

# Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10269

**Countries**

Regional (Africa)

**Project Name**

Transformational Change in Sustainable Forest Management in Transboundary Landscapes of the Congo Basin

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

12/9/2020

**Review completed by PM**

5/3/2021

**Program Manager**

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

**Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Project Type**

FSP

## PIF ☐

## CEO Endorsement ☐

### Part I ? Project Information

#### Focal area elements

**1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**Project description summary**

**2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Component 2: point taken. to be confirmed at inception.

Component 3:

- We take note of the new output 3.1.1, the support to the REPALEAC, also confirmed in the budget.

- Point taken about the CEFDHAC.

Component 4: We take note of the support of the REPALEAC strategic framework (mid-term evaluation), KM events (IP forum for instance).

Cleared.

### **January 5, 2021**

Differences between the PFD and the current proposal are explained and justified. Please address the following comments.

#### **Component 2**

- Outcome 2.2 on zoonotic disease surveillance only mentions Ebola and Anthrax monitoring and does not discuss SARS-COV-2. Given there was strong suspicion (Melin et al. 2020; Gillespie & Leendertz, 2020), demonstrated infections of several non-human primates in experimental settings (Hobbs & Reid, 2020) and that there are confirmed cases of captive Gorillas affected by COVID-19 (<https://en.unesco.org/news/gorillas-test-positive-covid-19-what-it-means-great-apes>), a contribution of the project on SARS-COV-2 infections in wild vulnerable populations should probably be explored.

*Melin, A. D., Janiak, M. C., Marrone, F., 3rd, Arora, P. S., & Higham, J. P. (2020). Comparative ACE2 variation and primate COVID-19 risk. Communications biology, 3(1), 641. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42003-020-01370-w>*

*Hobbs, EC, Reid, TJ. Animals and SARS-CoV-2: Species susceptibility and viral transmission in experimental and natural conditions, and the potential implications for community transmission. Transbound Emerg Dis. 2020; 00: 1? 18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/tbed.13885>*

*Gillespie, T. R., & Leendertz, F. H. (2020). COVID-19: protect great apes during human pandemics. Nature, 579(7800).*

#### **Component 3**

- The component 3 has significantly changed. Without grant mechanism and studies, we are not seeing how the regional project is going to leverage and empower forest dependent communities. It seems that the initial support to regional networks as CEFDHAC and REPALEAC is not considered anymore. We invite UNEP to reconsider this point to contribute to the regional dynamics and ensure a role for CSO and Indigenous People in the Congo IP agenda.

- The REPALEAC is connected to the Yaoundé Declaration and is recognized by the States. It is important to show that they are supported as political leader of indigenous people. The REPALEAC should lead activities related to IPLC.

- As for the other components, we expect to find a logical reasoning to improve the Indigenous People Agenda with 1) a starting point or baseline, 2) cofinancing opportunities, and 3) the demonstration of additionality of proposed GEF Activities. Please, complete.

- The involvement of REPALEAC and CEFDHAC in the different project steering committees and consultations is one step. But there is no mention of the 2018-2025 REPALEAC strategy.

- We would expect a potential role of the regional project to 1) reinforce the capacities of the REPALEAC and its national partners, 2) support the reporting and eventually the mid-term evaluation of the strategy, 3) provide access to innovative and internet tools through the Congo IP to facilitate communication, meetings, exchange, common documents, etc. Please, develop. These changes should be reflected in the outputs and activities, as well as in the budget.

- Following several articles and reports (Buzzfeed, Survival International, and Rainforest UK), the regional project has an opportunity to push the agenda on protected area and forest management by Indigenous People both for conservation, livelihoods, and traditional knowledge. This opportunity would be aligned with the article 8(j) of the CBD on Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices. Once the baseline situation will be described, the added value of the GEF regional project will be easier to determine (assessment? case studies? strategy?). Please, also revise the budget to include this opportunity.

- Please, explain how the revised outputs are going to empower IPLC (3.1.1 Mechanisms to scale up market access and private sector investment and 3.1.2 Multi-stakeholder partnerships are scaled up).

- See the annex 6 on the deliverables, especially the component 3: we recommend adjusting the formulation of deliverables related to the outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and 3.1.3. "Technical Support" is mentioned four times (on six deliverables). We do not think that "technical support" is an acceptable deliverable. We do not clearly see the value for money under this component.

#### Component 4

- 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 While there is training specifically planned to support child projects on methodological aspects of ILUMP (1.1.2), it does not seem to be planned to support countries in the integration of climate and the results of the habitat sustainability maps

that will be delivered at months 18 and 24. Please clarify how project will support the proper use of these outputs in the other child projects.

- Small grants: it seems they have been removed from the project but are still mentioned in several places throughout the document (under table F, risk section). Please correct.

## Agency Response

**28042021**

### On component 2:

China has been testing whether faecal samples can be used for COVID 19 testing. Currently WCS is not planning to include COVID 19 testing in wildlife health programme. UNEP suggests to wait for more research and then discuss whether COVID 19 testing can be incorporated in the wildlife health programme at a later stage.

### On Component 3:

**On the following comment:** ?Without grant mechanism and studies, we are not seeing how the regional project is going to leverage and empower forest dependent communities?, through project development we identified that each child project will have a small grants mechanism tailored to landscape level and sensitive to local context. In particular, we have engaged in discussions with DRC and RoC child projects, and we can confirmed that a small grants program and micro-loans have been created in these programs to support IPLCs to pilot sustainable livelihoods projects based on SLM and CBNRM to reduce deforestation, IWT and unsustainable bush meat exploitation and promote participatory forest management.

As such, we anticipate the regional project will be able to pull lessons from these experiences as part of knowledge management and a coordination mechanism for funding opportunities through the platform in activity 3.1.4. We have also redesigned component 3 to strengthen regional coordination mechanisms for forest-dependent peoples and giving them a voice in integrated land use planning under component 1. Collectively we believe these actions will support inclusivity and empowerment of forest dependent people.

**On the following comment:** ?It seems that the initial support to regional networks as CEFDHAC and REPALEAC is not considered anymore. We invite UNEP to reconsider this point to contribute to the regional dynamics and ensure a role for CSO and

Indigenous People in the Congo IP agenda. - The REPALEAC is connected to the Yaoundé Declaration and is recognized by the States. It is important to show that they are supported as political leader of indigenous people. The REPALEAC should lead activities related to IPLC?:

Component 3 has been significantly revised with a much stronger focus on the strengthening and engagement of indigenous and local communities to address one of the key barriers to conservation, namely the lack of engagement of communities and forest dependent people in conservation and sustainable use. In order to do so, UNEP has engaged in discussions with REPALEAC and agreed on a set of activities with REPALEAC in line with its Strategic Framework.

In particular, in a new Output 3.1.1, the Regional Child Project will provide support to REPALEAC to contribute to the ILUMP processes under Component 1 by conducting an assessment of the land tenure arrangements occupied by IPLCs in the relevant landscapes. REPALEAC will also facilitate and secure the active participation and free, prior informed consent of IPLCs in Regional Project activities. REPALEAC will also conduct lessons learnt and cross site visits to share experience. The cross site visits will be organised in collaboration with REPALEAC's national partners. As indicated in the brief ILUMPs methodology statement (Appendix 21), one of the key steps will be to integrate local community and civil society input ? and notably from women and forest dependent peoples - into national and regional ILUMP processes, including the need for ongoing overlay of customary land mapping, and establishing roadmaps for explicit and meaningful IPLC participation in all national and transboundary planning processes.

Additionally, the ILUMP design will include developing protocols for land suitability maps for specific sectors (linked with 4.2.1 and 4.2.2), and integrating IPLC interests, to guide decision-making and operationalize a database of integrated land use for each of the target countries, including in each transboundary system. Throughout this process, the Regional project will provide resources and enhance capacities. It will enable the Regional Project to demonstrate an inclusive model for conservation where IPLC women and men land tenure rights are recognized and their role in conservation is empowered as key actors at all levels of conservation action that impact their rights, from landscape, to national and regional policies.

We've added a summary of new Output 3.1.1 to incremental cost reasoning.

On CEFDHAC: The leadership crisis within this institution, which has been rampant for the past 5 years, led a number of its networks to reject the legitimacy of the incumbent President. This situation made it difficult for the PPG Team, during the design of the Regional Project, to effectively engage with CSOs (apart from REPALEAC). Face with this situation, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) Facilitation has created under its framework, a CBFP Civil Society College which is jointly led by the contested CEFDHAC President and a group of other networks organizations led by ROSCEVAC (Civil Society Network for the Green Economy in Central Africa): They are both , Co-Leaders of the CBFP Civil Society College.

One of the main activity of the CBFP Civil Society College has been the organization of the **Civil Society College Day** by the CBFP Facilitation, GIZ, and other donors to showcase projects and programs led by CSOs on themes related to conservation, SFM and improved livelihoods of communities living in and around forests.

Until the CEFDHAC insitutional leadership is clarified, our suggestion is that during the first year of the implementation of the Regional project, it engages with CSOs through the Civil Society College Day to discuss challenges associated with the implementation of the regional project and associated child projects, including the challenge of managing protected areas, buffer zones and transboundary landscapes in order to increase civil society?s contribution to its implementation.

**On the following comment:**- As for the other components, we expect to find a logical reasoning to improve the Indigenous People Agenda with 1) a starting point or baseline, 2) cofinancing opportunities, and 3) the demonstration of additionality of proposed GEF Activities. Please, complete.

Concerning the baseline, co financing opportunities and demonstration of additionality of proposed GEF activities: there are a number of project investments from GEF and other donors initiatives that forms part of the baseline situation, that will contribute to the transformational changes towards strengthening IPLCs engagement and improvement of the Indigenous People Agenda. The Regional project through support to REPALEAC will engage with these initiatives to build synergies and ensure that GEF investments are complementing and adding value to existing work, as detailed further below.

Among GEF Initiatives:

- The GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP), implemented by UNDP: It is currently operational in Cameroon, Republic of Congo, DR Congo, CAR. For Gabon and Equatorial Guinea: there is ongoing dialogue, but the national SGP mechanism is not yet operational. The Regional Project and REPALEAC will work to cooperate and leverage the experiences, networks and lessons from the GEF-SGP in the following ways:

- Build on and coordinate with SGP's existing mechanism and experiences with IPLCs for consultation and coordination regarding the assessment of the land tenure arrangements occupied by IPLCs in the relevant landscapes;

- Engage in policy initiatives with SGP in selected child projects/countries, including appropriate institutional recognition of their land tenure rights in the relevant landscapes;

- 

This project has been added in section

#### *2.5.3. Baseline projects on empowerment of IPLCs and forest dependent people, and private sector engagement*

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Other donors Initiatives: and co financing opportunities:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the FCPF Grant (US\$700,000) to the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) to support the Forest Dependent Peoples Capacity Building Program on REDD+ (June 2020 to June 2022): The Implementing Agency is: COMIFAC Executive Secretary

**Project Beneficiaries** The beneficiaries of the project are forest-dependent communities through their respective representative organizations and networks in five FCPF-eligible countries in Central Africa. The Project has two components: (i) Strengthening the Participation of Forest Dependent Communities in REDD+ Policies, including Capacity Building and Improvement of Governance at National and Regional Levels, (ii) Knowledge Management and Program Coordination. The Regional Project will utilize lessons learned from this Project. This project has been added in section

#### *2.5.3. Baseline projects on empowerment of IPLCs and forest dependent people, and private sector engagement*



- WWF Germany has developed a program (2021-2024): Human rights due diligence in the Congo Basin (Budget: 23,33 Million: 23 Million from BMZ and 333.000 from WWF Germany), which aims to strengthen the rights of IPLC (general human rights and indigenous rights in particular) which reside in and around three protected areas in the Congo Basin. WWF and REPALEAC aims to promote the recognition of these rights at local, national and regional level by advocacy work, local access to grievance mechanisms and by enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations that will continue their work on IPLC rights beyond the scope of this program.

This project which supports IPLC activities create a strong base of social capital and ongoing work that will complement the aims of the Regional project support to IPLC as described in output 3.1.1. As an example, potential results of this project relevant to the Regional project include: (i) REPALEAC advocacy actions for IPLC rights leading to strengthen IPLC rights at regional and national level through measures like the promotion of ILO169, the popularization of free prior informed consent (FPIC), (ii) promotion of local rights through the implementation of grievance/conflict resolution mechanisms and legal assistance in two UNESCO world heritage sites in the Congo Basin: Salonga National Park (SNP, DRC) and the Sangha Trinational (more precisely in Lobéké National Park (LNP, CAM) and DzangaSangha Protected Areas (DSPA, CAR)). (iii) Organizational Development and capacity building measures to CSOs to enhance their capacities to work on human rights issues. This project has been added in section

#### *2.5.3. Baseline projects on empowerment of IPLCs and forest dependent people, and private sector engagement*

The above mentioned initiatives provide a strong base for partnership and synergies with GEF investments in the context of the Regional project.

Component 4: The Regional project will promote learning by supporting the mid-term evaluation of the REPALEAC Strategic Framework, and to share lessons and experiences by supporting exchange field visits and the participation of REPALEAC at regional Meetings of the Indigenous Peoples Forum. Through the Congo IP online Community of Practice (CoP), this component will support IPLCs networks to distil and share knowledge about IPLCs land tenure rights and other IPLCs-led initiatives that achieve global environmental benefits through improved large-scale management of IPLC lands and resources.

References to the above have been added to the following sections:

- Output 4.1.1. (2nd paragraph)

- Output 4.1.3. (2nd, 3rd and 4th paragraphs)
- Output 4.1.4 (4th paragraph)

The additionality of proposed Regional Project Activities is that it will increase the volume of investments available to assist IPLCs in their continuing efforts to gain recognition for their land tenure rights. Its investments will be geared towards IPLCs in selected priority landscapes, enabling them to effectively address one of the major barrier of IPLCs engagement in conservation as well as issues impacting their lands and resources use. The Regional Project through its combined investment at landscapes, and support for advocacy actions to amplify and mainstream local results into national and regional agenda and processes, will catalyze the transformational changes needed to secure and enhance support for the contributions of IPLCs to biodiversity, sustainable natural resource management and other global environmental benefits.

The incremental cost reasoning has been added in the following section:

### 3.8.Incremental cost reasoning

**On the following comment:** The involvement of REPALEAC and CEFDHAC in the different project steering committees and consultations is one step. But there is no mention of the 2018-2025 REPALEAC strategy.

The REPALEAC Strategic Framework is reflected in the Output 3.1.1.

**On the following comment:** We would expect a potential role of the regional project to 1) reinforce the capacities of the REPALEAC and its national partners, 2) support the reporting and eventually the mid-term evaluation of the strategy, 3) provide access to innovative and internet tools through the Congo IP to facilitate communication, meetings, exchange, common documents, etc. Please, develop. These changes should be reflected in the outputs and activities, as well as in the budget.

These comments have been addressed above and reflected in relevant sections of the Prodoc. In particular, we have agreed on a set of activities with REPALEAC in line with its Strategic Framework, which have been reflected in a new Output 3.1.1. These activities include a) map and analysis of land owned and used by indigenous and local communities, b) map and analysis of land put a side for conservation by indigenous and

local communities, c) support to mid term evaluation of the REPALEAC strategic plan, d) cross site visits and lessons learned.

**On the following comment:** Following several articles and reports (Buzzfeed, Survival International, and Rainforest UK), the regional project has an opportunity to push the agenda on protected areas and forest management by Indigenous People both for conservation, livelihoods, and traditional knowledge. This opportunity would be aligned with the article 8(j) of the CBD on Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices. Once the baseline situation will be described, the added value of the GEF regional project will be easier to determine.

These comments have been addressed. The starting point, baseline, co financing opportunities and additionality of GEF interventions have been elaborated above and appropriate language has been added in section 3.8. Links with CBD article 8j has been added (2.6.3). The mapping and analysis of land owned and used by indigenous and local communities and the land put aside for conservation by them is an important contribution to the CBD process, and actually complements previous CBD studies.

**On the following comment:** Please, explain how the revised outputs are going to empower IPLC (3.1.1 Mechanisms to scale up market access and private sector investment and 3.1.2 Multi-stakeholder partnerships are scaled up).

Explanations have been entered directly in the Prodoc (Output 3.1.1 and 3.1.2). In particular, the work on sustainable cocoa production under 3.1.2, will facilitate certification, market access, and capacity in communities to engage with the private sector. The choice of cocoa as a priority commodity within the Congo Basin region is because it strongly benefits local communities and forest-dependent people, as dominated by smallholder producers. The aim is to improve the enabling conditions and promote good practices for the private sector's adoption of sustainable production and sourcing.

**On the following comment:** See the annex 6 on the deliverables, especially the component 3: we recommend adjusting the formulation of deliverables related to the outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, and 3.1.3. "Technical Support" is mentioned four times (on six deliverables). We do not think that "technical support" is an acceptable deliverable. We do not clearly see the value for money under this component.

Appendix 6 on deliverables has been revised to remove 'technical support' in component 3 and to show more impact for IPLCs as a result of the revision of component 3 giving a greater role to REPALEAC. Deliverables under this component now include: Assessment of land tenure in IPLC areas covered by ILUMPs, mid-term evaluation of RAPELEAC Strategic Framework, joint IPLC-private sector supply chain development and financing plan and advocacy materials for recognition of land tenure rights and role of IPLCs in SFM. A long-term sustainable funding mechanism is operational in at least one landscape, as a result of capacity building, access to the digital platform and links created with the financial services community.

On Component 4:

**On the following comment:** 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 While there is training specifically planned to support child projects on methodological aspects of ILUMP (1.1.2), it does not seem to be planned to support countries in the integration of climate and the results of the habitat sustainability maps that will be delivered at months 18 and 24. Please clarify how project will support the proper use of these outputs in the other child projects.

Project monitoring and evaluation targets and milestones will be developed, based on the initial assessments. Implementation will follow an adaptive management approach that incorporates project advances and needed recalibrations, also considering developments with other project implementers and related target country and donor-funded activities. A number of products will support ILUMP, but the planning process itself is integral part of the national child projects. These products include maps and analysis of land used for vegetable oil production, habitat suitability maps, maps of land owned and used by communities and indigenous people and the areas set aside for conservation by them. This is done at regional level to avoid leakage and in case of larger developments and to facilitate a regional approach.

**On the following comment:** Small grants: it seems they have been removed from the project but are still mentioned in several places throughout the document (under table F, risk section). Please correct.

Any mention to Small Grants Program has now been removed .

**3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

### Agency Response

#### Co-financing

**4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request May 1st, 2021

Addressed.

#### April 30, 2021

A cofinancing letter is missing for CAFI. Please, provide an evidence or remove it from the table C.

#### January 5, 2021

Yes, the cofinancing is documented.

However,

- Several letters do not provide the breakdown/ specify that they are in grant form (UNEP \$200k grant, CAFI \$7 million, IUCN oil palm platform) and emails will probably be required.

- The categories of the co-financiers need to be revised, e.g. Rainforest alliance should be tagged as CSO, CAFI as Donor Agency, what is reported as USFS should probably by tagged as USAID ? Donor Agency.

- There is a decrease of 25% of cofinancing in comparison with the Expression of Interest from \$65.9 to \$49.9 million, mainly due to the lack of a cofinancing from EU. Is it an element you may bring in a future submission?

### Agency Response

**May 1, 2021**

*A cofinancing letter is missing for CAFI. Please, provide an evidence or remove it from the table C.*

Response: The CAFI co-financing letter has now been attached in the portal.

**28042021**

UNEP ACL is indicated that is from EC grant (email attached), we have requested CAFI and IUCN for a confirmation on the breakdown, but not yet received. In order to move forward, we changed the co-financing to in-kind as a more cautious approach. Categories of co-financiers revised.

Given the reorganization that the European Commission has recently undergone, most funds have been shifted from global to national focus and hence the co-financing amount for the regional project has not been reconfirmed as earlier indicated. UNEP will however continue to reach out and engage with the EC to see if opportunities both globally and nationally (aligned with support for other child projects) emerge for cofinancing.

**GEF Resource Availability**

**5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Cleared.

**January 15, 2021**

- The expected outcomes and results should be better justified for the following items, as well as their budgets. With the current level of information, we expect the following amounts will hopefully be reduced:

- o Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 with USFS for \$200,000, \$250,000, and \$150,000;
- o 743,000/MIKE;

- o \$500,000/Rainforest Alliance (in addition to 2 x \$90,000 for consultants on palm oil and cocoa);
- Some modifications are expected to finance indigenous people related outputs and activities that are absent in the current proposal.
- The budget of the component 3 is expected to change: less for palm oil and cocoa value chains, as some activities are already planned in the component 1, and more for Indigenous People, not included in the current proposal.
- The pmc (\$369,000) seems only financed by the GEF, without cofinancing (Table B), which is not acceptable per policy.
- A budget of \$2,245,000 is assigned for staffing. It seems that the project staff is only financed by the GEF, without cofinancing. Please, justify and clarify.

## Agency Response

### 28042021

Resources have been shifted to fund the newly inserted REPALEAC and indigenous people related activities (3.1.1). Rainforest Alliance's budget has been reduced to 440,000USD. To strengthen the community angle, the Rainforest Alliance component will focus on cocoa as a commodity and no longer on palm oil reason being that most palm oil plantations in the region are industrial scale and have no local owners, while the cocoa industry has local and indigenous land owners. And this is the interface where REPALEAC and Rainforest Alliance will collaborate. To accommodate those changes in the budget and implementation arrangements, the responsibility for certain activities has been moved from Rainforest Alliance to REPALEAC, and further budget cuts were implemented under the CITES MIKE programme.

In particular, the 440,000USD to Rainforest Alliance will be utilized to achieve the following results:

**Output 3.1.2** Mechanisms are created and enhanced to scale up market access of and private sector investments in cocoa that is sustainably produced by local communities in the Congo Basin

- ? **Result:** At least 4 private companies active in the Congo Basin, covering around 10,000 producers in their supply chains, have adopted improved social and environmental practices and increased their investment and/or sourcing of responsible products from the targeted landscapes, as a result of technical support, guidance and awareness raising from the project team

**Output 3.1.3** Multi-stakeholder partnerships are scaled up for effective implementation of sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin

- ? **Result:** At least 100 multi-stakeholder partners engaged across 4 landscapes are technically assisted to improve landscape management and ensure strengthened participation of women and indigenous groups

**Output 3.1.4.** Digital platform is enhanced for data management and improved community access to financing

- ? **Result:** Long-term sustainable funding mechanism is operational in at least one landscape, as a result of capacity building, access to the digital platform and links created with the financial services community

A detailed breakdown of the budget for Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 for USFS has been added to Appendix 21.

UNEP and CAFI co-finance PMC and staffing with in-kind contributions. This is now reflected in Table B. UNEP will also cover through IKI funding 15% of the project coordinator position from year 2 and this is now reflected in the revised budget.

**Project Preparation Grant**

**6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**



- There is an Annex C with the status of use of PPG resources.
- Could you please provide a list of studies made during the PPG?
- We did not find much elements and information related to local communities and forest dependent communities, in the targeted landscapes. We were expecting a diagnosis of the situation, at least in the main targeted landscapes.
- We do not clearly see the role of the REPALEAC at regional level and in the considered landscapes, as well as the way the Congo IP and the regional project will help implementing the REPALEAC strategy. Please

#### Agency Response

**28042021**

Work during the PPG focused on the development of the project document and consultancies focused on the development of component descriptions rather than on thematical studies. The travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic didn't allow for any studies on the ground as initially envisaged, therefore inputs for designing Component 2, 3 and 5 were provided internally by UNEP with in kind contributions.

A summary of Lessons learned from Sustainable forest management initiatives in the Congo Basin has been inserted as an Appendix (Appendix 19) as well as a gender analysis (Appendix 22). Furthermore, a comprehensive safeguards assessment has been completed by UNEP-WCMC for the development of the full IKI project proposal on the sustainable management of the Congo Peatlands. Furthermore, the opportunity to undertake joint analysis on the diagnosis of the situation related to local and forest dependent communities in the targeted landscapes will be explored with child projects.

The engagement of REPALEAC in Component 3 will contribute to increase elements related to local communities in the targeted landscapes, including through by conducting an assessment of the land tenure arrangements occupied by IPLCs in the relevant landscapes.

#### Core indicators

**7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E?  
Do they remain realistic?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

The changes are justified and explained. However some clarifications are still needed:

- Indicator 1: It is unclear how the project activities and outputs would increase the METT of the targeted PAs. Please clarify how management effectiveness would be improved in concrete terms and if a target is kept under core indicator 1, please :
  - o Add MET scores of the targeted protected areas in the results framework.
  - o Please provide the baseline and target METT scores for all PAs. Baselines METT score are indeed missing for all 4 targeted PA in the portal entry and are providing for only 3 of the 4 PAs in the annexed tracking tools. The target METT at mid-term and completion are also missing.
- Indicator 4: It is unclear how many hectares, and actually any hectare, can be considered as brought under improved practices thanks to the project. Beyond development and endorsement of land use plans, there does not seem to be implementation/on-the ground activities planned with the removal of the small grant scheme that was initially planned. Moreover, the mitigation calculations the assumption is ?the area covered by ILUMPs is 4,278,799ha and, during the 5-year time frame of the project, **improved practices are expected to be adopted over 5% of this area?**, which does not seem to be coherent with the current target on core indicator 4. It is also not consistent with the target on core indicator 1 as improved management effectiveness should probably reduce forest degradation within PAs.
  - o A target is put under 4.2 but it is not clear what certification is looked after and how it would be obtained on 1,728,000 ha thanks to the project. The project is also not tagged for certification in the project taxonomy.
- Core indicator 11: Note that the target provided assumes that there is a small grant scheme when it seems it has been removed in the rest of the project. Please revise the target and justification accordingly.

#### Agency Response

**28042021**

The development of the Integrated Land Use Managements Plans (ILUMPs) in the four segments of the Protected Areas (Lobeke and Nouabale Ndoki, Dzanga-Sangha and Monts de Cristal) will contribute to providing the basis for improving the management effectiveness of the parks. With regards to the METTs, we tried to obtain information through various channels and managed to get information for Lobeke, Nouabale Ndoki and Dzanga-Sangha.

We contacted the national park director at Mt Cristal and IUCN Biopama, a METT analysis was never conducted. However, in 2015 an IMET effort was conducted, so we used the information from IMET converted it into METT scores and updated Appendix 17 and 25 accordingly.

On indicator 4, on site intervention under this project is limited to the development of the two ILUMPs not covered by national projects: It is believed that the project's presence in the field will translate to an estimated 5% improvement in the management of the landscapes. For this reason, the area of landscape under improved intervention indicated here is 5% of the area covered by the two landscapes (Gabon sector of Monte Alen-Mont de Cristal; CAM and RoC sectors of TNS). The calculation does not include the reduction of forest loss in the protected areas as we do not have accurate information on the forest loss in the protected areas.

The regional project will catalyze on the ground certification activities. Indicator 4.2 is based on estimates of total area to be impacted by the regional child project, and on the 20-year duration of accounting suggested by the FAO EX-ACT tool for GHG emissions accounting in the agriculture sector, the estimate of total emissions reduction generated are 17,557,599 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (See note 4 of Appendix 17 and more information on the EX-ACT tool in Appendix 23)

Core indicator 11 has been revised to reflect the removal of the small grants program and the addition of beneficiaries from REPALEAC and Rainforest alliance work.

## **Part II ? Project Justification**

**1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

Yes, except on Indigenous People.

Agency Response

**28042021**

Baseline on Indigenous People is found at pag.25 of the Project Document (2.5.3. Baseline projects on empowerment of IPLCs and forest dependent people, and private sector engagement) and additional language has been inserted in the barriers section (2.6.3 *Barrier 3: The involvement of local communities, indigenous people and forest-dependent communities, as well as the involvement of the private sector, is not optimal in order to scale interventions.*).

**3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

- We can agree on the reasoning for the components 1, 2, and 5. (with some comments on the budget though).
- See the comments above about the component 3.
- Clarify the role of Rainforest Alliance, the GEF SGP, REPALEAC, and CEFDHAC. (component 3)
- Further information is needed on the scientific work and eventual partnerships (component 4): Please clarify the role of 1) University of Liverpool, 2) University of Leeds, 3) University of Bergen, and 4) the Congo Basin Institute/UCL. Some of these partners are mentioned in the core IP team, but information does not seem always consistent between the portal, the project document, and the request for CEO endorsement.

## Agency Response

**28042021**

Further information has been added across the project document (including in the stakeholders table at page 79-83) with reference to the role of REPALEAC and the Rainforest Alliance: in particular, the REPALEAC Strategic Framework will be used to direct support to forest dependent people. IPLCs and forest-dependent communities, through CEFDHAC and REPALEAC, will also participate actively in component 1 related to ILUMPs and component 3, while Rainforest Alliance will bring to bear their technical expertise and experience in working with communities and private sector specifically under component 3 of the project (Output 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4) through empowerment of IPLCs and forest dependent people and establishing a digital platform promoting access to financing. Liverpool John Moores University has participated in number of technical studies on changes in land-use, often driven by agricultural expansion including oil palm. In this project, the University will use remote sensing and map all major vegetable oils and determine their environmental and socio-economic impacts in the past and in the future.

The Universities of Bergen and Nova Lisbon are collaborating in the EU-funded Africa's Coexistence Landscapes project to develop a systems model of the interplay and dynamics of extractive industry (forestry and mining), local communities and conservation in the TNS landscape. This work will inform the development of the ILUMP in the landscape.

University of Leeds leads a 5-year project called 'CongoPeat', funded by the UK's Natural Environment Research Council. The project builds on the recently published first-ever map of a vast peatland in the central Congo Basin ([Dargie et al., 2017](#)). Information from the Congo Peat project is open source, and made available for government and other partners and could be a valuable resource for the CONGO IP as well.

Of these Universities, it is only Liverpool John Moores University that will be actively and directly engaged in the project, while the others are indirectly contributing to the project implementation for their relevance and complementarity with the project activities.

**4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

Yes.

- The project is relatively aligned with the strategic Congo IP components on ILUP and ecosystem services, conservation of globally threatened species, multiple stakeholders (private sector, indigenous people), KM, and coordination.

- We want however to see a clearer strategy and focus on indigenous people (forest dependent communities) and CSO.

Agency Response

**28042021**

At the higher level, REPALEAC will be the vehicle to engage indigenous people and forest-dependent communities (added output 3.1.1), at the site level the specific engagement will be done through National Projects.

**5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

Yes (except for the component 3).

Agency Response

Added text on component 3 to incremental cost reasoning.

**6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

Yes, the regional project is planning to maximize GEB in four main transboundary landscapes: TNS, LTLT, CMRC, and MAMC. (ha under protection, ha under better management, carbon, and beneficiaries). See item on the core indicators.

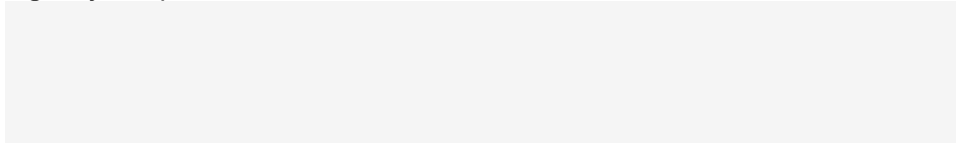
**Agency Response**

**7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

Yes, the component 1 explains the innovations expected from integrated land-use planning and the component 4 aims to catalyze the dissemination of results for scaling up.

**Agency Response**



**Project Map and Coordinates**

**Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

There is a map. However, we did not find the coordinates of main landscapes of interventions. Please, complete.

**Agency Response**

Done, we've added the coordinates of main landscapes of interventions to Appendix 15.

## **Child Project**

**If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed. Please, note that the project in Gabon has been transferred from the WB to UNDP.

**January 5, 2021**

Yes.

- However, we would like to see a matrix starting with the three projects developed by UNEP (Regional, RoC, and DRC) to well understand the close collaboration between these three strategic investments. As repetitively said, these three projects represent a mini-IP focused on the peatland area, with UNEP also leading the Global Peatlands Initiative, with significant cofinancing from Germany and partnerships (Universities). It is a unique opportunity to highlight the potential for transformation on each IP component: land-use planning and the integration of ecosystem services, conservation of intact forests and globally threatened species, mainstreaming biodiversity in value chains with the private sector, local communities, and indigenous people, KM, and Coordination.

- The matrix may then be extended to the other child projects designed by the WB, IUCN, WWF, and UNDP.

## **Agency Response**

**28042021**

A matrix illustrating a comparative analysis of the GEF Regional Project, GEF Child Project RoC, GEF Child Project DRC, as well as the IKI Congo project that UNEP will be implementing has been produced and added as Appendix 28.

## **Stakeholders**



**Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?**  
**Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

- Please, provide a report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase.

Agency Response

**28042021**

Added as Appendix 27.

**Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Yes

Agency Response  
**Private Sector Engagement**

**If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
Yes

Agency Response  
**Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

**Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

COVID-19 related risks: please include the risks and opportunities presented by the COVID-19 situation.

Agency Response  
**28042021**

COVID-related risks are present in the risks table.

**Coordination**

**Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**May 1st, 2021**

Addressed. Please note that the right acronym for the network of Indigenous People is REPALEAC.

**April 30, 2021**

Not addressed. See the Part I, information, UNEP is still the only executing partner. To be updated.

**January 5, 2021**

Portal: UNEP is the implementing agency. UNEP is not the only executing partner. to be completed.

Agency Response

**May 1, 2021**

*Not addressed. See the Part I, information, UNEP is still the only executing partner. To be updated.*

**Response:** REPELEAC, WCMC, Rainforest Alliance, USFS, UNODC and CITES MIKE have been added as executing partners.

**28042021**

Additional executing partners have been added in the portal.

**Consistency with National Priorities**

**Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**Knowledge Management**

**Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

## Agency Response

### **Benefits**

**Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The regional project has a role to maximize GEB. It is explained in the document.

## Agency Response

### **Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

## Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 3rd, 2021**

The point is addressed.

**May 1st, 2021**

Not fully addressed: you only provided the budget summary, but not a more detailed budget as provided in the example below. Some projects have been sent back from the Quality Control for this reason. Please insert a budget per component, fitting the page.

Here is the information you may reflect in the annex E. Thanks.

UNEP Budget Line		Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4 (RM)	Outcome 5 (Proj)	PWC	Total
1.0	PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
	1100 Project personnel							
	1101 Regional Project Coordinator	2,024,000	151,800	151,800	15,180.0	253,000	1,012,000	1,012,000
	1103 Finance Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	175,000
	1104 RM and M&E Specialist	-	-	-	40,000.0	400,000	-	800,000
	1106 Administrative Assistant	-	-	-	-	80,000	20,000	100,000
	1199 Sub-total	2024,000	151,800	151,800	551,800	733,000	296,200	2,087,000
	1200 Consultants							
	1201 Land Use Planning Expert (1.1.1)	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
	1202 Gender and PLIC Experts	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	80,000
	1203 Consultants to develop regional knowledge products (1.1)	-	-	-	10,150.0	-	-	101,500
	1204 Consultants to support Community of Practice activities (1.1)	-	-	-	5,700.0	-	-	57,000
	1205 Consultants for development of climate models (1.2.1)	-	-	-	5,000.0	-	-	50,000
	1206 Consultants for baseline work to screen and rank	-	-	-	7,000.0	-	-	70,000
	1207 Consultant Graphic Design (5.1.4)	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
	1208 Consultants for translation of communication materials	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
	1209 Consultants for copy-editing / reviewing communication materials	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
	1210 Consultant CBG-IP M&E Manual, SOPs, and Governance	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1211 Consultant Lessons Learned Papers and other Reports (5)	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1212 Consultants GEF-7 case studies measurement (5.1.2.2)	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1213 Consultants measurement of project progress and performance	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1214 Consultants to support communication work	24,000	24,000	24,000	36,000.0	36,000	-	144,000
	1299 Sub-total	160,000	40,000	40,000	330,500	267,000	-	837,500
	1600 Travel on official business							
	1601 Travel costs for project staff	40,000	40,000	40,000	3,000.0	40,000	-	160,000
	1602 Travel costs to participate in annual meetings of the GEF	-	116,000	-	-	-	-	116,000
	1603 Travel to field sites for CBG-IP Communication Stories (5)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1604 Participation in regional events (outreach with private)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1605 Participation in regional and inter-regional events to GEF me	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1606 Travel costs to engage with private sector partners and enhance a mechanism to incentive	-	-	-	81,000	-	-	81,000
	1699 Sub-total	40,000	156,000	121,000	30,000	1,00,000	-	447,000
1.999	Component total	4024,000	347,800	312,800	912,300	1,100,000	296,200	3,371,500
2.0	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT							
	2200 Sub-contracts for supporting organizations							
	2201 Subcontract to USF for design and delivery of ILUMPs	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
	2202 Subcontract to WCMC for design and delivery of ILUMPs	3,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,500,000
	2203 Subcontract to USF for design of ILUMPs in TNG/CAMA	2,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,500,000
	2204 Subcontract to USF for design of ILUMPs in MAMC/Gaba	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
	2205 Subcontract to UNODC for study on wildlife trafficking	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
	2206 Subcontract to Global Wildlife Conservation for ARCs	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
	2207 Subcontract to WCS (2.2.1)	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	300,000
	2208 Subcontract to Rainforest Alliance (3.1.2 and 3.1.3)	-	-	440,000	-	-	-	440,000
	2210 Subcontract to University of Liverpool (1.1.5)	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
	2211 Subcontract for ICT support to KM Platform (1.1.2)	-	-	-	11,500.0	100,000	-	215,000
	2212 Subcontract for other IT related costs (1.1.2)	-	-	-	1,000.0	-	-	10,000
	2213 Subcontract for printing and publishing communications	-	-	-	-	37,000	-	37,000
	2214 Subcontract for ICT support to M&E software or cloud based	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	90,000
	2215 Subcontract to CITES MKC (2.2.2)	-	647,773	-	-	-	-	647,773
	2216 Subcontract to RPALEAC	-	-	413,727	-	-	-	413,727
	2299 Sub-total	1,450,000	1,147,773	853,727	125,000	227,000	-	3,803,000
2.999	Component total	1,450,000	1,147,773	853,727	125,000	227,000	-	3,803,000
3.0	TRAINING COMPONENT							
	3200 Training							
	3201 Training to enhance regional capacity on starting and managing multi-stakeholder partnerships	-	-	46,000	-	-	-	46,000
	3202 Learning visits to other transboundary landscapes (1.1.4)	1,200,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,200,000
	3203 Annual CBG regional knowledge sharing and capacity development	-	-	-	25,000.0	-	-	25,000
	3204 Training workshops (1.1.4)	-	-	-	46,000.0	-	-	46,000
	3205 Field visit and study tour (1.1.4)	-	-	-	26,000.0	-	-	26,000
	3206 Online training events, expert webinars (1.1.4)	-	-	-	12,500.0	-	-	12,500
	3207 Validation workshop for down scaled climate models (1.2)	-	-	-	30,000.0	-	-	30,000
	3208 Consultants for transboundary work (1.2.2)	-	-	-	50,000.0	-	-	50,000
	3109 Training M&E	-	-	-	-	14,000	-	14,000
	3199 Sub-total	120,000	-	46,000	189,500	14,000	-	369,500
	3200 Group training							
	3201 Training-of-trainers workshop on ILUMPs methodology (1)	37,300	-	-	-	-	-	37,300
	3299 Sub-total	37,300	-	-	-	-	-	37,300
	3300 Meetings/Conferences							
	3301 Project Steering Committee meetings	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
	3302 Inception Workshop	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	36,000
	3303 Workshop to finalize and approve ILUMPs methodology	18,000	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
	3305 Annual meetings to discuss transboundary aspects of	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
	3306 Advisory meetings for transboundary ILUMPs w/ govt,	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	35,000
	3307 Meeting/coherence to raise awareness of trade,	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
	3308 Workshop to design and action plan that feeds into	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000
	3199 Sub-total	169,000	110,000	-	-	100,000	-	379,000
3.999	Component total	326,300	110,000	46,000	189,500	114,000	-	785,800
4.0	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT							
	4200 Non-expendable equipment							
	4201 Laptop	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	1,400	4,200
	4202 Office space for Regional IP project Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	47,866	47,866
	4299 Sub-total	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	49,266	52,066
4.999	Component total	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	49,266	52,066
5.0	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							
	5200 Publications, Translations, Dissemination and Reporting							
	5201 Materials to support advocacy of transboundary ILUMPs	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
	5202 Materials to support awareness raising campaigns	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
	5203 Measurement of Project Indicators / Baseline Data	10,000	10,000	10,000	1,000.0	10,000	-	50,000
	5299 Sub-total	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
	5500 Evaluation							
	5501 Audit reports (5.1.2.2)	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	5502 Interim final M&E Specialist Mid-Term Review	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000
	5503 Interim final M&E Specialist Terms of Reference	-	-	-	-	45,000	-	45,000
	5299 Sub-total	-	-	-	-	80,000	20,000	100,000
5.999	Component total	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	90,000	20,000	180,000
8.9	GRAND TOTAL	2,196,700	1,635,073	1,232,527	1,238,800	1,532,400	365,466	8,192,566
	Grand total from mutually exclusive components from PFD	1,900,000	1,400,000	1,128,000	1,375,000	2,000,000	389,366	8,192,366

UNEP Budget Line		Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4 (XVI)	Outcome 5 (Prog)	PWC	Total
1.0	PERSONNEL COMPONENT							
	1100 Project personnel							
	1101 Regional Project Coordinator	2,024,000	151,800	151,800	15,180.0	253,000	1,012,000	1,012,000
	1103 Finance Assistant	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	175,000
	1104 M&E Specialist	-	-	-	80,000.0	800,000	-	800,000
	1106 Administrative Assistant	-	-	-	-	80,000	20,000	100,000
	1199 Sub-total	2024,000	151,800	151,800	551,800	733,000	296,200	2,087,000
	1200 Consultants							
	1201 Land Use Planning Expert (1.1.1)	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
	1202 Gender and PLIC Experts	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	-	80,000
	1203 Consultants to develop regional knowledge products (1.1)	-	-	-	10,150.0	-	-	101,500
	1204 Consultants to support Community of Practice activities (1.1)	-	-	-	5,700.0	-	-	57,000
	1205 Consultants for development of climate models (1.2.1)	-	-	-	5,000.0	-	-	50,000
	1206 Consultants for basic work to screen and rank	-	-	-	7,000.0	-	-	70,000
	1207 Consultant Graphic Design (5.1.4)	-	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
	1208 Consultants for translation of communication materials	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
	1209 Consultants for copy-editing / reviewing communication materials	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
	1210 Consultant CBG-IP M&E Manual, SOPs, and Governance	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1211 Consultant to review Learning Papers and other Reports (5)	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1212 Consultants GEF-7 case studies measurement (5.1.2.2)	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1213 Consultants to measure progress and performance	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	1214 Consultants to support communication work	24,000	24,000	24,000	36,000.0	36,000	-	144,000
	1299 Sub-total	160,000	40,000	40,000	330,500	267,000	-	837,500
	1600 Travel on official business							
	1601 Travel costs for project staff	80,000	80,000	80,000	3,000.0	80,000	-	190,000
	1602 Travel costs to participate in annual meetings of the GEF	-	116,000	-	-	-	-	116,000
	1603 Travel to field sites for CBG-IP Communication Stories (5)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1604 Participation in regional events (outreach with private)	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1605 Participation in regional and inter-regional events to GEF me	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000
	1606 Travel costs to engage with private sector partners and enhance a mechanism to incentive	-	-	-	81,000	-	-	81,000
	1699 Sub-total	40,000	156,000	121,000	30,000	1,00,000	-	447,000
1.999	Component total	4024,000	347,800	312,800	912,300	1,100,000	296,200	3,371,500
2.0	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT							
	2200 Sub-contracts for supporting organizations							
	2201 Sub-contract to USF for design and delivery of ILUMPs	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
	2202 Sub-contract to WCMC for design and delivery of ILUMPs	3,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,500,000
	2203 Sub-contract to USF for design of ILUMPs in TNG/CASA, B	2,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,500,000
	2204 Sub-contract to USF for design of ILUMPs in MAMC/Gaba	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,500,000
	2205 Sub-contract to UNODC for study on wildlife trafficking	-	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
	2206 Sub-contract to Global Wildlife Conservation for AIRC	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
	2207 Sub-contract to WCS (2.2.1)	-	300,000	-	-	-	-	300,000
	2208 Sub-contract to Rainforest Alliance (3.1.2 and 3.1.3)	-	-	680,000	-	-	-	680,000
	2210 Sub-contract to University of Liverpool (1.1.5)	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
	2211 Sub-contract for ICT support to KM Platform (1.1.2)	-	-	-	11,500.0	100,000	-	215,000
	2212 Sub-contract for other IT related costs (1.1.2)	-	-	-	1,000.0	-	-	10,000
	2213 Sub-contract for printing and publishing communications	-	-	-	-	37,000	-	37,000
	2214 Sub-contract for ICT support to M&E software or cloud base	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	90,000
	2215 Sub-contract to CITES MKC (2.2.2)	-	647,773	-	-	-	-	647,773
	2216 Sub-contract to RPALEAC	-	-	413,727	-	-	-	413,727
	2299 Sub-total	1,450,000	1,147,773	853,727	125,000	227,000	-	3,803,000
2.999	Component total	1,450,000	1,147,773	853,727	125,000	227,000	-	3,803,000
3.0	TRAINING COMPONENT							
	3200 Training							
	3201 Training to enhance regional capacity on starting and managing multi-stakeholder partnerships	-	-	66,000	-	-	-	66,000
	3202 Learning visits to other transboundary landscapes (1.1.4)	1,200,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,200,000
	3203 Annual CBG regional knowledge sharing and capacity dev	-	-	-	25,000.0	-	-	25,000
	3204 Training workshops (1.1.4)	-	-	-	46,000.0	-	-	46,000
	3205 Field visit and study tour (1.1.4)	-	-	-	2,000.0	-	-	20,000
	3206 Online training events, expert webinars (1.1.4)	-	-	-	12,500.0	-	-	12,500
	3207 Visit to national pilot demonstration climate models (1.2)	-	-	-	30,000.0	-	-	30,000
	3208 Consultants for transboundary work (1.2.2)	-	-	-	50,000.0	-	-	50,000
	3109 Training M&E	-	-	-	-	14,000	-	14,000
	3199 Sub-total	120,000	-	46,000	189,500	14,000	-	369,500
	3200 Group training							
	3201 Training of trainers workshop on ILUMPs methodology (1)	37,300	-	-	-	-	-	37,300
	3299 Sub-total	37,300	-	-	-	-	-	37,300
	3300 Meetings/Conferences							
	3301 Project Steering Committee meetings	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
	3302 Inception Workshop	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	36,000
	3303 Workshop to finalize and approve ILUMPs methodology	18,000	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
	3305 Annual meetings to discuss transboundary aspects of	80,000	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
	3306 Advisory meetings for transboundary ILUMPs w/ govt,	35,000	-	-	-	-	-	35,000
	3307 Meeting/coherence to raise awareness of trade,	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
	3308 Workshop to design and action plan that feeds into	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000
	3199 Sub-total	169,000	110,000	-	-	1,00,000	-	379,000
3.999	Component total	326,300	110,000	46,000	189,500	114,000	-	785,800
4.0	EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT							
	4200 Non-expendable equipment							
	4201 Laptop	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	1,400	4,200
	4202 Office space for Regional IP project Coordinator	-	-	-	-	-	47,866	47,866
	4299 Sub-total	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	49,266	52,066
4.999	Component total	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	49,266	52,066
5.0	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT							
	5200 Publications, Translations, Dissemination and Reporting							
	5201 Materials to support advocacy of transboundary ILUMPs	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
	5202 Materials to support awareness raising campaigns	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000
	5203 Measurement of IP project indicators / Baseline Data	10,000	10,000	10,000	1,000.0	10,000	-	50,000
	5299 Sub-total	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	80,000
	5500 Evaluation							
	5501 Audit reports (5.1.2.2)	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	5502 Interim final M&E Specialist Mid-Term Review	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000
	5503 Interim final M&E Specialist Terms of Reference	-	-	-	-	45,000	-	45,000
	5299 Sub-total	-	-	-	-	80,000	20,000	100,000
5.999	Component total	20,000	30,000	10,000	10,000	90,000	20,000	180,000
8.9	GRAND TOTAL	2,198,700	1,635,073	1,232,527	1,238,800	1,532,400	365,466	8,192,566
	Grand total from mutually exclusive numbers from PFD	1,900,000	1,400,000	1,128,000	1,375,000	2,000,000	389,266	8,192,566

**April 30, 2021**

Not fully addressed.

- The project Coordinator will be located in Kinshasa, DRC. The decision is justified.  
Cleared.

- However, it is difficult to understand the selected duty station of the Program Officer, the Communication Officer, and the KM officer in Brazzaville, republic of Congo, see the terms of reference of the staff, p179, p181, p182. Please, correct.

- See the Section related to the Annex C (Budget). The budget annex is well attached as a document, however a budget table should be available for the readers who do not have access to the documents in the portal. A summarized budget per outcome is acceptable. See an example below.

# ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Here is a summary of the budget available in Prodoc Annex A. The full excel sheet is available also a separate document in RoadMap.

Description, Units and Unit Costs	Total Cost per Component and Project Management					Total
Oracle code and description	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PM	GEF
5570 Consultants	64,100	583,000	180,000	241,245	302,000	1,370,345
5650 Contracts (MoUs)	232,610	614,440	249,950	77,000	114,610	1,288,610
5900 Travel	174,000	609,562	246,438	0	0	1,030,000
5023 Training	0	130,000	80,760	0	0	210,760
6000 Expendable procurement	0	1,953,951	150,000	0	0	2,103,951
6100 Non-expendable procurement	0	316,793	0	0	0	316,793
6300 General Operating Expenses	0	0	0	0	30,000	30,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>470,710</b>	<b>4,207,746</b>	<b>907,148</b>	<b>318,245</b>	<b>446,610</b>	<b>6,350,459</b>

Itemized budget:

FAO Cost Categories	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	PMC	M&E Budget
	Total	Total	Total		
<b>National Consultants</b>					
Project Coordinator	20,000	80,000	30,000	20,000	
Project Accountant	-	-	-	108,000	
Administrative Procurement and Operations Officer	-	-	-	84,000	
M&E Officer	-	-	-		108,000
Knowledge mgt and communication officer	18,000	-	90,000		
Ntohe District coordinator	-	72,000	-		
Balaka District coordinator	-	72,000	-		
Mangochi District coordinator	-	72,000	-		



# ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Here is a summary of the budget available in Prodoc Annex A. The full excel sheet is available also a separate document in RoadMap.

Description, Units and Unit Costs	Total Cost per Component and Project Management					Total
Oracle code and description	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PM	GEF
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5650 Contracts (MoUs)	232,610	614,440	249,950	77,000	114,610	1,288,610
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M&E Officer	-	-	-		108,000
Knowledge mgt and communication officer	18,000	-	90,000		
Ntohe District coordinator	-	72,000	-		
Balaka District coordinator	-	72,000	-		
Mangochi District coordinator	-	72,000	-		

January 5, 2021

Yes.

- Annex 1 Budget:

- Please justify the following items: #1204 : \$57,000 to " support the COP:" and #1605: \$20,000 "travel to COPs". From a general point of view, GEF project grants should not be used to finance participation to COP, especially staff from GEF agencies and civil servants from governments (if needed, check the use of GEF Agency fees or other resources). The discussion is open about the project unit and the need to organize specific events in or at the margins of COP. Please, clarify.

- The GEF grants should not be used to attend Convention meetings. To be discussed.

- Audit related budgets should not be covered by KM components, but by project management costs.
- Please, explain the meaning of the annex 26 about a Capacity Building Program. This Program is not included in the regional project anymore.
- Terms of reference: please, justify the selection of Brazzaville for the project unit. Why not Libreville, Gabon where ECCAS is located? or Yaounde, Cameroon, where several regional institutions and entities are present (COMIFAC, WWF, IUCN, CEFDHAC), or Kinshasa, DRC (DRC representing 60% of the Congo Forests, with the biggest project under the Congo IP)?

#### Agency Response

**May 3, 2021**

*Not fully addressed: you only provided the budget summary, but not a more detailed budget as provided in the example below. Some projects have been sent back from the Quality Control for this reason. Please insert a budget per component, fitting the page.*

**Response:** Thank you for the comment. A more detailed budget has been included in the portal.

**May 1, 2021**

*However, it is difficult to understand the selected duty station of the Program Officer, the Communication Officer, and the KM officer in Brazzaville, republic of Congo, see the terms of reference of the staff, p179, p181, p182. Please, correct.*

**Response:** The duty station for the Program Office, the Communication Office and the KM officer has been changed to Kinshasa, DRC. Our apologies for this oversight.

*- See the Section related to the Annex C (Budget). The budget annex is well attached as a document, however a budget table should be available for the readers who do not have access to the documents in the portal. A summarized budget per outcome is acceptable. See an example below*

**Response:** A budget table has been added in the portal. Thank you for the examples.

**28042021**

In #1204 and #1205 ?COP? stands for Community of Practice, not Conference of the Parties. This is now spelled out in the budget to avoid misunderstandings.

Audit costs have been moved from KM to PMC.

Annex 26 refers to activity under output 1.1.4: 'Establish a team of 6-8 conservation professionals from Congo Basin[1]<sup>1</sup> range states who can be called upon individually and as a team to engage with the private sector to reduce the impact of energy, extractive, and associated infrastructure (EEAI) projects on great apes and other wildlife?

On the selection of the location for the project unit, we calculated the costs for operations and they are high throughout the region. The national GEF office in Kinshasa has 8 staff, based in the Ministry of Environment, so easy liaison with the GEF country programme. Furthermore, there are a number of strategic reasons which speak for Kinshasa as the location for the political adviser: All major development and conservation partners have an office in Kinshasa, just to name a few, WB, EC, USAID, KfW/GIZ, AfD, JICA, a strong UN presence and some Kinshasa based Embassies play a regional role. The means that networking is easy, and many regional meetings take place in Kinshasa. In addition, the regional project can benefit from co-funding for this position from the IKI Congo Peatlands programme. For the reasons mentioned above we propose to place the project coordinator in Kinshasa.

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[1] A second team will be formed for West Africa with anticipated funding sourced from another donor. However, we anticipate combining the two teams at certain points for joint training and activities where possible.

#### **Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Please, double check the coherence of information between 1) the portal, 2) the project document, and 3) the request for CEO endorsement: especially about the component 3, the work with Indigenous People, the private sector, and the use of grant mechanisms.

#### **Agency Response**

##### **GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Comments at PFD and informal exchanges have been taken into account.

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Agency Response

**Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Addressed (Norway and Denmark, Canada, US).

Agency Response

**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Addressed

Agency Response

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

We would be interested to know if REPALEAC and CEFDHAC were involved in the project development and will be empowered through the project implementation.

Agency Response

**28042021**

Yes, REPALEAC has been engaged throughout the design of the project. REPALEAC is in the Steering committee and we agreed on a set of activities for REPALEAC (and hence CEFDHAC) in line with its Strategic Framework, which have been reflected in a new Output 3.1.1.

#### **Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

There is an annex with the status of PPG utilization.

However a list of studies, assessments, and reports would be welcome. Please, complete.

Agency Response  
**28042021**

Only two experts were hired during PPG: a Land Use Planning expert and Knowledge Management who submitted the results of their studies and consultations in the form of draft descriptions of Component 1 and 4. The travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic didn't allow for any studies on the ground as initially envisaged, therefore inputs for designing Component 2, 3 and 5 were provided internally by UNEP with in kind contributions.

A summary of Lessons learned from Sustainable forest management initiatives in the Congo Basin has been inserted as an Appendix (Appendix 19) as well as a gender analysis (Appendix 22). Furthermore, a comprehensive safeguards assessment has been completed by UNEP-WCMC for the development of the full proposal for the IKI project on the sustainable management of the Congo Peatlands.

A list of all stakeholders involved has been added as Appendix 27.

#### **Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 30, 2021**

Addressed.

**January 5, 2021**

No. to be completed.

Agency Response

Done, added to Appendix 15.

**Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

**Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**May 6, 2021**

**RESPONSES TO COMMENTS BELOW: UNDER GEFSEC DECISION SECTION**

1. *Expected Implementation Start date has already past - please ask the Agency to amend for a more realistic date, otherwise the project would necessarily need to be extended later on and the reports will not be accurate*

Response: Implementation Start Date has been changed accordingly.

*UNEP is the executing agency for this coordination regional child project, so please correct Project Information accordingly. Executing Partner is UNEP, type is GEF Agency:*

Response: The executing partner has been changed to UNEP and the type to GEF Agency in the portal.

*Part II- Project Justification: co-financing table's format is misaligned*

Response: The table has been corrected in the portal and in the CEO Endorsement Request document attached.

*Sub-total by components between Portal? table D and Budget table at Annex E show some differences as following:*

Response: Sub-totals by components have been update in the portal to be aligned to the budget table.

5. *On co-financing (comment provided by Minna): Co-financing from USFS is funded by USAID (donor Agency), please revise table C accordingly.*

Response: The co-financing has been changed to USAID and donor agency.

## **GEFSEC DECISION**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 6, 2021**

All points are addressed. The project is recommended for CEO endorsement and Council consultation.

**May 5th, 2021**

Please find the comments from the Control Quality below:

1. Expected Implementation Start date has already past - please ask the Agency to amend for a more realistic date, otherwise the project would necessarily need to be extended later on and the reports will not be accurate

Climate Change Mitigation 1		
Submission Date 12/10/2020	Expected Implementation Start 5/1/2021	Expected Completion Date 4/30/2026
Duration ⓘ 60 In Months	Agency Fee(\$) 737,313.00	

2. UNEP is the executing agency for this coordination regional child project, so please correct Project Information accordingly. Executing Partner is UNEP, type is GEF Agency:

Other Executing Partner(s) ⓘ UNEP, REPELEAC, WCMC, Rainforest Alliance, USFS, UNODC, CITES MIKE	Executing Partner Type Others
Other Executing Partner(s) ⓘ UNEP, REPELEAC, WCMC, Rainforest Alliance, USFS, UNODC, CITES MIKE	Executing Partner Type Others

#### 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

Institutional arrangements

UNEP is the executing entity. The institutional framework will consist of a CBSL Coordination Unit, and a Program Steering Committee (PSC) that will be established as a formal coordination mechanism. The PSC will be co-chaired by UNEP and ECCAS. See Output 5.1.1 in the UNEP project document for a description.

#### 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

Institutional arrangements

UNEP is the executing entity. The institutional framework will consist of a CBSL Coordination Unit, and a Program Steering Committee (PSC) that will be established as a formal coordination mechanism. The PSC will be co-chaired by UNEP and ECCAS. See Output 5.1.1 in the UNEP project document for a description.



3. Part II- Project Justification: co-financing table's format is misaligne

During PPP, the partnership with Conservation Justice hasn't materialized, nor has the EU co-financing. On the other hand, co-financing from UNODC, WCS, USFS, CITES MIKE and IUCN was secured and co-financing letters obtained.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	UNEP (GRASP)	Grant	Investment Mobilized	11,420,000
GEF Agency	UNEP (GRASP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	265,000
Other	WCMC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,119,000
IGO	IUCN Palm Oil Task Force	Grant	Investment mobilized	58,906
CSO	Rainforest Alliance	Grant	Investment mobilized	400,000
CSO	Rainforest Alliance	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
Donor Agency	CAFI	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,500,000
Donor Agency	CAFI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,500,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000
UN Agency	UNODC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4,778,973
NGO	WCS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000
IGO	IUCN ARRC Taskforce	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	30,000
IGO	IUCN ARRC Taskforce	Grant	Investment mobilized	190,375
UN Agency	CITES MIKE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,389,486
Donor Agency	USFS	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	16,883,304
Total Co-financing				48,935,044
Sources of Co-financing				
Name of Co-financier				
Type of Co-financing				
GEF Agency	UNEP (GRASP)	Grant		

4. Sub-total by components between Portal? table D and Budget table at Annex E show some differences as following:

	Portal Table D	Budget table	Difference
C1	2,138,700	2,198,700	(60,000)
C2	1,635,073	1,635,073	-
C3	1,292,527	1,222,527	70,000
C4	1,228,200	1,238,200	(10,000)
C5	1,532,400	1,532,400	-
PMC	365,466	365,466	-
Total	8,192,366	8,192,366	-

5. On co-financing (comment provided by Minna): Co-financing from USFS is funded by USAID (donor Agency), please revise table C accordingly.

May 3rd, 2021

The project is recommended for clearance and Council consultation.

**May 1st, 2021**

See the remaining comment on the annex E.

**April 30, 2021**

Please address the remaining items related to cofinancing, coordination, and the Annexes.

**January 5, 2021**

Not yet. Please address the comments above.

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>1/5/2021</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/30/2021</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/1/2021</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/3/2021</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/5/2021</b>	

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**