

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Project Information

### Project Title

Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC

Region Congo DR	GEF Project ID 11590
Country(ies) Congo DR	Type of Project GBFF
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	GEF Agency Project ID 751018
Project Executing Entity(s) Sustainable Development Directorate (DDD)/Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) ALLIANCE NATIONALE D'APPUI ET DE PROMOTION DES AIRES ET TERRITOIRES DU PATRIMOINE AUTOCHTONE ET COMMUNAUTAIRE EN RDC (ANAPAC)	Project Executing Type Government CSO
GEF Focal Area (s) Biodiversity	Submission Date 2/10/2025
Type of Trust Fund GBFF	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 5,840,868.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 554,882.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 6,395,750.00	Total Co-financing 12,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e) 150,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 14,250.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 6,560,000.00	

### Project Tags :

GBF Target 14, Support IPLC, GBF Target 1, GBF Target 2, GBF Target 3, GBF Target 8, GBF Target 9, GBF Target 10, GBF Target 22, GBF Target 23

### Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project. (max. 2000 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project addresses biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, precarious livelihoods, weak regulatory frameworks, and tenure insecurity affecting Indigenous and Community Lands. Government-led conservation has often failed due to limited community engagement, while (IPLCs) lack the support to scale up community-led conservation. Additionally, decision-making processes remain poorly informed by evidence and traditional knowledge, further weakening conservation outcomes. While piloted in Tanganyika, the project is designed for national scalability, providing a replicable model for integrating Indigenous rights, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. By fostering inclusive decision-making, gender equality and social cohesion, it aims to demonstrate how IPLC-driven conservation can be more effective and sustainable than government-led approaches, setting a precedent for policy reform and action across the DRC.

The project will integrate legal support, advocacy, land tenure formalization, support biodiversity-friendly enterprises, and conflict-sensitive governance mechanisms while establishing learning platforms and robust monitoring and evaluation systems.

The project seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Outcome 1.1:** The regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks are more supportive/favourable towards IPLCs stewardship and governance of community-based conservation and sustainable management of Community and Indigenous Lands;
- **Outcome 2.1:** Empowered IPLCs secure formal tenure rights over their lands, enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use (150,000 ha);
- **Outcome 2.2:** Improved IPLC livelihoods from biodiversity friendly profitable entrepreneurship initiatives for 50,000 persons;
- **Outcome 3.1:** Evidence informed decision-making supports replication and sustainability of project results thanks to improved availability and accessibility of lessons and good practices; and
- **Outcome 4.1:** Demonstration sites are governed in an inclusive fashion

The project supports the implementation of the revised NBSAP – 2026-2030 and aligns to the Development Programme for the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, the DRC Community Forestry Action Plan, and the Nationally Determined Contribution. Its expected achievements align with the KMGBF's Results Indicators, primarily those related to land use planning (Target1), restoration (T2), biodiversity conservation (T3), climate resilience (T8), IPLC-led sustainable management of biodiversity to their benefits (T9), sustainably managed agriculture (T10), biodiversity mainstreaming in policies and implementation instruments (T14), inclusive, equitable and gender responsive participation in biodiversity decision making and access to justice (T22) and gender equality (T23).

## Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in Community and Indigenous Land of the DRC, supporting the recovery of degraded ecosystems, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resilience, and people's livelihoods.

### Project Components

#### Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
963,525.00	2,600,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: The regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks are more supportive/favourable towards IPLCs stewardship and governance of community-based conservation and sustainable management of Community and Indigenous Lands

Output:

Output 1.1: Enhanced awareness and understanding of environmental legal (texts and policies) and customary laws and practices promoting IPLC stewardship, rights, gender equality, and HRBA (Human Rights-Based Approaches) for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management

Output.1.2: New and/or revised national and decentralised policies, regulations, and development plans are gender responsive, promote HRBA, address the transfer of responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use across at least 350,000 ha of community and Indigenous lands in Tanganyika Province, & benefit sharing for IPLCs

Output.1.3: National and decentralised institutional capacities of services involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management strengthened on gender, HRBA, benefit sharing, approaches and methods of onsite support to IPLCs

Output 1.4: Enhanced onsite support to IPLCs for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use from empowered national and decentralised structures

Output 1.5: Improved intersectoral coordination of institutions relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

## Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected Community and Indigenous Lands

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
3,214,570.00	7,328,571.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1:

Empowered IPLCs secure formal tenure rights over their lands, enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

Outcome 2.2: Improved IPLC livelihoods from biodiversity friendly profitable entrepreneurship initiatives

Output:

Output 2.1.1: 150,000 ha of Community and Indigenous Land demarcated and registered

Output 2.1.2: 14,000 ha of Community and Indigenous land restored and managed sustainably for biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement

Output 2.1.3: Increased individual, organisational and technical capacities (including restoration options/techniques)

Output 2.1.4: Community nurseries of native plants are established to support ecosystem restoration

Output 2.2.1: Biodiversity friendly enterprises, value chains and income generating activities established and functional

Output 2.2.2: Equitable benefit sharing schemes and gender-responsive mechanism for management of Community and Indigenous Land established and functional

## Component 3: Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
694,000.00	800,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Evidence informed decision-making supports replication and sustainability of project results thanks to improved availability and accessibility of lessons and good practices

Output:

Output 3.1.1: Lessons learned and good practices documented and disseminated

Output 3.1.2: A framework for scaling up lessons learned and good practices developed to guide the learning-by-doing and replication processes

Output 3.1.3: An inclusive multistakeholder community of practice (CoP) for the routine exchange of experiences related to IPLC biodiversity conservation and sustainable use created and functional

Output 3.1.4: University and technical school's curricula improved thanks to documented lessons learned, models and good practices

#### Component 4: Inclusive governance

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
485,636.00	400,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Demonstration sites are governed in an inclusive fashion

Output:

Output 4.1: Inclusive project governance structures established and operational

Output 4.2: Project's environmental and social safeguards effectively implemented

#### M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GBFF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
175,000.00	300,000.00

Outcome:

Project monitored effectively and efficiently, ensuring adaptive management to achieve project goals

Output:

Project M&E system developed and implemented

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management	963,525.00	2,600,000.00
Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected Community and Indigenous Lands	3,214,570.00	7,328,571.00
Component 3: Knowledge Management	694,000.00	800,000.00
Component 4: Inclusive governance	485,636.00	400,000.00
M&E	175,000.00	300,000.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>5,532,731.00</b>	<b>11,428,571.00</b>
Project Management Cost	308,137.00	571,429.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>5,840,868.00</b>	<b>12,000,000.00</b>

Please provide Justification

N/A

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A.CHANGES COMPARED TO PPG REQUEST

Please describe and justify any major changes to the project design, including to elements put forward in the PPG request to meet the following GBFF selection criteria:



- a. Potential of the project to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) (include a description of the GEBs the project will generate per the GBFF Results Indicators);
- b. The alignment of the project with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;
- c. The level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society that the project aims to support;
- d. Whether the project will mobilize the resources of the private sector and philanthropies'; and
- e. Whether and how the project will engage with and provide support to IPLCs.

There are no major changes to the design of the project.

## B. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation including: the global biodiversity problems that the project will address; the key elements of the system to be addressed by the project; and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

1. DRC is the second largest country in Africa with a surface of 2,345,000km<sup>2</sup>. It is also the world's second-largest tropical forest country, with 155.5 million hectares of forest, around 100 million of which are tropical rainforest.<sup>[i]</sup> Because of its diversity of natural habitats, the DRC has the highest rate of biodiversity of mammals and birds in Africa, and has the third highest flora diversity, after Madagascar and South Africa<sup>[ii][iii]</sup>. To preserve its habitats and their fauna and flora components, the DRC set up a network of national protected areas (NPAs) which currently covers around 310,751 km<sup>2</sup> or 13.5% of the national territory<sup>[iv]</sup> relying upon conventional conservation theories that did not integrate the traditional knowledge of pygmy native people or local communities living in those areas prior to their establishment<sup>[v]</sup>. Despite these efforts, several populations of charismatic species have gone extinct (e.g. white rhino *Ceratotherium simum* in Garamba National Park<sup>[vi]</sup>) or are severely declining (e.g. forest elephants *Loxodonta cyclotis*, Nile hippos *Hippopotamus amphibius*)<sup>[vii]</sup>. Since the creation of the network of protected areas in the DRC, voices have always been raised to advocate for community conservation, i.e. the type of conservation that implicates local communities and pygmy native people in the management of these protected areas<sup>[viii]</sup>. According to the Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) Consortium (ICCA Consortium) the established network of PAs in the country has considerably reduced the political power of Indigenous Peoples communities and weakened their capacity to govern and manage their territories, leading to detrimental impacts on their territories, biodiversity outcomes and sustainable livelihoods. In fact, specific grievances still unaddressed to date include the lack of access to forest and land resources by members of the communities that were expelled as a result of the creation of protected areas, in addition to communities' lack of involvement in the management of these protected areas and their exclusion from the sharing of benefits generated by socioeconomic exploitation<sup>[ix]</sup>. **See Annex E** for maps showing strong overlaps between the presence of IPs and areas of significant biodiversity capital.

2. Forests play a vital role in climate regulation and livelihoods development in the DRC. The National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD 2019-2023<sup>[x]</sup>) acknowledges the country's vulnerability to climate variability and long-term climate change, with increasing risks from extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, which threaten biodiversity, habitats, and local livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples and the poorest communities are particularly at risk<sup>[xi][xii][xiii]</sup>. Indigenous populations, men, women and young people as well as the poorest local communities are among those most affected by climate change and biodiversity loss, given the intricate links with their culture and livelihoods<sup>[xiv]</sup>. The country faces additional pressures from rapid population growth, rising from 75 million in 2015 to 102 million in 2024 with a ratio of 49.7% men and 50.3% women<sup>[xv]</sup>. The population of indigenous peoples in the DRC is largely unknown. The population was estimated at about 700, 000 in 2009<sup>[xvi]</sup>, while civil society organisations state that this could be between 1.2 million and 2 million (2023 estimates)<sup>[xvii]</sup>. The Pygmy communities, comprising five distinct groups, hold designated territories across different regions of the DRC (**see Annex E**). Their culture reflects a profound connection to diverse ecosystems, marked by ancient skills in forest adaptation. However, Pygmy livelihoods face threats from dwindling resource access and degradation, leading to a cycle of impoverishment and malnutrition (**see Annexes F and L - social and environmental safeguards analysis and gender action plan**). IPLCs encounter challenges in biodiversity management, such as limited involvement, unequal benefit distribution, and insufficient awareness. Exclusion from

resource management exacerbates conflicts and jeopardizes their cultural heritage, and as their identity and knowledge are deeply intertwined with the forests they inhabit, emphasizing the need for equitable participation and sustainable management practices can help safeguard biodiversity and well-being<sup>[xviii]<sup>xviii</sup></sup>.

3. Despite having 80 million hectares of agricultural potential, DRC suffers from a production deficit of 30–40% due to insecurity, population displacement, poor infrastructure, limited access to agricultural inputs, and low yields. As a result, around 63%<sup>[xix]<sup>xix</sup></sup> of the population experiences food insecurity<sup>[xx]<sup>xx</sup></sup>. With an extreme poverty rate of 73% in 2018<sup>[xxi]<sup>xxi</sup></sup>, and a Human Development Index of 0.481 in 2024, DRC ranks 180th out of 193<sup>[xxii]<sup>xxii</sup></sup> countries globally. The lack of opportunities for IPLCs to establish alternative livelihoods through agriculture on suitable arable lands increases pressure on forests, creating a cycle of deforestation, degradation, food insecurity, and poverty.

4. The project, while primarily focusing on pilot areas in the Tanganyika province, will yield national benefits of global significance by contributing to key policy processes, including the strategy for conservation outside protected areas, the wildlife sector policy, and the broader national approach to the 30x30 Agenda. The recently revised Law on Nature Conservation (December 2024) now includes provisions for ‘Green Corridors’—integrated conservation and production landscapes. This emerging framework offers a significant opportunity to promote biodiversity-friendly, community-led enterprises and could serve as a strategic vehicle for scaling up sustainable land use models piloted by the project.

5. Tanganyika was chosen due to its active engagement of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation, representation of diverse ecoregions including the crucial southern forest-savanna mosaic, assessment of biodiversity threats, and evaluation of ecosystem services. Tanganyika stands out for its significant IPLC population, high species richness, and preserved forest-savannah ecoregion, offering essential opportunities for IPLC development and biodiversity conservation<sup>[xxiii]<sup>xxiii</sup></sup>. With a surface area of 134,940km<sup>2</sup>, the Province of Tanganyika is the third largest province of the country after the Tshopo 199,567 km<sup>2</sup> and Bas-Uélé 148,331 km<sup>2</sup>. It shares boundaries with Haut Katanga, Haut-Lomami, Lomami, Maniema and South-Kivu provinces.

6. The Tanganyika province has a population of about 2.5 million inhabitants with a density of 18 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup><sup>[xxiv]<sup>xxiv</sup></sup>. It is primarily inhabited by Bantu-speaking groups such as the Tabwa, Luba, and Hemba. Despite its rich natural resources—including forests, fertile land, and Lake Tanganyika—the province faces persistent socio-economic challenges: high poverty, food insecurity, low agricultural productivity, weak infrastructure, and chronic malnutrition (53% stunting among children under five), further worsened by COVID-19, inflation, insecurity, and environmental degradation (see details in Environmental and Social Management Framework in **Annex F**). In this context, the Twa—one of the five Pygmy Indigenous groups in the DRC—make up a significant portion of the population, reaching 15% in the province and up to 35% in Nyunzu territory. Once nomadic forest dwellers, the Twa have shifted to a semi-nomadic lifestyle, settling near Bantu villages due to deforestation and land loss<sup>[xxv]<sup>xxv</sup></sup>. They now mainly rely on subsistence farming and low-paid labour. Twa women are particularly vulnerable, facing wage discrimination, gender-based violence, and exclusion from land rights—98% of households lack formal tenure. Data from project preparation and a 2024 FAO-led IP vulnerability assessment in Tanganyika highlight widespread illiteracy, malnutrition, and limited access to health services, clean water, and food in Twa communities (see details including pictures in Indigenous Peoples Plan in **Annex F-2**). Though organized through clan structures, they remain largely excluded from land and biodiversity governance, reinforcing inequalities and inter-ethnic tensions. Yet, their deep ecological knowledge and cultural connection to forests make them essential actors in conservation efforts.

7. The province is made up of a mix of dry dense Miombo forests and savannah (Nyunzu and Kabalo), hosts the Kabobo natural forest reserve<sup>[xxvi]<sup>xxvi</sup></sup>. These savannahs and their biodiversity of flora and fauna are spectacular, with large herds of herbivores including the savannah elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) and savannah antelopes such as *Kobus kob*, *Kobus defassa* and *Damaliscus lunatus*. However, the population of these species is declining, mainly because of increasing pressure from human populations<sup>[xxvii]<sup>xxvii</sup></sup>. From 2001 to 2023, Tanganyika experienced a loss of 481,000 hectares of relative tree cover, representing a 100% decrease since 2000 and accounting for 2.4% of the global total<sup>[xxviii]<sup>xxviii</sup></sup>. Amongst the five territories that make up the province, Kalemie has experienced the most significant losses. In the target territories of Nyunzu and Kabalo, deforestation effects are highly localised. In the Nyunzu territory, this is most concentrated in the east of the North-Lukuga sector and a few hot spots in the centre of the South-Lukuga sector. Deforestation statistics in Nyunzu territory show that it is more significant in the North-Lukuga sector, and the period 2014-2017 saw the highest increase. In the Kabalo territory, deforestation is located along the Congo River and to the west of the Luella-Luvu Nyuye sector. Compared with the Lukuswa sector, deforestation was highest in the Luella Luvu Nyuye sector, with a sharp increase (8,327.61 ha) over the period 2014-2017. **See Annex E** for maps of deforestation and degradation hotspots.

8. **The main direct drivers** of deforestation in this province include logging for charcoal production, the expansion of subsistence agriculture, extractive activities<sup>[xxxix]XXXix</sup>, the absence of zoning and land use plans for forest and agricultural land, and the failure to apply legal and regulatory provisions relating to sustainable forest management. Across the national territory, the NBSAP 2016-2020 also includes the low level of involvement of local communities in the governance, co-management and the sharing of benefits from protected areas and natural resource extraction<sup>[xxxix]XXXix</sup>. In the target territories, the human pressures have transformed dense forests into farmland, grassy savannahs and woodlands, degrading ecosystems and reducing the diversity of plant and animal species. Forest fragmentation has reduced the availability of vital resources, jeopardising the livelihoods and traditional knowledge of local communities who depend on these ecosystems for their food and cultural practices. In fact, the Twa and Bantu participants interviewed as part of the project development and other recent studies, reveal that the natural environment has been seriously degraded. In line with research studies, respondents identified deforestation, slash-and-burn agriculture, bush fires and climate change as drivers in their communities. In all the villages visited, participants noted that non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as honey, game, caterpillars, yams, fish and medicinal plants are becoming increasingly rare. The search for wild honey is forcing local people to move further afield, and many medicinal plants and barks are now rare or have disappeared altogether. Women are vulnerable to the impacts of ecosystem degradation in the province given their high dependence on natural resources to sustain their livelihoods and those of their families. Despite prohibitions, bushfires are used by both indigenous peoples and Bantus for hunting, mushroom picking, slash-and-burn agriculture, house-building materials and honey collection. Deforestation has also led to increased soil erosion, resulting in reduced soil fertility and increased turbidity in rivers, which degrades aquatic habitats and affects water quality.

9. **Indirect causes of deforestation and degradation** in DRC including the selected intervention sites are linked to the socio-economic, political and institutional situation<sup>[xxxix]XXXix</sup>. Studies to develop the national REDD+ strategy identified migrations and political and institutional weaknesses as the most important indirect causes in the former Katanga Province. In fact, Tanganyika is the fourth most conflict-affected province in the DRC after North Kivu, Ituri and South Kivu<sup>[xxxiii]XXXiii</sup>. Since 2013, the province has experienced inter-community conflicts, mainly between Bantu and Twa communities, leading to loss of property, serious human rights violations, displacement, degradation of the natural environment and biodiversity loss<sup>[xxxiii]XXXiii</sup>. By December 2017, major disruptions to the agricultural production and marketing system and to livelihoods were experienced (famine and malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and breastfeeding women), more than 630,000 people had been displaced within the province (more than 22% of the province's total population), up from 102,000 in 2009. This exerted strong pressure on forest resources, to which some communities and incoming migrants had access to the detriment of others, causing conflict according to the Twa community, which represents 15% of the population of Tanganyika<sup>[xxxiv]XXXiv</sup>. Some of the Twa interviewed said that all this violence was the result of the social and ethnic discrimination they suffered at the hands of the Bantu community. Few income-generating activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources exist. Gender-based violence has been a defining feature of the complex armed conflict in this context. Women continue to be victims of all kinds of gender-based violence including sexual abuse, sexual slavery and rape<sup>[xxxv]XXXv</sup>. A study by OSFAC and WRI in 2024, argued that strengthening forest restoration in the province was of critical importance in addressing some of the underlying indirect drivers of deforestation and degradation and community conflicts<sup>[xxxvi]XXXvi</sup>.

## Barriers

10. Community based approaches have been widely promoted as a strategy for conservation of biodiversity, while enhancing rural livelihoods<sup>[xxxvii]XXXvii</sup>. Research demonstrates that IPLCs are effective forest stewards that manage ecosystems sustainably, act as agents of restoration and protect against illegal and unsustainable deforestation. Analysis of Global Forest Watch data and LandMark data portals reveal that IPLC lands are net carbon sinks, with IPLC lands sequestering twice the amounts of carbon than other lands<sup>[xxxviii]XXXviii</sup>. Despite the promise of community based natural resources management failure is more prevalent than success<sup>[xxxix]XXXix</sup>. Key failure factors include top-down project initiation which otherwise leads to alienation, and lack of economic incentives. Interventions that undermine traditional knowledge, traditional livelihoods and promote practices with unproven markets and profitability are likely to fail<sup>[xli]Xli</sup>. The global synthesis of peer-reviewed evidence underlines how interventions that do not acknowledge the inextricable connection between IPLCs' livelihoods and biodiversity and instead seek to supersede local practices and customary institutions, tend to result in relatively ineffective conservation<sup>[xlii]Xlii</sup>. The government of the DRC has recognized the impact of ecosystems degradation, poor livelihoods, poor resilience capacities and biodiversity loss on indigenous peoples and local communities. Its commitments towards the KMGBF targets mark a further step in its engagement to improve

community-based management approaches. This is in part due to its recognition of the enormous institutional and operational challenges it faces in law enforcement and control of its natural resources. Furthermore, there is increasing interest for communities and their representative organisations to partner with the local, provincial and national government in the management of the country's natural capital, if they can directly benefit from their collaborative efforts. In this context, local development strategies at landscape levels with high degree of decentralization and partnerships with communities and other key stakeholders are likely to achieve better outcomes.

11. Consequently, recognising the urgency of the threats to its biodiversity, ecosystems degradation, the precarious livelihoods of IPLCs, and the potential solutions that can be derived from community-based management approaches, the government designed the pilot project 'Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC to address three priority barriers: (1) Weak and unfavourable policy environment for IPLC governance and stewardship of their lands for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and livelihoods enhancement; (2) Limited IPLCs access to benefits from NR and biodiversity management, insecure tenure rights, and precarious livelihoods leading to unsustainable use and overexploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss; and (3) Weak knowledge management and limited use of research evidence, local and traditional knowledge and best practices for decision making in the development and implementation of the legislation, policy frameworks, strategies and training programmes.

**Barrier 1: Weak and unfavourable policy environment for IPLC governance and stewardship of their lands for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and livelihoods enhancement**

The primary barrier to achieving effective biodiversity conservation, sustainable resource use, and livelihood enhancement in the DRC lies in the weak and unsupportive policy environment for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) stewardship of lands and biodiversity. Various studies and key informant interviews on other existing instruments and legislation revealed gaps in policy, legislation, while weak and insufficient institutional capacity pose significant challenges for implementation<sup>[xliii]xliii</sup>. For instance, although the DRC has enacted certain laws such as Law No. 14/003 on nature conservation and Law No. 22/030 on the rights of indigenous pygmy peoples, these lack implementing measures and remain largely unknown to communities and unutilised<sup>[xliv]xliv</sup>. Similarly, outdated frameworks such as the 2002 Forest Code while recognising customary land rights of IPLCs, failed to address contemporary issues like community conservation, human rights, free prior informed consent, safeguards and gender<sup>[xlv]xlv</sup>. The Law on Indigenous Peoples of 2022 is more explicit about the content of customary land rights. Despite constitutional guarantees and recent legal advances, IP rights to land and tenure systems<sup>[xlvi]xlvi</sup> are inadequately protected. Indigenous lands are often viewed as 'vacant' under existing legislation, leading in some cases to evictions without compensation<sup>[xlvii]xlvii</sup>. So far, the local community forest concession model enacted under Decree No. 14/018 provides the strongest legal recognitions for IPLC stewardship but has prioritised forest exploitation over biodiversity conservation and climate goals. Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration are not detailed in the management plans and appear to have little legitimacy often imposed by funding agencies, with top-down management tools<sup>[xlviii]xlviii</sup>. The national legal framework lags as concerns community conservation despite is recognition by authorities<sup>[xlix]xlix</sup> and recent advances by organisations such as ANAPAC that have championed the development of other effective conservation measures such as Indigenous and Community Conservation Areas (ICCA) in the country. Without firm legal recognition, many of the ICCAs are being transformed into community forests<sup>[l]</sup>.

Interviews and focus group discussions with indigenous and local communities, local indigenous organisations, traditional chiefs, authorities and staff from territorial and provincial services in Kalemie, Nyunzu and Kabalo revealed a lack of knowledge and capacity in the institutions and administrations, State and local community agents and indigenous peoples on the legal and institutional framework for forest management, biodiversity conservation and all other related sectors (land-use planning, the country's administrative and territorial order, the organisation and operation of public services, land tenure, community forestry, etc.). Other reforms that are continuing as part of the implementation of the REDD+ Investment Plan (land reform, land use planning reform, forestry reform, agricultural reform, environmental reform, energy sector reform, etc.) require strong mobilisation and informed participation by civil society organisations. However, to date, their contribution to the reforms is still weak, if not rudimentary, due to a lack of capacity and the technical nature of many of these reforms. Organisations such as ANAPAC and REPALEF play a significant role in promoting IPLC stewardship in support of government objectives but also require capacity strengthening to play their roles effectively. The absorption capacity of legal reform processes remains very weak,

thereby creating a gap which needs to be closed with innovative approaches. Most interviewees in the territories were oblivious of the opportunities and processes for creating and managing ICCAs and community forest. A recent evaluation of community forestry projects in the Congo Basin, concluded that shifts in awareness and institutional mandates towards indigenous people's stewardship would benefit from external facilitation<sup>[li]</sup>. This project therefore provides an opportunity to strengthen capacity within government and ANAPAC, while leveraging ANAPAC's experience and government's engagement towards IPLCs stewardship. This is a huge opportunity considering that there are currently no community forests established in Tanganyika Province<sup>[lii]</sup> to date and ANAPAC's initial mapping of the ICCAs in Nyunzu and Kabalo has not progressed due to lack of resources. Evidence from participatory analysis during project development, revealed that the organisational, institutional and technical capacities required to design and deliver integrated biodiversity conservation, restoration, livelihoods improvements and IPLCs empowerment remain inadequate at national, provincial and territorial levels<sup>[liii]</sup>. With decentralisation, provinces are finding it difficult to exercise their autonomy, and this could hamper the achievement of the 30x30 objectives if nothing is done to strengthen their role. For instance, the province of Tanganyika was created in 2015 and is therefore relatively young. Capacity needs assessment conducted as part of the project development shows that decentralised agencies lack the operational capacity, thematic expertise, experience and resources to provide site specific and bespoke support to communities in adopting sustainable land, biodiversity and climate resilient practices. Similarly, various studies<sup>[liiv]</sup> and evidence from the project development process also surfaced that civil society organisations, IP networks and community-based institutions that could support IP governance are hindered by limited funding, technical capacity, insufficient monitoring tools, and weak organisational structures<sup>[lv]</sup><sup>[lvii]</sup><sup>[vi]</sup>. Similarly, at national and provincial levels, sectoral policies (agriculture, forestry, mining, land, land use planning, environment, conservation...), institutions and actors often operate in silos, leading to fragmented decision-making, conflicts and overlapping jurisdictions. At all levels, poor cross-sectoral coordination further undermines efforts to address biodiversity loss, land degradation, and climate resilience. The national government and WCS recommend strengthening intersectoral coordination, frameworks for exchange and dialogue amongst actors to maximise the chances of achieving climate and biodiversity goals<sup>[lvii]</sup><sup>[vii]</sup><sup>[viii]</sup><sup>[viii]</sup>.

**Barrier 2: Limited IPLCs access to benefits from NR and biodiversity management, insecure tenure rights, and precarious livelihoods leading to unsustainable use and overexploitation of natural resources and biodiversity loss**

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), particularly the Tanganyika Province, face severe challenges in securing sustainable livelihoods and achieving food security due to inadequate access to productive inputs, credit, and markets<sup>[lix]</sup>. The lack of viable livelihoods forces many communities to overexploit agricultural lands, shortening fallow cycles, depleting soil fertility, and pushing further into forests to clear land or hunt for protein. Food insecurity is a critical issue, with the Twa experiencing extremely low dietary diversity and meal frequency. In Nyunzu, 94.6% of Twa households have a poor dietary diversity score, consuming an average of only 0.9 meals per day. Malnutrition is widespread, with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) affecting 17.4% of children under five in Nyunzu and Kabalo territories—well above the emergency threshold set by the WHO<sup>[lx]</sup>. Many Twa families now rely on poorly paid day labour for Bantu households, reflecting their marginalised economic position<sup>[lxi]</sup>. While the target territories have experienced significant degradation due to the various drivers already discussed, land tenure and access to natural resources remains deeply inequitable for IPLCs in Tanganyika Province. Indigenous communities, including the Twa, are not recognised as landowners under the current legal framework. Instead, rural land is controlled by Bantu customary chiefs, leaving the Twa with no formal documentation to prove ownership of the plots they cultivate or the houses they build. This precarious tenure status excludes the Twa from engaging in land transactions or securing their rights to ancestral lands. Bantu chiefs often impose customary taxes on the Twa, requiring a portion of their harvests or game as payment for resource use. Despite national laws guaranteeing equitable access to natural resources, enforcement is weak, and the Twa remain excluded from decision-making structures<sup>[lxii]</sup>. Their lack of representation in customary governance limits their ability to advocate for their rights, access benefit sharing mechanisms, fostering mistrust and tension between communities. These dynamics as already mentioned, have resulted in conflicts, further destabilising the region. There is limited knowledge amongst communities of the various legal recourses available and opportunities for securing tenure on their lands. The low levels of literacy and limited access to education and training serves as an obstacle to their participation in governance processes that concern them. The Twa's traditional livelihoods are profoundly affected by the degradation of forests and ecosystems in Tanganyika Province. Deforestation, bushfires, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources have depleted the forests that historically sustained their way of life. Biodiversity loss has made it increasingly difficult for the Twa to rely on hunting, gathering, and fishing, forcing them to a sedentary mode of life including the need to cultivate their own food. The new crops being tried such as maize, rice and groundnuts while offering some nutritional value, are expensive to cultivate and less accessible to resource-constrained communities. With limited technical capacity to adapt to these changes, the Twa struggle to implement



sustainable practices or diversify their income sources effectively. With the lack of long-term capacity building, site specific business incubation support services for indigenous peoples and local communities, these combined factors contribute to a cycle of environmental degradation and socio-economic marginalisation<sup>[lxiii]lxiii</sup>. Women in IPLC communities face additional barriers to accessing land, resources and capacity strengthening opportunities. Discriminatory practices and gender-based violence restrict their participation in sustainable livelihoods, perpetuating cycles of economic and social vulnerability. Efforts to integrate women into community decision-making processes remain insufficient, undermining their potential contribution to broader development goals (more detailed analysis is gender action plan – **Annex L**).

**Barrier 3: Weak knowledge management and limited use of research evidence, local and traditional knowledge and best practices for decision making in the development and implementation of the legislation, policy frameworks, strategies and training programmes**

The role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as stewards of natural resource management is increasingly recognized<sup>[lxiv]lxiv</sup>. Interviews with structures such as ICCN, ERAIFT, national and provincial politico-administrative and technical staff, showed that challenges persist in effectively integrating evidence-based decision-making in policies and reforms and practices that mainstream this understanding including the valorisation of indigenous and traditional local knowledge. With the significant number of ongoing initiatives in the country promoting various models regarding IPLC stewardship of lands and biodiversity, evidence of what works and best practices to promote replication and sustainability are in short supply, poorly disseminated and inaccessible.

Within MEDD at national and decentralised levels, knowledge and monitoring systems on biodiversity and impacts of its interventions are predominantly sectoral and project-specific, resulting in a lack of systematic information gathering, compilation, and dissemination. This fragmented approach prevents policymakers and stakeholders from accessing and utilising critical data for their decision making. Interviews with officials highlight severe resource and capacity constraints. In Tanganyika province, limited financial and human resources hamper comprehensive data collection, especially in conflict-affected and remote regions. Access to data platforms is significantly limited. The DDD within the MEDD, which oversees the three Rio Conventions (Climate Change, Desertification, and Biodiversity), is responsible for managing the Information Clearing House on Biodiversity (*Centre d'Information et d'Echange sur la Biodiversité*). This Centre is intended to host national biodiversity statistics and other knowledge resources accessible to decision-makers and stakeholders. However, it is currently non-functional due to significant gaps in human resources and the absence of adequate infrastructure for data collection, storage, and management. National and local authorities, academics, researchers and civil society actors interviewed, have recognised the need for better knowledge management. To address these gaps, the MEDD reinstated the BioSE-RDC (*Biodiversité et Services Écosystémiques en RDC*) multistakeholder platform in February 2024<sup>[lxv]lxv</sup>. This platform is designed to foster collaboration between science, policy, and practice, informing decision-making on biodiversity, ecosystem services, and related issues. However, it is still in its early stages and requires operational support to deliver on its mandate effectively, including contributing to the production of the 7th National Biodiversity Report. To maximise the impact of these initiatives, it is essential to align the operations of the national biodiversity clearing house and the BioSE-RDC platform. Relatedly, the role of educational and training institutions is recognised in training young people, scientists and the labour force for government, private sector and civil society actors, however investments in environmental education at national and local levels continue to lag<sup>[lxvi]lxvi</sup>. These institutions provide unique opportunities for replication and sustainability through integration of best practices and knowledge to inform curricula, yet these are scarcely capitalized by development projects. Doing so would align with educational research evidence that calls for curricula to address emerging societal needs and promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems<sup>[lxvii]lxvii</sup>. Unfortunately, these are insufficiently addressed in university and professional programs as identified during interviews with ERAIFT, INPP and University of Kalemie. Focus group discussions with leadership and lecturers identified that curricula often prioritise theoretical knowledge over practical skills and functional skills, which are required for successful working experiences<sup>[lxviii]lxviii</sup>. There is limited integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge in curricula<sup>[lxix]lxix</sup>. At local levels, the lack of environmental awareness and low education levels and a failure to integrate the importance of ecosystems into school curricula perpetuate unsustainable practices.

**Benefits**

12. The project demonstrates a high potential to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) by fostering IPLC stewardship of lands and sustainable management of biodiversity. By empowering IPLCs to safeguard biodiversity on their ancestral lands, the

project contributes to mitigating biodiversity loss, enhancing ecosystem resilience, and promoting sustainable practices<sup>[xxx]lxx</sup>. Specifically, the project aims to achieve outcomes such as effective community-based biodiversity conservation, strengthening IPLCs' capacities, enhancing institutional support, and improving the regulatory framework. These outcomes align with the Global Biodiversity Framework's Results Indicators, including those related to biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. The successful models generated through the two pilot territories will serve as a blueprint for further development and expansion of IPLC stewardship of lands and biodiversity in the country and beyond. The project supports the MEDD at national level and allied decentralized structures in the provinces and territories. It supports the implementation of the NBSAP in alignment with the KMGBF objectives and targets and aligns to the Development Program for the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples of the DRC, the DRC Community Forestry Action Plan, and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Moreover, the project aligns with the COMIFAC Convergence Plan and considers the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Its implementation contributes to achieving various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, the project is designed to enhance policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society to ensure effective implementation of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management initiatives. It is in line with the national development plan, pillar V<sup>[xxx]lxxi</sup> and sectoral priority E.3 on environmental protection and nature conservation.

13. The project aims to promote a high level of policy coherence and coordination across various stakeholders, including government agencies, IPLCs, local NGOs, and women's associations at local, provincial and national levels. It embraces a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Through the establishment of a dedicated Project Management Unit and a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, strengthening the operational capacities of ANAPAC, BioSe-DRC, the national biodiversity information systems, the project seeks to facilitate collaboration and coordination among different sectors involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. By fostering inclusive decision-making processes and stakeholder engagement, the project aims to ensure that IPLCs' voices are heard, and their perspectives are integrated into policy and planning processes. It will work with local private sector actors in setting up community nurseries, facilitating access to productive resources for the development of viable sustainable enterprises for IPs. The project will actively engage with and provide support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) throughout its lifecycle. IPLCs have been involved in project preparation, contributing to problem analysis, and will be engaged to propose solutions, and approve action plans. Special attention will be given to empowering Indigenous women, who play vital roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management efforts. By ensuring the meaningful participation of IPLCs in decision-making processes and project activities, the project aims to enhance their capacity to lead conservation initiatives and derive sustainable livelihoods on their ancestral lands and life territories. To ensure replicability and sustainability, the project will support mainstreaming of best practices into academic curricula within the University of Kalemie and the National Institute for Professional Development (INPP).

#### **Baseline, ongoing investments and lessons learned**

14. This project builds on GEF and non GEF investments in the DRC and Tanganyika province more specifically through synergies, lesson learning and experience sharing (see more details on ongoing projects in section **C.1. Institutional Arrangement and coordination with other initiatives and projects**). The provincial government has expressed its commitment for this project and considers biodiversity conservation and the development of ecosystem services as a key pillar of the Development Plan for the Province of Tanganyika (PDP 2018-2022). This plan promotes the application of ecological practices, with an emphasis on sustainable fisheries and forestry, and land use planning.

15. The GBF-EAS project (GEF ID 10945), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNEP, supports early activities to accelerate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. In Tanganyika, this project is expected to benefit ongoing conservation efforts by leveraging previously conducted stakeholder mapping and creating synergies for revising the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This will strengthen coordination with local initiatives and ensure alignment with national biodiversity goals.

16. UNDP's Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management project, implemented from 2021 to 2026 with GEF funding (GEFID 10242), focuses on strengthening landscape and biodiversity management, reducing poaching, and improving local livelihoods. By enhancing protected area management and institutional capacity, this project contributes to broader conservation objectives in Tanganyika. The project's experiences in landscape governance and sustainable development will be useful for promoting effective biodiversity conservation in the province.

17. Building on its leadership role in the Inclusive Conservation Initiative (GEF ID 10404), ANAPAC brings substantial field experience in supporting Indigenous and Local Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs/APACs). This includes a current initiative with Rainforest Foundation Norway, that focuses on strengthening indigenous and local community-conserved areas for biodiversity maintenance and ecosystem protection. By leveraging ANAPAC’s expertise and lessons from ANAPAC’s national ICCA network, the project will facilitate peer learning among IPLCs through exchange visits and technical assistance, contributing to long-term conservation outcomes. Such lessons have already informed this project’s design and will continue to shape its implementation.

18. The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) implements the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management Programme in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and ICCN. The programme focuses on sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, and improving livelihoods for local communities. In Tanganyika, GIZ’s efforts to support APACs and conduct studies on Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) directly benefit ongoing initiatives by promoting rights-based approaches and sustainable resource management. Additionally, GIZ’s partnership with IUCN to develop a 30x30 strategy aligns with the province’s goals of expanding conservation coverage and enhancing ecosystem services<sup>[xxii]xxii</sup>.

19. In partnership with the Congolese government, WCS launched a planning project to develop the 30x30 strategy to achieve the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target. This strategy aims to maximize biodiversity conservation while promoting climate change adaptation and inclusive development for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The planning process directly supports provincial efforts by aligning local conservation actions with national and international biodiversity commitments, ensuring co-benefits for biodiversity and community development. IUCN, supported by GIZ, is implementing the 30x30 project, which serves as a catalyst for inclusive biodiversity conservation beyond protected areas. The project collaborates with ANAPAC and MEDD to develop a strategy for conservation outside protected areas. Preparatory meetings have been held, and a launch workshop is planned for April 2024. This initiative supports the province by fostering collaboration with local stakeholders and enhancing conservation efforts in community-managed landscapes.

20. FAO holds a strong comparative advantage in community-based conservation, sustainable natural resource management, and inclusive livelihoods, especially in fragile, biodiversity-rich contexts like the DRC. Regionally, it co-led the Brazzaville Roadmap on Participatory Forestry (2018<sup>[xxiii]xxiii</sup>), promoting decentralized governance, IPLC rights, and benefit-sharing—principles embedded in this project’s co-management model. In the DRC, FAO has been instrumental in shaping the Community Forestry Programme, supporting the “Project for the Development and Implementation of Community Forestry,” which laid the foundation for the national programme on forestry and biodiversity (PNEFEB). FAO also pioneered efforts to integrate sustainable wildlife management and restoration into community forestry especially through GEF projects such as the ‘bushmeat’ project in central Africa (GCP/RAF/455/GFF), GEF ID 9515, and ID 5545. As co-lead of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, FAO champions inclusive, science-based, and IPLC-led restoration. The present project directly contributes to these goals by linking restoration to sustainable land use and strengthening local capacity. FAO is also supporting GEF-funded community-based SFM projects across Africa, fostering exchange of best practices relevant to this initiative.

21. In Tanganyika, FAO implements the Resilience and Nutrition in the Great Lakes Region (RENUGL) project (GAFSP-funded)<sup>[xxiv]xxiv</sup>, which promotes social cohesion, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and resilient livelihoods—creating an enabling environment for integrated landscape management. It also partners with local actors to improve food security and sustainable farming. Since 2017, FAO leads the EU-funded Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme with WCS, CIFOR-ICRAF, and CIRAD. In the DRC, this programme supports MEDD, advancing participatory legal frameworks for community-based wildlife conservation and sustainable wild meat production and consumption. This project will build on those tools under Component 1 and apply lessons from SWM field experiences in Ituri and Central Africa, particularly those tailored to IPLC needs, under Component 2. Its livelihood strategy draws on FAO’s Market Analysis and Development (Ma&D) approach, linking biodiversity-friendly production to market demand. This is complemented by FAO’s global tools—Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), the Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox, and the TRI/Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)—that guide interventions on tenure, restoration, and value chain development. FAO’s FPIC protocols and conflict-sensitive tools underpin engagement and safeguards. These integrated approaches, tested in DRC through the SWM Programme and GEF projects such as ID 5545 and ID 9515, are fully embedded in this project’s design to ensure effective, community-led, and sustainable conservation outcomes.

22. Local NGOs, including PACT-Congo, AIDES, and VINMART, have been instrumental in supporting Twa and Bantu communities through training in honey production and sustainable agriculture. These efforts have improved livelihoods and fostered collaboration between the two communities. The training and support provided by these organizations have helped shape livelihood



support options for the current project by addressing the specific needs of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities separately<sup>[lxxv]lxxv</sup>.

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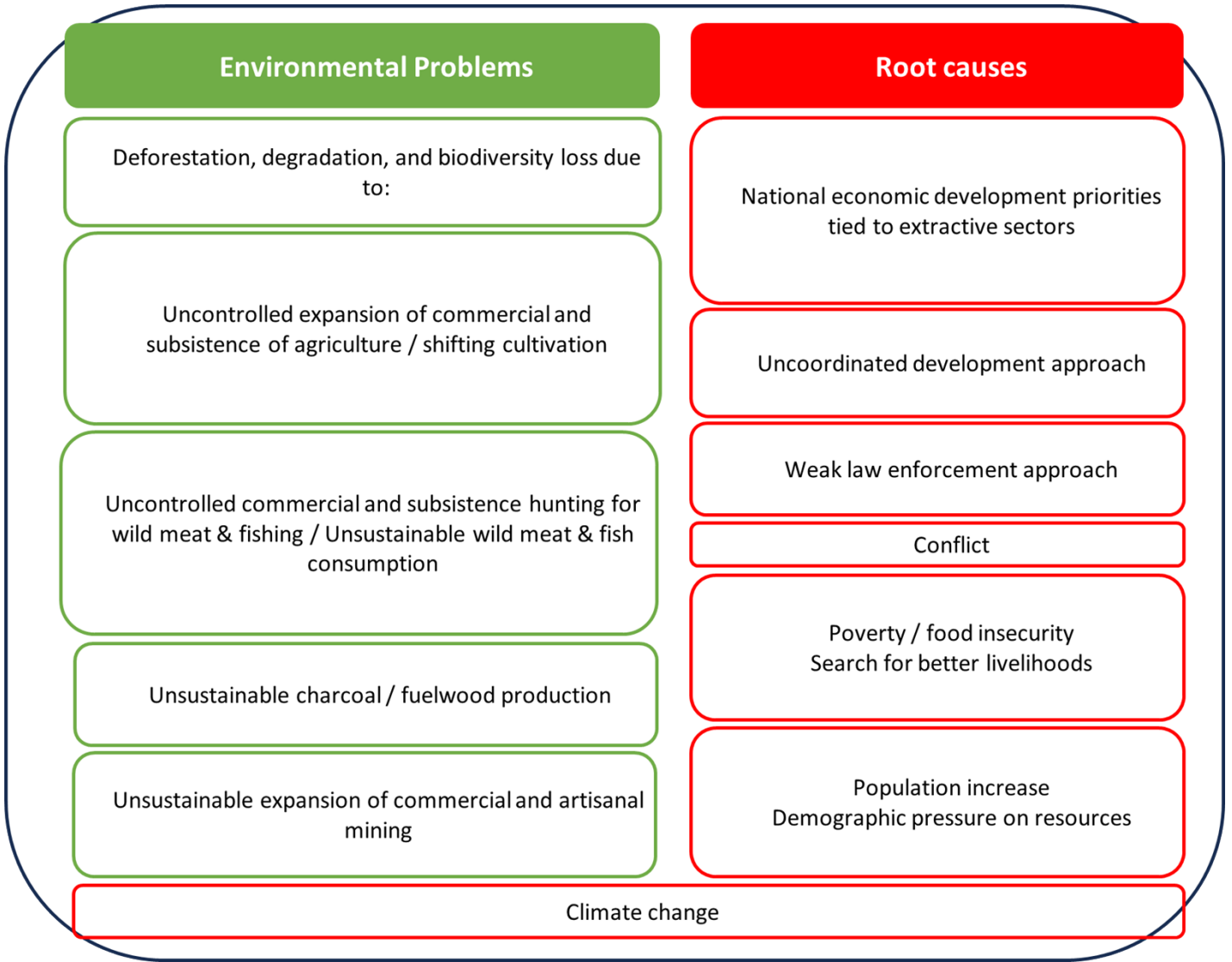
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## C. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section E). This section should be a cohesive narrative and not separate responses to the guiding questions in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages).

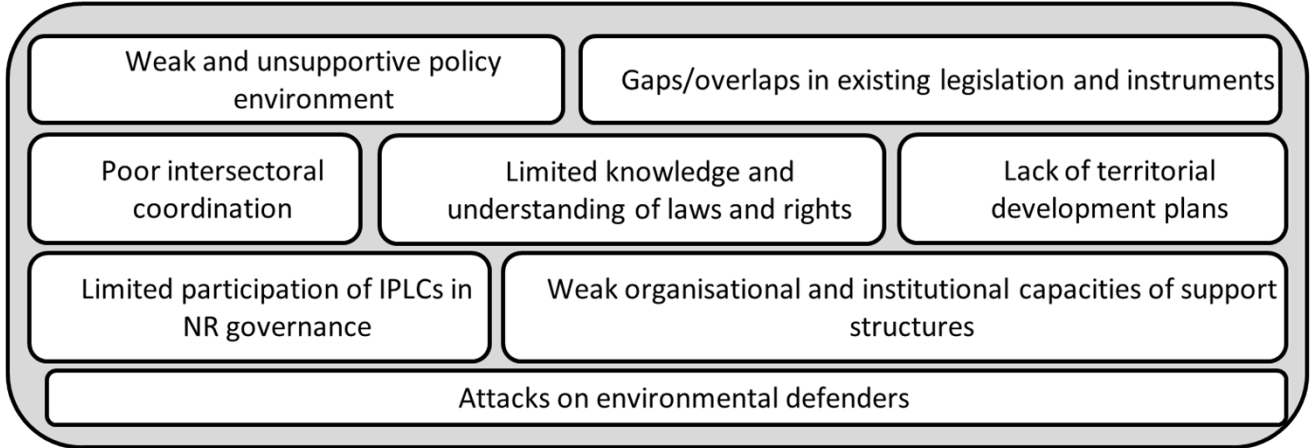
### Theory of change

Based on the situation analysis outlined in Section B, the following theory of change has been developed. It summarizes the logic behind the interventions designed to address the key barriers driving the targeted biodiversity issues, the project components, and the project results framework (outputs, outcomes, and impact). This Theory of Change ensures that interventions not only enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, but also address power imbalances, promote gender equity, and uphold the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). It integrates conflict-sensitive strategies to mitigate governance and resource-related tensions—foundational for fostering environmental stewardship and supporting community-based natural resource management—while embedding a gender-responsive and rights-based approach to promote equitable participation and benefit-sharing.

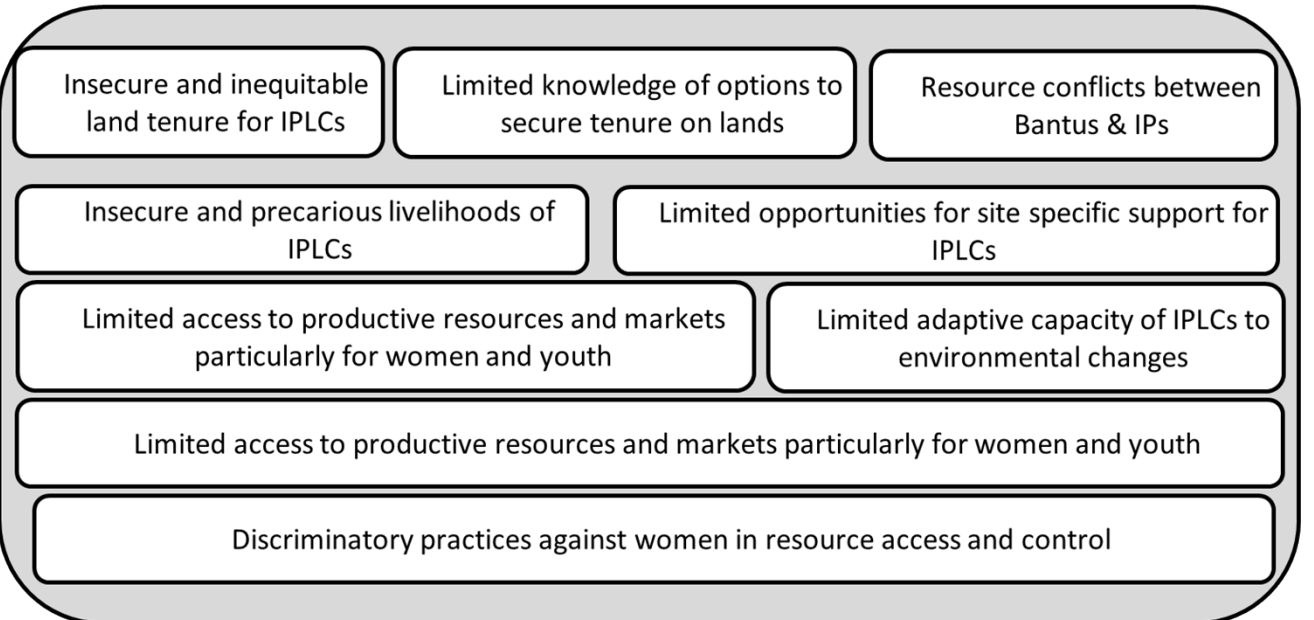


## Barriers

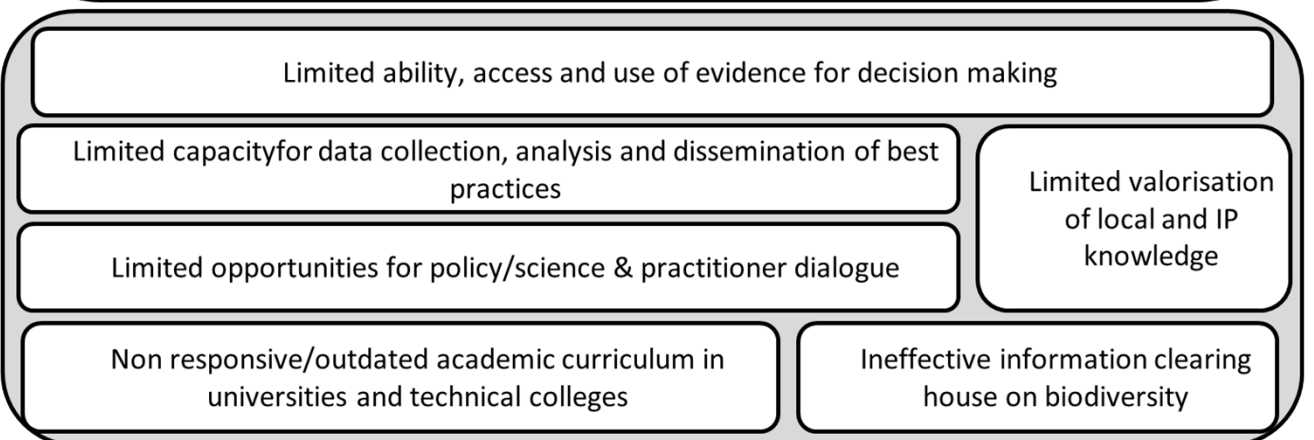
### Causal Pathway 1



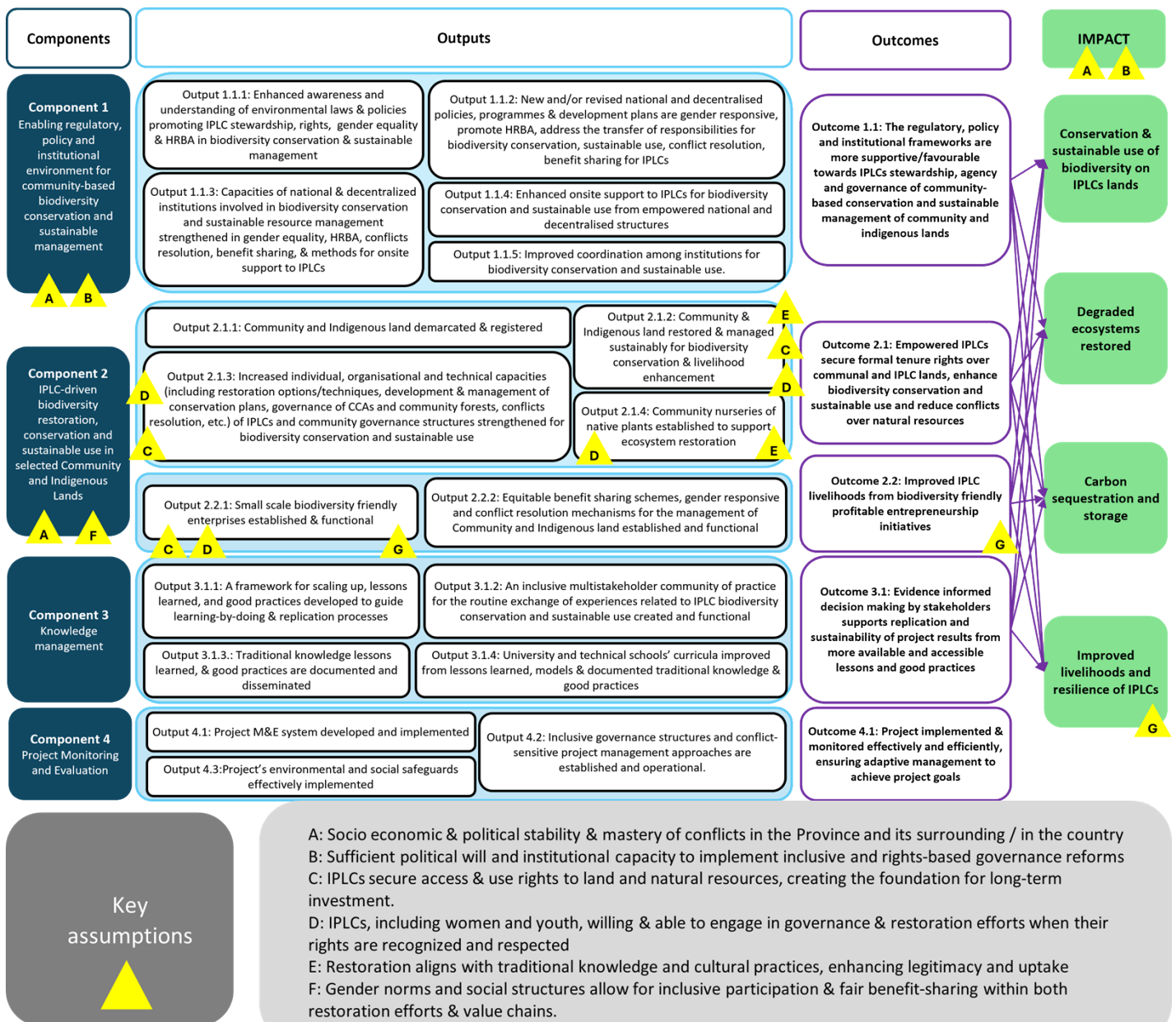
### Causal Pathway 2



### Causal Pathway 3







The project logic of intervention is structured around four components that reflect main causal pathways:

**Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management**

**IF national and decentralized policies, programmes, and legal frameworks are strengthened to recognize and uphold IPLC rights, integrate biodiversity conservation priorities, foster collective stewardship, and ensure transparent intersectoral coordination,**

**AND governance structures incorporate conflict-resolution mechanisms, gender-responsive decision-making, and equitable representation of IPLCs, including women and marginalized groups,**

**THEN IPLCs will have greater legal recognition, agency, equitable participation, and access to decision-making spaces, leading to improved governance, reduced conflicts over land and resources, and sustainable biodiversity management.**

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## **Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected Community and Indigenous Lands**

**IF IPLCs, including women and marginalized groups are provided with the technical, and legal support necessary to manage and restore land sustainably,**

**AND restoration and conservation efforts foster collective environmental stewardship by promoting shared responsibility, inclusive governance, gender equity, and conflict-sensitive approaches that strengthen community cohesion,**

**AND IPLCs can manage and benefit equitably from sustainable and biodiversity-friendly value chains that generate sufficient incomes to incentivize the uptake of sustainable practices,**

**THEN IPLCs will adopt sustainable land management practices, leading to ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods, equitable access to benefits across genders and social groups, stronger social cohesion and reduced conflicts over natural resources.**

## **Component 3: Knowledge Management**

**IF biodiversity conservation best practices, governance lessons, and IPLC-driven conservation models leveraging both traditional and scientific knowledge are documented and shared through participatory and institutionalized platforms,**

**AND universities, technical institutions, and policymakers adopt gender-sensitive, rights-based curricula that validate and mainstream IPLC knowledge and promote IPLC-driven conservation models,**

**THEN key stakeholders (government institutions, IPLCs, conservation practitioners) will gain evidence-based knowledge and capacity to innovate, replicate and scale up sustainable biodiversity management models.**

## **Component 4: Inclusive governance**

**IF project governance structures embed rights-based principles, social and environmental safeguards, conflict-resolution mechanisms, and gender equity indicators,**

**AND a participatory monitoring and adaptive management system is in place,**

**THEN the project will remain inclusive, accountable, and effective over time, with strong local ownership and resilience to changing contexts.**

**The key underlying hypotheses of the theory of change include that:**

- **There is security and political stability in the country**
- **There is sufficient political will and institutional capacity to implement inclusive and rights-based governance reforms;**
- **IPLCs have secure access and use rights to land and natural resources, creating the foundation for long-term investment.**
- **IPLCs, including women and youth, are willing and able to engage in governance and restoration efforts when their rights are recognized and respected; and**



- Restoration aligns with traditional knowledge and cultural practices, enhancing legitimacy and uptake.
- Gender norms and social structures allow for inclusive participation and fair benefit-sharing within both restoration efforts and value chains.
- Enabling conditions and viable markets exist for sustainable value chains to generate meaningful income and support stewardship efforts.

The Theory of Change rests on the justification that the combination of rights-based, gender-responsive, and conflict-sensitive interventions across governance, restoration, knowledge management, and adaptive implementation is sufficient to achieve lasting impact. Strengthening inclusive governance and securing IPLCs' land and resource rights lay the institutional and legal foundations for meaningful participation and ownership. When this is paired with restoration efforts that foster collective environmental stewardship and integrate traditional knowledge, conflict resolution, and gender equity, communities are more likely to adopt and sustain biodiversity-friendly land management practices. Crucially, when IPLCs are supported to engage in sustainable and biodiversity-friendly value chains that provide meaningful financial returns, they gain tangible incentives to maintain and scale these practices. Knowledge sharing and capacity building reinforce these efforts, while participatory monitoring and safeguards ensure accountability, learning, and local ownership. Together, these pathways lead to the conservation and sustainable use of 150,000 hectares of IPLC lands, restoration of 14,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems, improved livelihoods and resilience for 10,000 IPLC members, increased carbon sequestration, reduced resource-based conflicts, and greater gender equity—demonstrating that the proposed interventions are both necessary and sufficient to deliver transformative and sustainable outcomes.

## Project aims

The objective of the project is to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in Community and Indigenous Land of the DRC, supporting the recovery of degraded ecosystems, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resilience, and people's livelihoods. Specifically, the project supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in actively fostering environmental stewardship, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and restoring and sustainably using forests and ecosystem services to improve their livelihoods. The project, while primarily focusing on pilot areas in Nyunzu and Kabalo territories in Tanganyika province, will yield national and global environmental benefits. To address the barriers and threats identified, the project's logic of intervention is organized around four key components namely:

1. Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management
2. Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected Community and Indigenous Lands
3. Component 3: Knowledge Management
4. Component 4: Inclusive governance

**Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management**

*Outcome 1.1: The regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks are more supportive/favourable towards IPLCs stewardship and governance of community-based conservation and sustainable management of Community land Indigenous Lands*

This outcome seeks to secure improvements and effectiveness of the regulatory, political, and institutional framework promoting IPLC management of biodiversity and delegating rights to communities over their territories. This requires strengthening the intersectoral coordination framework for various sectors impacting the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and enhancement of capacities within forestry, other decentralized institutions and IP organisations and networks responsible for supporting IPLCs in community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. All institutional strengthening activities will integrate gender perspectives, with a focus on promoting women's leadership in governance structures, including through the Women Powerhouse approach developed by FAO and partners. . In Tanganyika, we target at least 350,000 ha of community and Indigenous lands which can provisionally be set aside in territorial development plans to support large scale sustainable management and biodiversity conservation efforts in the future.

***Output 1.1 Enhanced awareness and understanding of environmental legal (texts and policies) and customary laws and practices promoting IPLC stewardship, rights, gender equality, and HRBA for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management.***

The project will do the inventory of formal legal frameworks and customary laws and practices that are supportive of IPLC stewardship, conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing, resulting in a simplified compendium that can be utilised not only in the target province and territories, but also across other provinces of the country. Toolboxes and visual aids in local languages will be produced from this compendium of legal and customary laws, and distributed to authorities, women's organisations, youth groups, IPLs, and vulnerable communities to enhance advocacy and participation. Information, outreach, and awareness campaigns including on local/community radio and media will familiarise stakeholders with legal and customary frameworks, which will ultimately support better application of laws and regulations. Additionally, targeted campaigns will be conducted to protect land and environmental defenders. The project community-focused outreach events organised in recognition of the seasonal movement patterns of IPs [\[i\]kxvi](#) by gender balanced groups of local trainers and facilitators will ensure that IPLCs receive this information in culturally accessible formats.

***Output.1.2: New and/or revised national and decentralised policies, regulations, and development plans are gender responsive, promote HRBA, address the transfer of responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, & benefit sharing for IPLCs***

The Tanganyika provincial development plan (2022-2028) recognises the natural environment's role in provincial development, but Nyunzu and Kabalo territories lack local resource management and development plans. Provincial, territorial, and customary authorities and IPLCs will be consulted on the development of sustainable land and biodiversity management as well as territorial development plans, ensuring that IPLCs and other stakeholders are actively involved in shaping these plans. These plans will identify, among the areas most ecologically suitable for restoration and sustainable land and natural resource management, at least 350,000 hectares of Community and Indigenous lands to be provisionally set aside for this purpose, in line with an out-scaling strategy to be developed from the project implementation start. This out-scaling strategy will help refine and scale subsequent capacity building efforts (outputs 1.3 & 1.4). The experience acquired will serve as a template for expansion to other provinces during development of provincial and territorial development plans. All other interventions of this project will be aligned with the implementation of these territorial development plans. At the national and provincial levels, ongoing policy, reform, and development processes relevant to IPLC stewardship will be monitored to identify gaps and opportunities where the project can contribute. Based on these observations, the project will provide inputs in the form of policy briefs, advocacy briefs, research outputs, draft texts, and documentation of lessons learned and best practices to inform and influence policy reforms and the development of new or revised plans to ensure they integrate HRBA, gender, and benefit sharing considerations, and transfer of responsibilities to IPLCs for improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use at provincial and national levels. Examples include contributions on forest and wildlife laws and regulations, production of application texts for the Indigenous Peoples Act 22/30 of 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2022 amongst others.

***Output.1.3: National and decentralised institutional capacities of services involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management strengthened on gender, HRBA, benefit sharing, approaches and methods of onsite support to IPLCs***

The project will update and validate capacity-building needs for provincial and territorial administrations, IPLC organisations, and networks, with a focus on youth and women-led groups. Based on these needs, a comprehensive capacity-building plan with tailored interventions will be developed. Training tools, incorporating local and traditional knowledge, will be co-created with stakeholders. Training programmes, delivered by external consultants and MEDD trainers, will enhance stakeholder skills in gender-sensitive governance, HRBA, benefit-sharing, sustainable management, legal frameworks, and IPLC stewardship. Joint training sessions will be organised to encourage collaboration among authorities, civil society, and communities. The project seeks to innovate through strengthening the organisational development for IPLC organisations and structures such as ANAPAC, and other local IP associations, enabling them to extend technical support to their territorial counterparts with guidance from decentralized administrations. By producing and delivering a targeted capacity building plan for IP led CSOs will address priority needs confirmed by other studies<sup>[ii]</sup><sup>[xxvii]</sup>, while further enhancing their ability to represent their communities and hold institutions accountable. The 'training of trainers' model will be employed to ensure sustainability, engaging PA trainers and IPLC leaders as facilitators to incorporate traditional and local knowledge. This peer-led approach will foster community buy-in and facilitate the integration of local contexts into capacity strengthening, while ensuring a multiplier effect for the project at national level.

***Output 1.4: Enhanced onsite support to IPLCs for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use from empowered national and decentralised structures***

Effective government support to IPLCs requires systemic changes, genuine engagement, and shared responsibility with Indigenous communities<sup>[iii]</sup><sup>[xxviii]</sup>. To achieve Output 1.4, activities will focus on enhancing the capacity of national and decentralised structures to provide effective onsite support to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. A gender-responsive methodological guide will be developed, incorporating traditional and local knowledge, to standardise the provision of proximity support by provincial and territorial structures. Following this, targeted training sessions will be conducted for officials and IPLC support organisations to ensure proper application of the guidelines. Lastly, gender-responsive onsite missions will be organised to offer direct field support to IPLCs conservation, sustainable resource use, and community development. Lessons learned through application of the methodological guides by national and local authorities and IPLC organisations, will be utilised to refine the framework for its replication and application at national level.

***Output 1.5: Improved Intersectoral coordination of institutions relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use***

This output aims to enhance coordination among relevant sectoral actors. MEDD will consult stakeholders to establish or revitalise the provincial forestry advisory council in Kalemie that has a key role to play in driving implement biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the province. As a nexus province, the project will explore the possibility for IPLC stewardship and rights issues to be integrated in the agenda of humanitarian and development working group in the province as a partway to strengthening social cohesion and resilience. MEDD will also lead intersectoral meetings to monitor territorial development plans and, with sectoral ministries (Planning, Land Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development, Mines et), facilitate institutional arbitration for integrated natural resource governance and support the provincial land information system. Additionally, MEDD and the Ministry of the Interior and Customary Affairs will establish consultative commissions (CCRCC) in Kalemie, Nyunzu, and Kabalo that are required to resolve customary disputes. It is expected that these multiple pathways will enhance joint actions amongst stakeholders which promote IPLC stewardship of lands, biodiversity conservation, social cohesion and improved livelihoods. These local level actions will be completed by science policy and intersectoral dialogues convened by BioSE-DRC at national levels to inform national policy and reform processes.

**Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected Community and Indigenous Lands**

The component aims to collaboratively identify priorities and develop locally tailored restoration strategies with stakeholders using IUCN's ROAM approach to catalyse viable biodiversity friendly enterprises and sustainable livelihoods for 10,000 (50% men/50% women) households in Nyunzu and Kabalo Territories.

***Outcome 2.1: Empowered IPLCs secure formal tenure rights over their lands, enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use***

***Output 2.1.1. Community and Indigenous Land is demarcated and registered***

Output 2.1.1 aims to demarcate and register 150,000 hectares of Community and Indigenous Land within the 350,000 ha set aside in the Territorial development plan (Output 1.2) through a participatory and inclusive process. Awareness-raising and FPIC sessions will be organised for IPLCs in Kabalo and Nyunzu to inform them about the opportunities provided by the legislation to secure their rights and the opportunities available through the project to support them. In the absence of official data on the number of households residing in target territories, the project team estimated that a total of 3,757 IP households from 10 villages visited during the field mission (See Annex E for distribution). Communities will have to voluntarily commit to proceed with the process and to request project support. Only then will the project intervene. It is important to secure buy-in, understand the challenges, conflicts of interest and the governance requirements for securing tenure. The experience from a previously executed FAO-GEF Miombo project strongly recommends flexibility and adaptive management throughout the process, applying gender and conflict sensitive approaches to ensure all actors are committed. Participatory mapping of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) will be conducted to facilitate their formal recognition. ANAPAC will support the demarcation and administrative recognition of identified ICCAs, while consultants will assist with multi-resource inventories and the development of simple management plans as needed. Further support will be provided to IPLCs in applying for and securing legal recognition of ICCAs as community forests or conservation concessions, ensuring compliance with FPIC principles. Relevant local governance structures will be established and strengthened for the sustainable management of these areas, with ongoing bespoke capacity-strengthening support provided to both formal and traditional governmental structures to enhance their management capabilities. Achievement of these objectives will provide the blueprint for upscaling community-based conservation models in the DRC in line with provisions of the conservation law (under revision) and the implementation of the revised national biodiversity strategy and plan (2026-2030).

***Output 2.1.2 14,000 ha of Community and Indigenous Land restored and managed sustainably for biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement***

The aim of this output is to deliver 14,000 ha of restored ecosystems in the two target territories. Annex E presents the maps and coordinates of potential areas (Kabalo – Kasinge; Mbuli, Lwela; Nyunzu – Kasongo, Muhuya, Katanga (sites Kifingile, Mitamba, Katanga), Milunga) and the deforestation hotspots. Restoration efforts will begin with participatory micro-zoning using the ROAM<sup>[iv]</sup> methodology, which identifies feasible restoration interventions, prioritises areas, quantifies costs and benefits, estimates carbon sequestration, addresses success factors, and analyses financing options. Following this process, priority restoration areas will then be selected to avoid conflicts with existing resource uses and permits such as mining permits. Key partners for implementation include DIAF, OSFAC/World Resources Institute, and FAO. Gender-responsive local restoration strategies and site-specific action plans will be developed for Nyunzu and Kabalo, aligned with sustainable resource and territorial development plans. Subject to confirmation following the ROAM process, restoration options will include reforestation, restocking/replacement of harvested stands in degraded forests, small plantation plots of fast-growing trees, protection and sustainable use of resources, fire prevention and management, natural assisted regeneration, agro-ecological practices etc. The application of FPIC and participatory processes adopted throughout the ROAM process will ensure that the choice of sites, options and species of plant/tree species will be collaboratively selected with communities. Decisions will aim to maximise biodiversity outcomes, while also delivering other environmental, climate and socio-economic benefits. At least 6,000 households will be directly involved in restoration interventions.

***Output 2.1.3 Increased individual, organisational and technical capacities (including restoration options/techniques)***

Capacity building and training contents will be developed based on the identified capacity gaps under 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 above. Representatives from government departments and IPLC-supporting organisations will be trained in restoration techniques. Existing farmer field schools and Dimitra clubs will be inventoried, assessed and reinforced, and new ones established to serve

as platforms for knowledge sharing and skill development. “How to” guides and visual materials in local languages will be produced to simplify and promote prioritised restoration techniques for IPLCs. Targeted capacity building sessions will be provided at identified sites and communities through the well-established Farmer Field Schools and Dimitra Clubs approaches deployed by the FAO in Kabalo and Nyunzu. These approaches have proven successful in strengthening community self-reliance, transforming social norms about gender equality, social cohesion, agricultural productivity and resilience to conflicts and shocks<sup>[v]</sup><sup>[xxx]</sup>. The project will benefit from and adapt relevant technical guides produced by the GEF funded restoration and Miombo community forest projects in the DRC.

***Output 2.1.4: Community nurseries of native plants are established to support ecosystem restoration***

Improving the livelihoods of the forest dependent communities through support to manage genetic resources and develop value chains for products has positive links with sustainable utilisation of the forest resources to ensure biodiversity conservation drawing on experience in Cameroon and Tanzania<sup>[vi]</sup><sup>[xxx]</sup>. Recognizing Indigenous plant-use histories in conservation efforts, such as reintroducing native tree species, can enhance biocultural restoration and mitigate the coextinction of species and cultures<sup>[vii]</sup><sup>[xxxii]</sup>. In fact, this approach can enhance biodiversity and cultural practices, fostering a more inclusive and effective conservation paradigm that benefits both ecosystems and indigenous communities<sup>[viii]</sup><sup>[xxxiii]</sup><sup>[ix]</sup><sup>[xxxiv]</sup>. Local stakeholders, including academics, customary leaders, traditional knowledge holders, women, and youth, will be consulted to identify priority native tree species in line with their preferences, but also considering the physiology, phenology, ecology and the ecosystem services that they provide – with priority on those that provide multiple benefits. As some of the species will be utilised for replanting/restocking of degraded forests, selection will be determined considering those which thrive in sunlight and those that can grow under shade to enhance their chances of survival. Gender sensitive awareness-raising sessions will be conducted with communities to ensure their support and involvement in selecting and cultivating indigenous species. For each pilot site and community, selected persons will be trained on grain harvesting/selection and nursery management. Community mechanisms for harvesting of grains/seeds will be collaboratively agreed per community, and nursery management plans agreed. Tree nurseries and propagators will be set up and managed, using a combination of collective and individual management, whereby groups and individuals are encouraged to pilot trees nurseries in their own plots as they see fit. A tree distribution and planting campaign will be organised, followed by regular monitoring of tree growth and management in restoration sites/plots to ensure long-term success. Individuals and groups interested to pursue tree nursery businesses will be screened and supported under outcome 2.2.1 to scale their activities, therefore ensuring sustainability.

***Outcome 2.2: Improved IPLC livelihoods from biodiversity friendly profitable entrepreneurship initiatives***

***Output 2.2.1: Biodiversity friendly enterprises, value chains and income generating activities established and functional***

Biodiversity-friendly enterprises are increasingly recognized as viable business models that can contribute to both ecological conservation and economic sustainability. These enterprises leverage biodiversity as a fundamental asset, integrating ecological considerations in their business strategies to enhance resilience and profitability<sup>[x]</sup><sup>[xxxv]</sup>. As this project targets IPLCs, women and young people with little entrepreneurship experience, it is important to ensure that the support to IPLC led enterprises draws on traditional knowledge systems<sup>[xi]</sup><sup>[xxxvi]</sup> and are directly linked to clearly identified biodiversity outcomes<sup>[xii]</sup><sup>[xxxvii]</sup>. This output will be implemented with active involvement from MEDD, the Congolese Agency for the Development of Entrepreneurship (in French - Agence Nationale de Développement de l'Entrepreneuriat au Congo (ANADEC) and contracted external business incubation support service providers at various stages. Recognising the low entrepreneurship baseline particularly amongst IPLC communities, significant financial resources have been allocated for coaching, mentoring and close support to communities. The project will apply the tested the Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach promoted by the FAO. This approach has proven highly successful in the community management of Miombo forests in the DRC, strengthening the income generating activities of IPLC communities. This approach is highly suitable in this context, as it recognises the limited levels of education and experience of IPLCs in operating viable income generating activities and businesses (individual or group). Consequently, the approach aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial capacities while equipping them to master the techniques that guarantee the sustainability of the forest resources used. It is an approach that puts learners at the centre of the training and prepares them to make better choices about which products to promote, which processing technologies to favour and how to allocate the income generated by the business, with the dual aim of guaranteeing the sustainability of the business and contributing to the socio-economic development of its members. The MA&D approach consists of four phases: phase 1, which analyses the existing



situation; phase 2, which selects the products to be promoted; phase 3, which prepares the business development plan (BDP); and phase 4, which focuses on supporting the start-up of the business. This project also draws on best practices documented by the FAO and CIRAD in the Congo Basin on the financial viability assessments of income generating activities in community forestry contexts<sup>[xiii]<sup>lxxxviii</sup></sup>. By combining the MA&D approach with the financial analysis tools, the project will ensure that only potentially viable initiatives are supported by the project. In addition, lessons from the SWM Programme in Ituri, including poverty graduation methods, will help tailor the support framework to varying IPLC capacities and aspirations.

FPIC and awareness-raising sessions will be organised to inform communities, women's and youth organisations, producers associations, cooperatives and others about the availability of support and criteria for selecting enterprises and value chains. The initiatives to be supported will respond to the desires expressed by local populations such as honey production, caterpillars and mushrooms during project development. Beekeeping is found to contribute to conservation<sup>[xiv]<sup>lxxxix</sup></sup>, is adapted to the traditional practices of the Twa<sup>[xv]<sup>xc</sup></sup>, and provides economic empowerment, while production of mushrooms and caterpillars respond to dietary needs of IPLCs. Food crops, market gardening, small livestock and fruit trees will be promoted as well as the commercialisation and transformation of promoted NTFPs. An IP vulnerability assessment study commissioned by the FAO in June 2024 in Tanganyika recommended the development of these initiatives, balancing the need for support to income generation as well as immediate food needs of IP communities who often do not have any food reserves. This study highlighted the potential strengths and weaknesses of various value chains, but also the opportunities for their enhancement<sup>[xvi]<sup>xc</sup></sup>.

Research shows that NTFPs in the DRC (around Kahuzi-Biega National Park) and Cameroon significantly contribute to household income (23.3%)<sup>[xvii]<sup>xcii</sup></sup>, and 33% respectively<sup>[xviii]<sup>xciii</sup></sup>. Priority will be accorded to IP women and youth led initiatives reaching at least 5000 households, with over 20% of the project budget allocated. At least 60 individual or group/associative microprojects will be capitalised. As mentioned above, the microprojects to be supported would have gone through the rigorous MA&D process. Once potentially viable enterprises are selected, targeted training, coaching, and technical guidance will be provided to develop and strengthen these businesses. The goal of these interventions is to support IPLC diversification and reduce direct dependence on natural resources. The evaluation of the FAO restoration initiative project (RGEM) in the DRC demonstrated that targeted support to IPLC communities and associations' microprojects including through Dimitra clubs had effectively increased incomes and viability. Youth groups reported how investment in tree nurseries and production of wood briquettes had enabled them to scale their businesses, securing new markets and funding from their interventions. In some IPLC communities, support to beekeeping was considered potentially viable but initiatives that required individual lands were less likely to scale due to small land sizes held by IPLCs.

A further key learning was the role of village savings and credit schemes in driving local led entrepreneurial/business spirit. The project will also strengthen village savings and credit associations, particularly because they tend to serve women and those marginalised from traditional financial services. These will be identified and assessed and capacitated by ANADEC, and commissioned service providers. In addition to providing coaching and mentoring support to selected schemes, ANADEC and service providers will develop simple guides for and tools for efficient and transparent management of community and savings schemes. Members of these institutions will be sensitised and trained on simple budgeting and book keeping, credit and loan management and governance amongst others. Members will be guided on how to keep records, which the project can also draw on to assess the impact of the supported interventions on household cashflows. In addition to supporting and capitalising village savings associations, the project will strengthen viable enterprises and value chain projects. Furthermore, at least 50 selected women, girls, young men, IPs and people with disabilities will be trained on various trades, including carpentry, sewing, soap-making, agricultural processing, and pastry-making, to enhance alternative livelihoods, resilience and economic prospects. This will be through local apprenticeships negotiated with local institutions and businesses. Upon completion, the project will provide initial startup support through the provision of equipment, materials and financial support. To boost sustainability and scalability/replication of these initiatives, the project team will additionally conduct outreach efforts to engage private sector actors and secure their support for local restoration and income generating activities ensuring sustainable market linkages. Performance monitoring of enterprises, value chains, savings and credit schemes, and trades will be conducted regularly to track progress, impact, and to document lessons for upscaling and replication. The support to these enterprises must be linked to the elaboration of a transparent, effective and equitable benefit sharing mechanism that can support community-based sustainable biodiversity management and conservation efforts<sup>[xix]<sup>xciv</sup></sup>. The project will explore linkages with emerging national mechanisms

such as the Green Corridor model, now recognized in the recently revised Nature Conservation Law (December 2024), which aims to support community-driven, biodiversity-positive economic activities in key ecological transition zones.

Finally, to ensure gender equity in livelihood benefits, the project will adopt targeted strategies to empower women economically and socially. Women will be organized into producer groups or cooperatives engaged in supported value chains. Tailored capacity-building will be delivered through safe spaces like Dimitra Clubs, focusing on business planning, financial literacy, and self-confidence building. Peer exchanges and mentoring by successful female leaders will help challenge stereotypes and foster local role models. Community dialogues involving men and traditional authorities will be facilitated to address gender norms and promote shared responsibility in natural resource management. The project will also promote women's representation and leadership in decision-making bodies and ensure access to microfinance or seed funding, linking women's groups to local market opportunities and service providers.

*Output 2.2.2: Equitable benefit sharing schemes and gender-responsive mechanism for management of Community and Indigenous Land established and functional*

The implementation of benefit-sharing mechanisms in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) presents significant opportunities for conservation and community engagement. These mechanisms can enhance local livelihoods while promoting sustainable practices, particularly in the context of ecosystem services and biodiversity conservation<sup>[xx]xv</sup>. The project will organize and support IPLCs for equitable benefit sharing, with a particular focus on empowering and involving women in decision-making committees for the management of Community and Indigenous Land. Inclusive governance can enhance benefit-sharing mechanisms by ensuring all stakeholders, particularly local community members, participate meaningfully in decision-making, thereby addressing power asymmetries, fostering legitimacy, and promoting accountability, which collectively contribute to resolving resource conflicts effectively<sup>[xxi]xvi</sup>. To achieve this, benefit-sharing rules in line with regulatory prescriptions under the community forestry regime or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) mechanism will be leveraged. The benefit sharing mechanism will be developed with a gender-sensitive approach to ensure all community members, including women, men, and youth, equitably benefit from the sustainable management of biodiversity resources. Local governance structures overseeing the management of ICCAs, community forest/conservation concessions will be gender inclusive and operate in line with benefit sharing guidelines and mechanisms developed by the project. Mechanisms for monitoring the benefits generated by community conservation initiatives will also be established. The project will support territorial authorities and customary chiefs to convene biannual meetings to review the state of implementation of the local sustainable natural resource management plans, the operation of the benefit sharing mechanisms as well as the related grievance mechanisms. It is expected overall that 10,000 households will benefit from direct involvement in the project and benefit sharing mechanisms, reaching at least 50,000 persons over 5 years.

The project team recognises the need for an exit strategy for community entrepreneurship and livelihoods options. From the onset, sustainability mechanisms will be embedded within local governance structures, ensuring that IPLC-led biodiversity restoration, conservation, and sustainable use initiatives continue beyond the project's lifespan. The formal demarcation and registration of Indigenous and Community Lands will provide a lasting legal foundation for IPLC land tenure security, enabling communities to assert their rights and manage their natural resources effectively. Strengthened local governance structures and capacity-building initiatives will empower IPLCs to take full ownership of land and biodiversity management efforts, ensuring compliance with national policies and legal frameworks.

The sustainability of restoration interventions will be secured through the integration of participatory restoration planning, capacity-building, and value chain development into existing community structures. The trained IPLC members, Farmer Field Schools, Dimitra Clubs, and other local organizations will continue to apply best practices in ecosystem restoration, leveraging the technical knowledge gained through the project as well as existing community assets as much as possible to foster ownership and the development of endogenous solutions and innovation. Ongoing collaboration with government agencies, research institutions, and private sector actors will facilitate access to resources, markets, and technical expertise, ensuring the viability of biodiversity-friendly enterprises. Additionally, established community nurseries will serve as long-term sources of native species, supporting continued ecosystem restoration efforts.

To enhance economic resilience and community ownership, the project's biodiversity-friendly enterprises, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and village savings and credit associations will be strengthened for long-term impact. The Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) approach will enable IPLCs to sustain profitable enterprises linked to biodiversity conservation, ensuring financial viability and reducing reliance on unsustainable resource extraction. Partnerships with local and national institutions will provide ongoing business incubation support, and the engagement of private sector actors will create sustainable market linkages. By institutionalizing benefit-sharing mechanisms and ensuring equitable governance, the project will leave behind a self-sustaining model for community-based conservation and livelihoods, scalable for broader application in the DRC.

### Component 3: Knowledge management

The key aim of Component 3 is to generate lessons from the pilot project that can be scaled up at the national level. This involves documenting and disseminating best practices, fostering experiential learning through communities of practice, and facilitating stakeholder exchanges to promote community-based biodiversity conservation. Insights and successful approaches will be integrated into educational curricula and used to influence policy reforms at national and provincial levels.

*Outcome 3.1: Evidence informed decision-making supports replication and sustainability of project results thanks to improved availability and accessibility of lessons and good practices*

*Output 3.1.1: Lessons learned, and good practices documented and disseminated*

The planned activities aim to document and share lessons learned from the project while enhancing community engagement, visibility, and collaboration in biodiversity conservation. Lessons and good practices will be documented and disseminated nationally, aligning with established guidelines. The project will also contribute lessons to regional platforms such as REPALEAC to support broader policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the advancement of the Regional IPLC Strategy for the Congo Basin. MEDD, customary leaders, and IPLCs will be supported to participate in key regional events (e.g CAFI, COMIFAC, CBFP) to share project experiences and foster regional collaboration. Side events at national biodiversity-related forums will be organised to boost the project's visibility. Annual gender-responsive exchange visits will facilitate knowledge-sharing among IPLC communities on emerging best practices, while social cohesion activities such as cultural fairs and recreational events will strengthen community ties. Institutional roundtables will gather community leaders, women's and youth organisations, and indigenous groups to discuss gender-sensitive conservation strategies. Finally, annual lesson-learning events at provincial and national levels will be held to share key insights and promote collaboration with similar projects across the country. Good practices will be disseminated through national and international media, including community and local radio stations, MEDD information clearing house portal, as well as relevant blogs, social media forums, etc. Direct linkages will be established with the management teams from other GEF and non GEF projects in DRC that are operating under similar circumstances such as UNDP, WWF, ICCN and WCS to exchange experiences. Other online conferences and webinars will also be explored to maximise messaging on the gains and good practices from the project. The project will produce an annual publication of key lessons, which will be compiled at the end of the project and disseminated drawing on the experience of the Community Management of Miombo forests<sup>[xxii]<sup>xvii</sup> to facilitate uptake and replication of best practices. This will include the annual documentation and dissemination of good practices on gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the project's dual strategy of gender mainstreaming and targeted action.</sup>

*Output 3.1.2. A framework for scaling up lessons learned and good practices developed to guide the learning-by-doing and replication processes*

This output focuses on creating a structured framework to support the identification, documentation, and replication of effective practices in the DRC, which is identified as a key barrier to scaling development innovations<sup>[xxiii]<sup>xviii</sup>. To achieve this, a systematic analysis of existing best practices and lessons learned in IPLC-led stewardship of lands, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the DRC will be conducted. Parallely, the information needs of policymakers and governance structures at</sup>



national, provincial, and territorial levels will be assessed. Armed with this analysis, a guide will be produced and validated providing guidance to the project team and stakeholders regarding the project's approach, and plans for documentation, sharing and up-scaling of project lessons.

***Output 3.1.3: An inclusive multistakeholder community of practice (CoP) for the routine exchange of experiences related to IPLC biodiversity conservation and sustainable use created and functional***

The project will establish a collaborative platform for stakeholders involved in IPLC land stewardship, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use to exchange and share best practices at national and provincial levels. The CoP at provincial level will be facilitated by targeted universities and training institutions supported by the project, through agreed terms of reference. This provincial community of practice will enable local stakeholders and experts to engage in an interactive dialogue on the sustainable management of lands, biodiversity and sustainable use by IPLCs, through face-to-face meetings but also through social media groups (Whatsapp, Facebook, etc) drawing on recent experience from the FAO-GEF Miombo community forest project. In addition to knowledge sharing, this community of practice will also serve as an observatory to monitor and report on the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the province and territories, providing necessary evidence to decision makers for policy making and improved practices. This CoP will be linked to the national level, through the Bio-SE platform, instituted by the MEDD to support evidence-based decision-making and facilitate science-policy interactions. Bio-SE will be empowered institutionally and operationally to play this role. Evidence-based research and targeted policy dialogues in Kinshasa and Kalemie linked to the CoP will further foster collaboration and informed decision-making at both national and provincial levels. Furthermore, MEDD's Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) will be empowered to play its role effectively. This will include equipment support, development of an online platform for efficient data sharing on biodiversity and management. Targeted training and ongoing coaching will ensure the CHM's sustainability, while an institutional mechanism will channel research and data from NGOs, academics, and think tanks. By integrating diverse information sources, the CHM will act as a central hub for data-driven decision-making and policy development, facilitate the production of national biodiversity reports, while fostering a well-connected community of practice for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management. Women and women's groups will be systematically included in the Communities of Practice to ensure their leadership and knowledge are reflected in scaling up processes.

***Output 3.1.4: University and technical school's curricula improved thanks to documented lessons learned, models and good practices***

This output aims to improve university and technical school curricula by integrating lessons learned, models, and best practices from the project, with a strong emphasis on educating a new generation of practitioners and renewing critical capacities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management nationally. The revision process will prioritise the inclusion of key approaches such as Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA), safeguards, and Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), addressing current capacity gaps in these areas. In collaboration with MEDD, the University of Lubumbashi, Kisangani, and ERAIFT, capacity-building needs and existing teaching modules at the University of Kalemie, INPP, and ISDR Kalemie will be reviewed and updated. The institutional linkages between these training institutions are expected to enhance future collaboration, learning ensuring the sustainability of this project. An inclusive workshop will be organised to develop a detailed plan for curriculum revision, ensuring that academic content is aligned with real-world conservation challenges and community engagement. Revised modules will focus on equipping students with practical skills in applying HRBA, implementing safeguards, and fostering inclusive, community-driven resource management. As already mentioned, supported universities will be supported to facilitate a community of practice in collaboration with the project team for knowledge exchange and sharing, while contributing to enrich curriculum with traditional knowledge and local perspectives. To further strengthen practical learning, the project will support student research projects aligned with project objectives. The implementation of the revised curriculum will be monitored to ensure application of learning acquired by target universities. The project management unit and MEL experts will oversee these efforts, ensuring they are widely disseminated and adopted across participating institutions.

## Component 4: Inclusive Governance

### *Outcome 4.1: Demonstration sites are governed in an inclusive fashion*

#### *Output 4.1: Inclusive project governance and management structures established and operational*

Under Output 4.1, activities focus on establishing and operationalising inclusive governance structures for the project. Key steps include assigning or recruiting members of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and providing orientation on their roles and responsibilities to ensure effective management at national and provincial levels. The dedicated PMU will be established within the DDD to handle day-to-day operations, ensuring efficient coordination, relevant expertise sourcing and effective backstopping, resource allocation, and timely execution of activities. It will oversee planning and monitoring meetings to track progress, review performance, and adjust strategies as needed to meet project objectives. In addition to the PMU at national level, there will be a counterpart unit within the provincial coordination of environment in Kalemie, that will oversee implementation at provincial and territorial levels. The full description of the institutional arrangements, roles and responsibilities is found under section B1. National and local-level inception workshops will be organised to engage national, provincial and territorial stakeholders, introduce the project objectives, and build consensus. The SG of MEDD will establish and chair an inclusive (including participation of IPLCs, women and IP organisations) project steering committee to provide oversight and strategic guidance. Annual steering committee meetings will be organised in Kalemie to review progress, address challenges, and ensure the alignment of project activities with its goals. Partners from other relevant GEF projects operating in Tanganyika or neighbouring provinces (GEFID 10242, GEFID 10314, GEFID10388) and other projects contributing to promote community-based conservation) will be invited to contribute to those meetings to foster experience sharing and synergies, including regarding strategic partnerships and capacity building needs that can ensure smooth project implementation and economies of scale. At local levels, the project builds on FPIC, effective engagement and participation of local and indigenous community governance structures in Nyunzu and Kabalo territories<sup>[xxiv]<sup>xcix</sup></sup> to enhance participation in project decision making. interventions that undermine traditional knowledge and leadership structures and promote practices that alienate communities are most likely to fail<sup>[xxv]<sup>c</sup>[xxvi]<sup>ci</sup></sup>. Finally, the project will apply a gender-transformative approach to ensure that women represent at least 50% of direct beneficiaries across all components. A gender parity monitoring sheet will be used to track participation across all intervention zones, and gender-sensitive activities will be documented and shared biannually.

#### *Output 4.2: Project's environmental and social safeguards effectively implemented*

Under Output 4.2, activities ensure the effective implementation of the project's environmental and social safeguards. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) consultations will be conducted to develop a participatory Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), ensuring that the rights, needs, and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples are fully integrated into the project. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be carried out, alongside the development of an Environmental and Social Safeguards Management Plan (ESMP), to address potential risks and outline mitigation measures. Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the IPP, ESIA, and ESMP will ensure adherence to safeguard standards, enabling the project to achieve its objectives in an inclusive and socially responsible manner. See further details under Annex F.

## Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

### *Outcome 4.1: Project monitored effectively and efficiently, ensuring adaptive management to achieve project goals*

#### *Output 4.1: Project M&E system developed and implemented*

Participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning is very vital for the successful governance and delivery of this project. The M&E system should function as an accessible repository for data and information, as well as the outputs created from that data. The M&E system will regularly track the achievement of project milestones and outputs, providing ongoing feedback to inform adaptive management decisions. This dual-purpose system will support both project delivery and oversight while also producing materials to facilitate knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and with external audiences in line with output 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.4. By linking knowledge management, communication, and M&E, the project establishes a dynamic learning environment that not only supports local stakeholders but also contributes to the global discourse on IPLC-led biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. This approach secures the durability of project results, facilitates replication, and drives broader adoption of successful models beyond the project's immediate scope. The M&E system will also include gender-specific indicators

and track results outlined in the Gender Action Plan. Progress on gender outcomes will be reported biannually and assessed during the Mid-Term and Terminal Evaluations. Finally, in light of the fragility and volatility of the security context in the project area—including inter-ethnic tensions, armed conflict in neighbouring provinces, and gender-based violence—specific measures have been integrated into the monitoring and evaluation system to enhance both proactivity and responsiveness. This includes a direct linkage with the grievance redress mechanism, which has been reinforced to handle conflict-related and gender-based incidents swiftly and safely. In addition, a dedicated biannual implementation review meeting between FAO and OP partner teams and periodic field monitoring missions will focus specifically on addressing operational challenges and ensuring timely adaptation to evolving security and conflict dynamics on the ground. Details of the MEL plan and routines are further developed under Annex G.

## Stakeholder engagement

The project will collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society, indigenous peoples and local communities, IP organisations and networks, NGOs, and academic and research institutions. The goal is to enhance collective capacities for IPLC stewardship of lands, biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods while delivering both local and global environmental benefits. A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, detailed in Annex K will guide engagement efforts throughout the project’s duration. This plan also informed the social and environmental safeguards assessments outlined in Annexes F and the gender action plan highlighted in Annex L. A summary of key stakeholders, their interests and role and benefits derived from the project is provided in Table below.

Stakeholder Group	Role in Project Implementation	Contribution to Global and Adaptation Benefits	Co-Benefits
<b>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)</b>	Act as lead executing agency responsible for coordinating and overseeing operations for project implementation (hosting the PMU).  Establishes enabling regulatory and institutional frameworks. Oversees intersectoral coordination and integration of IPLC Stewardship into national policies and plans. Support long term ownership and replication of best practices. Promotes nature conservation activities within the framework of the Project and Facilitates the creation and/or revitalisation of entities established by legislation/regulations	Ensures alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Strengthens national capacity community-based conservation and sustainable use.	Strengthened institutional capacity for long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable management. Enhanced ability to align with global and biodiversity commitments.
<b>Provincial and Local sectoral Government agencies (environment, agriculture, rural development, land,</b>	Implement project activities at provincial and territorial levels, including capacity strengthening, ecosystem restoration, land demarcation, and support for community-based conservation and enterprises for IPLC livelihoods	Oversee implementation of community biodiversity and IPLC management of lands and biodiversity in the territories, provide tailored support to IPLCs and enhance decentralised	Enhanced capacity to deliver site-specific support for biodiversity, land management and livelihoods. Strengthened resilience of ecosystems and local communities to

<b>customary affairs, gender, mining etc)</b>	improvements and benefit sharing. Participate in project governance structures, MEL and replication of experiences and integration in provincial policies, programmes and investment plans	governance for biodiversity management.	climate challenges. Enhanced social cohesion in the province and territories.
<b>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)</b>	Implement community-based conservation, restoration, and sustainable use activities. Actively participate in governance structures, equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, and co-development of biodiversity and land management plans.	Promote traditional knowledge integration into biodiversity strategies, enhance stewardship of community lands, and ensure equitable access to conservation benefits. Reduced deforestation degradation, biodiversity loss	Improved empowerment of women, men and youth from IP communities, livelihoods enhanced through access to sustainable resources and benefit-sharing schemes. Strengthened land tenure security and empowerment through capacity-building and governance roles.
<b>Customary chiefs, leaders and representatives</b>	Contribute to the design and oversight of activities in their territories and villages. Take part in governance structures, monitor progress and support delivery of benefit sharing and complaints and redress mechanisms. Guide development of CFCLs, and ICCAs in communities. Facilitate experience sharing between communities	Promote traditional knowledge integration into biodiversity strategies, enhance stewardship of community lands, and ensure equitable access to conservation benefits. Strengthen social cohesion, conflict resolution and promotion of conservation positive customary laws and practices.	Strengthened capacity to govern their lands, biodiversity and emerging benefits. Better social cohesion in communities and socio-economic empowerment in target communities.
<b>ANAPAC, REPALEF and other IP associations at national level</b>  <b>REPALEAC at subregional level</b>	Advocate for IPLC rights and support the implementation of community forest concessions and ICCAs. Build capacity for IPLCs in land governance, conservation, livelihoods, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.	Enhance effective governance of community and Indigenous lands. Promote inclusive conservation models aligned with biodiversity and livelihood goals.	Strengthened advocacy and organisational capacity. Increased ability to influence policies and programmes supporting IPLCs' rights and biodiversity conservation.
<b>Target Academic and Research Institutions (e.g., University of Kalemie, ISDR, INPP) and support partner universities such as Kisangani, Lubumbashi and ERAIFT</b>	Conduct research, document lessons learned for scaling up good practices and disseminate them. Support curriculum enhancement to include biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, IPLC and traditional and indigenous knowledge themes.	Generate and disseminate knowledge to inform policies, improve conservation strategies, and integrate biodiversity-focused education.	Enhanced capacity of educators and researchers to contribute to biodiversity conservation. Increased integration of biodiversity science and traditional knowledge into education and policymaking frameworks.  Enhanced collaboration between national institutions and peer learning enhancing

			sustainability of the initiative.
<b>Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) at national, provincial and local levels</b>	Facilitate and accompany community engagement and provide technical support for biodiversity conservation, restoration, and livelihood diversification initiatives. Advocate for transparency, equity, and gender inclusion in conservation governance.	Act as intermediaries to ensure community participation and the incorporation of local priorities. Enhance monitoring and accountability mechanisms for biodiversity-related interventions.	Improved capacity to engage in biodiversity projects and influence policies. Strengthened ability to support IPLCs in advocacy and conservation.
<b>Business incubation services such as the ANADEC, Federation of Congolese Enterprises</b>	Provide business incubation, coaching support to biodiversity friendly enterprises, savings and credit schemes and viable value chains	Facilitate adoption of practices that are favourable for biodiversity conservation	
<b>Private Sector – Agriculture, mining including microfinance institutions</b>	Invest in biodiversity-friendly enterprises. Partner with communities and other stakeholders to promote restoration and sustainable economic models.	Create market-based incentives for biodiversity conservation. Promote sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing of biodiversity resources.	Access to green markets and opportunities to align business practices with sustainability goals. Enhanced reputation through support for biodiversity conservation.
<b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b>	Act as GEF implementing agency, overseeing overall project cycle in line with international standards and donor requirements, including in terms of social and environmental safeguards. Monitor and report progress and results to donor. Provide strategic guidance and technical assistance and global expertise in community biodiversity conservation, responsible land tenure and natural resource governance, HRBA, capacity building and scaling up, especially through legal development.	Enhance knowledge-sharing and capacity-building platforms. Leverage international best practices and ensure alignment with global biodiversity and climate frameworks.	Strengthened institutional frameworks and knowledge exchange systems. Enhanced sustainability and replicability of project outcomes through global and regional partnerships.
<b>Other UN Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organisations and national conservation agencies (e.g., UNDP, WCS, WWF, IUCN, ICCN)</b>	Experience and knowledge sharing. Support to replication of good practices and lessons learned.	Promote evidence-based strategies for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation. Strengthen collaboration to address challenges.	Enhanced visibility of the DRC's biodiversity initiatives on global platforms. Access to technical expertise and resources to implement and sustain project objectives.
<b>Other development partners – World Bank, Humanitarian agencies</b>	Contribute co-financing – WB RENUGL Project  Experience sharing and replication of good practices	Promote evidence-based strategies for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation. Strengthen collaboration to address challenges	Strengthening national capacity for IPLC stewardship of lands, biodiversity, improved social cohesion between communities
<b>IPLC communities in Kabalo and Nyunzu,</b>	Take active part from consultations during design through implementation. Act as active participants and	Carry out community conservation initiatives,	Increased knowledge, tools and skills for community-based

<p><b>women and young people</b></p>	<p>beneficiaries of the project including participation in project events, implementation of restoration, enterprises, value chains and trades, while contributing to reduce pressures on forests. Actively contribute to generate and share traditional experiences, inform curriculum and science policy dialogues</p>	<p>sustainable management of lands and use.</p>	<p>conservation, livelihoods improvements, social cohesion and resilience.</p>
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## Private sector involvement

The private sector will play a critical role in advancing restoration activities, community enterprises, and benefit-sharing mechanisms under Component 2 of the project. Their engagement will be designed to ensure sustainability, economic viability, and long-term benefits for biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods.

In restoration activities, private sector actors will provide essential support in the supply of high-quality production inputs such as seeds, seedlings, and fertilizers needed for reforestation and afforestation initiatives. They will also collaborate with communities to establish and maintain tree nurseries, ensuring the availability of native species for restoration efforts. Beyond direct material contributions, the private sector will be approached to secure additional funding to expand restoration activities beyond the project's initial scope. By leveraging their resources and expertise, the project will ensure the restoration initiatives achieve long-term impact and scalability.

For community enterprises and income-generating activities, the private sector will play a central role in enabling communities particularly women and youth to develop sustainable livelihoods. Businesses will provide agricultural inputs, livestock resources, and beekeeping equipment, supporting diverse livelihood options for communities. They will also contribute to the provision of processing units that add value to agricultural and forestry products, thereby increasing market competitiveness and profitability. To strengthen economic outcomes, the project will facilitate partnerships between community producers, producers' organisations and cooperatives and private buyers. These partnerships will enhance market linkages, enabling group marketing efforts that improve collective bargaining power and ensure fair pricing for community-produced goods.

The project will further engage private sector actors to support the establishment and growth of community savings and credit schemes. These AVECs typically benefit particularly women. Partnerships with local financial institutions will enable the capitalization of community investment plans, ensuring financial resources are available to sustain biodiversity-friendly enterprises especially those led by IPs, women and youth. Additionally, the project will provide startup funds accessible through these schemes, empowering communities to initiate and expand their own economic initiatives.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) will serve as another avenue for private sector engagement. Mining and other extractive industries/actors in the province will be encouraged to support the restoration of degraded landscapes, contributing to environmental recovery and strengthening social cohesion in affected areas. This engagement could help align with the private sector's CSR goals, while also providing tangible benefits to communities.



Through these targeted efforts, the private sector can be integral partner in aligning market and economic systems with the project's goals. Their contributions will enhance restoration outcomes, strengthen community enterprises, and establish equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms, ensuring the long-term sustainability and scalability of the project's achievements.

## **Innovation & Transformative Change, Knowledge management, Policy coherence and Capacity development**

### **Innovation and Transformative Change**

The project adopts a transformative approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management by integrating community-driven restoration, social cohesion, and market-based solutions. By combining ecological restoration with livelihood enhancement and strengthening community cohesion, it ensures conservation efforts are economically viable, scalable, and sustainable. Innovations targeting communities are informed by lessons learned from consultations with IPLCs, women's groups, and other stakeholders at both provincial and national levels, shaping the project's strategic focus. Current efforts to involve the Twa and Bantu populations face significant challenges, including limited participation by Twa, women, and youth. Many Twa perceive that NGO activities primarily target Bantu beneficiaries, leading to a lack of awareness and inclusion. Women and youth face barriers in accessing information, training, markets, and alternative livelihoods, compounded by insufficient proactive awareness-raising. To address this, the project will implement targeted awareness-raising activities for Indigenous Peoples (IPs), women, and youth, ensuring their inclusion through Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). These activities will be delivered by IP leaders, women's organisations, and other IP-led groups to foster participation and inclusion. The project will prioritise inclusive and gender-responsive programming aligned with the routines, gender roles, and cultures of the target communities.

To reduce pressures on forests and promote sustainable livelihoods, the project will establish and strengthen Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Dimitra Clubs as platforms for knowledge-sharing and training in sustainable land management and agroecological practices. These initiatives will support biodiversity-friendly enterprises, including honey production, poultry farming, and agroecological practices, while facilitating the development of value chains and trades, such as carpentry, sewing, and food processing. By linking these activities to biodiversity conservation, the project ensures that communities adhere to sustainable management practices as a condition for support. Diversifying livelihoods through robust value chains and income-generating activities will reduce dependency on forest resources and foster economic resilience. The project will also promote savings and credit schemes to enable communities to capitalise on income-generating activities and invest in their enterprises. These schemes will provide a foundation for financial sustainability, ensuring that IPLCs, particularly women, young men and girls and other community members can expand their initiatives and access markets effectively. Intercommunity learning through FFS and Dimitra Clubs will further foster collaboration and cohesion between Twa and Bantu communities, leveraging shared experiences and successful practices to encourage wider participation in biodiversity-friendly enterprises.

Through these efforts, the project aims to enhance livelihoods, build economic resilience, and instil a collective recognition of the importance of restoration and sustainable management for community well-being. By focusing on diversified and scalable livelihoods, coupled with robust value chains and financial mechanisms, the project ensures long-term sustainability and reduces pressure on forest ecosystems. As

the first GBFF-funded project in the DRC, it serves as a pilot for IPLC stewardship of lands and biodiversity in a recently established province (2015) facing significant development challenges. The project aims to strengthen state operational capacities, enabling the government to deliver targeted field support, improve governance, and enhance its legitimacy. It also seeks to address the lack of coordination mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration, creating opportunities for government agencies to work jointly and efficiently on shared objectives. An innovative aspect of the project is the consolidation of legal texts relevant to IPLC stewardship. Raising awareness among communities empowers them as rights holders while enhancing the capacities of customary leaders and officials to respect and enforce these rights. The project places communities at the centre, aligning strongly with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by incorporating human rights-based approaches (HRBA) and gender-responsive methods. These innovations ensure that legal frameworks meet both national and international commitments.

Introducing community forestry in the province is another key innovation. Currently, no community forest concessions exist in the area. Through collaboration between ANAPAC and MEDD, the project will support the establishment of CFCLs and tenure security for IPLC territories. These efforts will enable communities to implement simple management plans, restoration plans, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, thereby improving livelihoods, particularly for women who often lack land access. This initiative aims to strengthen economic opportunities for IPLCs, balance power dynamics between Indigenous and Bantu communities, and promote social cohesion. The project also actively promotes traditional knowledge of positive interest for biodiversity conservation, mainstream, lessons learned and best practices into academic curricula. Crucially it ensures that government agencies particularly the MEDD enhance evidence-based decision-making drawing on scientific evidence but also on proven customary laws, knowledge and practices. This approach informs national reforms and legal processes, creating a supportive environment for IPLC stewardship and paving the way for scaling and replicability. Private sector engagement further supports this transformative approach by supplying inputs such as seedlings and equipment, establishing processing units, and building market linkages. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives from industries like mining will bolster restoration efforts. Partnerships with private enterprises and local financial institutions will ensure that restoration and enterprise activities continue beyond the project lifespan, creating replicable models for widespread adoption.

### Capacity Development

The success of the project relies on comprehensive capacity development at the community, provincial, and national levels. For IPLCs, training programs will focus on biodiversity-friendly practices, governance, and sustainable land management, enabling communities to lead restoration efforts, manage conservation projects, and develop viable enterprises. Topics will include ecosystem restoration techniques, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure IPLCs have the skills to sustain long-term conservation activities. A key innovation in capacity building also relates to the promotion of legal and customary laws and practices which promote biodiversity consideration, enhancing complementarities between the regimes. The project will also strengthen IPLC-led organisations, as well as women's and youth organisations, to improve representation and amplify their voices. Approaches like farmer field schools and Dimitra clubs will be integrated with asset-based strategies, fostering social cohesion and environmental stewardship. Training will be gender-responsive and grounded in human rights-based approaches (HRBA), addressing social inequalities and promoting inclusive governance. Government institutions will receive technical support and training workshops to enhance their capacity to support IPLC-driven initiatives, strengthen intersectoral coordination, and develop territorial development and natural resource management plans.

Technical capacity-building will include establishing community nurseries, implementing restoration techniques, using GIS and participatory mapping, and supporting biodiversity-friendly enterprises. IPLCs will



receive technical training on nursery management, sustainable harvesting, and monitoring technologies. Partnerships with local financial institutions and village savings and credit schemes will help IPLCs develop and implement investment plans, ensuring the financial sustainability of community-led initiatives. The project will also implement conflict management mechanisms to address grievances and foster cooperation among stakeholders. Conflict management trainings will be organised to equip communities with the knowledge and tools to establish effective grievance mechanisms. These mechanisms will address stakeholder grievances—including those of local communities and IPLCs—promptly and fairly as highlighted in the project’s environmental and social safeguarding plans.

### Knowledge Management

Knowledge management represents a central focus of this project with component 3 dedicated to the issue. The project’s approach combines traditional knowledge with scientific insights to inform policy and practice. IPLC knowledge of ecosystem management serves as a foundation for restoration and conservation, complemented by modern techniques introduced through capacity-building initiatives. Knowledge will be systematically captured through the documentation of activities, including restoration techniques, benefit-sharing mechanisms, governance models, and community enterprises. Monitoring and evaluation processes will generate data on biodiversity, livelihoods, and community cohesion, creating a repository of evidence to inform stakeholders and future projects. This information will be stored in digital platforms, reports, and toolkits, making it accessible and easily disseminated. Key knowledge-sharing activities include regular workshops, community forums, and policy dialogues. Partnerships with academic institutions such as the University of Kalemie, ISDR, and INPP will integrate lessons into curricula, creating a feedback loop that strengthens future conservation efforts. The project also enhances the government’s capacity to track progress toward 2030 biodiversity targets through support to the Clearing-House Mechanism. This ensures alignment with NBSAP implementation and facilitates the dissemination of knowledge on national and international platforms.

### Policy Coherence

The project tackles the fragmentation and misalignment of biodiversity-related policies in the DRC by fostering intersectoral coordination and improving policy coherence. This aim will be achieved through component 1 of the project which specifically seeks to bolster the enabling environment for community-based conservation efforts in the DRC. As articulated in the problem analysis section, current policies often overlap or conflict, creating obstacles for IPLCs and other stakeholders. The project will support development of local development plans, which provide an opportunity for multiple stakeholders and actors to develop common goals for the territories. By bringing together actors from the environment, agriculture, forestry, and indigenous affairs sectors, amongst others the project identifies and resolves policy gaps and issues collaboratively. At the national level, the project harmonizes sectoral policies with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the Kunming-Montreal GBF. This ensures alignment between restoration and conservation objectives and local implementation plans. Dialogue platforms will facilitate regular exchanges among national, provincial, and local authorities, civil society, researchers, and IPLCs, aligning national directives with local realities. This approach strengthens governance, empowers communities, and ensures conservation efforts are sustainable and scalable.

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[i] Certain times of the year, particularly the dry season, are not favourable for project activities requiring regular presence and intense effort. During this period, the hunting, scavenging, and gathering activities of the indigenous peoples are most intense, making them less available.

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- <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/101265ad-21b5-4069-9ce1-f87e2ec74fc4/content>
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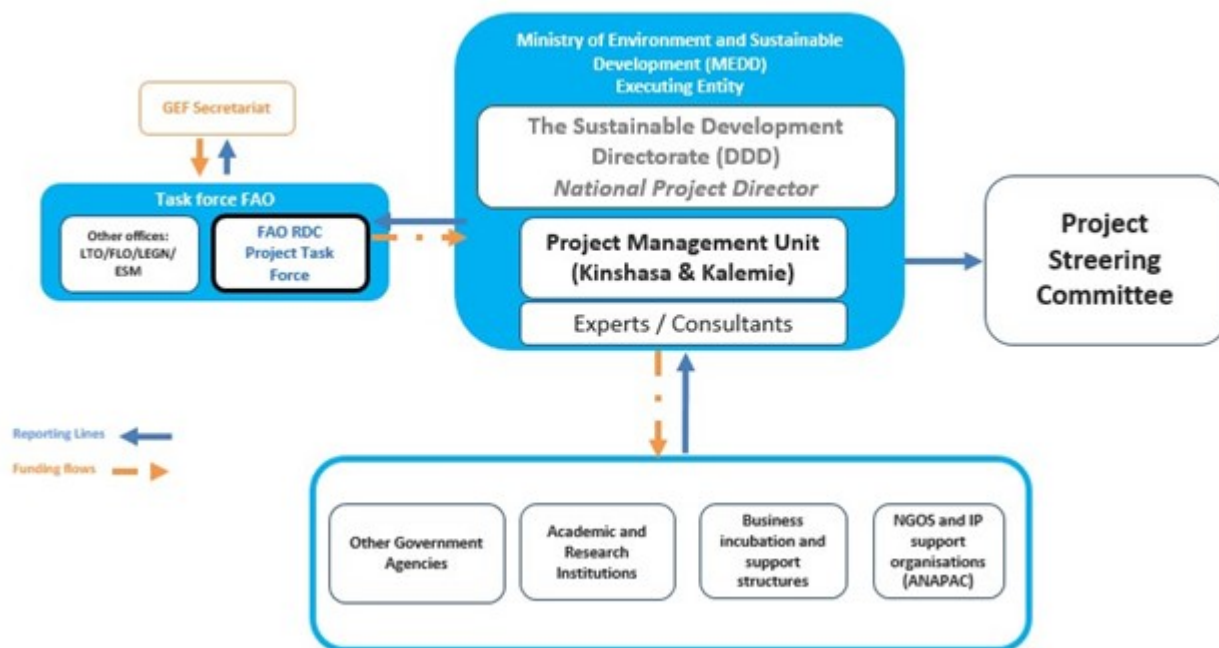
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## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO<sup>[1]</sup>. As OP of the project the MEDD is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:



The National Project Director will be the Director of the DDD. The NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He/she will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Technical Coordinator (PTC) based in Kinshasa and the Field Technical Assistant based in the Provincial Coordination of the Environment in Kalemie. The composition of the PMU at national and provincial levels is described in **Annex M**. The PMU will work in close collaboration with the other partners involved in implementing the project components. More specifically, the PMU will:

- act as secretariat to the PSC
- organise project meetings and workshops;
- prepare Work Plans and Annual Detailed Budgets (AWBs) and submit to DDD and steering committee for approval;
- coordinate and monitor the implementation of the approved detailed Annual Work Plans and Budgets
- ensure implementation of M&E plan,
- prepare six-monthly project progress reports (PPRs) and annual implementation reports (PIRs)
- liaise with FAO task team
- provide information on co-financing disbursed during the year and ensure inclusion APRs/PIRs;
- coordinate the project with other ongoing activities and ensure a high degree of inter-institutional
- inter-institutional collaboration; and
- assist in the organisation of the mid-term review and final evaluation.

The Secretary General of MEDD will chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from relevant allied sectoral government agencies,

civil society organisations, representatives of IPLCs, territorial administrators, provincial government services, provincial ministry of environment, women's representatives, other development partners in the province and FAO amongst others. The creation composition and functions of the PSC will be enshrined in a ministerial order. The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy four different actors within the organization to support the project (see **Annex N** for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution;
- The Project Manager, who will support the Budget Holder in day-to-day project oversight;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with the government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO.
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned.
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress.
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

To foster synergies with other initiatives, FAO will engage with ERPA and the World Bank to build on lessons from GEF ID 9760, especially in relation to supporting decentralized authorities through capacity development and streamlined procedures. These insights will be integrated into the OPIM arrangements with MEDD to ensure they are grounded in operational realities.

Additionally, the PMU will benefit from the support of FAO's field offices in Kalemie, Nyunzu, and Kabalo, which will provide regular on-the-ground monitoring and operational guidance throughout project implementation.

[i] FAO Project document 2019. Resilience and Nutrition in the Great Lakes Region (RENUGL) – Technical Assistance, funded by Global Fund for Agriculture and Food Security (GAFSP)

[ii] FAO 2021 Strengthening the resilience and sustainable livelihood systems of small-scale farmers in Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) FAO-WFP Joint Concept Note

[iii] <https://swm-programme.info/web/guest/legal-hub/rd-congo>

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[1] *It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request.*

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

N/A

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will be established in synergy with the following projects:

UNDP is implementing the Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management project with GEF funding July 2021-2026 with ICCN and WCS (GEFID10242). The objective is to strengthen the management of the Kabobo-Luama protected area landscape and enhance conservation of endangered species for local sustainable development and global biodiversity benefits. More specifically to strengthen Institutional capacity for landscape management and biodiversity conservation; enhanced protected area management and reduced poaching of key species; improved livelihoods and mainstream safeguards and knowledge management. To facilitate cross-fertilization, coordination, and consistency with this project, ICCN, WCS, and UNDP will be regularly consulted and invited to participate in the annual steering committee meetings.

ANAPAC's project entitled 'Strengthening and promoting areas and territories conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) for the sustainable maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystems in the DRC/RFNo-ANAPAC implemented with Rain Forest Foundation Norway funding for the period 2021-2025. The project draws on the expertise of ANAPAC-RDC in providing support to MEDD in the provision of site-specific support to IP&LCs. Its wider experience in the country will be leveraged during organisation of exchange visits to other provinces where the model of life territories or APACs is further developed. Other collaboration will include joint efforts to influence the legal recognition of other effective conservation measures.

German Development Cooperation, through GIZ, is implementing the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management Programme (BGF) in the DRC, in collaboration with its Congolese partners, in particular the MEDD and its scientific and technical body, ICCN. The overall objective of this programme is as follows: 'Protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of the tropical forest and the economic situation of the poor local population in certain areas have improved'. To achieve this, the programme aims to extend and consolidate approaches based on human rights and the valorisation of ecosystem services for the sustainable management of forest resources and the conservation of biodiversity through the relevant ministries and other state structures, civil society, service providers and private structures.

The FAO is also implementing several projects including the Resilience and Nutrition in the Great Lakes Region (RENUGL) – Technical Assistance [i][ii] project funded from the Global Fund for Agriculture and Food Security (GAFSP) with the government and the World Bank. The RENUGL aims to sustainably improve the nutrition and resilience of the most vulnerable populations in the South Kivu – Tanganyika corridor, considerably affected by conflicts and insecurity, making the population of these two provinces particularly fragile and affected by the malnutrition. The objective will be achieved by improving social cohesion and the autonomy of populations, developing nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities and strengthening livelihoods and entrepreneurship. Component 2 of the project will draw on its experience of supporting business plans of small enterprises and lessons learned from the operation of Dimitra clubs and farmer field schools. Component will also draw lessons and from Strengthening the resilience and sustainable livelihood systems of small-scale farmers in Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) [iii][ciii] also implemented by the



FAO-WFP. It seeks to increase capacity for sustainable and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production (quantity and quality) and food processing; access to productive resources and credit, improved market access and income diversification.

Since 2017, with EU financial support, FAO has been implementing the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme (Phase 1: 2017–2023; Phase 2: 2023–2029) in partnership with WCS, CIFOR-ICRAF, and CIRAD. The programme promotes sustainable wildlife management by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to balance food security, livelihoods, and biodiversity conservation. In collaboration with ICCN, the project operates at the Okapi Wildlife Reserve in Ituri Province, developing a community-based hunting management model and alternative income-generating activities tailored to the needs of Bantu and Indigenous Mbuti and Efe communities. At the national level, the SWM project supports MEDD with legal and technical assistance to improve access to and understanding of legal texts relevant to sustainable wildlife management through the SWM Legal Hub<sup>[iii]civ</sup>, and to reform the wildlife sector – including the wild meat sub-sector – through the participatory and evidence-based development of a policy framework conducive to greater community involvement and benefits. Component 1 of the present project will build on the SWM Legal hub and establish synergies with the SWM Project for joint scaling up strategies integrating lessons learned and best practices from pilot experiences.

[i] FAO Project document 2019. Resilience and Nutrition in the Great Lakes Region (RENUGL) – Technical Assistance, funded by Global Fund for Agriculture and Food Security (GAFSP)

[ii] FAO 2021 Strengthening the resilience and sustainable livelihood systems of small-scale farmers in Tanganyika in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) FAO-WFP Joint Concept Note

[iii] <https://swm-programme.info/web/guest/legal-hub/rd-congo>

## Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines.

As per the GBFF Programming Directions, the GBFF performance will be monitored using the GEF Trust Fund Core Indicators 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and all their sub indicators as well as 9 and sub-indicators 9.4 and 9.5 (see Annex 3 of the Programming Directions). Projects are encouraged to capture any co-benefits from the project in other GEF core indicators.

Additional indicators will be introduced to monitor policy elements of projects supported by the GBF Fund. They may draw on the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework once it is agreed.

### Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6000	14000	0	0

#### Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

#### Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
6,000.00	14,000.00		

#### Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration



Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
144000	350000	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
144,000.00	350,000.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Type/Name of Third Party Certification**

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided**

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported**

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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**Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title
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**Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated**

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>	0	1348305	0	0
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>	0	7268597	0	0

### Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>		1,348,305		
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>		7,268,597		
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>		2026		
<b>Duration of accounting</b>		20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>				
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>				
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>				
<b>Duration of accounting</b>				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	5,000	25,000		
<b>Male</b>	5,000	25,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

Breakdown of indicators

Indicator 3: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)

The cumulative target of 14,000 hectares will be achieved through an integrated approach combining the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology and leveraging Dimitra Clubs.

1. Community Reforestation and Restocking (3,000 ha) - As part of the plan, degraded lands and forests identified during participatory planning sessions will be rehabilitated through reforestation (1,500 ha) and forest restocking (1,500 ha).
2. Measures to support natural regeneration including fencing, measures to combat bush fires and poaching (7,000 ha).

### 3. Agroecological practices demonstrated (benefitting soil fertility, erosion, ...) (4,000 ha)

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

According to the community forestry model in the DRC, community forestry concessions to IPLCs can reach up to 50,000 ha per community. The area under improved practices totals 150,000 ha (3 communities will be selected as pilot sites). As the project focuses primarily on securing ICCAs, this surface area is likely to be achieved through multiple sites as opposed to the 3 pilot areas suggested during inception. Support to secure community forests (CFCL) will only be promoted if communities request for project support beyond the recognised ICCAs. The 150,000 hectares targeted for pilot restoration and sustainable land and resource management will be selected from at least 350,000 hectares of Community and Indigenous lands identified in territorial development plans. This includes both direct (150,000 ha) and potential indirect consequential (200,000 ha) benefits, aligned with the out-scaling strategy that builds on lessons from project demonstration and enhanced institutional capacity. Although Indigenous Lands in Tanganyika are estimated at 1,650,000 hectares, the 350,000-hectare target reflects key constraints: limited ecological suitability, the time needed to build scalable foundations at provincial and national levels, and high operational costs linked to terrain and insecurity. Community-based resource management is new to Tanganyika, with no CFCLs established yet. The project's voluntary, demand-driven approach—proven effective by ANAPAC—requires sustained early engagement to foster commitment and generate a snowball effect. Beyond land coverage, the project will deliver lasting co-benefits such as improved social cohesion, environmental stewardship, stronger public services, and public–private collaboration, all supporting long-term scaling.

#### Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e)

The level of CO<sub>2</sub> has been estimated using the EXACT tool, and as more detailed baseline information becomes available will be migrated into NEXT. This was developed to assist governments, national experts, and practitioners in estimating and tracking greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon stock changes in the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector.

Assumptions: The project contributes to improved levels of degradation on 10,000 ha, including Community Reforestation on 1,500 ha of land (accounted for in LU section), and forest restocking on 1,500 ha of tropical dry forest land. The latter is accounted for in the forest management section. Furthermore, measures to support natural regeneration (fencing, measures to combat bush fires) on 7,000 ha have been accounted for in the forest management section. The project investments on these 10,000 ha are delivering direct carbon benefits.

Furthermore, an additional number of changes in cropland management will be introduced by the project (introduction of agroecological practices) on 4,000 ha of land. These also deliver direct carbon benefits.

The project's investments in improved forest management (including BD conservation, improved land tenure security, etc.) deliver indirect carbon benefits. As per the justification provided in the project document, an area of 350,000 ha will benefit from improved sustainable management plans under the stewardship of IPLCs, avoiding land degradation or improving degradation levels. Conservative estimates have been made in the Indirect benefits calculation sheet.

#### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex (count)

Estimation is that there are several tens of thousands of IP individuals in Tanganyika province, but information on specific numbers is not available. The proposed 50,000 (50% women) direct beneficiaries, and project actors are a subset of the total population, in the target territories. During project development, the project development team identified over 3,700 IP households in 10 villages identified. The project will ensure that actions benefit as many women as men.

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	High	<p>High Risk: Based on the country/countries, the recommended climate risk score is: High Climate change is predicted to result in increased droughts and unreliability of rainfall patterns in the Eastern-Central African region. As a result of climate change, torrential rains could worsen the situation, especially if combined with poor land-management practice. As a result of climate change impacts, the project area could also become more vulnerable to wildfires, increased floods (currently happening two times per year during the rainy seasons, March-May and October-December), perturbations of the seasonal agricultural calendar, change in the fish population, and more violent storms during the rainy season, which may impact livelihood activities .Climate change may increase the likelihood of forest fires and destruction. Also, climate change is leading to droughts, floods and more regular damaging events leading to more frequent crop failures and loss of livelihoods. This will lead more people to rather increase their dependence on forests and biodiversity in the absence of alternative livelihoods or limited resilience. This could also lead to increased reliance on forests for charcoal production resulting in biodiversity loss and further ecosystems degradation. The project aims to protect forests as well as restore degraded ecosystems and as such contribute to a more stable micro-climate. This project seeks to strengthen resilience of communities through increased diversification of livelihoods and reduced dependence on forests. By pursuing alternative livelihoods through restoration and tree planting, communities are more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, training and awareness on the prevention of bush fires and management, limits the impact of fires, while restocking and plantations and other agroecological practices reduce the impacts on human activities on the environment. Climate risk screening and/or any climate risk assessment in the ESS Annexes F.</p>
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>Under component 2, the project seeks to promote restoration, demarcation and support to legal recognition of ICCAs and community forests. This implies carrying out micro-zoning, participatory mapping and restoration activities in prioritised sites. While critical for conservation and tenure security, these interventions may trigger adverse economic, social, and cultural impacts on IPLCs. Key risks include restricted access to non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and cultural resources, loss of land or crops, and potential shifts in social norms that may reinforce gender inequality or deepen marginalization of IPs. These activities also intersect with long-standing land tenure disputes and inter-ethnic tensions. Risks of intra-community conflict, rejection of governance structures, and elite capture may arise if benefit-sharing mechanisms are not perceived as fair or inclusive. Inadequate attention to gender and IP rights, or poor management of</p>

reforestation contracts and income-generating activities, could further exacerbate social divisions. To mitigate these risks, the project applies a comprehensive human rights-based and conflict-sensitive approach, grounded in strong environmental and social safeguards. Instruments such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and Gender Action Plan (GAP) guide implementation. A Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol—currently under development—will be finalized within the first six months and applied throughout planning and implementation, ensuring that IPs can meaningfully participate and exercise the right to give or withhold consent. During project formulation, gender-sensitive consultations were carried out with Batwa and Bantu communities in Nyunzu and Kabalo, alongside initial stakeholder and power mapping. This analysis will be deepened and updated during implementation, particularly through the development of territorial development plans, multi-resource assessments, and ROAM processes. Specific field guidance will be developed for partners to help them detect and respond to social exclusion and power imbalances within communities. To ensure inclusive representation and accountability, governance structures will be designed to include both IPLCs and customary authorities, with attention to avoiding overreliance on elites or traditional chiefs. Participatory mapping of land rights and uses will precede micro-zoning, ensuring that restoration and management plans reflect community needs and support equitable access. These participatory processes will be monitored using community scorecards, social audits, and inclusive monitoring systems to elevate the voices of underrepresented groups. Throughout implementation, the project will provide targeted capacity-building for women, youth, and ethnic minorities to ensure their effective participation in governance, land management, and value chain activities. Participation will be tracked through disaggregated indicators (by gender, ethnicity, and social status) embedded in the project’s results framework and monitoring and evaluation system. Recognizing the particular vulnerability of Indigenous communities—especially Batwa groups—the project will work closely with ANAPAC, a national IP-led organization with strong experience in gender-sensitive and conflict-aware engagement. Outcome 2.1 supports tenure security for Indigenous territories and promotes dialogue and social cohesion through mechanisms such as farmer field schools, Dimitra Clubs, and community-led restoration initiatives. Transparent criteria will guide the identification and support of beneficiaries, helping to prevent elite capture and ensure fair distribution of benefits. A culturally appropriate and accessible grievance mechanism, designed to respond to both gender-based violence and inter-community conflict, is included in the ESMF and will be rolled out during inception. During inception, the project will also engage with and assess existing local conflict resolution committees in Tanganyika, such as Just and Peace (a Catholic Church structure), which are responsible for resolving these

		<p>conflicts at community level, to potentially link them to the grievance mechanism. IPLC-specific channels will be integrated into this system, ensuring trust and accessibility. The grievance mechanism will be monitored and reviewed annually and made widely known to all stakeholders. All risks related to exclusion, land disputes, gender inequality, and conflict will be tracked through the environmental and social safeguards monitoring system and reviewed during annual project reflections and supervision missions. This ongoing feedback loop will allow the project to adapt programming in response to emerging risks, power shifts, or stakeholder concerns, maintaining its focus on inclusion, equity, and conflict sensitivity throughout. The project’s gender action plan (GAP) identifies mitigation measures to promote more equitable participation of men, women, young men and women in the project. The GAP was developed with particular attention to establishing mechanisms to reduce the risk that existing discriminations against women are inadvertently reproduced in project implementation. The results framework and indicators are gender disaggregated, with the aim to achieve parity in the number of people and households reached by the project (5000 men/5000 women) with minimum quotas of IP participation set at a minimum of 40%. The team understands the challenge of achieving parity in this project and acknowledges that this is aspirational. Gender sensitive planning and affirmative targeting approaches will be adopted to maximise the opportunities for reaching women, IPLCs and young people. Village saving schemes, women’s groups and associations, and Dimitra clubs in project intervention territories will be targeted and leveraged to reach out to women and young people . A budget has been allocated to the delivery of the GAP ensuring that gender issues are intentionally addressed during implementation. Under activity 4.3, specific activities have been included to address issues around GBV and sexual harassment as already noted above.</p>
<p>Political and Governance</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Insecurity is widespread in the DRC, particularly in the East, driven by abundant mineral resources and weak governance. High levels of investment and competing national, regional, and international interests in the extractive sector continue to fuel instability, often resulting in population displacement into forested areas. In the last years, in Tanganyika, the security situation has been relatively calm despite residual inter-community conflicts between Batwa and Bantu, and the sporadic presence of few armed groups. While the recent armed conflicts with M23/AFC rebels in North Kivu (January 2025) did not directly impact Tanganyika, they led to temporary secondary displacements and heightened insecurity. The situation is now gradually coming back to same level of stability as prior to this event, and development operations have resumed. To manage ongoing risks, the project will maintain an updated risk register and adapt planning as needed in response to conflict. FAO in Tanganyika has a security officer based in Kalémie. He coordinates closely with OCHA and UNDSS, and the provincial authorities to monitor the security situation and assess access constraints. In case of security outbreaks, security management plans are established based on security assessments with local stakeholders and OP partners to ensure activities are</p>



		<p>implemented only in secure, accessible locations, thus ensuring security for project teams, assets and inputs. FAO also participates in regular security cell meetings to monitor evolving conditions across Tanganyika, informing operational decisions and project adjustments. Workforce management plan will be developed with the OP partners also to ensure security aspects are adequately addressed. As part of its risk mitigation strategy, the project is hosted within government premises to ensure stronger physical security. In contexts of unrest, UN agencies are often more directly targeted than national institutions, making this arrangement an additional protective measure. The use of existing provincial governance structures also reinforces local ownership and inclusivity in project management. In recent months, the national government has demonstrated commitment to combat the insecurity situation and related illegalities related to extraction and illegal trafficking of mines, wildlife trafficking and charcoal production to fuel war and insecurity. The 2023 elections saw the reelection of the incumbent President Tshisekedi, making him president until 2028, which will coincide with the project implementation period. Elections are often contested resulting in violence in many cases. The project will monitor the situation and take adaptive measures as necessary. National elections also lead to changes in government officials and administrators such as governors and provincial ministers. In this happens, there is often a risk that policy processes or commitments made by officials can be neglected due to change of priorities resulting from a new government. Throughout implementation, the project will ensure that it engages with the career civil servants at all levels, to ensure sustainability of ongoing initiatives. Biannual review meetings between FAO and OP partners will specifically address political, security and conflict-related adaptations. A field-based approach, supported by FAO offices in Kalemie, Nyunzu, and Kabalo, will enable flexible, responsive implementation.</p>
<p>INNOVATION</p>		
<p>Institutional and Policy</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Staff turnover is a key risk within the national and provincial administrations which would lead to institutional memory loss for the project. The project places significant efforts on capacity building at all levels of the administration to ensure that there is a wide range of actors involved. Also strengthening systems and operations and governance structures within the administration means that the impacts of departures are minimized. The project will maintain close communication and collaboration with other sectoral ministries, engage them through out implementation in whole of government spirit towards implementing this project. The project steering committee provides a unique opportunity for joint action amongst partners and should facilitate the uptake of the results and lessons emerging from the project. Institutional capacity strengthening is at the core of the project. The project seeks to address policy gaps and incoherences which limit law enforcement and supports perpetuation of illegal deforestation or degradation in the province. The project will produce guidelines, templates, best practices and tools for that will serve as foundation for more effective policy making</p>

		and practice. These tools are expected to be utilised beyond the project initial period facilitating institutional consistency and sustainability.
Technological	Low	Technological risks and impact on the project are low. The project seeks to develop interventions that are grounded in the local realities of IPLC communities. Improved agroecological production or restoration methods promoted are tested and proven to be suitable to the project context. These will be adapted to the needs of target communities. FPIC will ensure that there is consent and that participation in project interventions is fully voluntary.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	The viability of biodiversity-friendly enterprises and value chains represents a moderate risk, varying by region and local market dynamics. Factors such as fluctuating demand, weak market linkages, volatile pricing, and logistical barriers—especially in remote or conflict-affected areas—may hinder the sustainability of income-generating activities. Additionally, past underrepresentation of IPLCs, particularly women and youth, in commercial enterprises remains a structural barrier. To mitigate these risks, the project has embedded early-stage feasibility assessments and market analyses into its value chain development strategy. These will be conducted during the inception and early implementation phases to inform value chain selection and refine enterprise support. Particular emphasis will be placed on identifying market demand trends, pricing volatility, and logistical constraints, with the goal of ensuring realistic business development planning and reducing failure risk. The selection of value chains and income-generating activities has already been informed by a participatory process to align with the priorities and realities of IPLC communities. The project will further strengthen these efforts through targeted business mentoring and coaching, including the application of the MA&D approach. This methodology ensures that supported enterprises have demonstrated business potential and are grounded in viable business plans. The project will also promote business model flexibility, allowing enterprises to adapt to evolving market or contextual conditions. Recognizing the critical role of market access, the project will support group marketing strategies, collective bargaining mechanisms, and partnerships with local MSMEs and cooperatives. These partnerships will help reduce transaction costs, improve value chain integration, and enhance the competitiveness of IPLC enterprises. To support access to capital, particularly for women and marginalized groups, the project will finance the capitalization of savings and credit schemes, which in turn will provide small loans to members. This model draws on successful experiences from FAO-supported initiatives in South Kivu (RGEM) and the Miombo forests, where financial viability was demonstrated through structured support, gender-sensitive design, and iterative learning. To monitor progress and adapt to emerging risks, the project will implement a midterm review two years before completion. This review will assess the performance of supported enterprises, identify bottlenecks, and allow for mid-course corrections. Conflict-sensitive

		<p>monitoring and evaluation tools will be employed throughout to detect emerging fragility drivers, such as elite capture, land tenure disputes, or gender-based exclusion, which could threaten business viability or community cohesion. Finally, a project exit and sustainability strategy has been developed and budgeted for from the outset. This strategy outlines how ongoing technical support, access to finance, and market linkages will be maintained after the project ends, ensuring continuity for supported enterprises and value chains.</p>
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	<p>Tanganyika province is relatively young, and the capacities of administrations are very weak. This limits their ability to play their roles effectively. The same applies for territorial authorities and IPLC support organisations. The implementation of the project is also likely to challenge power relations and therefore traditional authorities may seek to block or sabotage concessions for fear of losing of their authorities and control over the resource. At the level of teaching institutions, capacities are weak, and programmes are not adapted to the current market needs – future professionals are not receiving the training required for them to be effective on the field. Communities lack access to productive resources, techniques and resources required to diversify and reduce their impacts on forests. Without these productive inputs, the risk of continuous pressure on forest resources and consequent deforestation and degradation will continue. All project outcomes include significant capacity building at all levels – individual, organizational and institutional. By so doing, the project should empower various stakeholders to implement sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods practices.</p>
Fiduciary	Moderate	<p>Ensure that procurement respects the best international practice, ensures value for money. A specific bank account will be created for the project to facilitate control of balances and levels of spend throughout implementation. Transfer of funds to MEDD will be based on satisfactory financial management of advanced funds. Annual project audits will be conducted and regular spot checks implemented to assess probity in financial management. Targeted capacity building support will be provided in case of any gaps to further strengthen the operational capacity of MEDD to deliver on the project and other future interventions.</p>
Stakeholder	Low	<p>Limited motivation and interest from stakeholders is a risk. This would affect the level of participation, ownership and sustainability of the project. Significant consultations were conducted during the project design in target territories, Kalemie, nationally and internationally. The project interventions respond to the needs and aspirations of stakeholders. A stakeholder engagement plan has been presented in this project document which provides information on who and how the project will engage with them. FPIC, awareness raising, sensitization and various capacity building processes are</p>

		expected to secure motivation and buy-in from IPLCs, territorial, provincial and national stakeholders.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk level of the project is moderate, reflecting challenges related to climate impacts, weak governance, and social dynamics in the project area. High climate risks, such as droughts, floods, and wildfires, threaten livelihoods and ecosystems, while governance and capacity limitations may affect project implementation. Social risks, including inequitable benefit-sharing and conflicts over resource access, are mitigated through participatory processes, FPIC, and gender-sensitive approaches. Financial and stakeholder engagement risks are low, supported by proven approaches like market development and inclusive consultations. While significant challenges exist, robust mitigation strategies and capacity-building efforts position the project to manage risks effectively and achieve its objectives.

#### D. ALIGNMENT WITH PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Identify the specific GBFF Action Area(s) that the project is aligned with and how the project will support the achievement of the specific Action Area objective(s).

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and/or National Biodiversity Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities.

Please identify in the project tags which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how in this section.

For Multi-Trust Fund projects, please explain alignment with the GEF-8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

KMGBF Target	Specific Project Outcomes/Outputs Addressing the Target
<b>Target 1:</b> Ensure participatory biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning to minimize loss of high biodiversity areas by 2030, while respecting IPLC rights.	Component 1 will support develop territorial and sustainable natural resource management plans for Kabalo and Nyunzu Territories.  Component 2, outcome 2 on mapping degraded lands, registration of lands. Planned activities to develop CFCLs and ICCAs will entail mapping of areas that will be protected and managed by communities.
<b>Target 2:</b> Restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030 to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions.	Component 2, Outcome 2.1 and 2.2: Implementation of community-led ecosystem restoration projects in degraded forest and landscape areas. Output 2.1.1: Community and Indigenous land restored and managed sustainably for biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement

<p><b>Target 3:</b> Conserve and manage 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas through equitable and ecologically representative systems by 2030.</p>	<p>Component 2, Outcome 2 through establishment of community forest concessions (CFCLs) and recognition of life territories of communities as well as strengthening the management of IPLC territories to support biodiversity conservation objectives.</p>
<p><b>Target 8:</b> Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience</p>	<p>Components 1 and 2 - all outputs contribute to develop climate-responsive policy and legal frameworks and institutional capacity to implement climate adaptation strategies; direct support is provided to IPLCs for adopting climate resilient conservation through restoration, sustainable land management, biodiversity-friendly enterprises and smart agriculture practices; intersectoral coordination and promotion of inclusive governance and benefit sharing.</p>
<p><b>Target 9:</b> Manage Wild Species Sustainably To Benefit People</p>	<p>Components 1 and 2 – all outputs contribute to empower communities and duty bearers to develop community-based integrated models of sustainable management of land and natural resources – including restoration and agroecology- in community forests and APAC, and support biodiversity friendly enterprises; gender-responsive benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure equitable benefits from biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p><b>Target 10:</b> Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry</p>	<p>Component 2 integrated sustainable agriculture in its activities and outputs, promoting integrated, biodiversity-friendly and low-emission practices through FFS.</p>
<p><b>Target 14:</b> Integrate biodiversity values into policies and regulations, aligning public and private activities with conservation goals.</p>	<p>Component 1, outcome 1, Output 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3: Development of policy frameworks that integrate IPLC stewardship, enhanced intersectoral coordination mechanisms for biodiversity-inclusive policymaking.</p>
<p><b>Target 22:</b> Ensure inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive participation in biodiversity decision-making and access to justice.</p>	<p>All components, development of a gender action plan, strong engagement of community structures in project design, implementation and monitoring – especially through the FPIC process, promotion of gender-inclusive benefit-sharing mechanisms within community forestry initiatives; implementation of a grievance redress mechanism</p>
<p><b>Target 23:</b> Promote gender equality, ensuring women’s equal rights and leadership in biodiversity actions.</p>	<p>All components, implementation of capacity-building programmes targeting women and youth, integration of gender in policies and reforms</p>

The project is aligned with Action Area I of the GBFF, which focuses on biodiversity conservation, restoration, and spatial planning. Through Component 1, the project advances inclusive and participatory land-use planning by strengthening the regulatory and institutional environment to recognize Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as key stakeholders in biodiversity governance. This supports the integration of biodiversity priorities into sub-national and national planning processes and enhances intersectoral coordination. Under Component 2, the project promotes large-scale, IPLC-led restoration of

14,000 hectares of degraded ecosystems and sustainable use across 150,000 hectares of community and Indigenous lands. These efforts contribute directly to Target 2 by enhancing ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity, while addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss. Furthermore, the project contributes to the expansion and effective management of conserved areas through community-driven conservation and improved governance, supporting Target 3.

In alignment with Action Area II, the project centres on IPLC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters. Components 1 and 4 strengthen IPLC rights, tenure security, and governance systems through the development of inclusive, rights-based policies and conflict-sensitive institutional mechanisms, ensuring that IPLCs—especially women, youth, and marginalized groups—are equitably represented in decision-making processes. Component 2 supports IPLCs in implementing biodiversity conservation and restoration activities that align with traditional knowledge and cultural practices, fostering long-term stewardship and improved livelihoods. Simultaneously, Component 3 enhances the capacity of IPLCs through participatory knowledge management, validation of Indigenous knowledge systems, and integration into academic and policy platforms. The project thus promotes IPLC-led conservation in a way that is both ecologically effective and socially transformative, contributing to equitable benefit-sharing, gender equity, and the long-term resilience of community-managed ecosystems.

### National Priorities and Complementarity

The project is fully aligned with national priorities in the DRC, complementing existing efforts to strengthen the enabling environment for community-based conservation. By enhancing governance, stewardship, and sustainable land management practices, the project supports national biodiversity and development goals, reinforcing the country's commitment to achieving global biodiversity targets.

National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions	Description of consistency
National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC	The RDC NAPA is currently being revised. The old version (2006) lacks clear priorities which could be related to this project.
National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD	DRC has ratified the convention in 1997 and drafted a NAP in 2006. The project will promote sustainable land management, participatory natural resource management which are priority fields of action of this NAP.
National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD	<p>Aligned with the national NBSAP under development. National objective 1 (biodiversity protection, planning, access rights of indigenous peoples)</p> <p>National objective 2 (restoration)</p> <p>National objective 3 (conservation and management of IP and traditional territories)</p> <p>National objective 10 (sustainable agriculture)</p> <p>National objective 13 (benefit sharing)</p> <p>National objective 14 (integration of biodiversity)</p> <p>National objective 19 (increase financial resources)</p> <p>National objectives 22 (participation of vulnerable populations, Ips etc)</p>
National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC	Not applicable



Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC	Not applicable
National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD	Not applicable
Nationally Determined Contributions 2021-2030 <sup>[ii]<sup>cv</sup></sup>	Forestry sector is priority in terms of national climate adaptation with specific objective to improve sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity. Aligned priority actions include: Developing projects to exploit forest resources (NTFPs, community forestry, etc.) with local communities and indigenous peoples, while ensuring that legal provisions are applied; Reforestation of degraded areas with species of great ecological, economic and cultural value to communities; Promoting projects that enable people to switch to economic activities that have a reduced impact on forest ecosystems; Involving local people in the management of forest ecosystems in their area; Developing the traditional knowledge of local populations linked to the conservation of ecosystems; Strategic coordination of programmes, plans and initiatives to adapt to climate change; and Promoting sustainable land management (SLM)
National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs	Not applicable
Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)/National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023	NSDP's objectives include environmental protection, sustainable forest management, rational use of water resources, biodiversity conservation and strengthening the institutional capacities. Also seeks to strengthen rural economy and local dynamics, strengthening agricultural value chains, local entrepreneurship and strengthening local, provincial and national development capacities such as multisectoral coordination
Tanganyika Provincial Development Plan <sup>[iii]<sup>cvi</sup></sup>	In line with Pillar 5, protection of the environment, fight against climate change, and equitable sustainable development. More specially, Strategy 5.1 on protection of the environment and sustainable development. Sectoral objective to support the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment; Support for biodiversity conservation and the development of ecosystems.
National Land Use Planning Policy 2021-2025 <sup>[iii]<sup>cvi</sup></sup>	Strategic priority 5: Environmental sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change. Objective to promote sustainable management of natural resources, including forests, through optimal land use and the preservation of natural ecosystems, through programme 7 on Support for the preservation of the environment and natural ecosystems and programme 8 Supporting the fight against climate change
National Legislation, Governance and provisions for Environmental and Social Risk Management	Constitution of 18 February 2006 amended by law n°11/002 of 20 January 2011; Law La loi N°22/030 of 15 juillet 2022 Indigenous Pygmy's Peoples Act; Ordinance-Law No. 23/007 of 03 March 2023 amending and supplementing Law No. 11/009 of 9 July 2011 on fundamental principles relating to environmental protection; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW) was adopted on 18 December 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly; NES n°8 (FAO). Indigenous peoples/Traditional local communities of Africa sub-Saharan Africa; ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC	Not applicable
DRC-CAFI LETTER OF INTENT 2021-2031 and Bonn Challenge <sup>[iv]<sup>cviii</sup></sup>	Amongst the 12 objectives with focus on community forests, target 3 objectives, plans to restore 8 million ha restored, need for new social and environmental standards

## Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

The project aligns closely with FAO's Priority Programme Areas and the country programme framework (CPF) guiding FAO's work in DRC over the period 2019-2024, contributing to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and rural transformation. The project primarily aligns with three programme priority areas:

- In alignment with Better Environment 1, the project supports climate-adapted agri-food systems through restoration activities and the promotion of sustainable land-use practices. These efforts

mitigate climate change impacts and enhance resilience by stabilising greenhouse gas emissions and protecting critical ecosystems.

- Similarly, the project contributes to Better Environment 3 by focusing on biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystem services through community-based forestry and restoration initiatives.
- Furthermore, the project advances Better Life 2 by fostering inclusive rural transformation, strengthening IPLC-led governance, and promoting equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms that improve community cohesion and livelihoods.

In a lesser extent, the project's commitment to Better Life 1 is also evident in its emphasis on gender equality and rural women's empowerment. Through targeted capacity-building initiatives and gender-responsive governance structures, it promotes inclusive participation in conservation and resource management. The alignment with Better Production 4 is demonstrated too by improving small-scale producers' access to resources, including agricultural inputs, community forestry concessions, and market linkages. These efforts directly support the economic empowerment of rural communities.

Within the FAO DRC CPF 2019-2024, the project supports Priority Area 1 by enhancing governance capacities in the environment and biodiversity sectors, strengthening coordination platforms, and developing legal frameworks that empower IPLCs. It advances Priority Area 3 by promoting sustainable management of natural resources and implementing climate-resilient practices. The project also aligns with Priority Area 4 by increasing the resilience of IPLCs' livelihoods through sustainable enterprises, restoration activities, and inclusive conservation strategies.

## Lessons learned from past projects

This project draws lessons from recent GEF and non GEF funded projects in the DRC, Tanganyika province more specifically and beyond. Notable examples include the Community Management of Miombo Forests [\[v\]cix](#); Improved management and restoration of agro-sylvo-pastoral resources in the pilot province of South Kivu [\[vi\]cx](#). Another key project is the Kabobo-Luama Protected Area Landscape Management led by UNDP though implementation is in its early stages. The following key lessons have informed the design of this project.

### **Importance of Recognising IPLC Rights and Governance**

Customary tenure rights and informal governance structures are pivotal for sustainable biodiversity conservation, often more impactful than formal property rights. Responsible governance of tenure ensures equitable access to and control over land and resources, promoting sustainable development, poverty eradication, and responsible investments. Social cohesion, inclusive decision-making, and strong institutions play central roles in conservation success. This project therefore ensures that rights-based approaches, such as Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), co-management, and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and practices, are implemented while empowering IPLCs and achieving sustainable outcomes.

### **Challenges in IPLC Participation and Equity**

Indigenous Peoples, particularly the Twa, women, and youth, face significant barriers to participation in conservation activities and benefit-sharing mechanisms in the DRC and Tanganyika province more specifically. These challenges stem from limited awareness-raising efforts, inequitable targeting, and the absence of gender-sensitive approaches. Strengthening gender equality requires contextual analyses to identify interventions that address women's specific needs and build the capacity of project teams in gender-responsive programming. Addressing these gaps is essential to ensure fair and inclusive outcomes while avoiding elite capture and inequitable distribution of benefits. This project draws on FAO's experience of promoting gender equality and women's

empowerment in the country<sup>[vii]CXI</sup> and strengthening IPLC participation in natural resource management through farmer field schools, Dimitra Clubs. Lessons learned ensure that the project maintains a gender responsive approach from design through to implementation and evaluation. This project design has ensured that interventions are based on a gender analysis (**Annex L**) and that planned activities meet the specific needs of women and young people.

### **Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Development**

Community-based enterprises, particularly those focusing on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and small agricultural businesses, hold significant potential for rural development. Successful approaches, such as the FAO proven Analysis and Development of Markets (ADM) approach, provide communities with entrepreneurial skills, market access, and the ability to develop viable business plans. Supporting joint economic activities, such as small agricultural businesses, and building community capacity in agro-ecological practices, livestock management and beekeeping/honey production can create jobs, empower women and youth, and strengthen local economies. Savings and credit schemes are also critical to financing these enterprises and ensuring their long-term sustainability (component 2).

### **Barriers to Community Tenure Rights and Restoration**

Lengthy and complex processes for securing tenure rights such as experienced in the Miombo project can lead to disengagement, resource exploitation, and conflicts. Participatory approaches to land-use planning, such as micro-zoning and the development of simple management plans, are essential to address these challenges. The key lessons applied are to carry out awareness-raising activities on legal frameworks and capacity-building for state and community partners help secure land tenure, support the establishment of community forests/ICCAs. Technical and financial assistance tailored to local contexts further ensures community ownership and long-term viability. Participatory planning, studies on deforestation drivers, and securing tenure in local community forests are critical to addressing structural barriers and ensuring sustainable outcomes.

### **Training and Capacity Building**

Training programs tailored to both literate and illiterate participants are effective in promoting sustainable practices and entrepreneurship. Building the capacity of communities and government agencies in areas such as supervision, support for women and youth, job creation, and empowerment is crucial for impactful outcomes. Training efforts should integrate gender-responsive approaches and address specific needs identified through contextual analyses. Strengthening the organisational capacity of IPLC-led initiatives ensures inclusivity and long-term impact.

### **Collaborative and Multi-Sectoral Approaches**

Collaboration between NGOs, government agencies, and local institutions fosters trust and enhances the scalability of conservation efforts. Participatory development of management plans and multi-sectoral coordination ensures alignment with national and regional goals while empowering local stakeholders. Linking local initiatives to broader networks, facilitates resource mobilisation, technical expertise, and policy influence, further strengthening conservation outcomes.

### **Sustainability and Long-Term Support**

Long-term funding, technical assistance, and capacity-building are essential for transitioning enterprises and conservation efforts from incubation to sustainability. Transparent and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms prevent conflicts and promote community ownership. Restoration and conservation initiatives must emphasise their intrinsic value to encourage stewardship that extends beyond material incentives. Collaborative approaches, such as joint agricultural businesses and shared management plans, strengthen social cohesion and long-term viability.

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[i] Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable. 2021. Contribution Déterminée à

l'échelle Nationale révisée, page 73

[ii] Gouvernement Provincial – Province du Tanganyika 2023. PLAN DE DEVELOPPEMENT PROVINCIAL (2023-2027), [PDP ACTUALISE TANGANYIKA.pdf](#)

[iii] Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire. 2021. Politique Nationale d'Aménagement du Territoire

[iv] <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/landmark-usd-500-m-agreement-launched-cop26-protect-dr-congos-forest>

[v] FAO. 2023. Les concessions forestières des communautés locales - Retour d'expérience du paysage de Miombo dans le Haut-Katanga. Kinshasa, FAO.

[vi] FAO. 2024. Evaluation Final - *Initiative de restauration TRI - projet Child de la RDC: Amélioration de la gestion et de la restauration des ressources Agro-Sylvo-pastorales dans la province pilote du Sud-Kivu.*

[vii] FAO. 2023. Évaluation du programme pays de la FAO en République démocratique du Congo 2017-2022. Série évaluation de programme par pays, 08/2023. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8192fr>

## E. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

**1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?**

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

Yes

**2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project**

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; **Yes**

Other (Please explain)

**Amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity:**

Amount (\$) of GBFF project financing to support actions by IPLCs	PIF Stage	CEO endorsement stage
	3,059,503.00	3,635,206.00

**If resources have been identified here, please provide a short justification for why they were included, with cross-reference to relevant project components and/or outputs:**

The table below identifies the project outcomes and outputs destined to support activities by IPLC. This represents 48% of overall GBFF funding.

In addition, all component 4 activities support inclusive and participatory land governance.

<b>Outcome 1: The regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks are more supportive/favourable towards IPLCs stewardship and governance of community-based conservation and sustainable management of Communal and Indigenous Lands</b>
<b>Output 1.1</b> Enhanced awareness and understanding of environmental legal (texts and policies) and customary laws and practices promoting IPLC stewardship, rights, gender equality, and HRBA for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management.
<b>Output 1.4:</b> Enhanced onsite support to IPLCs for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use from empowered national and decentralised structures
<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Empowered IPLCs secure formal tenure rights over their lands, enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use
<b>Output 2.1.1:</b> 144,000ha of Community and Indigenous Land demarcated and registered
<b>Output 2.1.2:</b> 6000 ha of Community and Indigenous land restored and managed sustainably for biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement
<b>Output 2.1.3:</b> Increased individual, organisational and technical capacities (including restoration options/techniques)
<b>Output 2.1.4:</b> Community nurseries of native plants are established to support ecosystem restoration
<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Improved IPLC livelihoods from biodiversity friendly profitable entrepreneurship initiatives
<b>Output 2.2.1:</b> Biodiversity friendly enterprises, value chains and income generating activities established and functional
<b>Output 2.2.2:</b> Equitable benefit sharing schemes and gender-responsive mechanism for management of Community and Indigenous Land established and functional

**Are IPLCs to receive and manage resources for the execution of project components/activities?**

Yes

**Are IPLCs leading the design and management of some project activities but do not manage financial resources?**

Yes

**Does the project provide in-kind support to actions by IPLCs for biodiversity?**

Yes

**Are IPLCs part of the project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body?**

Yes

**Private Sector**

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

**Environmental and Social Safeguards**

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

**F. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

**Knowledge management**

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

**Socio-economic Benefits**

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project, these have been clearly described in the Project Description, and they will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).



The project delivers a range of socioeconomic benefits at both local and national levels, driving progress toward global environmental benefits and the realization of Decent Rural Employment. At the local level, the project supports Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), particularly women and youth, in securing access to sustainable livelihoods through biodiversity-friendly entrepreneurship and equitable governance mechanisms. By establishing community nurseries, restoration plans, and enterprises focused on beekeeping, and NTFPs, the project fosters income generation and rural employment. These will ensure that women and men small-scale producers access markets, training, financial services, and productive assets such as land. The project will offer opportunities for communities to be remunerated for establishment and maintenance of tree nurseries, tree planting and maintenance on the field, enabling them to earn decent incomes. The project will ensure that the Twa communities receive equitable support throughout implementation. Nationally, the project bolsters the enabling environment for inclusive economic growth by enhancing the regulatory and policy framework that supports biodiversity-friendly practices. This strengthens the alignment of economic activities with GEF’s objectives of global environmental benefits, such as improved carbon sequestration, ecosystem resilience, and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### Total GEF Financing Table

**Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds. All GEF sources of funds should be included here.**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GBFF	Congo DR	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	Grant	2,205,662.00	209,538.00	2,415,200.00
FAO	GBFF	Congo DR	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	Grant	3,635,206.00	345,344.00	3,980,550.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>5,840,868.00</b>	<b>554,882.00</b>	<b>6,395,750.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000.00

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250.00

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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		Regional / Global					
FAO	GBFF	Congo DR	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 1	67,500.00	6,412.00	73,912.00
FAO	GBFF	Congo DR	Biodiversity	GBFF Action Area 2	82,500.00	7,838.00	90,338.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>					<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>

Please provide justification

#### Sources of Funds for non-GBFF GEF resources (only for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Actual Focal Area Programming	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>0.00</b>

#### Action Area Elements (and Focal Area Elements for Multi-Trust Fund projects)

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
GBFF Action Area 1	GBFF	2,205,662.00	5,400,000.00
GBFF Action Area 2	GBFF	3,635,206.00	6,600,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>5,840,868.00</b>	<b>12,000,000.00</b>

#### Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	MEDD	Public Investment	Recurrent expenditures	6,000,000.00

GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,000,000.00
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>12,000,000.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Mobilised investment is the new and additional investments made in the same geography and time as the GBFF investment that contribute to the achievement of the project objectives. One FAO-executed project has been mobilised:

- Resilience and nutrition in the Great Lakes Region (RENUGEL – GCP/DRC/088/GAF - USD6M from WB)

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification :

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
	2/7/2025	Maude Veyret-Picot	393208883251	maude.veyretpicot@fao.org

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

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Benjamin Toirambe Bamonga	GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development MEDD	3/21/2024

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also copy and paste the Project Results Framework from the project document below.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<b>Project Objective:</b> To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in Community and Indigenous Land of the DRC, supporting the recovery of degraded ecosystems, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resilience, and people's livelihoods.	Lands and forests under IPLC stewardship and sustainable use	0	FPIC secured, ICCAs mapped  6000 ha under restoration and sustainable use	164,000ha (150,000 ha under sustainable practices, 14,000ha restored including:  4000 ha under agroecological practices, 7000 ha of exclusion area, fire management, fencing, 3000 ha of reforestation/afforestation)	Participatory maps of ICCAs approved by IPLC communities and administrative authorities  CFCL certifications  Map of CFCLs  Satellite imagery  FAO Farm/restoration platform - <a href="#">FERM</a> – <a href="#">Open Foris</a>  Field monitoring reports with sizes of areas restored	The national government pass the conservation law recognising ICCAs and other effective conservation measures.  Community FPIC, buy-in and willingness from IPLCs and customary leaders  Incentives for community-based stewardship of lands and biodiversity outweigh the costs	MEL Team
	Amount of Co2 sequestered			TBC	NEXT tool assessment		
	Number of IPLCs with diversified and improved livelihoods	0	5000 direct  20,000 indirect (50% women/50% men)	10,000 direct  50 000 indirect (50% women/50% men)	Impact assessment report  TE evaluation report  Terminal project report		

	Number of community-led adaptation practices adopted and sustained by IPLCs disaggregated by type and per territory	0	4 Agroecological techniques  Forest fire prevention measures  Community tree nurseries/ restoration plots  Livelihood diversification strategies	4 Agroecological techniques  Forest fire prevention measures  Community tree nurseries/ restoration plots  Livelihood diversification strategies	Field visits and observation  Community records  Interviews with community leaders Participatory monitoring tools		
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**Component 1: Enabling regulatory, policy and institutional environment for community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable management**

<u>Outcome 1:</u> The regulatory, policy and institutional frameworks are more supportive/favorable towards IPLCs stewardship and governance of community-based conservation and sustainable management of Community and Indigenous Lands	Number of national or regional policies, regulations, or institutional guidelines revised or newly adopted that explicitly recognize and support IPLC rights and governance in community-based conservation and sustainable management of Community and Indigenous Lands from project contributions	Existing ones do not recognize key needs of IPLCs	4 Conservation law application decrees  Application decrees for IPLC Law  Provincial development plan  Guidelines on design and establishment of ICCAs	> 4 as further opportunities emerging during implementation	National or regional policies, regulations, or institutional guidelines, decrees, statutes and documents	Government remains stable and committed to national and international engagements  Government agencies, policymakers, and IPLCs, are willing to collaborate and actively participate  Legislative bodies are supportive of and willing to pass amendments or new laws that facilitate IPLC stewardship and governance  Local communities, as well as broader society, accept and support the role of IPLCs in the stewardship and sustainable management	MEL Team
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						of community and Indigenous lands.	
Output 1.1: Enhanced awareness and understanding of environmental legal (texts and policies) and customary laws and practices promoting IPLC stewardship, rights, gender equality, and HRBA for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management.	Number of people reached disaggregated by sex and by region	0	50,000	50,000	1000 copies of compendium produced  Radio programmes  Reports of awareness raising and sensitisation campaigns  # of downloads of compendium and guides	Use of accessible culturally accessible formats	MEL team
<u>Output.1.2:</u> New and/or revised national and decentralised policies, regulations, and development plans are gender responsive, promote HRBA, address the transfer of responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, & benefit sharing for IPLCs	Number of contributions (legal inputs/draft language, case studies, best practices, policy dialogues, consultations etc) from the project task forces/steering committees to national and decentralised policies, programmes, or investment plans that incorporate gender-responsive language, promote Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA), and explicitly outline the transfer of responsibilities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and	0	# of contributions	# of contributions	New and revised documents approved  APRs  MTR report  TE report  Steering group reports	National and decentralized government entities are committed to revising policies  IPLCs and relevant stakeholders are actively engaged in policy consultation processes, ensuring policies reflect local needs and priorities.  Government agencies are equipped and willing to implement and enforce revised policies	MEL team



	benefit-sharing to IPLCs.						
-	Territorial development and sustainable management plans in Nyunzu and Kabalo	0	1/territory	2	Territorial development plans validated setting aside at least 350,000 ha of ecologically suitable Community and Indigenous lands for restoration and sustainable land and natural resource management and including an out-scaling strategy	Socio-political stability and buy-in from officials  IPLCs engaged and committed	MEL team
Output.1.3:  National and decentralised institutional capacities of services involved in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management strengthened on gender, HRBA, benefit sharing, approaches and methods of onsite support to IPLCs	Number of personnel from national and decentralized institutions trained in gender, HRBA, benefit sharing, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices, approaches and methods for onsite support to IPLCs disaggregated by gender and level (local and national).	0	500 persons trained (50% women)	500 persons trained (50% women)	Training workshop reports  Attendance registers  APRs  MTR report  TE report	Resources are available and Institutions and staff are motivated, have opportunities to apply new skills and knowledge  There is continuous/sustained support for institutional development  Low staff turnover	
	Percentage of target institutions demonstrating improved capacities, as evidenced by six monthly performance assessment scores on application of learning	0	80% of those trained	80% of those trained	Workshop reports  Post course survey reports  Satisfaction surveys  APRs	Low staff turnover and institutional memory loss  Security in project areas	MEL team

					MTR report		
					TE report		
Output 1.4: Enhanced onsite support to IPLCs for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use from empowered national and decentralised structures	Inclusive IPLC support mechanism integrating HRBA, CLIP, gender responsive practices in place drawing on IPLC local and traditional knowledge systems to provide guidance, resources, or technical assistance in biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use	0	1 methodology guidelines produced and effectively used	1 methodology guide lines produced and effectively used	Workshop reports Post course survey reports Satisfaction surveys APRs MTR report TE report Steering group reports Cofinancing table Interviews, observations and FGDs with IPLCs and staff	IPLCs have adequate access to national and decentralised support structures  IPLCs and support structures open to collaborative working  National and decentralised structures have sufficient Human, material and financial resources  Low staff turn over	MEL Team
	Percentage of trained government and IPLC support organisations staff reporting use guidelines during onsite support to IPLCs	0	100% of those trained	100% of those trained	Workshop reports Post course survey reports Satisfaction surveys APRs MTR report TE report Steer	Low staff turnover and institutional memory loss  Security in project areas	MEL team
Output 1.5: Improved Intersectoral coordination of institutions relevant for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	Number of intersectoral coordination meetings held involving institutions relevant to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, with documented action	0	6	10	Meeting minutes and reports Post meeting survey reports	Different institutions are willing to coordinate and align efforts  Government endorses and facilitate coordination	MEL team

	points and follow-up activities.				Satisfaction surveys APRs MTR report TE report Steering group reports, Interviews, observations and FGDs with IPLCs and staff	There are clear communication channels maintained	
Component 2: IPLC-driven biodiversity restoration, conservation and sustainable use in selected community and indigenous lands							
<u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Empowered IPLCs secure formal tenure rights over their lands, enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	# of hectares of community and indigenous lands demarcated and registered with titles	0	0	150,000ha	GEF indicator tracker APRs MTR report TE report Field monitoring reports M&E reports Minutes of governance structures	National and local governments are supportive of formalising tenure rights for IPLCs over community and Indigenous lands Security and stability IPLCs possess, or have access to required skills to manage lands once formal tenure is secured Broader community and societal acceptance Engagement of local IPLC governance structures in decision making processes	MEL team
<u>Output 2.1.1:</u> 150,000 ha of Community and Indigenous Land	Number of IPLC communities with ICCAs mapped and recognised	0	Number of IPLC communities with ICCAs mapped and recognised	Number of IPLC communities with ICCAs mapped and recognised	APRs MTR report TE report	IPLCs are actively engaged in and supportive	MEL team

demarcated and registered					Field monitoring reports M&E reports Minutes of governance structures	Adequate financial, technical, and human resources are available Local and national government bodies, as well as relevant institutions, are supportive of IPLCs' efforts Social cohesion IPLCs willingness to adopt and apply sustainable practices Security and stability Engagement of IPLC governance structures	
<u>Output 2.1.2:</u> 14000 ha of Community and Indigenous land restored and managed sustainably for biodiversity conservation, and livelihood enhancement	Hectares of Community and Indigenous lands restored	0	14,000 ha	14,000 ha	Field mission reports GIS maps Annual performance reports	Social cohesion Socio-economic stability	MEL team
<u>Output 2.1.3:</u> Increased individual, organisational and technical capacities (including restoration options/techniques)	Number of IPLC members trained/receiving direct project support disaggregated by type of training, site and gender.	0	10,000 (50% women)	10,000 (50% women)	Training workshop reports Pre-post course surveys Satisfaction surveys APRs MTR report	IPLC members are motivated and willing to participate in capacity-building activities IPLC members who receive training remain engaged Planning of interventions is	MEL team

					TE report	gender responsive	
					Field monitoring reports	Engagement of IPLC governance structures	
					M&E reports	Technical assistance and logistical support are available to help IPLCs integrate new capacities into existing practices	
						Local and traditional IPLC knowledge valorised	
	Percentage of trained/supported IPLC members or organizations that have successfully applied at least a new skills and knowledge	0	80%	80%	Training workshop reports	IPLC members are motivated and willing to participate in capacity-building activities	MEL team
					Pre-post course surveys		
					Satisfaction surveys	IPLC members who receive training remain engaged	
					APRs		
					MTR report	Planning of interventions is gender responsive	
					TE report		
					Field monitoring reports	Engagement of IPLC governance structures	
					M&E reports	Technical assistance and logistical support are available to help IPLCs integrate new capacities into existing practices	
						Local and traditional IPLC	

						knowledge valorised	
Output 2.1.4: Community nurseries of native plants are established to support ecosystem restoration	# of plants/seedlings distributed from established nurseries	0	400,000	400,000	Distribution lists  Plant inventory logs  Field visit reports  Photographic and video imagery  Community Meeting Minutes and Attendance Records	Availability of Native Plant Seeds and Resources  Community Engagement and Participation  IPLC members have access to technical and financial resources to establish, manage and grow nurseries  IPLCs recognise and experience the direct benefits of nursery activities	MEL team
Outcome 2.2: Improved IPLC livelihoods from biodiversity friendly profitable entrepreneurship initiatives	Percentage increase in HH incomes from promoted biodiversity livelihoods/entrepreneurship options disaggregated by type of headed household and project site	0	Increase %	20%	Household Income Surveys  Financial Records and Business Reports  APRs  FGDs and KIIs  MTR report  TE report  M&E tracker  Government reports	Clearly identified viable markets  The biodiversity-friendly entrepreneurship initiatives introduced are financially viable  IPLC members are interested in and committed to participating in entrepreneurship initiatives  There is a demand for biodiversity-friendly products and services  IPLC members work collaboratively	MEL team



						<p>within their communities to support entrepreneurship initiatives</p> <p>Sufficient financial resources, technical assistance, and tools are available to help IPLCs establish and grow biodiversity-friendly enterprises</p>	
-	Proportion of IPLC HHs reporting improvements in at least one area supported- production, food consumption, sales of products	0	80% of 5,000 persons reached	80% of 10,000 persons reached	Survey a sample of beneficiary groups and households	<p>Access to markets</p> <p>Socio-economic stability</p> <p>Social cohesion and limited conflicts</p>	MEL team
<p><u>Output 2.2.1:</u> Biodiversity friendly enterprises, value chains and income generating activities established and functional</p>	# of IPLC enterprises established and functional disaggregated by type, site and ownership (men, women, young men, young women)	0	60	60	<p>Bookkeeping documents</p> <p>Field visits and observations</p> <p>Financial records</p> <p>FGDs and KIIs</p> <p>Photos, videos and testimonials</p>	<p>IPLCs have access to necessary financial resources</p> <p>Sufficient technical assistance and training are available to IPLCs</p> <p>IPLC members are willing to participate in these enterprises</p> <p>Market Demand for Products and Services</p>	MEL team
	# of men, women, young men, young women trained in various trades	0	50	100	Training reports	Willingness of IPLCs, men, women and young people to engage	MEL team

						Dropouts from training	
<u>Output 2.2.2:</u> Equitable benefit sharing schemes and gender-responsive mechanism for management of Community and Indigenous Land established and functional	Benefit sharing and gender response management mechanism developed, implemented and monitored in Nyunzu and Kabalo territories	0	2	2	Benefit-Sharing Scheme document validated	IPLC motivated and engaged	MEL team
	Volume of resources mobilised and shared/financing IPLC projects	0	Amount in \$	Amount \$	Evidence of projects and IPLC plans supported	IPLC motivated and engaged  Compliance mechanisms operate as planned	MEL team
<b>Component 3: Knowledge Management</b>							
<u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Evidence informed decision making by stakeholders supports replication and sustainability of project results from more available and accessible lessons and good practices	Number of persons, IPLC support organisations and administration staff and agencies at national and provincial levels reporting use of project best practices, lessons learned, and contributions for decision making and scaling up	0	Numbers using best practices, lessons learned or project contributions for decision making/scaling up	Numbers using best practices, lessons learned or project contributions for decision making/scaling up	Annual survey of stakeholders  Data from MEL system  APRs  MTR reports  TE reports	Stakeholders are willing to use evidence and lessons learned to guide their decision-making and adopt successful practices  Policy and Institutional Support to mainstream lessons learned and good practices	MEL team
Output 3.1.1. A framework for scaling up lessons learned, and good practices is developed to guide the learning-by-doing and replication processes	A strategy for adapting and replicating IPLC-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable use throughout the country developed and piloted	0	1	1	Strategy document  APRs  MTR reports  TE reports  Strategy document available	Stakeholders particularly IPLCs actively participate in developing the framework  Sufficient financial and technical resources are available  Traditional and local knowledge generation and sharing models valorised	MEL team

<p>Output 3.1.2: An inclusive multistakeholder community of practice (CoP) for the routine exchange of experiences related to IPLC biodiversity conservation and sustainable use created and functional</p>	<p>Number of knowledge-sharing platforms/events (e.g., workshops, dialogues, webinars) conducted to disseminate project findings.</p>	0	15	30	<p>Meeting reports Attendance registers Presentations Documented case studies and best practices Participant surveys APRS MTR report TE report</p>	<p>Key stakeholders, including IPLCs, are interested in participating and see value in the community of practice.  The community of practice is designed to be inclusive and accessible to a diverse range of stakeholders.  Members remain actively engaged, ensuring the community's long-term functionality and relevance.</p>	MEL team
<p>Output 3.1.3: Lessons learned, and good practices are documented and disseminated</p>	<p># of case studies, policy, advocacy briefs, videos, event presentations etc produced</p>	0	# produced and shared	# produced and shared	<p>case studies, policy, advocacy briefs, videos, event presentations etc produced</p>	<p>Systems are in place for prompt and accurate documentation of lessons and practices throughout the project.</p>	MEL Team
	<p># of persons/organisations reached disaggregated by dissemination channel – social media, TV, print, conferences, seminars etc</p>	0	# of people reached	# of people reached	<p>Report downloads Google/online analytics Distribution lists Views APRS MTR report TE Report</p>	<p>Stakeholders are committed to learning from documented experiences and applying these insights.  There are accessible channels to distribute information including local and traditional IPLC models</p>	
<p>Output 3.1.4: University and technical school's curricula</p>	<p># of universities and technical schools with new, updated or revised curricula integrating IPLC</p>	0	4	4	<p>Revised courses and training</p>	<p>Universities and technical schools are willing to incorporate</p>	MEL team

improved from lessons learned, models and good practices are documented	driven conservation models				programme documents  Curriculum development and revision plans  Training reports for educationists on curriculum revision and development  Reports of advocacy events  Policy and reform contribution documents  Attendance registers  APRs  MTR/TE reports	new lessons and practices into their curricula.  Educational policies support updates to curricula that include biodiversity conservation and sustainable use practices.	
Component 4: Monitoring and Evaluation							
Outcome 4.1: Project implemented and monitored effectively and efficiently, ensuring adaptive management to achieve project goals	Percentage of project milestones and outputs achieved on time and within budget, as verified by regular monitoring reports and financial audits.	0	50%	100%	M&E tracker  GEF Tracking tool  Co-financing table  APRs  MTR REPORT  TE report  Audit report	The project team and stakeholders are committed to adaptive management practices, allowing for flexibility and adjustments based on M&E findings.	MEL team
Output 4.1: Project M&E system developed and implemented	Level of implementation of M&E plan and budget	0	1	1	M&E plan document revised  APRs	Mechanisms for timely and accurate data collection are established, enabling	MEL team

					BTORs MTR report TE report	ongoing assessment and decision-making.  Key stakeholders, including project staff and partners, are committed to utilizing the M&E system for continuous improvement and project tracking.	
Output 4.2: Inclusive project governance structures established and operational	Number of project steering committee meetings	0	3	5	Meeting minutes and registers APRs MTR report TE report	Diverse stakeholders, including IPLCs and marginalized groups, are willing and able to actively participate in governance structures  Governance structures are designed to ensure transparent decision-making and accountability among all partners.  Sufficient resources and support mechanisms are available to maintain functional and inclusive governance structures	MEL team
Output 4.3: Project's environmental and social safeguards effectively implemented	Level of implementation of ESIA, IPPA and ESMP implementation	0	100%	100%	Project monitoring reports APRs MTR report TE report	Mechanisms for timely and accurate data collection are established, enabling ongoing assessment	

					Grievance mechanism reports	and decision-making.  Key stakeholders, including project staff and partners, are committed to utilizing the safeguards system for continuous improvement and project tracking.	
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#### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Personnel engaged to develop project document (including: GEF Project design Expert; Biodiversity-based value chains development expert; Finance/OPIM expert; Biodiversity and forest management expert – national team leader; National legal consultant on statutory and customary regulatory frameworks; Environmental and Social Safeguard national consultant; Gender national consultant; research and community engagement assistants)	90,496.00	38,696.00	51,800.00
Contract on OPIM fiduciary assessment	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
Travels	32,747.00	19,704.00	13,043.00
Workshop organized including local stakeholder consultations; thematic consultation workshop (SPANB/BIO-SE); National launching and validation workshops	18,300.00	9,121.00	9,179.00
General Operating Expenses including office running costs, small transportation costs	3,457.00	0.00	3,457.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>67,521.00</b>	<b>82,479.00</b>

#### ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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



Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kasinge	-6.20	26.59	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mbuli	-5.59	26.55	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lwela	-5.54	26.52	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kasongo	-6.10	27.33	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Muhuya	-5.50	27.58	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.**

Kindly find additional maps in the project document (the Portal crashes repeatedly when attempting to upload maps).

## ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

GAP and budget updated 25March

FPIC updated 25March

ESMP updated 25March

ES checklist

## ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Category	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1 Total	Component 2 Total	Component 3 Total	Component 4 Total	M&E	PMC	TOTAL	Responsible Entity
<b>5013 Consultants</b>											
										-	
<b>Sub-total National consultants</b>						0	0			-	
<i>Project Director (Co-financed by DDD) - Kinshasa</i>	Month	30	600	0	0	0	0	9,000	9,000	18,000	DDD
<i>Project Technical Coordinator (Co-financed) - Kinshasa</i>	Month	60	2,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	5,000	10,000	120,000	DDD
<i>Expert policy regulations (Co-financed) - Kinshasa</i>	Month	30	441	13,230	0	0	0			13,230	DDD
<i>Value chains expert - Kinshasa</i>	Month	30	441	13,230	0	0	0			13,230	DDD
<i>Finance expert - Kinshasa</i>	Month	30	1,000	0	0	0	0		30,000	30,000	DDD
<i>Logistics expert - Kinshasa</i>	Month	24	441	0	0	0	0		10,584	10,584	DDD
<i>Provincial Technical Lead (Co-financed) - Kalemie</i>	Month	30	500	15,000	0	0	0			15,000	DDD
<i>Field Technical Assistant (100%) - Kalemie</i>	Month	60	2,000	50,000	20,000	10,000	30,000	10,000		120,000	DDD
<i>MEAL expert (80%) - Kalemie</i>	Month	48	2,000	72,000	0	0	0	24,000		96,000	DDD
<i>Value chains expert (80%) - Kalemie</i>	Month	48	2,000	96,000	0	0	0			96,000	DDD
<i>IPLC and gender expert (80%) - Kalemie</i>	Month	48	2,000	96,000	0	0	0			96,000	DDD
<i>Safeguards expert (80%) - Kalemie</i>	Month	48	2,000	0	0	0	96,000			96,000	DDD
<i>Finance and operations expert - Kalemie</i>	Month	30	1,000	0	0	0	0		30,000	30,000	DDD
<i>Logistics expert (co-financed) - Kalemie</i>	Month	12	441	0	0	0	0		5,292	5,292	DDD

Technical facilitators (x 2) - On site	Month	30	750	22,500	0	0	0			22,500	DDD
Territorial supervisors (2) (co-financed) - On site	Month	15	441	6,615	0	0	0			6,615	DDD
National consultant - development exit strategy	Day	45	300	0	0	6,000	7,500			13,500	DDD
National consultant - jurist/legal expert	Day	60	300	18,000	0	0	0			18,000	DDD
National consultant - community engagement expert	Day	20	300	6,000	0	0	0			6,000	DDD
National consultant - guidelines development	Day	30	300	9,000	0	0	0			9,000	DDD
National consultant - stakeholder engagement (CSOs)	Day	23	300	6,900	0	0	0			6,900	DDD
National consultant - management plan development	Day	15	300	4,500	0	0	0			4,500	DDD
National consultant - awareness raising and sensitisation	Day	15	300	4,500	0	0	0			4,500	DDD
National consultant - development plans	Day	20	300	6,000	0	0	0			6,000	DDD
National consultant - institutional capacity development	Day	15	300	4,500	0	0	0			4,500	DDD
National consultant - livelihoods development	Day	25	300	0	0	7,500	0			7,500	DDD
National consultant - needs assessment of local, regional and national decision-makers	Day	25	300	0	0	7,500	0			7,500	DDD
National consultant - lessons learnt	Day	25	300	0	0	7,500	0			7,500	DDD
National consultant - MEDD research (3.1.2.5)	Day	60	300	0	0	18,000	0			18,000	DDD
National consultants - scaling of best practices	Day	120	300	0	0	36,000	0			36,000	DDD
<b>Sub-total national Consultants</b>				<b>468,975</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>117,500</b>	<b>163,500</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>94,876</b>	<b>937,851</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5013 Sub-total consultants</b>				<b>468,975</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>117,500</b>	<b>163,500</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>94,876</b>	<b>937,851</b>	
<b>5650 Contracts</b>										-	
CSO support to IPLCs	Contract	1	12,500	6,250	6,250	0	0			12,500	DDD
Land tenure governance for indigenous women	Contract	1	20,000	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	DDD
ANAPAC - 1.3.5 CSO capacity development	Contract	1	100,000	100,000	0	0	0			100,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.1 : Sensitisation sessions	Contract	1	60,000	0	60,000	0	0			60,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.3 : Participatory mapping of Territories of life	Contract	1	200,000	0	200,000	0	0			200,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.4 : Support to official recognition of Territories of life	Contract	1	250,000	0	250,000	0	0			250,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.6 : Legal recognition of IPLC	Contract	1	150,000	0	150,000	0	0			150,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.7 Development and operationalisation of local governance structures	Contract	1	50,000	0	50,000	0	0			50,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - 2.1.1.8 : Capacity development assessment and plan for inclusive Territories of Life	Contract	1	25,000	0	25,000	0	0			25,000	ANAPAC
ANAPAC - CSO capacity development for IPLC support	Contract	1	341,000	0	341,000	0	0			341,000	ANAPAC
Inventories of NR for management planning	Contract	1	150,000	0	150,000	0	0			150,000	DDD
ROAM application (2.1.2.1; 2.1.2.2; 2.1.2.3)	Contract	1	148,000	0	148,000	0	0			148,000	DDD
Soil conservation practices	Contract	1	75,000	0	75,000	0	0			75,000	DDD

Community surveillance against poaching, etc	Contract	2	50,000	0	100,000	0	0			100,000	DDD
Reforestation (3000 ha @ average cost of USD57/ha)	Contract	2	85,000	0	170,000	0	0			170,000	DDD
Natural regeneration - fencing (7000 ha @ average cost of USD21/ha)	Contract	2	75,000		150,000					150,000	DDD
Scaling of agroecological practices (2000ha)	Contract	4	70,000	0	280,000	0	0			280,000	DDD
Institutional and technical capacity building on restoration and sustainable management, community governance, etc	Contract	2	10,000	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	DDD
Farmer Field Schools and technical support for sustainable management of agro-pastoral resources	Contract	2	75,000	0	150,000	0	0			150,000	DDD
Promotion/ training for scaling of indigenous species	Contract	2	10,000	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	DDD
Community nurseries	Contract	6	25,000	0	150,000	0	0			150,000	DDD
Development of 50 micro-enterprises ( 2.2.1.1 to 2.2.1.7, 2.2.1.12)	Contract	2	175,000	0	350,000	0	0			350,000	DDD
Support to AVEC (2.2.1.8, 2.2.1.10, 2.2.1.12)	Contract	2	75,000	0	150,000	0	0			150,000	DDD
BD information center (3.1.2.1 to 3.1.2.3)	Contract	1	100,000	0	0	100,000	0			100,000	DDD
R&D contracts with universities - 3.1.2.5	Contract	4	9,000	0	0	36,000	0			36,000	DDD
Engagement strategy for implementation development plans	Contract	1	50,000	0	0	50,000	0			50,000	DDD
Updated technical schools and university curricula 3.1.4.1 to 3.1.4.6.	Contract	1	75,000	0	0	75,000	0			75,000	DDD
Gender action plan 1.1.2; 1.1.3; 1.1.4; 1.3.1; 1.3.2; 1.3.3; 1.3.4; 1.4.1; 1.4.2; 1.4.3; 3.1.3.6.	Contract	1	125,000	100,000	0	25,000	0			125,000	DDD
Management plan development : 1.2.2; 1.2.3; 1.2.4; 1.2.5 (Nyunzu et Kabalo)	Contract	2	66,000	132,000	0	0	0			132,000	DDD
ESIA and ESMP	Contract	1	130,000	0	0	0	130,000			130,000	DDD
Social cohesion/conflict management	Contract	2	50,000	0	0	100,000	0			100,000	DDD
Sensitisation campaigns in support of environment protectors - 1.1.5	Contract	1	25,000	25,000	0	0	0			25,000	DDD
Audit (ZOPs)	Contract	10	8,500	0	0	0	0	85,000		85,000	FAO
Spot-checks (ZOP moderate risk)	Contract	20	3,500	0	0	0	0	70,000		70,000	FAO
Mid-Term Review	Contract	1	55,000	0	0	0	0	55,000		55,000	FAO
Terminal Evaluation	Contract	1	65,000	0	0	0	0	65,000		65,000	FAO
Terminal Report	Contract	1	7,000	0	0	0	0	7,000		7,000	FAO
<b>5650 Sub-total Contracts</b>				<b>363,250</b>	<b>3,015,250</b>	<b>386,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>127,000</b>	<b>155,000</b>	<b>4,176,500</b>	
<b>5021 Travel</b>										-	
National travel (technical support)	Lumpsum	1	81,820	0	64,320	17,500	0			81,820	DDD
International travel (technical support)	Lumpsum	1	40,000	0	0	40,000	0			40,000	DDD
National travel (capacity development/learning)	Mission	10	4,500	0	0	0	45,000			45,000	DDD
<b>5021 Sub-total travel</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>64,320</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>166,820</b>	
<b>5023 Training</b>										-	
Workshops/consultations with administrations on management plan development	Workshop	2	7,500	15,000	0	0	0			15,000	DDD

Training on legal, policy and institutional framework for sustainable community conservation/management (Kalemie, Nyunzu et Kabalo)	Workshop	3	8,000	24,000	0	0	0			24,000	DDD
Technical working sessions to develop the Territoires of life	Workshop	24	200	4,800	0	0	0			4,800	DDD
Training on restoration practices of extension service providers	Workshop	4	5,000	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	DDD
Validation of data management studies and guidelines	Workshop	2	9,000	0	0	18,000	0			18,000	DDD
Annual roadmaps based on results for the BioSE platform	Workshop	4	7,500	0	0	30,000	0			30,000	DDD
Policy dialogue	Workshop	4	10,000	0	0	40,000	0			40,000	DDD
Peer to peer learning (IPLCs)	Workshop	4	5,000	0	0	20,000	0			20,000	DDD
Lessons learned workshops	Workshop	4	9,000	0	0	0	36,000			36,000	DDD
Results matrix and M&E plan validation	Workshop	1	15,000	0	0	0	15,000			15,000	DDD
Study tours (national and regional partners)	Workshop	2	15,000	0	0	0	30,000			30,000	DDD
Steering committee meetings	Workshop	2	15,000	0	0	0	0	30,000		30,000	DDD
Final Workshop	Workshop	1	15,000	0	0	0	15,000			15,000	DDD
Local technical oversight workshops (monthly in both sites)	Workshop	96	100	0	0	0	9,600			9,600	DDD
Monthly M&E support - Kalemie	Workshop	60	100	0	0	0	6,000			6,000	DDD
<b>5023 Sub-total training</b>				<b>43,800</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>111,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>313,400</b>	
<b>5024 Expendable procurement</b>											
Printing	Lumpsum	1	62,500.0	62,500	0	0	0			62,500	DDD
Newsletter, visibility	Lumpsum	1	25,261	0	0	0	0	25,261		25,261	DDD
Stationary	Lumpsum	1	10,536	0	0	0	10,536			10,536	DDD
<b>5024 Sub-total expendable procurement</b>				<b>62,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,536</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,261</b>	<b>98,297</b>	
<b>6100 Non-expendable procurement</b>											
Moto	Moto	4	5,000	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	DDD
Computers and printers	Lumpsum	1	3,000	0	0	0	0	3,000		3,000	DDD
<b>6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	
<b>5028 GOE budget</b>											
GOE	Lumpsum	5	25,000	25,000	50,000	25,000	25,000			125,000	DDD
<b>5028 Sub-total GOE budget</b>				<b>25,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>963,525</b>	<b>3,214,570</b>	<b>694,000</b>	<b>485,636</b>	<b>175,000</b>	<b>308,137</b>	<b>5,840,868</b>	



11590 DRC GBF-  
Budget 25.03.2025\_fin

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

## ANNEX H: BLENDED-FINANCE RELEVANT ANNEXES

**Please use the most up to date templates per the most recent call for proposals.**

### ANNEX H.1: Termsheet

Instructions. This termsheet to be submitted with the PIF/PFD should include sufficient details to allow a financial expert to understand and judge the financial viability of the proposed investments. Indicative terms and conditions should be used when specific details are not yet available. An equivalent termsheet used for internal Agency purposes is acceptable but must include sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality.

N/A

### ANNEX H.2: Agency capacity to implement blended finance projects

Instructions. Any financial returns, gains, interest or other earnings and remaining principal will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. and the GEF Non-Grant Instrument Policy.

N/A

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