

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10551
Project Name:	The deployment of EarthRanger, a data visualization and analysis software to strengthen Protected Area Management Effectiveness in Africa's National Parks.
Countr(ies):	Regional, Botswana, Congo, Mozambique
Implementing Agency:	CI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW	3
A. Description	3
B. Ratings and Disbursements	3
C. Key Dates	4
II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES	4
A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities	4
B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities	4
C. Stakeholder Engagement	4
D. Gender Equality	5
E. Knowledge Management	6
III: MINOR AMENDMENTS	6
IV: GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES	7
V. ANNEX	9

I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

The deployment of EarthRanger, a data visualization and analysis software to strengthen Protected Area Management Effectiveness in Africa's National Parks.

Country

Regional, Botswana, Congo, Mozambique

GEF ID

10551

Implementing Agency

CI

Executing Entity

The Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2), The Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks: The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism, The Mozambique National Sustainable Development Fund (FNDS): The Ministry of Land and Environment, The Republic of Congo, Ministry of Tourism and Environment, African Parks, Noé, Peace Parks Foundation (PPF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Conservation International Africa Field Division (CIAFD)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/7/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , Final PIR

Objective

To strengthen management effectiveness of priority Protected Areas (PAs) in Africa to deliver global environmental benefits through the deployment of the EarthRanger protected area management system and related technologies.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,623,969.00

Cumulative Disbursement

2,293,710.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 3/23/2022	Agency Approval 5/19/2020
Implementation Start 5/5/2022	First Disbursement 5/5/2022
Expected MTR 5/1/2024	Actual MTR 4/30/2025
Expected Completion 8/31/2026	Actual Completion 8/31/2026

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

- The project achieved 100% implementation of planned outputs, strengthening institutional and technical capacity across all six participating parks under Outcome 1.1. EarthRanger is now fully installed and used for daily management decisions across all sites, supported by improved internet connectivity, radios and GPS equipment. Key technical deployments and maintenance were completed in RoC and Botswana, including installations at Nouabalé-Ndoki and Chobe National Parks and preventative maintenance at Odzala-Kokoua.
- Capacity was strengthened through targeted EarthRanger and radio training across the three countries. In Botswana, 26 officers completed basic radio ToT, followed by advanced training and practical maintenance sessions. A targeted EarthRanger ToT for the Gaborone team strengthened system administration, control room workflows and data quality, with recommendations for wider rollout across DWNP regions. In Mozambique, 4 control room operators were trained at Zinave, with 2 identified as future trainers. Refresher and ToT activities were also conducted at Nouabalé-Ndoki, Conkouati-Douli and Odzala-Kokoua.
- Governance and government commitment were reinforced through strategic high-level engagements. In the Republic of Congo, the project hosted the third steering committee meeting in Brazzaville in April 2026, bringing together government officials led by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development. This event served as a 'lessons learned' sharing session and an activity close-out meeting. In Botswana, a series of strategic meetings and an action-planning workshop were held in Kasane with the DWNP, concluding with a high-level engagement showcase in April 2026 led by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- Under Outcome 2.1, expansion into Botswana's South-Central region continues, with sustainability activities at an advanced stage. The GEF-8 Kenya project is also expected to advance EarthRanger deployment in FY27 following resolution of earlier account-opening delays.
- All monitoring and reporting requirements under Outcome 3.1 were met. The Terminal Evaluation commenced in January 2026, findings were presented on 30 July 2026, and the final report is expected in FY27 Q1.

Notably, the project has exceeded the co-financing target (\$4,801,400) established at CEO Endorsement by 48% (\$7,123,430), demonstrating the strong commitment of partners and several governments to support the initiative. It is also important to note that activity implementation in the Republic of Congo and Mozambique concluded in December 2026. Botswana was the only country where proactive implementation of project activities continued into FY26 Q3.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

- Implementation delays: Previous operational delays in Botswana created a backlog of trainings and compressed the remaining project timeline. Engagement with DWNP has since improved following the appointment of new focal points and senior management.

2. Financial sustainability: Government fiscal constraints continue to affect the availability of bridge funding for EarthRanger, posing a key risk to the project's exit and sustainability strategy.
3. Extreme weather: Heavy rains and flooding made Chobe project sites inaccessible from November to May, delaying maintenance and practical training. Theoretical training continued in November, with field activities completed in May 2026.
4. A key implementation challenge was the inability to secure EarthRanger adoption by additional countries or protected areas, as originally anticipated. Financing constraints, shifting government priorities, and partner decisions affected adoption. Future projects should factor these considerations into design, secure early government commitment, and set realistic, country-aligned adoption targets.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The project continued to implement stakeholder engagement activities in line with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, engaging government institutions, protected area authorities, the private sector, local communities, and EarthRanger users through steering committee meetings, regular coordination meetings, training, knowledge exchange, and high-level events. Key progress included: the 3rd RoC Steering Committee meeting to present progress to date to key stakeholders; A high-level showcase event in Botswana, bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders from the government, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), the private sector, and local communities; and maintaining regular monthly coordination meetings between CI and DWNP. These engagements strengthened coordination, resulted in a detailed action plan to address pending items, and demonstrated continued government commitment to the initiative.

Stakeholder engagement also supported capacity building and knowledge exchange. Representatives from Botswana participated in the EarthRanger User Conference and exchanged experiences with the Kenya Wildlife Service. A joint Kasane-Gaborone training session further expanded the number of officers proficient in EarthRanger and, importantly, was led entirely by the DWNP Kasane team, demonstrating increased local ownership and capacity. Discussions also focused on the sustainability and potential scaling of EarthRanger across Botswana.

A key challenge to the sustainability of project outcomes in Botswana is the limited availability of government resources within DWNP and other relevant government agencies. Budget constraints have reduced their capacity to provide financial support for the continuation and expansion of project activities beyond the project period. As a result, sustaining project investments at the site level and embedding planned scale-up activities within government work plans and budgets remains difficult. Given these constraints, mobilizing additional resources through future funding opportunities, including GEF-9, represents the most viable pathway for maintaining momentum, consolidating project gains, and supporting the broader replication and scaling of successful interventions.

D. Gender Equality

a) All activities anticipated by the GMP were implemented? Yes/No Why?

Yes, the gender assessment was successfully conducted in FY24, providing the foundation for gender-responsive implementation. In FY25, two women ranger meetings were organized, bringing together female rangers and researchers from across the project sites to exchange experiences, strengthen leadership skills, and enhance their knowledge and use of the EarthRanger system. Therefore, the indicator was achieved through activities completed in FY24 and FY25, with no additional activities required in FY26.

b) Did the project face any challenges to implementing GMP as initially proposed? Please describe the challenges in case there were any.

One of the main challenges encountered during implementation was the digital divide affecting some female staff and rangers, who were unfamiliar with the technological, IT, and mapping tools deployed by the project, such as EarthRanger and InReach devices. This initially constrained participation and slowed the development of technical competencies.

c) As compared to the original GMP, was any adaptive management applied to promote meaningful participation of women and advance towards other gender sensitive targets?

The project organized two separate Women Ranger Meetings to address language barriers between participants from the Anglophone and Francophone countries. This approach enabled women rangers and researchers to engage and share experiences in their preferred working languages, English for Botswana and French for the Republic of Congo. By facilitating

discussions in a comfortable linguistic environment, the meetings enhanced participation, knowledge exchange, peer learning, and discussions on women's leadership and the use of the EarthRanger system.

- d) **Did the project team/stakeholders observe any unintended outcomes (positive or negative) related to gender equality, that are difficult to capture in a quantitative way during this period of time? For example women are more active in decision-making processes in the project, or public servants are more interested and open to advance gender outcomes, men or women are more reluctant to participate in the project activities, or other similar situations.**

Partners, particularly in Mozambique, reported that women often perform better than men in control room operations due to their strong attention to detail and consistency in managing monitoring systems. While women have become increasingly involved in operating data systems and equipment through exchange and learning programs, their data analysis and equipment-handling skills remain relatively basic. Continued training and greater involvement in control room activities are therefore needed to strengthen their analytical skills and support their participation in operational decision-making.

- e) **Considering all the above, what are the recommendations for next FY to continue advancing towards gender sensitive targets?**

Partners have been encouraged to implement an equipment rotation policy to provide women rangers with greater opportunities to use field technologies and build practical skills. Findings from the Gender Assessment and Women Ranger Meetings revealed that field equipment is often exclusively assigned to team leaders, limiting access, learning opportunities, and hands-on experience for other women rangers.

E. Knowledge Management

2 Facebook posts: Handing over the ER project in Kasane – Botswana (2026);
<https://www.facebook.com/61569658071888/posts/122153058464655269/?app=fbl>,
<https://www.facebook.com/61569658071888/posts/122153058464655269/?app=fbl>

Article on Afrique Environnement Plus on the Third SC meeting in RoC: <https://afriquenvironnementplus.info/tech-conservation-le-projet-earthranger-pose-les-jalons-dune-surveillance-ecologique-infaillible-des-aires-protegees/> (2026)

1 Facebook post in Q4: Gaborone EarthRanger Training; <https://www.facebook.com/100064836905266/posts/1423135283191022/?app=fbl>

Article on impact report: <https://cigef.my.canva.site/earthranger-fy25-impact-report> (FY26Q2)

Lessons learnt: GEF results and Lessons learned reports (2026) [Final report](#)

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	

Executing Entity	The Mozambique National Sustainable Development Fund (FNDS) was removed and replaced with the National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC), a department under the Ministry of Land and Forest in FY24
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	NEW RISK: Delayed response from government partner
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	In Noubale Ndoki National Park (NNNP) the project changed focus from constructing the Ndoki II control room and solar energy system to instead reinforcing existing control rooms and bases in NNNP and its periphery. Bomassa Base, the NNNP headquarters, and Makao Secondary Base are located on the periphery of the Park on land owned and operated by the Park Management Unit of the Noubale Ndoki Foundation
others	The project received a two-month no-cost extension, extending the end date from 30 June 2026 to 31 August 2026.

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Zinave National Park	-21.62679	33.60992	7,874,687

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Limpopo National Park	-23.65481	32.1746	9,254,063

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park	2.46667	16.45	10,375,728

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Parc National d'Odzala	0.89194	14.83833	2,255,876

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Conkouati-Douli National Park	-3.905	11.47	10,375,656

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Chobe National Park	-18.66667	24.5	933,839

Location Description:

National park

Activity Description:

EarthRanger and supporting technology installation

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260901 FY26 PIR_10551_EarthRanger
Document Category M and E Document	Title 20260907 FY26 GEF Core Indicators_10551_EarthRanger