mining
- Environmental and human health organizations

Academia

- Academic and research organizations
- Universities and research institutes

Private sector, IGOs and others

- Waste management specialists -
- Private sector partners such as large mining companies or equipment suppliers
- Financial/banking sector - microfinance, Sacco groups
- Representatives of United Nations country teams

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant($)	Agency Fee($)	Total GEF Financing ($)
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,250,731.00	213,819.00	2,464,550.00
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	426,125.00	40,482.00	466,607.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**2,676,856.00**	**254,301.00**	**2,931,157.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

100000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	84,081.00	7,988.00	92,069.00
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	15,919.00	1,512.00	17,431.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**100,000.00**	**9,500.00**	**109,500.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,556,619.00
UNDP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	484,038.00
Total GEF Resources					**3,040,657.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	2,250,731.00	1528000
LD-1	GET	426,125.00	8022000
Total Project Cost		**2,676,856.00**	**9,550,000.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1500000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition	Grant	Investment mobilized	6500000
Donor Agency	European Union (Expertise France)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1390000
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	60000
Others	Agroecology fund	Grant	Investment mobilized	100000
Total Co-financing				**9,550,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The co financing amounts to USD 9,550,000, which includes:

- USD 1,390,000 from the SECORCI 2 Project (2024–2028), which supports the National Programme for the Rationalisation of Gold Mining (PNRO). The project integrates security, skills development, and social cohesion measures in collaboration with the National Security Council. It also covers the rehabilitation of abandoned mining sites, involving traditional and religious leaders.

These interventions contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in line with the Paris Agreement. These contributions constitute grant co financing.

- USD 8,000,000 from the Government, through the Ministry of Environment, including USD 1,500,000 as a direct contribution as a grant through the national Public Investment Programme (PIP) and USD 6,500,000 as in kind support to reinforce ownership and community level enforcement for sustainability.
- USD 60,000 from UNDP through TRAC/Core resources.
- The Agroecology Fund will mobilize $100,000 to support capacity building, financial support, and locally-led nature based and agroecology enterprises (output 2.1.2 and 2.1.3).

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Nancy Bennet	3/10/2026			nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	Charles Tamou	3/10/2026			charles.tamou@undp.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Kouadio Ahou Sosthène Larissa	Technical Advisor	Ministry of Finance and budget	4/14/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Sous-prefecture	X longitude	Y Latitude
BOCANDA	-4.49438208	7.062669782
KOUASSI-KOUASSIKRO	-4.681055715	7.336064972
DIMBOKRO	-4.701406833	6.645158881
BENGASSOU	-4.481025781	6.803135991
N'ZECREZESSOU	-4.280556518	7.068876899
KOUADIOBLEKRO	-4.318635878	6.939896247
DIANGOKRO	-4.587985272	6.762414531

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
revised PIMS10508 _SES pre-screening_REV_20

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Influencing models

Transform policy and regulatory environments
Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making
x Convene multi-stakeholder alliances
x Demonstrate innovative approaches
Deploy innovative financial instruments

Stakeholders

Indigenous Peoples
x Private Sector

Capital providers
Financial intermediaries and market facilitators
Large corporations
SMEs
Individuals/Entrepreneurs
Non-Grant Pilot
Project Reflow

xBeneficiaries
xLocal Communities
xCivil Society

Community Based Organization
Non-Governmental Organization
Academia
Trade Unions and Workers Unions

xType of Engagement

Information Dissemination
Partnership
Consultation
Participation

x Communications

xAwareness Raising
Education
Public Campaigns
xBehavior Change

Capacity, Knowledge and Research

Enabling Activities
xCapacity Development
xKnowledge Generation and Exchange
Targeted Research
xLearning

Theory of Change
xAdaptive Management
xIndicators to Measure Change

xInnovation
xKnowledge and Learning

xKnowledge Management
xInnovation
xCapacity Development
xLearning

xStakeholder Engagement Plan

Gender Equality

xGender Mainstreaming

xBeneficiaries
xWomen groups
xSex-disaggregated indicators

		xGender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas		
		Access and control over natural resources	
		xParticipation and leadership	
		xAccess to benefits and services	
		xCapacity development	
		xAwareness raising	
		xKnowledge generation	
Focal Areas/Theme			
	Integrated Programs		
		Commodity Supply Chains (Good Growth Partnership)	
			Sustainable Commodities Production
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			Financial Screening Tools
			High Conservation Value Forests
			High Carbon Stocks Forests
			Soybean Supply Chain
			Oil Palm Supply Chain
			Beef Supply Chain
			Smallholder Farmers
			Adaptive Management
		Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa	
			Resilience (climate and shocks)
			Sustainable Production Systems
			Agroecosystems
			Land and Soil Health
			Diversified Farming
			Integrated Land and Water Management
			Smallholder Farming
			Small and Medium Enterprises
			Crop Genetic Diversity
			Food Value Chains
			Gender Dimensions
			Multi-stakeholder Platforms
		xFood Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			xSustainable Food Systems
			xLandscape Restoration
			xSustainable Commodity Production
			xComprehensive Land Use Planning
			Integrated Landscapes
			Food Value Chains
			Deforestation-free Sourcing
			xSmallholder Farmers
		Sustainable Cities	
			Integrated urban planning
			Urban sustainability framework
			Transport and Mobility
			Buildings
			Municipal waste management
			Green space
			Urban Biodiversity
			Urban Food Systems
			Energy efficiency
			Municipal Financing
			Global Platform for Sustainable Cities
			Urban Resilience
	Biodiversity		
		xProtected Areas and Landscapes	
			xTerrestrial Protected Areas
			Coastal and Marine Protected Areas
			xProductive Landscapes
			Productive Seascapes
			xCommunity Based Natural Resource Management
		xMainstreaming	
			Extractive Industries (oil, gas, mining)
			Forestry (Including HCVF and REDD+)
			Tourism
			xAgriculture & agrobiodiversity
			Fisheries
			Infrastructure
			Certification (National Standards)
			Certification (International Standards)
		Species	

		Illegal Wildlife Trade Threatened Species Wildlife for Sustainable Development Crop Wild Relatives
		Plant Genetic Resources Animal Genetic Resources Livestock Wild Relatives Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
	Biomes	
		Mangroves Coral Reefs Sea Grasses xWetlands xRivers Lakes Tropical Rain Forests xTropical Dry Forests Temperate Forests Grasslands Paramo Desert
	Financial and Accounting	
		Payment for Ecosystem Services Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting
		Conservation Trust Funds Conservation Finance
	Supplementary Protocol to the CBD	
		Biosafety Access to Genetic Resources Benefit Sharing
Forests		
	xForest and Landscape Restoration	
		REDD/REDD+
	Forest	
		Amazon Congo Drylands
Land Degradation		
	Sustainable Land Management	
		Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
		Ecosystem Approach xIntegrated and Cross-sectoral approach xCommunity-Based NRM xSustainable Livelihoods xIncome Generating Activities Sustainable Agriculture Sustainable Pasture Management Sustainable Forest/Woodland Management
		xImproved Soil and Water Management Techniques
		Sustainable Fire Management Drought Mitigation/Early Warning
	Land Degradation Neutrality	
		xLand Productivity xLand Cover and Land cover change Carbon stocks above or below ground
	Food Security	
International Waters		
	Ship Coastal xFreshwater	
		Aquifer xRiver Basin Lake Basin
	Learning Fisheries Persistent toxic substances SIDS : Small Island Dev States Targeted Research Pollution	
		Persistent toxic substances

		Plastics
		Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater
		Nutrient pollution from Wastewater
	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan preparation	
	Strategic Action Plan Implementation	
	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	
	Large Marine Ecosystems	
	Private Sector	
	Aquaculture	
	Marine Protected Area	
	Biomes	
		Mangrove
		Coral Reefs
		Seagrasses
		Polar Ecosystems
		Constructed Wetlands
Chemicals and Waste		
	Mercury	
	Artisanal and Scale Gold Mining	
	Coal Fired Power Plants	
	Coal Fired Industrial Boilers	
	Cement	
	Non-Ferrous Metals Production	
	Ozone	
	Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	Sound Management of chemicals and Waste	
	Waste Management	
		Hazardous Waste Management
		Industrial Waste
		e-Waste
	Emissions	
	Disposal	
	New Persistent Organic Pollutants	
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls	
	Plastics	
	Eco-Efficiency	
	Pesticides	
	DDT - Vector Management	
	DDT - Other	
	Industrial Emissions	
	Open Burning	
	Best Available Technology / Best Environmental Practices	
	Green Chemistry	
Climate Change		
	Climate Change Adaptation	
		Climate Finance
		Least Developed Countries
		Small Island Developing States
		Disaster Risk Management
		Sea-level rise
		Climate Resilience
		Climate information
		xEcosystem-based Adaptation
		Adaptation Tech Transfer
		National Adaptation Programme of Action
		National Adaptation Plan
		Mainstreaming Adaptation
		Private Sector
		Innovation
		Complementarity
		xCommunity-based Adaptation
		xLivelihoods
	Climate Change Mitigation	
		xAgriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use
		Energy Efficiency
		Sustainable Urban Systems and Transport
		Technology Transfer
		Renewable Energy

		Financing Enabling Activities
	Technology Transfer	Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) Endogenous technology Technology Needs Assessment Adaptation Tech Transfer
	United Nations Framework on Climate Change	Nationally Determined Contribution
Rio Markers		
	Paris Agreement xSustainable Development Goals xClimate Change Mitigation 0 Climate Change Mitigation 1 Climate Change Mitigation 2 Climate Change Adaptation 0 xClimate Change Adaptation 1 Climate Change Adaptation 2	